

ASN Presidents Message

July 2023

July 11, ASN Members Meeting

Location: Fleischmann Planetarium, 1664 N. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89557

(Once you park, come inside the planetarium and pick up a parking pass for your car)

8:27 pm – Sunset

6:30 pm – 7:15 pm; Business Meeting

Officers and interested members

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 & Program

As often asked at public star parties, “What’s your favorite star?”

If you have been watching the sun recently you know that solar activity is increasing faster than expected for the current “Solar Cycle 25”. The Sun has a complicated and changing magnetic field, with active regions forming sunspots and with observable activity that includes solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CME). The sun reverses its magnetic poles on an approximately 11-year cycle, creating periods of “solar minimum” and “solar maximum”, as determined by the number of sunspots and their respective polarity. The current “Solar Cycle 25” began in December 2019 and is predicted to reach “Solar Maximum” in the summer of 2025; however, solar activity is currently increasing faster than expected with the next Solar Maximum possible a year early, in 2024.

With this, and with two solar eclipses in North America in the next 9 months, I am devoting this meeting to the sun, solar phenomena, and observing the sun and eclipses. This will be an opportunity to share our stories and experiences observing the sun, solar eclipses, and the equipment we use.

Paul McFarlane, ASN member and Planetarium Director, will also have the planetarium’s DigiStar software available for us to see the sky as it will appear during these upcoming solar eclipses, the Annular in October 2023 and Total in April 2024.

Paul also has a film queued up for those interested, following our discussion:

The Sun, Our Living Star (2018, 25 min)

Full dome file Produced by the European Southern Observatory – ESO Supernova Planetarium

This 25-minute film reveals the impact our star has on every aspect of our lives here on Earth.

Synopsis:

The Sun has shone on our world for four and a half billion years. The light that warms our skin today has been felt by every person who has ever lived. It is our nearest star and our planet’s powerhouse, the source of the energy that drives our winds, our weather and all life.

The passage of the Sun's fiery disc across the sky — day by day, month by month — was the only way to keep track of time for countless past civilizations. Don't be fooled by the terminology; although it is a typical dwarf star, the Sun consumes 600 million tons of hydrogen each second and is 500 times as massive as all the planets combined.



ASN CALENDAR

JULY 2023 ASN Star Parties & Events

With the new moon on Monday, July 17 at 11:31 pm (PDT), we have two favorable Saturdays for Member Star Parties, on July 15 & 22. Along with a couple of public outreach events and the Oregon Star Party.

July 15, Saturday, (moon set 7:28 pm, sunset 8:25 pm)

ASN Members new moon star party – location to be confirmed, watch for a forthcoming email with details.

July 18 – 23

OREGON STAR PARTY

Early registration is closed, however, as of my writing this their website indicates that there is still room to attend, via on-site registration at the event. On-site registration is \$200 for adults and \$5 for kids aged 6 to 11. If you are considering this, see their website for more information and confirm availability prior to departing. <https://oregonstarparty.org/>

July 21, Friday, (sunset 8:21 pm, Moon set 10:47 pm)

There are two public observing events this Friday evening. If you can make it to Galena Creek County Park for the campfire program, I encourage you to come and support the ASN with this event. As this is part of a regular Friday series of programs in the park and is also an Artown event, we can expect a large turnout from the public. If you cannot make it to Galena, this is also our “Third Friday” public star party at Sparks Marina. We can discuss these two concurrent public events at our meeting on July 11th:

GALENA CAMPFIRE PROGRAM – “Star gazing with the Astronomical Society of Nevada”

This free event is part of the Washoe County Parks “Campfire Program” series, held each Friday through the summer. The Friday, July 21 program is “Star gazing with the Astronomical Society of Nevada”. This will feature a presentation by Ranger Andy Brown and ASN member Mike Hopper, followed with telescope viewing. ASN members are encouraged to participate by bringing your telescopes for public viewing, or just bring a lawn chair and enjoy the evening.

Details:

Location: Eagle Meadow, north entrance to Galena Creek Regional Park above the Galena Creek Visitor Center, 18250 Mt. Rose Highway., Reno

When: 8:00 – 9:30 p.m., Enjoy treats by the campfire at 7:30 p.m.

More information:

<https://tockify.com/wcparks/detail/301/1689996600000?startms=1688194800000>

SPARKS MARINA (third Friday) *Public Outreach and New Members Star Party.*

Arrive early, before sunset, if you need help with setting up or using your telescope. This is a great opportunity to get to know new members. However, as this event is concurrent with the Galena Campfire Program, and ASN members are needed there for public observing, I encourage you to opt to go to Galena. We can discuss this at our meeting on July 11th.

July 22, Saturday, (sunset 8:21 pm, moon set 11:07 pm)

ASN Members new moon star party – location to be confirmed, watch for a forthcoming email with details.



UPCOMING REGIONAL STAR PARTIES and EVENTS

September 14 – 16, 2023 Great Basin National Park Astronomy Festival

October 14, 2023, Saturday, Annular Solar Eclipse (“Ring of Fire”),
crossing 9 states from Oregon, Nevada, and through Texas.

Clear skies,

-Brad Carlson

President, Astronomical Society of Nevada

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