



President's Message – January 2014

Earlier this winter the "Proceedings of the National Academy of Science" announced that astronomers completed a study to try to determine how many 'Earth type' planets we might expect there to be in our galaxy. These would be about the size of Earth, orbiting stars like our Sun, and be in the 'Goldilocks' zone; being an orbit having a distance from its star which enables it to have liquid water (not too hot, not too cold).

The investigation used NASA data to come out with an estimate of a probable 8.8 Billion Earth like planets in the Milky Way galaxy. The study pointed out that the number is more than the population of Earth. How cool is that!

Eleanor and I returned from our month in Europe just prior to Christmas. We talk travel, we always talk with locals, and many have questions about life in America. Almost without exception, they admire the U.S. We did encounter some negative comments when we were in Egypt in 2010, but overall, especially in Italy, Spain, and Turkey, their citizen's praise our country. However, those same people will add, "Why is your government so messed up." They go on to say that it looks like our politicians are ineffective, and not responsive to our people. I generally respond by saying, "Welcome to my world." Even with that, we are still a beacon of hope, and the standard of freedom, to most of the world. Returning to the U.S. you are usually greeted at customs by the words, "Welcome home." It is always good to be home.

Mike Thomas.

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

December 2013 Meeting Minutes

No Meeting



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

"Antarctica a Continent of Ice"
My Research Experience at the Bottom of the World
Presented by Professor Robert Collier

~ January 2014 ~

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

~ February 2014 ~

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