



Northern Lights

Newsletter of the Coconino Astronomical Society

www.coconinoastro.org

February 2009

February Meeting – Saturday, Feb. 7th, 5:45pm

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For the February meeting our program will be about the "Starhenge" project. Chris Luginbuhl of USNO, who did the astronomical calculations, and Steve Nelson, the artist, will be speaking. <http://starhenge.net/>

After the meeting, there will be a brief time to meet the speakers 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.

National Astronomy Week – April 27th- May 3rd

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy. CAS is coordinating with Lowell Observatory, and possibly other astronomy groups, to schedule a special event for the weekend of May 2nd. Members will be updated as plans are finalized and will be asked to participate if possible.

Upcoming Events

February 7th - General Meeting – 5:45pm at Lowell
28th - CAS Club Observing Night – Dave Frisk's Site

March 7th – General Meeting – 5:45 pm at Lowell
11th - CAS Board of Directors Meeting – 7pm Lowell
All club members welcome
28th - CAS Club Observing Night – Dave Frisk's

CAS Holiday Party

The Annual CAS Holiday Party at the home of Ernie and Linda was well attended and a great time was had by all. Plenty of good things to eat, and music by Barry Malpais, got the holiday season off to a merry start. A special guest, Terry Dickinson came with the Braschs, and autographed his books for us. The newest CAS observatory – Ernie's Star Shack, was used for the first time. Many thanks, to Ernie and Linda, for hosting the evening.

January Meeting Highlights

The January Meeting featured the annual 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 not well attended this year due to weather conditions. (The rest of the group watched Padraig's slides of his trip to Ireland.)

Telescope for Sale

11" f/5.4 Starmaster E.L. Series Dobsonian made by the legendary Carl Zambuto; The scope is about 5 years old, in excellent condition, very portable and with superbly corrected optics, ideal for both deep sky and lunar and planetary viewing. It originally sold for \$2,300. Terry is asking \$1,400 for it and ideally wants to sell within Arizona to minimize shipping and packaging issues. No eyepieces are included. Contact Klaus Brasch for more information.

The February/ March Night Sky

February/March 2009

February - Mercury will be visible at dawn

11th – 25th Zodiacal light will be visible in the evening sky

17th - Mars is .6 degrees from Jupiter very low in the morning sky

24th - Mercury and Jupiter are < 1 degree apart in the morning sky

New Moon

25th - Ceres makes the closest approach to Earth for the next 20 centuries

March

1st – 2nd – Mars is < .75 degrees from Mercury low in the morning sky

3rd - Ceres is .33 degrees north of the double star 54 Leonis

8th - Saturn is at opposition

12th- 28th - Zodiacal light is visible after dusk in the western sky

26th – New Moon

27th - Venus is at inferior conjunction

In the 2nd half of March the crescent Venus is nearly 1 arc min. from tip to tip this is potentially big enough to be observed with the naked eye

General Information

- CAS Members receive a \$10 discount on *Sky & Telescope* subscriptions if ordered through CAS. Contact Treasurer Andy Barnett for details.
- To join CAS or renew membership contact Treasurer Andy Barnett.
- 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
- Deadline for the April May newsletter will be March 20th