

# Northern Lights

Newsletter of the Coconino Astronomical Society

[www.lowell.edu/cas](http://www.lowell.edu/cas)

October/November 2007

October Meeting – Saturday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 5:45 pm

## Trick or Treat ? – The Tricks to Buying & Treats of Owning a Telescope

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At the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coconino Astronomical Society, get ready for your holiday gift buying with some timely tips from members Dave Frisk and Ernie Webb on selecting a telescope. They will tell you "How not to get tricked into buying the wrong scope and the treats of observing with the right scope for your needs and interests." The pluses and minuses of various systems will be compared, as well as features to look for, and cost factors.

A Slate of Officers for CAS for 2008 will be presented. Elections will take place at the November meeting. There will also be a brief discussion of the new website and a logo for the club.

After the meeting, there will be a time to meet others and for refreshments. Weather permitting there will be observing of the Moon, as well as Messier objects such as star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, and other celestial treats - all through members' telescopes. This observing is free to those attending the meeting, but there is a fee for additional participation in other Lowell Observatory activities and observing. Observing will begin at 7:30 PM and may continue as late as 10 PM. Remember to dress warmly.

Directions: From Rt. 66 at the center of Flagstaff, take West Santa Fe up Mars Hill to Lowell Observatory. Meet at the Steele Visitor Center.

## Upcoming Events

October 19<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Square Public Observing Night ( Last one in 2007)

- 20<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting – 5:45 pm at Lowell  
Program – Trick or Treat ? – Dave Frisk & Ernie Webb  
Open to Public

Nov. 3: Night of the Stars at Alamo State Park (contact info: 928-669-2088 or [www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com))

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – CAS Member Observing Night Dave Frisk's

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting – 6pm at Lowell  
Program –SETI Presenter: Klaus Brasch, CAS member  
Election of Board Members for 2007

Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> - Board of Directors Meeting 7pm Lowell  
All members welcome

December 15<sup>th</sup> - CAS Holiday Party

## CAS Board Nominations Sought

Nominations for the CAS Board are being sought. The Slate of Officers and Trustees will be presented at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and the elections will take place at the November meeting. If you are interested in serving contact Jeremy Perez

## CAS Member Observing Night Highlights

Mixed weather conditions limited the scope of September's observing night. Those who did venture out to Dave's did find good observing later in the evening.

So far attendance has been good for these monthly events. So plan to come on out and join fellow members next time.

## September Meeting Highlights

The September Meeting featured guest speaker Andy Odell an astronomer at the University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, will present a talk on The Origin of the Chemical Elements. What are the cosmic abundances of the elements? How, where, and when did they form? Where did the everyday materials around us and even the carbon from which we ourselves are made come from? This talk relates the observed patterns of chemical abundances to the processes that formed them.

## Women in Astronomy Site

*the Woman Astronomer, Where Women Are The Stars!*

Publisher: former CAS member Debra Davis

Our mission is to promote astronomy as a hobby and science, to encourage women and girls interested in astronomy, and to be a resource to the astronomy community and the public at large.

The current issue is available at:

<http://www.womanastronomer.com/newsletter0710.htm>

## The October/ November Night Sky

October

10<sup>th</sup> – New Moon

9<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> - Venus, Saturn & Regulus appear closest together in morning sky

21<sup>th</sup> - Peak of the Orionid meteors

26<sup>th</sup> - Moon is closest to Earth and thus the largest full moon for 2007

November

3<sup>rd</sup> - Moon occults Regulus about 3:40 am

9<sup>th</sup> - New Moon

18<sup>th</sup> –Peak of the Leonid meteors

26<sup>th</sup> – Moon passes 1.5 degrees north of Mars (9:30 PST)

December – Mars reaches opposition and be at its closest approach for the next 9 years

## Looking Ahead to November

At the November General Meeting, Klaus Brasch will present a program on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI). There will also be the election of 2008 Board of Directors.

## Meteor Information Site

For current information on meteors and showers a visit the North American Meteor Network

<http://www.namnmeteors.org/>

They even have an online guide to meteor showers and observing techniques geared to beginning observers .

<http://www.namnmeteors.org/guide.html>

## New CAS Website Under Construction

CAS will soon have a new website at its own domain. Todd Thatcher is currently working on the design elements and a domain name has been selected. We will be online at [www.coconinoastro.org](http://www.coconinoastro.org) . Doing this will allow us the flexibility to post more current info and also members' astrophotography. A calendar of events will also be incorporated. As part of the site, the club is also designing a logo. Many thanks to Todd for taking on this project.

## General Information

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- CAS Members receive a \$10. discount on *Sky & Telescope* subscriptions if ordered through CAS. Contact Treasurer David Sanders for details.
- To join CAS or renew membership contact Treasurer David Sanders.
- Trustee Dave Frisk offers a free observing session at his home for new members . Contact Dave by phone at 928- 607-9189.
- CAS maintains an email list to send out announcements about club events. Emails are not sent frequently, and the list is not sold or distributed. Register at the general meeting, or send an email through the CAS website.
- The Northern Lights is the bi-monthly newsletter of CAS and is posted online. The newsletter deadline is the Friday following the Board Meetings. All members are encouraged to share information/articles of interest. Please submit articles by email to : Linda Webb at [lewebb@hughes.net](mailto:lewebb@hughes.net)
- Deadline for the December/ January newsletter will be Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

## Bulletin Board Available for CAS Use

A new Bulletin Board has been set up with a variety of topic areas including astronomy. CAS has been given its own area for posting and sharing information and activities, as well as dialog between members.

<http://www.novitiuemearth.com/phpBB2>

You can register for free and then go to the Astronomy Discussion Groups and select CAS, Hopefully this will be a useful tool for communications. There are also postings of articles of interest to the astronomy community.