

THE

# Asteroid



Newsletter for the Astronomical Society of Nevada

1st Quarter 2018

## Presidents Perspective,

As I write this, I'm reflecting that the days are getting longer again. Spring is getting closer. Some of us have put our scopes away for the winter. And others are thinking about what's up in January/February - the sights of Orion and the winter Milky Way. The sky is full of nebulae and open clusters. Don't miss them! Use your nebula filters! Once you get out under the brilliant stars of winter you will remember why you came.

Leo with its many galaxies is rising in the east. Orion dominates the south. M31 is still riding high but beginning to sink into the west. By February, M81 and M82 will rise higher in the evening than M31. The major planets remain in the morning sky, slowly drawing nearer. In April we will begin seeing them in the evening. The summer will be fantastic for planets (see What's Up – Moon and Planets in 2018).



ASN meetings are a chance to get together and learn from each other. Mike Hopper made a presentation at the October meeting above.

Check the calendar on the ASN website for other public observing opportunities and meeting dates.

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.

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On line resources  
Web Site [www.astronomynv.org](http://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."

## Annual officer election

Each year the ASN has open elections for the officer positions. It's a chance for members to actively participate in the club and carry on the tradition established by Professor Blair and the founding members in 1934.

The officer elections took place late in 2017 and the club was fortunate enough to have the existing officers agree to continue on in their positions. There were no other nominees so the officers were confirmed.

ASN officers and contact information are listed on the front page of this issue.

I would like to thank Dennis Jamison for continuing his excellent leadership and vision, and also thank the other officers that continue to do a great job for the club.

## Upcoming Star Parties and Events.

### Monthly Events

ASN meetings, second Tuesday of each month.

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

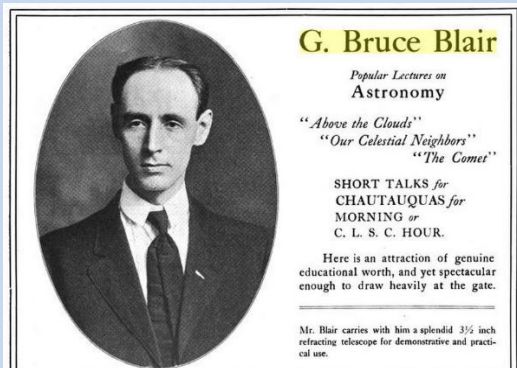


## ASN History, Lyceum and Talent

I recently found a photo of Professor Blair from 1910. He was participating in a form of public education called a Lyceum. This was a form of travelling education and entertainment that went from town to town doing short talks and doing telescope viewing.

10 years later, he joined the faculty of UNR and continued his efforts to educate people both professionally and through the formation of the ASN.

We should be proud that we continue this tradition today.  
Jay Lawson



## Telescopes donated to the ASN.

The club has had a variety of telescopes donated to us.

We get scopes donated at random times, and we evaluate them and fix them up.

Over the past six months we have been able to put scopes with new users and raised thousands of dollars for the club.

If members are looking for a second scope or an upgrade, please contact Dennis or Jim or Jay and let them know what you are looking for.

## 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.

## Lassen Star party August 3 to 4.

The ASN will be attending the Lassen Star Party. Details can be found here:

<https://www.nps.gov/lavo/planyourvisit/stargazing.htm>

More details to come later.

Contact Jim or Dennis if you are thinking about going.

## How to Join or Renew.

Joining or renewing your ASN membership is easy through the club website at [www.astronomynv.org](http://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](mailto:robbin@screamingtigers.com)

## President's Perspective

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Tim and Kathy Burns hosted our annual Holiday Party and gift exchange on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Holiday Party is one of our best events and this year was another great one. Good food and good company. Many thanks to Tim and Kathy!

January also brings New Year's resolutions, including a couple for the ASN. These came out of our last meeting:

First, let's make it a priority to see that the webpage works for us.

- The activation and renewal of our membership and email needs to be consistent.
- Our webpage should be compatible with our mobile devices.
- It should do a better job of presenting the ASN to our local community. Currently the only way someone can find out what happens at our star parties is to attend one. It would be great to have photos and videos of our star parties on the webpage so members and prospective members can decide if they want to go.
- We should be taking photos and videos at each ASN star party, showing people, scopes, and venues. It's only takes a few minutes to get an image that tells a story. Your astrophotography images are needed too. Please help.
- I hope we will update the webpage on a regular basis with fresh images. (You can send them to me or Jay, our Historian.)

Second, let's have an ASN overnight star-party campout each year. This could be at the Lassen DSF or something all our own. The main thing is to have a group of ASN members experience a very dark site. Maybe it could be at the Walker River State Park or Eastgate off Highway 50. Let's talk it over the next few months and see what has the most support.

Dennis Jamison

## Whats up in 2018 ?

### What's Up – Moon and Planets in 2018:

- Total Lunar Eclipse (Supermoon and Blue Moon!)– morning of Wednesday Jan. 31; totality: 4:51– 6:08 am
- Conjunction, Uranus only 8' from Venus– evening of Wednesday March 28, 3.4" and 10.5"
- Jupiter at Opposition– May 8, 44.8" (Jupiter is getting closer to the Earth for each of the next several oppositions)
- Saturn at Opposition– June 26, 18.4"
- Mars at Opposition– July 26, 24.3" (Mars will be especially close to the Earth, after a long wait)
- Venus at greatest brilliancy– September 20 and December 2, 39.5" (magnitude -4.6)
- Uranus at Opposition– Oct 23, 3.7"
- Venus at inferior conjunction (very close to the Earth) – Oct 26, 60" (magnitude -4.0)

### Public Star Parties in 2018:

- Golden State Star Party – Wednesday July 11 – Sunday July 15 (new Moon)
- Lassen NP Dark Sky Festival – August 3-4 (last-quarter Moon)
- Stars and Roars Star Party for Safe Haven Wildlife Sanctuary, out of Imlay, NV – September 7-9 (new Moon), with a backup of October 5-7th
- Great Basin NP Astronomy Festival- September TBA

ASN Member address

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**February 13th Meeting notice**

The February 2018 meeting of the Astronomical Society of Nevada will be held on Tuesday Feb. 13th at 7 PM.

The location is KNPB TV (the Community Room), at 1670 N. Virginia St., 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.

**Member star party !!**

Upcoming Member star Party Dates:

Check the online calendar for other events.