

## **MARCH 2023 -- ASN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS:**

March 11<sup>th</sup> – Fleishmann Planetarium event: “Science Saturday: Modeling Mars / Sculpting Planets”

March 14<sup>th</sup> – ASN March Meeting

March 17<sup>th</sup> – ASN Sparks Marina Public Star Party (Jim Rigby & Phil Oberlander)

Check for email and ASN website for “go/no-go” updates on the afternoon of the day of this event.

March 25<sup>th</sup> – ASN Messier Marathon Members Star Party (Robbin Scholl)

### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

Last month's meeting was well attended by 16 people, including 4 guests. (Only two Officers were able to attend, Tim Stoffel and me – thus a quorum was not present.) The earlier start time of 7:00 was a well-received success, with most all arriving between 6:30 and 7:00. We enjoyed this time socializing with other members, and meeting new members and guests. Many thanks to members Jim Fahey and Mike Hopper who each gave presentations and answered questions. Jim, a long time member and amateur astronomer, shared some of his “hacks” that he has learned and uses for equipment storage and set-up. Mike Hopper gave a presentation “Highlights of the Winter Circle”, an informative presentation on the stars and constellations of February and tips for navigating the winter sky. Following the meeting, Paul McFarlane, Planetarium Director and member, presented a planetarium show, “Impact Earth”, a film by the Houston Museum of Natural Science about encounters with comets, meteors and asteroids, narrated by astronaut Tom Jones.

### **MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> – MARCH MEETING – Tuesday at 7:00 PM (6:30 Business Meeting), Fleischmann Planetarium**

**6:30 to 7:15 – Business Meeting (lower-level classroom)** – We will start at 6:30 PM with a club business meeting of the Officers and interested members. With this early start, we are moving business discussions out of the General Meeting. If you are interested in club business and can't attend at 6:30, a summary and announcements from this business session will be made at the 7:30 General Meeting.

**7:00 to 7:30 – “Meet & Greet” Social (Planetarium Lower Level Lobby)** – Members are invited to arrive prior to the General Meeting to catch up with other members, guests, and meet those new to the ASN. (Please note that this intentionally overlaps the 6:30 business meeting. You can choose which you want to attend.)

**7:30 to 8:30 – General Meeting (Planetarium Theater)** – As we are working to organize our General Meetings to focus on items of interest to the general membership, the Business Meeting session will be held prior to this General Meeting. The General Meeting will include:

- Updates from the 6:30 Business Meeting and Officer's announcements (20 minutes).
- Overview of club events and activities this month and for 2023, and advance planning thoughts (15 minutes).
- Overview of various ASN programs – an opportunity to learn about and volunteer (15 minutes).
- Member's Announcements (10 minutes).

### **8:30 – 9:30 – Planetarium show and discussion (Planetarium Theater)**

- Mike Hopper will present, Winter Circle “full circle!” (a continuation of his February presentation). We will also have an overview of Charles Messier and “Messier Marathons”.
- Brief discussion for the ASN Messier Marathon event – announcements and information (see also item below).
- Planetarium show presented by Paul McFarlane and the Fleishmann Planetarium.

### **Parking at the Planetarium for ASN meetings:**

For ASN meetings, as you arrive at the planetarium you can park in the garage adjacent to the planetarium (West Stadium Parking Complex). Paying for parking is not required after 8:00 PM. However, for those who arrive prior to 8:00 – once you park go to the planetarium desk and request a parking pass, then place it on your car's dash. So that we can start our meetings earlier, Paul McFarlane (member and Planetarium Director) has been instrumental in assisting the ASN in obtaining 1-hour parking passes for \$2 apiece. Paul and ASN have purchased a block of these and as a complementary courtesy are making these available to meeting attendees. These are only needed for those who arrive prior to 8:00 PM.

## **MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> – ASN MESSIER MARATHON**

- ASN Star Party for members and guests of members. Robbin Scholl is making an area adjacent to her home in Palomino Valley, about 15 minutes north of Spanish Springs, for this Members Event.
- We will plan to set up the ASN 20" telescope at this event.
- Location: *Will not be* posted on the ASN Website, but will be sent to members via email upon request. (For those who have been to Robbins, note that we will be at the main house and not the guest house that we used previously.)
- Times --
  - Sunset at 7:15 PM
  - Moon rises 3/25 at 9:04 AM and sets 3/26 at 12:11 AM
- If you arrive after dark, please use the usual star party protocol and etiquette.

## **FLEISHMANN PLANETARIUM Program of Interest:**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 – 6:00 PM Fleishmann Planetarium event: "Science Saturday: Modeling Mars / Sculpting Planets"**

- More information at <[https://events.unr.edu/event/science\\_saturday\\_modeling\\_mars\\_sculpting\\_planets](https://events.unr.edu/event/science_saturday_modeling_mars_sculpting_planets)>
- There is a \$10 fee for this program. Contact the Planetarium regarding parking for this event.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at an upcoming event!

Clear skies,

-Brad Carlson

ASN President

775-772-4777