



# Northern Lights

Newsletter of the Coconino Astronomical Society

[www.coconinoastro.org](http://www.coconinoastro.org)

February 2008

## February Meeting – Saturday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:45pm

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Information

For the February meeting Bill Millis, Director at Lowell Observatory will be our presenter. Bob's topic will be "Progress in Building the Discovery Channel Telescope and Plans for Its Scientific Use," as he discusses the Discovery Channel telescope now being built by Lowell Observatory and the Discovery Channel, near Happy Jack, Arizona. The talk will review the construction status of each major element of the telescope, the schedule for completion of the total facility, and the initial scientific investigations to be undertaken with the telescope.

After the meeting, there will be a brief time to meet the speaker and 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. Those attending are welcome to bring and set up their own telescopes, particularly if they'd like assistance in how to use them. 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 Visitor Center auditorium.

## Upcoming Events

February 9<sup>th</sup> - CAS Club Observing Night – Dave Frisk's Site  
16<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting – 6pm at Lowell  
20<sup>th</sup> - CAS Lunar Eclipse Observing- Klaus Brasch's Site  
March 8<sup>th</sup> – CAS Club Observing Night – Dave Frisk's Site  
15<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting – 5:45 pm – at Lowell  
19<sup>th</sup> - CAS Board of Directors Meeting – 7pm Lowell  
All club members welcome

## Lunar Eclipse Viewing

On February 20<sup>th</sup> the CAS members will agther at Klaus Brasch's observing site to watch the lunar eclipse. Totality begins at 8pm. , plan to arrive around 7pm to set up scopes.

Contact Klaus at 928- 779-6215 for directions.

## CAS Holiday Party

The Annual CAS Holiday Party at the home of Brent and Joanne Archinal was well attended and a great time was had by all. Plenty of good things to eat, and Padraig's Irish coffee got the holiday season off to a merry start. Many thanks to JoAnne and Brent for hosting the evening.

## March/ April Program Advanced Notice

The March general meeting program will feature a presentation on Observatories of the World by Klaus Brasch. CAS Member. Klaus has been fortunate enough to have visited a number of them., and will give us the highlights.

In April Andy Odell will be our guest speaker talking on Galaxies and the Universe. Look for more program details later.

## The February/ March Night Sky

February/March 2008

### February

1<sup>st</sup> Venus & Jupiter are .6 degrees apart in morning sky

6<sup>th</sup> - New moon

20<sup>th</sup> - Lunar Eclipse

27<sup>th</sup> - Venus is 1.1 degrees below Mercury in morning sky

### March

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

8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> - Mars is within 2 degrees of M35 in Gemini

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> - Moon is 1 degree north of Mars

23<sup>rd</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup> - Zodiacal light is visible after dusk in moonless western sky

## January Meeting Highlights

The January Meeting featured a clinic on using your telescope by Dave Frisk & Ernie Webb. Geared towards helping people learn about their telescopes, it was hands-on with various club members helping those who brought their scopes. The meeting was well attended by the public.

## General Information

- CAS Members receive a \$10. discount on *Sky & Telescope* subscriptions if ordered through CAS. Contact Treasurer Dave Sanders for details.
- To join CAS or renew membership contact Treasurer Dave 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 April May newsletter will be March 28<sup>th</sup>