

THE Asteroid



Newsletter for the Astronomical Society of Nevada

Summer 2019

President's Perspective

2019 is just halfway over and the ASN as already accomplished just about every goal I planned on for the year. We invested in a major upgrade to our website and it's generating a lot of interest. We've been contacted by more people who want to join us as well as people who want star parties conducted for their schools, libraries, and communities. We've heard from people who want to attend our regular star parties and people who want their information and links posted on our website.

As I write this I'm preparing to go to the Golden State Star Party in Adin (June 29 – July 2) for the first time, along with three ASN members. And this year we plan to attend additional overnight star parties at Lassen National Park (August 1-3), Markleeville (August 24), and Great Basin National Park (September 26 – 28). All of these are free to ASN members who register in advance and participate in our public outreach time.

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The ASN supports telescope viewing for the public and special groups, as well as participating in large organized Star Parties.

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.

President	Dennis Jamison	dandjamison@gmail.com	775-846-7450
Vice President	Tim Stoffel	tim@lionlamb.us	775-741-1504
Treasurer	Robbin Scholl	robbin@screamingtigers.com	775-354-8658
Historian/Editor	Jay Lawson	jaylawson@charter.net	775-527-3400
Secretary	Mike Springler	mspingy1@gmail.com	805-598-7788

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

President's Perspective, cont.

Starting in 2019 the ASN moved the location of its monthly meeting to Fleischmann Planetarium on the UNR campus. On a trial basis the monthly meetings have included screenings of one of the Planetarium's astronomy films for ASN members.

I hope these activities will create renewed interest and enthusiasm for amateur astronomy in Northern Nevada.

Meanwhile professional astronomers are moving ahead with recent discoveries in the fields of dark matter (it's a particle not MOND), black hole imaging, and gravitational wave detections. We know more about our universe than we dreamed possible just 20 years ago. And when you look back 50 years to the Moon Landing you know that they were riding a wave of exploration and achievement then too.

Dennis Jamison - June 29, 2019

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.



Changes to meeting format

We found we were no longer able to have our monthly meetings at the KNPB community room, partly because Tim is no longer working at KNPB.

But a nearly the same time, an opportunity presented itself from Paul McFarlane, Director of the Planetarium saying they would like to have a closer relationship with the ASN and hold the meetings there.

We reached an agreement with Paul and the Planetarium on a trial basis to hold the meetings in the dome, with a presentation of some form to start the event. So by attending the meeting, you get the benefit of a presentation on Science, Space or Astronomy. Paul has a large inventory of short shows we can watch and then we do our normal business. If you have not made a meeting lately, you should check it out.



2019 Officer Changes

We had a change in officers since the last election. Joe Thomas was having some personal issues and was unable to continue as club secretary. Mike Springler volunteered to take over the spot and was voted in at a meeting in accordance with our club constitution.

Joe had provided quite a bit of support in his role in the club, helping the design of the new newsletter and keeping track of the day to day secretary duties. We appreciate all the Joe has done for the ASN.

Mike recently spearheaded the research, development and redesign of the club website astronomynv.org. Mike researched several hundred amateur astronomy websites, documenting what he felt were the best characteristics of each. Our new web site is visually stimulating and informative. We appreciate Mike helping out in the new role as club secretary.

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.

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

Markleeville Star Party, Aug 24th, 2019

Overview by Dennis Jamison

An overnight star party is being organized by the community of Markleeville for the benefit of the community, ASN members, and guests. The date is Saturday night August 24. We will observe and camp at the Alpine County Airport (closed for the night) just north of Markleeville. The airport is 70 miles or 1.5 hours south of UNR.

The airport has open vistas, hard surface, and available camping near the telescope area. A pancake breakfast will be provided by the community.

Local planning for the Star Party on August 24 is well underway. We will have a toilet, and are organizing a food truck (BBQ), snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Jim Fahey attended a visit to the site on June 27 to see where to park cars and set up the telescopes. Markleeville is also looking into getting liability insurance for 1 day. We want promote the event and encourage as many members as possible to attend. The more telescopes the better. We are expecting about 50 + local residents to attend.

Details by Jim Fahey:

The Markleeville, the Alpine County Seat, awaits ASN with its Historical complex with museum, library and county courthouse buildings. It is a step back in time. This is a fisherman's paradise with local trout streams outside your motel room. Grover's Hot Springs is just 5 miles away. You just might want to make a weekend vacation in the cool mountain air.

The Astronomical Society of Nevada will provide it's 20" telescope. Because this is a town event we will need your help with your telescope.

Like Lassen I need:

- Number in party
- Arrival date
- Camping area: Airport, will have a porta-potty. NO water.
- Motel: at this time, I do not have a discount rate. TBA
- Telescope: none or something else
- Departing date

From Rich Harvey: The local planning for the Star Party on August 24 is well underway. We will have a toilet, and are organizing food (BBQ), snacks, coffee and hot chocolate at the airport during night viewing. Sunday will be a paid breakfast for ASN members.

Here are the names and contacts for local eateries.

- Alpine Local camp rounds, Price for Camp site may change
- Turtle Rock Park Alpine county, open April – Oct 48.00 a night 530 694 2140 28 sites
- Indian creek reservoir , \$8-\$10 April – Oct BLM 775 885 6000 29 sites
- Crystal springs \$ 9.00 May – September USFS
- Hope valley resort \$15 – 30 Private 800 423 9949
- Hope valley \$ 9.00 may – oct USFS 877 444 6777
- Lower blue lakes \$ 15.00 June – Oct PG&E

Local Motels:

- Creekside Lodge 14820 Hwy 89- Downtown Markleeville CA. - 530 694 2511 www.creeksidelodge.com
- Woodfords INN 20960 Hwy 89- 530 694 2111 www.woodfordsinn.com
- Sorensen Resort 14255 Hwy 88 Hope valley ,Ca www.sorensenresort.com
- Carson River resort 12399 Hwy 89 Markleeville Ca www.carsonriverresort.com

As more information comes to me, I will pass it along.

Jim Fahey 775-356-0102

Markleeville Star Party, Aug 24th, 2019

