

THE

Asteroid



Newsletter for the Astronomical Society of Nevada

4th Quarter 2016

Presidents Perspective, December, 2016

It's traditional for the Asteroid to include a message from the ASN president. And, since the ASN has a number of new members, I think this is a good time to remind everyone what we are about and what we have to offer. Of course we love astronomy and the journey that comes with it. The more we know about the objects in our eyepieces the more amazing it is to see them. And when we experience the thrill of seeing or learning something new, we want to share it. So it's a natural fit for us to perform community service by promoting astronomy education and awareness.

The ASN provides its members with opportunities to observe with big telescopes under dark skies. Our 24-inch scope was constructed by ASN members and the club also owns a 20-inch Obsession. By working together we are able to

(Continued page 3)



ASN members enjoyed a social event at Pub and Sub on March 8, 2016.
Back Row: Jay Lawson, Tony Bennett, Tim Burns, Bill Ralph, Jim Scivally,
Dennis Jamison

Front row: Alan Carsey, Cindy and Phil Oberlander, Mike Hopper,
Jim Fahey

The Astronomical Society of Nevada does public star gazing, presentations on Astronomy and Science and works with local schools to educate children on the wonders of the sky. In addition, we help each other learn more about the different aspects of Astronomy and participate as a group in celestial events. There is something for everyone.

President	Dennis Jamison	dandjamison@gmail.com	775-846-7450
Vice President	Jim Fahey	jfahey0102@charter.net	775-356-0102
Treasurer	Robbin Scholl	robbin@screamingtigers.com	775-354-8658
Historian/Editor	Jay Lawson	jaylawson@charter.net	775-527-3400
Secretary	Joe Thomas	josephjohnsmith@aol.com	775-721-1743

On line resources
Web Site www.astronomynv.org
Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AstronomicalSocietyNV/>

"To encourage, foster, conduct and support programs on astronomy and related sciences for the education and enlightenment of the general public and the membership."

Supporting programs in Astronomy and related sciences in Northern Nevada since 1934

"To encourage, foster, conduct and support programs on astronomy and related sciences for the education and enlightenment of the general public and the membership."

Recent Star Parties and Events.

The ASN was invited to give a presentation on amateur astronomy to the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation at the Laxalt Auditorium, Warren Nelson Building, in Reno on Saturday November 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Three presentations were delivered to an audience of approximately 60 people. ASN vice president Jim Fahey's talk titled "Your place in the Universe!" covered the subject of cosmology and synthesis of the elements.

Former ASN vice president Mike Hopper presented on the French astronomer Charles Messier and his Messier Objects, providing insight into globular clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. Former ASN president Tim Stoffel presented on the telescopes, planispheres, and techniques used by amateur astronomers to locate and view the Messier Objects. The presentations lasted about 30 minutes each and were followed by a Q&A session.
--- Dennis

Upcoming Star Parties and Events.

Monthly Events

ASN meetings, second Tuesday of each month.

Sparks Marina, third Friday of every month, open to the public. See the calendar on our website for up to date details.

School event

December 13th, 6:00 PM
Peavine Elementary School.
Large event coinciding with school functions and Winter Craft night.



The best way to check for current star parties is to go to the ASN website and check the calendar.

Jim Fahey will appreciate any help he can get at any of the events, and he sends out an email before hand to confirm weather.

ASN meeting and telescope swap

On October 11th, 2016 the ASN held a business meeting at the offices of KNPB on the UNR campus. Elections were held for the upcoming year. Elected officers are listed on page 1. This was our third annual telescope swap and our 83rd annual election of officers. It was a highly attended event with 21 members. In addition to the voting and getting great deals on telescopes and accessories, Dennis Jamison provided a great slide show of ASN photos from the past.



ASN President Dennis Jamison addressing the meeting and telescope swap meet.

The Asteroid Returns

The ASN's longstanding newsletter, The Asteroid, ceased publication a few years ago due to limited resources. Now, The Asteroid has returned thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of our Historian Jay Lawson. Jay volunteered to be Newsletter Editor with the support of Robbin Scholl, Joe Thomas and Dennis Jamison. We plan to restart publishing at least quarterly, and we hope you find it useful.

Robbin, Dennis, Joe and Jay

ASN equipment and resources

All ASN members have access to viewing with the clubs 20 and 24 inch telescopes. The club and several members have solar telescopes to view the sun in h-Alpha light, allowing you to see solar flares and surface details. At our public and members only star parties, members share views through club equipment as well as their own. It's a great way to get a good view of the sky and check out types of equipment you might want.

How can you help the ASN?

The ASN does a huge amount of public outreach. Schools, parks, public events. We attend a lot. What helps the most is showing up with your telescope and just letting people have a look. Nobody expects you to know everything, but sharing your interest in Astronomy is the best way to get others interested. It's also a great way to learn from others.

If you are interested in supporting viewing events, contact Jim Fahey at 775-356-0102 .

How to Join or Renew.

Joining or renewing your ASN membership is easy through the club website at www.astronomynv.org

Payment can be made by Paypal and sign up is quick and easy.

If you have any trouble, you can contact Robbin at her email address at robbin@screamingtigers.com

President’s Perspective

Continued from Page 1

operate and maintain them with a modest level of effort compared to what is practical for an individual owner. Both of these scopes are used routinely at ASN star parties along with our personal scopes. And our 20-inch scope is used for public viewing thanks to our new trailer.

Each ASN star party has a coordinator/organizer who sends out email invitations (and cancellations if necessary) to the members. Public star parties are usually held on weeknights at local schools, parks, or campgrounds. We typically setup at sunset and continue for a couple hours, depending on our audience. The Saturday before the New Moon is usually reserved for our members-only star parties. They held are at more remote locations (beyond city limits) where skies are darker. Since 2013 the ASN has also participated in the Lassen National Park Dark-Sky Festival, which provides three nights of camping and astronomy.

ASN members meet on the second Tuesday of every month. However the time and place of our meetings varies. The monthly meetings are announced by email and on our website calendar. If you have made it this far through this President’s Perspective, hopefully you’ve been reminded why you joined the ASN and why it is satisfying and rewarding. Please remember your interest and enthusiasm are just as important as your knowledge of astronomy. I look forward to seeing you at the next ASN event!

Dennis Jamison



Setting up the club 24 inch for an August star party.

The ASN and Total Solar Eclipses

ASN members have been involved in at least three Total Solar Eclipses since Professor Blair participated with members from Lick Observatory in the April 28th, 1930 eclipse. That eclipse was a hybrid Total and annular. The maximum eclipse was near Camptonville California and only lasted slightly over 1 second !! Professor Blair and the Lick team were able to photograph the eclipse with special equipment.

In 1978, ASN members traveled to the Pacific Northwest and saw the February 26th eclipse. It lasted 2 minutes and 49 seconds. Jessie Hunstman and Dr. Fraizier lead a group of at least 24 people that braved the cold weather and snow and were able to see and photograph the eclipse. Jay Lawson was not an ASN member, but was only a few miles down the road from the ASN.

1991 brought a solar eclipse of epic proportions. At 6 minutes and 53 seconds, it was near the theoretical maximum, and it won't be until 2132 until there is one this long. The ASN had made plans for several years ahead of time and watched the event from a pair of cruise ships off the coast of Baja California. The group was split between two ships, but were only about ½ mile apart. The eclipse was spectacular and the ship captains placed the viewers directly on the centerline at the point of maximum eclipse,

In August of 2017, members of the ASN will be traveling to Idaho Falls Idaho to witness another Total Eclipse. It occurs on the 21st and will last about 2 minutes and 19 seconds in Idaho. Thanks to Jim Fahey, rooms were reserved years ago before people realized how many people would be coming to our country to watch. Most rooms near the centerline were sold out 1 to 2 years in advance. Members that are planning on going to the centerline are already planning equipment to watch and photograph this extremely rare astronomical event.



1991 Solar eclipse, Jay Lawson

ASN Member address

fold

December 13th Meeting notice

We have a Meeting and a Star Party on the same night !!
Come to one or both if you can !

The Monthly ASN meeting will be held on Tuesday,
December 13th at 7 PM at the KNPB offices at UNR.
The address is 1670 N. Virginia Street , Reno

Our formal meetings are held (usually in even-numbered
months) at KNPB's offices on the UNR campus at 7pm.
These include a presentation or discussion on astronomy,
followed by a business meeting. We also hold informal
meetings (usually in odd-numbered months) at a local
pizzeria or a member's home at 6:30 pm.

January 7th Christmas Social Event

There will be a Christmas Social event on January 7 at
Tim Burns's home (time TBA) where everyone had a
great time last year!!

This is a great chance to get together with members
and have a fun time.

Watch for an email later on the details of the party,
the location, and the time.

December 13th Star Party

The PTA at Peavine Elementary school is having
a Winter Craft Night for Peavine families on Tuesday,
December 13 at 6 p.m. The ASN has been asked to come
set up telescopes. Their events are always well attended
and the kids and their families love to have us there!

Jim Fahey is coordinating the event and will notify us by
email if the weather does not cooperate.
This star party starts early, so members may be able to stop
by the ASN meeting afterward.