



## Presidents Message – April, 2012

The Observatory will be open Sunday, May 20th, for public viewing of the Annular Eclipse late that afternoon. The "Eclipse-Chasers" website states:

"This annular solar eclipse, of 'May 20 to May 21', will be visible across the Pacific from the coast of China to the Southwestern USA. The odd date for this eclipse results from the fact that it starts on the other side of the International Date Line. When the eclipse starts, it will be the 21st of May for the local time zones. As the eclipse progresses it passes over the date line headed eastward. This annular eclipse will be visible in the late afternoon in the USA on the 20th (local date/time). As the eclipse path meets the coast, the sun will only be about 20-30 degrees above the horizon (30 degrees at the start of the partial phase, just over 20 during the annular phase)."

The site goes on to say:

"The normal "rule of thumb" in eclipse chasing is that a total solar eclipse is worth any and all effort to see, no matter where it is in the world. An annular eclipse is worth driving or taking a short flight to see. A partial is worth looking at. Annular eclipses, so named because of the ring shape of the sun, are fun to watch however they lack the complete transformation seen during a total solar eclipse."

So plan on joining us at the Observatory for some solar observing on May 20th, and always remember to use a proper solar filter when observing the Sun.

Mike Thomas.

March, 2012

### March 2012 Meeting Minutes

- Mike reminded the membership that the weekend of March 24/25 was a Messier Marathon weekend.
- Professor Collier brought us up to date on the NV Energy Grant.
- The telescope operators stated they intend to video the May 20th annular eclipse.
- Mike gave a lecture on the Neanderthal species.

### *WNAS Officers*

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### Evening program for the 7:00 PM, Tuesday, April 17, 2012

This week marks the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, so there will be an encore presentation of:

#### **“The Story of the Titanic” By Mike Thomas**

On April 10, 1912, the *Titanic*, largest ship afloat, left Southampton, England, on her maiden voyage to New York City, carrying over 2,200, passengers and crew. Five days later the ship sank, and 1,500 people died. Learn about this great ship, the people who built her, and those who perished with her.

# Events Calendar

~ April 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Full Moon	<b>7</b> Star Party
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Moon Last Qtr	<b>14</b> Star Party
<b>15</b> Saturn at opposition	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> New Moon Dark Skies Star Party  Lyrid meteors
<b>22</b> Lyrid meteors	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Star Party
<b>29</b> Moon 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b>				

~ May 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Star Party  Eta Aquarid meteors
<b>6</b> Full Moon  Eta Aquarid meteors	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Moon Last Qtr Star Party
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Dark Skies Star Party
<b>20</b> JCDO OPEN *annular solar eclipse (New Moon)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Star Party
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Moon 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b> June 5/6 Transit of Venus Next Transit 2117	

\* <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html>