



Northern Lights

Newsletter of the Coconino Astronomical Society

www.coconinoastro.org

September/October 2008

September Meeting – Saturday, 6th 4:30 pm

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Public Viewing at the Arboretum

Our September General Meeting is a public viewing event at the Arboretum jointly sponsored by the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition, CAS, and the Arboretum. Set up will be from 4:30 -5:30pm. The concert is from 6-7pm, and viewing is from 7-9pm. Any club members who would like to participate should contact Ernie Webb at 928-600-4354 for details.

See http://www.thearb.org/summer_concert_series.htm for info on the evening's concert, featuring folk musician Terri Hendrix.

Upcoming Events

- Aug 30th – CAS Observing Night – Frisk's
5pm - Labor Day Weekend Picnic
- Sept. 5th – Heritage Square – Public Viewing
- Sept. 6th - The Arboretum 4:30pm set up
Public Viewing 7-9 pm following Concert
- Sept. 10th CAS Board Meeting 7pm Lowell
All members welcome
- Sept. 27th - CAS Observing Night - Frisk's
- Sept. 28th – Festival of Science Program w/Lowell
Telescope Set-up 5pm
Panel Discussion – 6- 7:30 pm
- Oct 10th – Heritage Square – Public Viewing
- Oct 11th - CAS General Meeting & Program 5:45pm
Lowell Observatory
Choosing a Telescope Workshop – CAS Members
Ernie Webb & Dave Frisk
- Oct. 25th - CAS Observing Night - Frisk's

August 30th CAS Observing Night & Picnic

Such a great time was had in June that we are going back to Dave and Kris's for the Labor Day weekend and doing it again. Our hosts extraordinaire have invited one and all, so please RSVP so they know who to expect. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks are provided. Bring a side dish to share. For directions contact Dave at 928-607-9189. See you all then!

Nominations for Board of Directors

It's that time again! Nominations are being sought for the CAS Board of Directors. If you would be interested in serving on the Board, please contact CAS Secretary JoAnne Archinal at starry_nt@msn.com. Nominations will be presented at the October meeting and elections are held in November. This is your club and your ideas and participation are needed!

September Festival of Science Event

CAS and Lowell Observatory are planning a joint Festival of Science event for Sunday, September 28th from 5:30- 9:30pm. This is Lowell's "Flagstaff evening" (local resident attendance is the focus). We are hoping this will be a great outreach opportunity, and draw some new members to our meetings.

CAS will be conducting an "Ask the Amateur Astronomer" Panel Discussion from 6pm to 7:30pm. The purpose is to answer questions that the public may have on telescopes; solar system object observing; deep sky object observing; and astrophotography. Members of CAS will serve as the panelists. CAS members will also be setting up scopes for public viewing from 5:30- 9:30. Volunteers are needed to bring their scopes and help with the viewing. Club members are also requested to submit questions they feel would be of interest for the panel to discuss. If you are interested in serving on the panel, will be available to set up your scope, or have a question to submit, please contact Ernie Webb or Klaus Brasch through the club email (info@coconinoastro.org).

The current outline for the evening is as follows:

- 6:00 pm Welcome and Introductions of Panel Members
- 6:05- 6:45 Presentations by Panel on Topics (4 – 10 min. general overviews)
Telescopes, Solar System, Deep Sky, Astrophotography
- 6:45 – 7:30 Q&A Session
- 6:00 – 9:30 Public Viewing Session (concurrent w/program)

Oct. 11th General Meeting & Program

It's time to 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 2009 will be presented. Elections will take place at the November meeting.

Heritage Square Public Evenings -End of The Season 2008

September 5th and October 10th will be the last two public viewing sessions of 2008. It has been a very well received program, and always generates a lot of oohs and aahs from all. Amazing how many people have never looked at the sky through a telescope. Many thanks to all the CAS members who have brought their scopes out or just helped out any time during the year for these events. Your time and efforts are appreciated.

Welcome New Members

CAS is glad to welcome the following new member:

Michael Watkins of Flagstaff.

Welcome, and happy viewing.

The September/ October Night Sky

Some objects to look out for include;

Sept. 11th - Venus passes less than 1/3 degree from Mars at evening twilight

Sept. 12th - Uranus at opposition to the Sun

Sept. 22nd - Autumnal Equinox - Fall begins

Sept. 29th - New moon

Oct. 4th - Antares is .1 degree north of the crescent Moon @ 3am

Oct. 6th - Jupiter is 2 degrees north of the Moon @ 11pm

Oct. 10th - Neptune is .9 degrees south of the Moon @ 2am

Oct. 22nd - Mercury is at greatest western elongation in evening sky

Oct. 28th - New moon

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 .Current members are also always welcome to come out and take advantage of the dark skies and outstanding observing set-up 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 or snail mail to : Linda Webb at lewebb@hughes.net or 2485 W. Whitetail Loop Williams, AZ 86046
 - **Deadline for the November/December Newsletter is Oct. 22nd.**
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