

Regarding: Sparks Marina Public Star Party, April 21, 2023 – canceled due to clouds
and

Beginner's Introduction to Telescope Basics Mentoring

ASN Members -

I spoke with Jim Rigby and Phil Oberlander, the coordinators for our Sparks Marina public start party tonight. Regrettably due to high clouds moving in they decided to cancel tonight.

As I mentioned at our last meeting, we had hoped to have a beginner's introduction to telescope basics tonight. We are working toward offering a mentoring program, in some form. If observing conditions are poor or impossible, a big part of this is defeated.

Beginner's Introduction to Telescope Basics:

I would like to take another shot at this, a *beginner's introduction to telescope basics* to offer anyone interested a chance to work with members one-on-one, mentoring the basics of how to set up your telescope and prepare for a night of observing. This will also offer those looking to purchase their first telescope a chance to learn a bit more and try out different telescopes, as well. Normally, this is something we offer at Sparks Marina – and still do.

Now that Spring is here, I am proposing that we look at, in addition to 3rd Friday at the Marina, other Friday evening options for small groups to get together at nearby locations and specifically for orientation and help for beginners. In the coming weeks, the Fridays that look good for this are:

Friday, April 28 -- moon sets at 3:29 am, 62% illuminated

Friday, May 5 -- Full moon -- not great for observing

Friday, May 12 -- moon sets at 10:57 pm, 59% illuminated

Friday, May 19 -- this is the next Sparks Marina night and is also a new moon

So, if anyone is interested in getting together on **either April 18 or May 12** (or both) for an introduction to telescope and observing basics, please contact me directly. Depending on the response we will set this up at a nearby location with experienced ASN members to assist and mentor. Once I have an idea of the interest and a good date is determined, I'll see who's available as experienced members mentors to join the group.

Please email me directly and let me know your thoughts.

Clear skies -

-Brad Carlson

President, ASN

direct email: bcarlson@astronomynv.com