

ASN Presidents Message

May 2023

Our May meeting will be this Tuesday, May 9th, at the Fleischmann Planetarium. The meeting will begin at 6:30 with a business meeting, followed by a break to socialize before we start the Membership Meeting at 7:30. The general organization of the meeting will be:

May 9, 2023, ASN MEETING:

6:30 pm – 7:15 pm; Business Meeting, Officers and interested members
Fleischmann Planetarium, classroom

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm; Members and guests “meet & greet”

Meet our new members and visitors. Catch up on projects and summer plans!

7:30 pm – Membership Meeting

Fleischmann Planetarium, planetarium theater

8:00 pm – MEETING PROGRAM:

SUMMER REGIONAL STAR PARTIES AND FESTIVALS

Discussion of upcoming events with reports and advice from ASN members who have attended previous events. Discussion for ASN member groups planning to attend any of these events. These include:

- *June 14 – 18 Golden State Star Party*
- *June 14 -- 17 Bryce Canyon NP Astronomy Festival*
- *July 18 – 23 Oregon Star Party*
- *September 14 – 16 Great Basin NP Astronomy Festival*

I will email out a meeting full Agenda prior to the meeting and will have copies available at the meeting.

APRIL with the ASN

In April ASN activities and involvement included:

- Girl Scouts Solar Viewing, (April 15)
- Walker River Pitchfork Ranch “Conservancy Campout” (April 22)
- Private event for “Black Hole Body Piercing” (April 25)
- Sparks Marina – (April 21 – canceled due to clouds)
- Northern Nevada Science & Technology Festival “Science is Everywhere” (April 23 – 29)
- ASN “Introduction to Telescope Basics” – Mogul Park (April 28th)

April Activities Recap:

On **April 15** we had a great turnout with the *Girl Scouts Solar Viewing*, held at the national Automobile Museum, organized and lead by Jim Fahey. This was well supported by ASN members bringing their telescopes, as well as operating our two club solar telescopes.

On **April 22nd** Rob Savidge and Tim Stoffel (any others?) attended the "*Conservancy Campout at Pitchfork Ranch*" at Walker River State Park for an evening of star gazing. The park is planning additional 'campout' events through the Summer and Fall in June, August, and October. The campout is scheduled for June 17-18. Looking forward to Rob and Tim reporting on how this went.

Jim Fahey organized a private "star party" for *Black Hole Body Piercing* on **April 25th**. *Jim??*

The week of **April 23 – 29th** ASN participated in the *Northern Nevada Science & Technology Festival "Science is Everywhere"* program. ASN members contributed to "SUN-day" and "MOON-day" programs at the Fleischmann Planetarium, and at an observing the night sky program at the Galena Creek Visitors Center on Saturday. Thank you to the members that came out to support this community public event!

Sparks Maria on **April 21st** was unfortunately canceled, due to clouds moving in just before sunset. However, in lieu of this we schedule an "*Introduction to Telescope Basics*", bring your telescope event on **April 28th** at Mogel Park. This was the first time we held a club event at this park. This "Introduction to Telescope Basics" turned out to be a great success with about 15 people attending, a mix of new members, guests, and even some residents of the area. There were about 8 or 9 telescopes belonging to new members set up, with members offering help and advice. Interest has also been expressed in holding more of these sessions – which is our intent! We will continue to offer help to anyone needing it at our third Friday Sparks Marina public event. And when not at Sparks Marina, I would like to see us continue this and return to Mogul Park for additional telescope help and mentoring star parties.

Looking ahead to May

Mark your calendars:

- May 9, Tuesday– ASN Monthly Meeting
- May 19, Friday – New Moon at 8:53 AM
- May 19, Friday, Sparks Marina public "sidewalk astronomy". Bring your telescopes! If you need help, members will be available to help you set up and learn how to use your telescope. Come early and before sunset.
- With the new moon on 5/19, we have two good opportunities for Saturday member star parties on May 13 and 20. We will discuss this at Thursday's meeting (and watch for email updates).

Clear skies ahead!

-Brad Carlson

President, Astronomical Society of Nevada

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