



Presidents Message – May, 2013

The "Mars One" commercial space project has just announced that more than 78,000 people have signed up for the mission's one-way trip to Mars. The Mars One mission goal is to send a group of humans to Mars for permanent colonization. To fund the expedition, the Mars One founders plan to produce an extraterrestrial reality show, sending TV episodes to Earth, by selling \$6 Billion in sponsorships for what could potentially be the most watched broadcast series ever.

Mars One founder Bas Lansdorp said, "The mission is going to be difficult and dangerous, but for different reasons than you might think. Our medical director told me that the difficult part is living on a new planet with a small group of people in a dangerous environment and staying friends. So we're not looking for engineers and pilots. We're looking for people who have this inherent quality, being the kind of person you want to be stranded with. We can teach them any skill they need to have. Basically, what they need to do is survive. Anything that breaks, a machine or a person, needs to be fixed right away. That's the most important thing they need to learn."

Just two weeks have passed since the mission opened its application process, which involves sending in video clips, as well as filling out an online application form. To date, Mars One has received 78,000 applications from more than 120 countries. The majority of applications come from the United States (17,324).

"This is turning out to be the most desired job in history," said Lansdorp in a statement. "These numbers put us right on track for our goal of half a million applicants. Mars One is a mission representing all humanity and its true spirit will be justified only if people from the entire world are represented. I'm proud that this is exactly what we see happening."

The idea of having a one way ticket to anywhere is kind of daunting, but I must say that going to Mars would be tempting. I would bet that many of our Astronomical Society members would probably be willing to go. However, I caution those of you who would go; there is no "In and Out Burger" on Mars, enough said.

Mike Thomas.

April 2013 Meeting Minutes

- Robert Collier gave a report on the preparations for the Observatory's 10th anniversary celebration. He mentioned that volunteers would be needed.
- John Dykes gave a treasurer's report; the WNAS has \$3,650 in its account.
- WNC student Sean Alto gave the lecture "Exo-planet search, Prometheus Project".

WNAS Officers

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


Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00PM, Tuesday, May 21, 2013

"Myths and Urban Legends"





Lecture-Slide Show, by Mike Thomas

An examination of myths and urban legends. Where myths tend to relate to historic beliefs, urban legends are contemporary folklore where rumor or belief is portrayed as fact. Learn about the validity of many popular beliefs, and how to determine fact from fiction.

~ May 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Moon Last Qtr 	3	4 Star Party
5	6	7	8	9	10 New Moon 	11 Star Party Dark Skies
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Star Party Moon 1 st Qtr 
19	20	21 WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO	22	23	24	25 Star Party Full Moon 
26	27	28 Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter	29	30	31 Moon Last Qtr 	Notes:

~ June 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Star Party
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Star Party/Dark Skies New Moon 
9	10	11	12 Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation	13	14	15 Star Party
16 Moon 1 st Qtr 	17	18 WNAS Meeting 7pm JCDO	19	20	21 Summer solstice occurs at 05:04 UTC	22 Star Party Lecture @ 7:30 pm
23 Full Moon 	24	25	26	27	28	29 Star Party
30 Moon Last Qtr 	Notes:					