



Presidents Message – February, 2012

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT! ALIENS ATTACK AMERICAN SPACECRAFT.

Yes folks, last Saturday, February 11th, I was made aware of an interstellar incident that has been kept from public knowledge by a vast conspiracy perpetuated by the Government of United States of America.

That evening I gave my lecture on the Apollo 13 mission. As you know, the Apollo 13 spacecraft sustained an explosion in the Service Module which severely damaged it and blew out a large exterior panel, which caused the Moon landing to be canceled. The event shifted the mission goal from lunar exploration to a critical survival mode. Now, here is the rest of the story.

After my lecture a few people were gathered around the podium, and we were talking about the wonderful story of the astronauts and their safe return to Earth. A gentleman, not a member of our astronomical society, was hanging back until the others walked away. He came up to me and in a low voice said, "You know, don't you, that the real story of Apollo 13 is that the spacecraft was struck by some sort of beam fired from an alien starship."

I must say that over the past few years I have been told that we never landed on the Moon; and that aliens came to Earth to build the pyramids of Egypt, and that the Holy Grail was actually a signal device to guide aliens to our planet. However, the alien attack on Apollo 13 is a new one on me!

He told me that the attack occurred when Apollo 13 was approaching the Moon. Apparently the aliens have a hidden base on the Moon and they intended to keep our spacecraft from discovering it. NASA reported this immediately to the Nixon administration and the whole incident was made 'Top Secret' and since then the truth has been kept from us all. Imagine my shock at hearing this information. The man then told me, "Put that in your lecture", and he walked away and left the Observatory before I could learn more. I wonder if the following four Apollo Moon Missions had contact with those very same aliens.

As your society president, I assure you that I will not rest until I have exposed this government conspiracy, and we have all learned the particulars of this event.

Mike Thomas

January, 2012

January 2012 Meeting Minutes

- In order to give our Saturday Star Party guests the option of telescope viewing before and after the lecture, we have changed the Observatory schedule for Saturdays.
- Starting in February the Observatory doors will be opened at 5:30 PM, and the lectures will start at 8 PM.
- Saturday, February 11th, was the first time for these new hours and we had a full house for the lecture and, if the sky had been clear, there was a lot of time available for public telescope viewing.
- The possibility of resuming the "Telescopes Around Town" outreach was discussed, and the response was favorable. More on that as we progress.

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Evening program for the 7:00 PM, Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Astronomer Gary Cole presents "Polarimetry of Epsilon Aurigae"

"A most unusual eclipsing star, Epsilon Aurigae has been the subject of an international campaign involving amateurs in the US and Europe as well as professional astronomers. I have been making measurements of the changing polarization of this star for nearly three years. This talk will discuss the property of polarization, how it originates, and how it is measured with a backyard telescope."

Events Calendar

~ February 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Star Party
5	6	7 Full Moon	8	9	10	11 Star Party
12	13	14 Moon Last Qtr	15	16	17	18 Dark Skies Star Party
19	20	21 <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO New Moon</i>	22	23	24	25 Dark Skies Star Party
26	27	28	29	Notes: *(Feb 20-March 12) The planet Mercury will be visible shortly after sunset. Mercury will reach greatest elongation from the Sun on March 5 , reaching a relatively bright magnitude of about -1. This will be your best chance to see the planet this year.		

~ March 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Moon 1 st Qtr	2	3 Star Party Mars at opposition
4	5	6	7	8 Full Moon	9	10 Star Party
11	12	13	14 Conjunction of Venus & Jupiter	15 Moon Last Qtr	16	17 Star Party
18	19	20 <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO Vernal equinox (05:14 UTC)</i>	21	22 New Moon	23	24 Dark Skies Star Party
25	26	27	28	29	30 Moon 1 st Qtr	31 Star Party