



# Northern Lights

Newsletter of the Coconino Astronomical Society

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

April 2008

## April Meeting – Saturday, April 12, 5:45pm pm

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For the April meeting Andy Odell, an astronomer at the University of Arizona's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, will be our presenter. Andy's topic "The Universe - according to the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Space is Big. Really Big! You just won't believe how vastly mind bogglingly big it is. It is perhaps the biggest place of all. But, what is it made of? And just how big IS it? And if it has a finite size, then what is outside of it? Where did it come from? And where is it going? These are the questions I'll discuss with you and try to answer."

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. . 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

April 11<sup>th</sup> – Heritage Square Public Observing Night Dusk  
12<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting – 5:45 pm at Lowell

May 3<sup>rd</sup> – CAS Club Observing Night – Dave Frisk's Site  
10<sup>th</sup> – General Meeting – 5:45 pm – at Lowell  
14<sup>th</sup> - CAS Board of Directors Meeting – 7pm Lowell  
All club members welcome

## Lunar Eclipse - Snow Blankets Viewing

On February 20<sup>th</sup> weather for the eclipse viewing was not favorable, with clouds and snow! A few hardy souls ventured forth to Klaus' observatory in spite of the weather.

## Flagstaff Festival of Science Planning

CAS Board and Lowell Observatory have been working on some preliminary plans for joint participation in the Festival of Science in late September. The program and observing evening will be the main business item at the next Board meeting in May. All interested members are encouraged to attend and help with the planning.

## May/ June Program Advanced Notice

The May General Meeting Program will feature member Rich Edmonds, our resident rocketry expert. His presentation will be about his experiences with space launch vehicles.

June 7<sup>th</sup> is our annual CAS Picnic at the Frisk's. Starting time this year will be 5pm. Bring your scope, and a dish to share. Last year's picnic was well attended, hope to see many of us there.

## Official Election Notice

At the May meeting we will have an election to fill the vacancy for Vice President. Klaus Brasch was appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy. According to the CAS Bylaws the membership must vote on candidates for vacancies. If anyone else wishes to run please contact a Board member. The election will take place at the May General meeting.

## The April/ May Night Sky

April/ May 2008

### April

1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> - Zodiacal light is visible after dusk in moonless western sky

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

11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> – Near pass of Moon to Mars in night sky

Saturn is overhead in Leo in the evening sky.

Jupiter is visible in the morning sky near Sagittarius.

### May

1-3<sup>rd</sup> Mercury passes less than 3degrees from Pleiades

3- 7<sup>th</sup> - Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower

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

10<sup>th</sup> - Moon skims southern edge of the Beehive Cluster

13<sup>th</sup> – Mercury is at greatest elongation from the Sun

22- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mars passes through the Beehive Cluster

Mercury is visible in the evening sky for most of May

## March Meeting Highlights

The March Meeting program was an excellent presentation by Klaus Brasch on observatories around the world, many of which he has visited. The program was well attended and enjoyed by all.

## 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 June/ July newsletter will be May 23<sup>th</sup>