



Presidents Message – January, 2013

I hope every one of you had a great Holiday Season, and were blessed with time spent with loved ones. Eleanor and I spent December on a cruise in the Mediterranean, and a crossing of the Atlantic on the way home. We spent time in Florence, Italy, the heart of the Renaissance. The city is the home of so many examples of art and sculptures from that period, and many renowned persons are entombed there. Michelangelo's statue of David is there, at the Galleria dell' Accademia. He stands 17 feet tall and is magnificent. The old downtown area is a treasure trove of 16th Century artifacts.

Galileo (1564-1642), astronomer extraordinaire, is buried in Florence. We walked to the Basilica Santa Croce Cathedral (completed in 1385) in the middle of Renaissance Florence. Inside, the church has unobstructed space of 115 meters in length. If you enter through the huge front doors, to the left you will see the tomb of Galileo. It is an imposing 20 plus foot high marble faced, ornate carving and sarcophagus. Centered in the facade is a beautiful bust of Galileo. I stood there gazing at the stunning tribute to this great man for some time. Finally, I turned around and looked across the pews at the other side of the cathedral. There, facing Galileo's resting place, was the tomb of Michelangelo (1475-1564). The tombs of these two great men are about 80 feet of floor space apart! It should be noted that Michelangelo was born the year that Galileo died. The tombs of Machiavelli and Rossini are also steps away in the church.

History is wonderful, no matter where you find it. There a few very special places, like Florence, where you are overcome by the past. Places where you can reach across the centuries and connect with greatness. How cool is that?

Mike Thomas.

Nov. 2012

November 2012 Meeting Minutes

- Mike informed those present that there are free online college level science courses available from websites such as "Galaxies and Cosmologies" from Caltech at Coursera.org.
- The subject of entering a float in next year's Nevada Day Parade was revisited. No action taken.
- We had "Movie Night" instead of a guest speaker. Popcorn was provided by Eleanor Thomas, and we all were enthralled by the movie "Voyage to a Prehistoric Planet". A truly "terrible", but entertaining film.

WNAS Officers

President
Mike Thomas
mnethomas@sbcglobal.net

Vice President
Robert Collier
collier@wnc.edu

Newsletter Editor
James Bean
jbean@carson.k12.nv.us





Webmaster
Doug George
doug_george@msn.com

Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00PM, Tuesday, January 15, 2013

"The History of Flight"

This slide-show lecture by Mike Thomas tells the story of aviation. From the time of early man, the desire to fly had been a recurrent dream. The presentation takes you from the very first attempts at flight, to man's exploration of space. It is a story filled with colorful people and exciting adventures.

Events Calendar

~ January 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Quadrantids meteor shower	4 Quadrantids meteor shower	5 Star Party Moon Last Qtr 
6	7	8	9	10	11 New Moon 	12 Dark Skies Star Party Lecture @JCDO 6:30 pm "Mysteries of the Universe"
13	14	15 WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO	16	17	18 Moon 1 st Qtr 	19 Star Party
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Star Party Lecture @JCDO 6:30 pm "Cavemen"
27 Full Moon 	28	29	30	31	Notes:	

~ February 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Star Party
3 Moon Last Qtr 	4	5	6	7	8	9 Dark Skies Star Party Lecture @JCDO 6:30 pm
10 New Moon 	11	12	13	14	15	16 Star Party
17 Moon 1 st Qtr 	18	19 WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO	20	21	22	23 Star Party Lecture @JCDO 6:30 pm
24	25 Full Moon 	26	27	28	Notes:	

