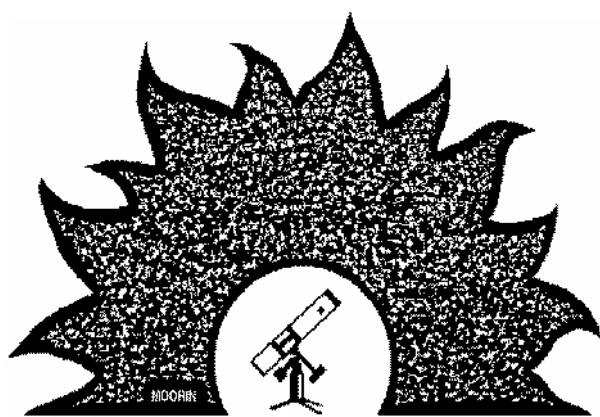




PASTimes

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PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY — ESTABLISHED 1948

Assorted Rambling of the Editor

First let me thank Kevin Harcey for the new logo for Leah's column ARIZONA SKY. I asked Kevin to design a logo for her column and he designed a two part logo. The first part is the drawing of a man at a telescope in the lower left corner and the second part is a small crescent moon in the upper right corner of the headline.

Also I need to remind everyone that there is NO MEETING this month. Instead we have the PAS Social. For the

second year in a row it is at the club house at 10401 N Cave Creek Rd (1 Block S of Peoria). When you pull into the trailer park you take a hairpin turn and go up the hill to the clubhouse. This is for members and **invited guests only**. I hope to see everyone there. Last year's was a lot of fun and I know everyone had a great time. The party starts at 4 this year, last year it was 5.

Another thing I think I need to mention is that there is a 1 in 25 chance that

Mars will get hit by a good sized asteroid January 30. The asteroid is about 160 feet in diameter and if it hits will leave a crater a third of a mile in diameter. This asteroid was discovered in November and the initial estimates gave it a 1 in 75 chance of hitting Mars. Using data collected by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, Andy Puckett, a recent Ph.D. from the University of Chicago was able to refine the orbit. If it hits Mars it will do so at 10:56 UT (1:56 AM Phoenix).

ARIZONA SKY - A PASTimes Exclusive Article

By Terri, V.P.

Wow, have you read our newest addition to the newsletter? Leah is doing a superb job of making an article not only of interest but of use to the readers of our newsletter. If you haven't read her Arizona Skies article yet, please do. I am amazed at how

much information and thought is put into each month's article. The December issue has the best one yet, and I believe they will only get better as time goes on. The tour Leah takes us on is very useful in learning the night sky as well as realizing the distances and situations of the stars and other

fun objects we like to view at a star party. Take the time to read her column. They are worth your time and very well written. Thank you Leah for taking the time to enhance our lives with your Arizona Skies column. Enjoy! ***

12/2 PAS Bookman's Telescope Accessories Workshop

by Terri, Events Coordinator

December 2nd. What would you be doing if not at the fantastic Bookman's Telescope Accessories Workshop learning about Advanced Imaging? Well, a group of us, Ed Wurst, Bruce Wurst, Bette Wurst, William Finch, myself, Kevin Harcey and Rod & Sue Sutter joined Chet Schuler at Bookman's on that Sunday afternoon and enjoyed a presentation about Advanced Imaging. Chet is a fantastic speaker. He is very easy to understand and has so much knowledge about imaging and filters. He showed us some examples of the filter brochure he made when he used to work as a filter maker/designer. His filters are being used all over the world.

We arrived early to set up, got some handouts out on the tables, and then waited. We had expected a certain number of PAS members to attend. Don didn't make it as he wasn't feeling well enough to drive up from Chandler. John Pulis was no where to be seen.

Chet held out until 4pm and then started his presentation. He insists that if you are going to do astrophotography, you get a hold of a book called

"The New Ccd Astronomy: How to Capture the Stars With a Ccd Camera in Your ..."

By Ron Wodaski.

Chet took us through many different

facets of filters and their uses, and showed us many really awesome examples. I have 6 pages of notes from this presentation. It was wonderful! If you missed it, we may be able to get Chet to do another presentation in the near future. Let me know if you are interested in doing this.

Thank you, Chet, for a fabulous presentation. You are an awesome speaker and you are very knowledgeable and informative. Everyone in PAS should have been at your presentation to pick your brain about filters and ccd imaging.

See more photos of this event on line at <http://tinyurl.com/38hwfa>.***

Arizona Sky



By Leah Sapir

This month, the fall constellations are in the west, and the winter circle is high overhead. We can identify the stars of the winter circle with last month's description (although, now that the constellations are higher, Sirius and Procyon will be to the left of Orion, rather than below it). Then, with the bright stars as our landmarks (skymarks?), we can trace the rest of each winter constellation.

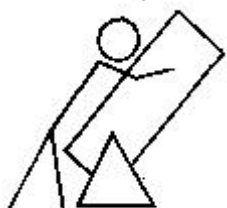
To the right of Orion, we have the V-shaped head of Taurus the bull, that we discussed last month. If we follow the ends of the V for about 15 degrees – around 4 times the size of the V itself – we come to a pair of stars representing the bull's horns. The fainter star (about 3rd magnitude), closer to Orion, is Zeta Tauri; the brighter one (2nd magnitude), a little farther from Orion, is known as Elnath.

Between Elnath and Zeta we can currently see a bright reddish visitor – the planet Mars. Mars will be visible for most of the night, setting only a little while before sunrise. This month it's still at the closest part of its orbit – but starting to move away. Its visual diameter will be 15 arc sec at the beginning of January and 12 arc sec towards the end of the month, so catch it while you can!

About 1000 years ago, observers noticed something quite unusual near Zeta Tauri – a bright “new” star that had never been seen before. The Chinese astronomers who recorded this phenomenon in the year 1054 called it a “guest star”. It was brighter than Venus, and visible even in the daytime for several weeks. Today we realize that the “guest star” was not a new star after all, but a very large star at the end of its lifetime, exploding as a supernova.

The expanding cloud of gas from that supernova, illuminated by radiation from the remains of the star's core, can still be seen today as M1, the “Crab Nebula”. It is faintly visible in binoculars or a small telescope, but you need very dark skies. The star's core, highly condensed, is now a pulsar that rotates thirty times a second, flashing a beam of radio waves towards us with each spin. The pulsar is more massive than the sun, but is only around 10 miles in diameter! It is about 7000 light years from us, so the actual explosion took place around 8000 years ago.

The Crab Nebula's other claim to fame occurred when it was observed by Charles Messier in



1758. Messier was searching for comets, and at first mistook this faint fuzzy for a possible comet. But he soon realized that it wasn't one, since it stayed in the same place from day to day. After a few more “false alarms”, Messier decided to make a list of all the fuzzy objects that he (and others) found, that weren't comets – to make it easier to concentrate on the “real” ones. Today, Messier's list is the “top 110” of interesting objects to see in a small telescope; and the Crab Nebula is M1 – the first object on Messier's list.

The funny thing is that Messier wanted to become famous by discovering lots of comets. He did in fact discover a lot of them; but that's not what made him famous. It is the list of objects that were not comets, that has immortalized his name to this day. (Talk about irony!)

Elnath, the star that marks the other horn of Taurus, actually has a dual identity – part of two constellations. It is Beta Tauri, but also part of the hexagon-shape of Auriga. Capella and Elnath are at opposite ends of the hexagon. Between them on the west (the side facing the Pleiades) are the trio of “baby goats” and the star Iota Aurigae; and between them on the east (the side facing Gemini) are Beta Aurigae (the brighter star, closer to Capella) and Theta Aurigae. Midway between Elnath and Theta is a row of three open clusters, visible in binoculars or a small telescope: two inside the hexagon, and one just outside it. From west to east, they are M38, M36, and M37.

The three clusters are about 4000 LY away. Although we know them by their Messier numbers, they were first discovered by Giovanni Hodierna, a contemporary of Galileo. Hodierna lived in Sicily, where he explored the sky with a small refractor (a whole 20x magnification!) that enabled him to see stars down to around 8th magnitude. He documented about 46 objects, including “nebulosae” and asterisms. Hodierna published his observations in 1654, but for some reason his work did not become widely known. He also planned to publish a sky atlas with 100 maps, but didn't complete it.

Hodierna believed that with better telescopes, all nebulae could be resolved into stars. He theorized that the apparent brightness of stars depends on both the star's actual brightness and distance, and that stars seem disordered to us because they are arranged around some other center. All of these ideas were very original at the time!

Continuing on to Gemini: with Pollux and Castor as the twins' heads, we can locate

the stars between them and Orion, and “connect the dots” to form two stick-figures holding hands. Near Eta Geminorum (Castor's foot, on the side facing Auriga) is an open cluster, M35, visible in binoculars or a small telescope. M35 is about 3000 light years away.

On the other side of Gemini, near Delta Geminorum (the star that forms Pollux's waist) is another interesting object: NGC 2392, the Eskimo Nebula. Like the Ring Nebula in Lyra (but much fainter), this is a planetary nebula – the expanding atmosphere of a star near the end of its lifetime, lit up the star's core. Only very large stars can become supernovae like the Crab; smaller ones become planetary nebulae instead. The Eskimo Nebula is about 4000 light years away – twice as far as the Ring Nebula. Through larger telescopes, the outer fringes of the nebula seem to resemble a furry hood – hence the nickname of “Eskimo Nebula”. And through the Hubble Space Telescope, amazing details have been recorded: see the picture at <http://hubblesite.org/gallery>.

Mercury and Jupiter will make their re-appearance in the January sky. In midmonth, Mercury will be visible for a short time, very low in the west-southwest, soon after sunset. Sharp-eyed observers with a clear western horizon might be able to catch Mercury during evening twilight – but Mercury will be gone by the time it actually gets dark. In May, we will have a better view of the elusive Mercury in the early evening sky.

Saturn is still in Leo of course, and rising earlier every night – around 10 pm at the beginning of January, 9 pm in midmonth, and 8 pm at the end of the month. Venus will still be shining like a beacon in the predawn sky, but starting to rise later – 4:30 at the beginning of January, and 5:30 towards the end of the month.

In the meantime, Jupiter is starting to make its predawn appearance – close to sunrise at the beginning of January, but rising a little earlier each day. By the end of the month it will be rising at around 5:30 and – watch this! – moving towards a conjunction with Venus! The two planetary gems will be less than one degree apart on February 1. And, you only have to get up at 6 am to see it – isn't that an exciting way to spend a winter morning?

Join us next month when we continue to explore the constellations of the winter circle. And till then – wishing you clear skies, and happy observing!

This Year's PAS Social Plans

PRIZES

The PAS Social is coming up really quick. Please let Terri know if you are donating any prizes for the games we are having at the PAS Social this year. The Social is on Jan 19th - 4pm to 10pm at the Club House. We need prizes for the Dart Board Game (3 needed) and for the Table Decoration Game (1 needed, 3 requested) and for the Door Prize (1 needed). Your donations of anything astronomy related is very helpful. Last year Jerry Belcher came up with some really cool calendars as prizes and Ed Wurst found extra dart boards to give as prizes so that the winners could practice up for this year's event and possibly bring the dart board and darts back this year for us to use again. We can use 3 dart boards this year. Let me know if you are bringing one and some darts, too.

GIFTS

Also, don't forget to bring a wrapped, disguised, astronomy related (preferably with a cost between \$10 and \$20) for the White Dwarf Gift Exchange. We will have fun again stealing the gift that shines the most. Make it irresistible, make it funny, and come have fun with us. One Gift required per participant in the game. We would like everyone involved in the stealing of gifts this year. Since we have had no children (12 and under) attend the Social in a while, choose gifts that adults would appreciate. Some ideas are calendars, games, telescope parts, puzzles, red flashlights, star charts, books on astronomy like field guides. Think of it this way... give a gift that you would love to receive at this party. If you would like it, the recipient would like it as well. One year Vera brought a gift that her son Frank was supposed to win. Well, she made a big deal of it and so I fought for it. I'd have to say that still one of my favorite gifts I got at the Social. It was a 3D puzzle, one of those fun ones you have to figure out how it goes. Well, that was the best one yet. I had it out for people to play with for the longest time until now there isn't room in my living room for an end table. But, once I have the room again, it will be sitting out for anyone to enjoy that visits. It probably didn't cost much but it meant a lot to me. I'm sorry Frank didn't get it that year. Maybe this year he can get something just as cool!

FOOD & DRINK

And as well, also please remember to bring a food (main dish, desert, side dish) and a drink (6 pack of something or a 2 liter bottle, or case of water) to share. This is a POTLUCK and your POT is needed! You can make it or buy it. Doesn't matter to us as long as each one food and one drink to share. This ensures we have enough food to go around. Last year the Lasagna was awesome! Someone brought fried chicken, and there was the famous HOT CREAM CHEESE DIP, and much more. Doesn't that just make you hungry thinking about it?

INVITATIONS

PAS Members and their families are invited. Others can be invited by PAS members. If you aren't a member and haven't been invited, why not join PAS right now so you can come have a PARTY with us! This is your chance to socialize with the club that you mostly only see in the darkness of night while viewing through a telescope. Get to know your fellow astronomer. So, plan to attend, RSVP with Terri right now, and when you RSVP tell me the first names of everyone in your group attending. Name tags will be by the door. Pick it up as you come in.

GAMES FOR THE SOCIAL

Dart Game

We could use a microphone with speakers again this year. We will need someone to run the game, and someone to keep score. Frank and Sam did a fantastic job last year with this. The dart board game will begin about an hour after we start eating to allow for everyone to enjoy food before the game. We play Around the Clock. That means you throw for number 1 first. After you get 1, you shoot for 2, etc. If we get the time to, the winner will make it to 20 and then the bulls eye. If not, we will take the three highest positions, if we have 3 prizes to give away. If you hit the bulls eye, I believe the outer ring is 2 points, and the inner ring is 3 points. You'd advance that many numbers by hitting the bulls eye. Check with the person running the game as to how they want to do the bulls eye.

White Dwarf Gift Exchange

Bring a gift, already wrapped. Do not put anything on the outside that will tell anyone what the gift is or who it is intended for. Make it astronomy related. When you arrive, trade me your gift for a ticket. That

ticket becomes your place in the game. Do not lose your ticket. When the game begins, we gather our chairs in a circle with the table of gifts incorporated in that circle.

The circle is one ring around, no doubled up chairs. Everyone must be able to be seen and show their gift. Game play goes as follows: First to be drawn picks a gift from the table. Second drawn can steal the gift from #1 or take from the table. #3 steals from #1 or #2 or the table. The only rule we have this year: You can not steal back from someone you JUST stole from.

So, if #2 takes from #3, #3 can't take it right back. But, #3 can take from someone else #4, and then #4 can take from #3 so that #3 can then steal back from #2 if they desire. The stealing will continue until someone busts a gut laughing, or 1 minute of circular stealing is completed. I will keep time. I will announce 60 seconds, so move fast if you want to keep that gift you are fighting for. At the end of the gift exchange part, when everyone is now holding a wrapped gift, we will then use our tickets a second time to find out who will start the gift unwrapping. The gifts get unwrapped, one at a time in a clock wise direction to show off what you got. When we are all done, the gift table then becomes the exchange table. Let's say you get a gift you didn't like, or you have too many red flashlights in your collection (I could never have too many red flashlights with me at a star party, personally), then you can leave your gift on the gift exchange table and hope that someone takes it and leaves theirs behind for you. This is optional. But it is a way to exchange for another gift if you wish.

DOOR PRIZE

For attendance, you will receive a ticket. One door prize, unless more are donated, will be given away to one person for having attended the event. We need a door prize to give away. I don't think the place we are holding this event will be happy to give away their main entrance door. So, we must have a door prize for this event to give away. Donations are being accepted.

TABLE DECORATION

The Table Decoration game went over really good last year. Bring with you, one table decoration per family, to decorate your eating area. Then, we will collect, after we are done eating, the decorations and put

This Year's PAS Social Plans

Continued

them on a table with a number, to be judged by all. For judging, please do not pick your own table decoration. Everyone can judge even if you don't bring a table decoration, and everyone can participate in this event. A prize will be given for the most votes received. If Matt attends the Social, he can tally them for us. On the voting page, please mark your 1st, second and third choices for the winner. If we have enough prizes, I'd like to give 3 for this event. Bring any kind of clean, kid appropriate, table decoration you'd like. It does not have to be astronomy related, or Christmas related. Anything will do. The funnier, fancier, unique, the better. Judges will be advised on what we are voting for this year, at the top of the voting page. I will decide that as time gets closer. You won't know what to judge it on until the day of the event. So, choose your table decor carefully. Good luck! Last year we had a tortoise in the game, as well as a rocket, a pyramid candle, some figurines. Just keep it clean and interesting. I think the tortoise won. I don't suggest pets for a table decoration this year. I don't think you want my pet Rat to join us. Serenity is a nice rat but not always welcome at parties. :)

CLEAN UP

Please remember, we don't have a maid to help us clean up from the party. So, at the time when we are due to close up the party, and during the party, please keep in mind that we can use the help. Please assist anyway you can in making the clean up groups' job a little easier. That means, Rod, Sue, Terri, Bette, Ed, and Bruce will be doing the major cleanup, but if you could keep your trash put in the garbage can during the night, it will be easier on us later. Thanks so much for your assistance. We don't want to leave the place a mess afterwards or they won't invite us back again next year, if we choose to return.

PLANNING FOR EVENT

At the Meeting of the Minds we will be discussing adding another fun event to the Social this year. If you have an idea or would like to be involved in the planning of this new item, please come to the next few MOM's and give us your ideas. All ideas are welcome. We will choose one to use for this year. Thanks.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

In the past, this was called the PAS Holiday Social, meaning it was after the

holidays and was meant to be a little Christmas celebration after the rush of Christmas was done. I am officially changing the name to the PAS Social. There is no holiday involved, we do not and will not have Christmas decorations. Some of our members who aren't Christmas celebrating folk, have mentioned that they won't attend if we have it as a Christmas party. So, we are making it a FIRST OF THE YEAR PAS SOCIAL EVENT. It is SOCIAL, not Christmas. Now some of you only have Christmas wrap to put your gifts in, and I think that is alright. Who cares what the gift is wrapped in, really. But we won't do Christmas decorations or have Christmas music. I would guess that by the time Christmas is over with, you would agree with me, we are more than glad to get rid of the Christmas music. They started it this year before Halloween! What are they thinking! Anyway, I want to open this party up to everyone! Do not avoid it just because you thought it might be related to Christmas. It is not! It is a Social gathering, a party to celebrate the new year with PAS. It is the only time of the year we have the chance to invite ALL OF PAS to such a party, in one place, and make a great event of it. So, if you are of a religion that doesn't do Christmas and you have avoided the PAS Social in the past because of it, please come have fun with us. This is a generic, new year's celebration party to get to know your fellow astronomer. I'd like to see ALL OF PAS RSVP with me today! ***

UPDATE

The Social this year falls on Jan 19th. Jerry and I were talking and he'd like me to pass around some thoughts. He says "When you pick a gift for the White Dwarf Gift Exchange, put some thought into it. Don't pick because it fits the price range of between \$10 AND \$20. Pick the gift as if it were one you were picking for yourself and please make it Astronomy RELATED. The idea is that you would WANT TO receive this kind of gift at the social in trade for the gift you are giving." So, when you bring your White Dwarf Gift to the Social this year, it needs to be astronomy related and a nice gift. Don't go getting a red laser pen for \$5 and thinking that will do it. Make it worth while. It can be a planisphere, a book, something for a telescope, just be sure to think about it for a while before purchasing and giving. And if you pick up one item for

\$5, plan to get a second to go with it to bring the amount to about \$10. We are asking that the gifts be worth while. If you come to the Social and you have a \$5 gift, and you win a \$20 gift, that isn't fair to those of us who put more money into the gift exchange. Just try to be fair and let's have some fun. We ask that you spend a minimum of \$10, and around a max of \$20, but there is no real set amount. Think of it as if you are buying something you would like to have. So, if it is a puzzle, that's awesome as long as it is astronomy related and \$10+, or if not, add that laser pen to the gift so you have it at about \$10 minimum. We want to be fair and fun. And every year someone brings really nice gifts. We hope it is you, this year. See you there! By the way, a gift is a requirement to play the game. And Jerry came up with a good idea. Bring an extra wrapped gift for those who didn't bring one, and have them buy it off of you. So, if you paid about \$10 for something extra for the Social, ask for \$10 to anyone who doesn't come in with a gift. Sometimes new people to the Social don't realize a gift is required to play the game. One gift per participant. No Exceptions. And if your gift doesn't sell by the start of the game, keep it for a future year, if it doesn't spoil.

Also, right after the social, start looking for next year's gift. This is a yearly event and as long as we have a location to hold it, we will continue to do the White Dwarf Gift Exchange. Start looking for your next year's gift the day after the Social. It's kinda like the after Christmas sales. You hit those, sometimes, to find gifts for next year's Christmas gift giving. But in this case, we are looking for a gift to exchange when we go shopping on Jan 20th, the day after the Social.



Terri's Decoration



Bruce Wurst & Rod Sutter preparing dart board for the big game.



Everyone enjoys the party.



Jerry Belcher and Sonny Schug watch as the Dart game gets underway.



Food, Food and more food, and Drinks! It was all so good!

Laughter is the greatest part of this game. We had tons of fun swapping gifts!





It's Gotta be in here somewhere!



Jerry the dart shark



William Finch is thieving a gift from Bette Wurst.

New Universe Theory

December Meeting review

Reviewed by Terri, V.P.

What is the New Universe Theory? If you didn't make it to the December PAS meeting, you will have missed an awesome presentation done by Bobby McGehee. At the meeting we had a very nice group of folk who enjoyed the snacks provided by the Wursts and Matt. The snack fund could only purchase the water this time, so I brought along one case of water. When I got home, I counted the snack fund and we are currently at \$14.55 (5 cents was left over from last month). That should be enough to buy a few kinds of cookies and a case of water for the February PAS meeting. If you have a suggestion of what to purchase, please let me know and I'll try to get that for the February meeting.

The 50/50 raffle was won by John Pulis who took home \$19. Cong rats John! Thank you all for participating in the raffle.

We opened the meeting with a few

quick announcements. Jerry talked about the next big rocket launch and it will be on the last weekend of February on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of that weekend in Rainbow Valley. You can find out more about that event on the website ahpra.org. Jerry also shared with us the Eyepiece Cup from Orion for which you can order 3 for \$11 on sale now. Contact Jerry for more info about it. Jerry was also collecting \$22 for the Astronomical Calendars. These are awesome, informative, everything you need to know about viewing the night sky with planetary data, for the 2008 year, calendars.

Mike announced the cancellation of the star party that was scheduled for that weekend 12/8, and that the next one will be on January 5th at his home in Carefree.

I had the fun announcements of the Snack Fund, the Snack Situation, Handouts, the Dues are due, and the best of all was the Silent Auction at our PAS Swap Meet. Did

you bring something to sell? What I saw selling was some really awesome items. Thanks to all who participated in the sales and purchases.

It was a very wonderful meeting and Bobby was an awesome speaker with a great theory. To learn more about his theory, check out his site at: NewUniverseTheory.com. While doing his presentation, Bobby had the help of his wife, Nancy. She became the advancer of the slides in the power point presentation Bobby shared with us. Another cool site the Bobby recommends, and especially if you are interested in becoming an important part of a research group is GalaxyZoo.com. If you haven't checked out that site yet, please do.

Many thanks goes to Bobby and Nancy for their time, the presentation and the information. See you at the February PAS Meeting! ***

November Meeting of the Minds

By Terri, V.P.

You missed an awesome meeting. We didn't have that huge of a turnout for the meeting but the people who came, really helped with the decisions. Below is a list of what we discussed and the decisions we concluded. If you didn't come to the meeting, we didn't get to use your opinion in making these decisions.

To start the meeting, see photo in this issue, Josh Parnell and Bobby Marland of the WOW (Wonderful Outdoor World) program came to the meeting to congratulate Chet Schuler and James DeSaints for their participation in multiple star parties the week of Oct 15th, in which they were able to attend 5 of the 6 star parties scheduled that week at South Mountain park. While there Josh and Bobby were telling us about the program. This is designed for inner city kids, and is an after school party with activities from afternoon to evening, inclusive of the star parties that PAS assists with when ever possible. PAS wishes to

congratulate Chet and James as well!

1) There will be a joint PAS DFAC star party up at BCC on one of our already scheduled dates. Dan will let me know when, and we'd like to have a huge turnout of PAS members at that star party. Watch for the announcement. It will be between Feb - Mar 2008.

2) Snacks - PAS meetings used to have no snacks provided. Then, Harold Moorin, our long lost PAS member, started providing cookies to snack on while at the meeting when we were meeting at Brophy and he was the PAS Host. Well, that started a trend. We left Brophy, moved to 2 other locations before residing at PVCC. In the traveling we also kept up with the providing and sharing of snacks.

Well, last night, we were discussing the snack fund. As you know, from the newsletter and previous posts, the Snack Fund, before last night's meeting had 5 cents in it, and 1 case of water bottles. What we discussed is that PAS isn't going to give mon-

ey toward the snack fund. What we'd like to see is more donations each month. If you have an extra coin in your pocket, or an extra dollar that isn't going to the 50/50 raffle, then put it in the snack fund box for the next month's snacks. So, what we decided is this... most people, before they come to the meeting, eat dinner. Who needs all the snacks, so what we will do is use the snack fund for water each month. It takes about \$4 for a case of water. I will pick up the water each month before the meeting using only what we have in the snack fund. If the water costs more than what we have, there will be no water and if we have extra in a month, I may pick up a box of cookies, enough in a box for one per person attending. Now, that means that the supply of snacks at the meetings will be up to you. Sam brings popcorn each month and I know several of you love the popcorn. I've seen others bring boxes of cookies. So, Rod will continue to bring plates to eat on, and I'll bring the water using the snack fund money, and Sam may bring popcorn, but if you



submitted by James DeSaints, photo taken by Terri Finch (with James DeSaints camera)

From left to right: Josh Parnell, James DeSaints, Bobby Marland and Chet Schuler

November Meeting of the Minds

want more than that, bring something to share. Chips are a good item. A few chips to snack on during the meeting keeps you awake and it is enjoyable. I do want to thank everyone for their contributions in the past. Donate to the snack fund. If you want something special brought to the meeting, like for instance, you want a bag of chips, and you know they cost about \$6 for the bag, put a note in with the donation of \$6 and tell me what to pick up. I'll do suggestions if the money is included for the item. I believe that the snacks themselves are not needed but bottled water is a good thing to have at the meeting, and we should have something good for the visiting public.

3) COMET PARTY DEC 20 PVCC Please attend the comet party. Rod and Dave are planning to show 3 comets at the Comet Party by the Domes on the PVCC Campus around 6pm - 10pm on Dec 20th. Bring your scope, watch the weather, RSVP with Rod. A flyer will be available soon on line to share around about this event. Invite everyone you know!

4) ASTRONOMY DAY 2008 - May 2nd, isn't actually Astronomy Day, but we will be holding our astronomy day at PVCC this year. Astronomy Day itself is the next week, but if you watch what other clubs do, they choose to have astronomy month. So, within the month of May this year, we will have our Astronomy Day events. The cool thing about this is that it will be a part day, into the night event. We will get more details as the time gets closer but if you wish to volunteer to help day or night or both, let me know, RSVP with Terri. We need daytime events. We may begin around 3pm or so, to catch the sun, Venus, Mercury, the Moon, and then into the night for Saturn and Mars. Plan to attend, and get that RSVP with ideas to me so we can start planning for this event. A flyer will be made for this event. Print it and share it around. Invite everyone you know!

5) Paper vs CD for the Girl Scouts Apr 12th. Leah and I and a few others were discussing possibly putting our data onto CD's to hand out to the Girl Scout group of 900 that we will be doing a star party for in Mayer AZ. During the discussion, Don and Chris said they wouldn't mind doing the copies of the CD's, but then it came to our attention that not everyone of those girl scouts may have a computer, and what about the initial SEE IT factor. Chris thinks, and some of us agree, that having a CD may be cool, but they won't be able to see the

page right then. Instant gratification of information. So, we talked about this for at least 15 minutes and concluded that even though putting some of the info onto a CD might be nice, for those without a computer, we'd be better off reaching all 900 girls with paper versions of our handouts. We will be discussing, at a future MOM, just what items we should include in with the handouts. But for now, the CD idea was put on the back burner.

6) In the process of asking for copies of Astronomy Magazine for the girl scouts, and this particular magazine has the info about Meteorites that Mike wanted, we were able to, but I haven't received them yet, acquire 900 copies coming to my home of the whole magazine. So, we will be using them to give to the girl scouts, and Mike wants to only give them to the interested girls. So, if the girls don't come to his talk to hear about meteorites, they don't get one. Then, in the future, Mike can hand out copies at star parties when he talks about meteorites, thus enhancing his talks. I like this idea. So, when the 900 copies arrive, they will go off with Mike.

Along with these 900 copies, I'm also getting some other pamphlets sent over, hopefully 900 copies each, from Astro Mag, and 10 sample meteorites that my contact at Astronomy Mag thinks we should raffle off. So, we discussed the raffle idea for at the girl scouts. What came from it is that 1) they won't have any money on them for this trip. 2) Not everyone is interested in getting a meteorite. 3) more of the PAS membership attending the meeting were interested in the meteorites than I think the girl scouts would be. So, it was decided, over the next several months, up to the April 12th star party at Mayer, we will be raffling at the PAS meeting, the meteorites. There will be 10 total. Remember, they haven't been received yet, so until they do, don't hold me to anything, but I'm basing this on the email I received from my Astro Mag contact. What we discussed is best is to raffle a few at each meeting, and maybe keep one to give away to those who came to Mike's talk at the girl scout event. We could do it with tickets, for attendance, a free bee give away. Just one. The other 9 can be raffled at the Dec meeting, if they come in in time, Jan, and Feb meetings, or into March if we don't have them in time for Dec. 3 each time is what I'm thinking. So, bring extra cash and watch for the announcement of the meteorite raffle at the

meetings. As soon as they arrive, I will be announcing it.

7) Gilbert Elementary School Star Party. Mar 28, 2008. Details will come soon. We are thinking of a start time of 5pm - 6pm to catch the Sun. RSVP with Terri if you can help out.

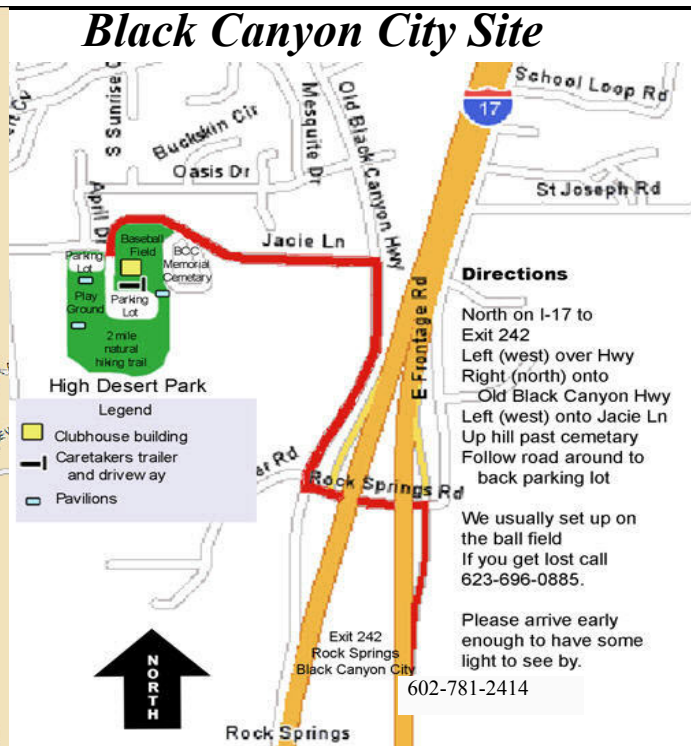
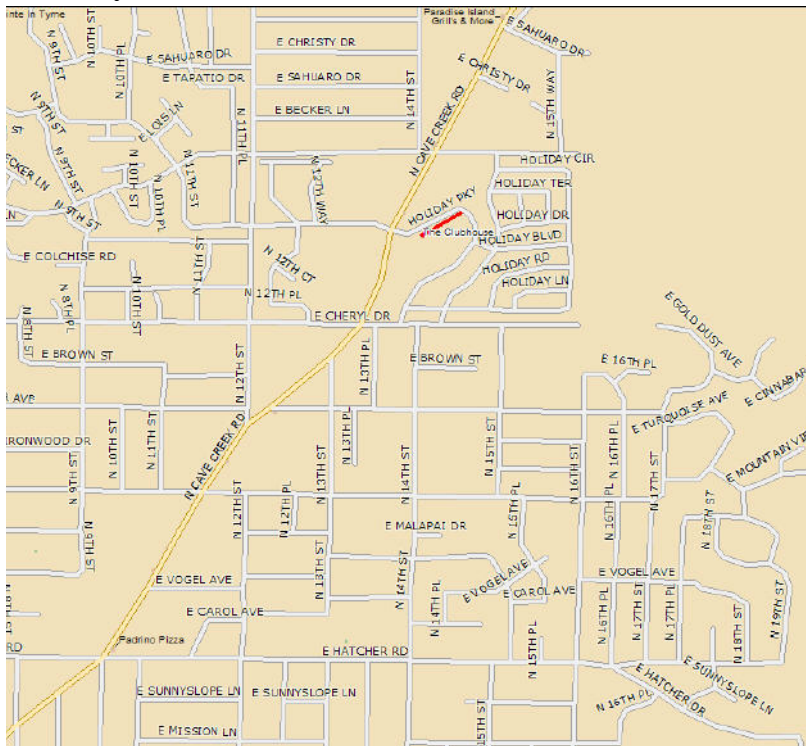
The discussion was whether we should do the star party or not. If we didn't have 2 - 3 scopes volunteering, I wasn't going to schedule the star party because of the distance to drive down there. RSVP to help so far: Don, Chet, Rod. If you can assist RSVP with Terri. Map will be in the March Newsletter. Cross streets are Elliot & Gilbert Roads.

8) And then there was RESEARCH

Do you have a moment to do some research on line for PAS? Below is what we are looking for. What I'd like is emails, many or just one big one, either way, on the below topics sent my way. This will help PAS. Thank you so much, in advance, for your help.

A) We want to advertise PAS events to everywhere around Phoenix that we can. And we'd like to do it for free. So, go to websites of different magazines, newspapers, and other means of media, (radio, TV) and find out if advertising with them is free, as well as give me the email address to send the ads to. So far, I don't have that many places to send our list of upcoming events. Your help is requested. Send any and everything. Don't worry if someone duplicated your findings. Thanks.

B) We are looking for resorts around town who might want to hire PAS to do star tours for \$\$\$\$. Your help is requested. I'm looking for the name of the resort, the address so we can send them a postcard, as well as a contact email if possible, and a name of a contact. If you can't find all four items for a resort, that is fine, just send me what you can find and I'll get the rest of the info needed. I think PAS should have a collection of places that we do star tours for on a regular basis. Such as, let's say the Camelback Inn wants to hire us. And every year we do their Christmas party. That would be awesome! A yearly event. Same with other resorts that may want us for corporate parties and such. We have a few events we do yearly for places now, but not enough. So, your assistance is requested. Send me some info and let's get this SHOW ON THE ROAD, so to speak. Thank you for your help in advance.***



January 4 Friday	6 pm to 10 pm	Paradise Valley Park 40th and Union Hills Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032	PAS Public Meteor Shower Party*** Volunteers Needed *** RSVP with Terri Finch to attend or to help out. * Weather Permitting *
January 5 Saturday	6 pm to ?	Mike's Historic Cow Track Ranch in Carefree	PAS Star Party*** Members Only*** RSVP with Mike by 12 noon the Friday before. This event will be from 6 pm to whenever, so bring sleeping bags and any supplies you'll need if you plan to spend the night. It's always a fun, educational trip-to-the-past event at Mike's home.* Weather Permitting *
January 12 Saturday	6 pm to 10 pm	Paradise Valley Park 40th and Union Hills Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85032	MARS PARTY (3rd of 4) Come see Mars as it make a close approach to Earth and shows us awesome details on its surface. RSVP required with Terri to attend or help out. Volunteers are asked to arrive around 5pm for Solar set up and viewing, and for traffic / vehicle control. BYO Snacks, Chairs, Drinks. Bring a Friend!
January 13 Sunday	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm	Bookman's Back room 8034 North 19th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85021-5101	PAS Bookman's Free Indoor Telescope Workshop 19th Ave. & Northern - Bookman's back room Come on by with your telescope, sky charts, questions and learn anything you wish to know about astronomy and telescopes at our FREE Telescope Workshop. R.S.V.P. is required by email to Terri Finch or by phone at 602-561-5398 to attend or help out.
January 19 Saturday	4:00 pm To 10:00pm		PAS Social Open to all members and their families. We'll have lots of games and good food to share. It's a Pot Luck so bring your favorite dish, a soft drink and a friend. Come be sociable with us. It's always a good time! Oh, and don't forget your nice astronomy related gift for the White Dwarf gift exchange. RSVP with Terri Finch to attend.
January 27 Sunday	4:30 pm to 6:30 pm	Bookman's Back room 8034 North 19th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85021-5101	PAS Bookman's Free Indoor Telescope Workshop 19th Ave & Northern - Bookman's back room Come on by with your telescope, sky charts, questions and learn anything you wish to know about astronomy and telescopes at our FREE Telescope Workshop. R.S.V.P. is required by email to Terri Finch or by phone at 602-561-5398 to attend or help out.
January 31 Thursday	7 pm to 10 pm	Paradise Valley Comm. College 18401 N. 32nd St Phoenix, AZ 85032 Union Hills and 32nd St. Room G-147	PAS Meeting of the Minds No children please (business meeting)

Ads in PAStimes

Ads in PAStimes run for a month and may be renewed on a month by month basis, if submitted by deadline, space permitting.
 Ads in PAStimes are FREE to members all others are asked to make a small donation. Donations are to be sent to the Editor who will forward them to the Treasurer.

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What's up for January?

By Rod Sutter, President

	<u>Planets Name</u>		
	Date	Rise	Set
Mercury	01-15-08	08:32	18:59
Venus	01-15-08	04:58	15:06
Mars	01-15-08	15:09	05:32
Jupiter	01-15-08	06:12	16:10
Saturn	01-15-08	20:56	09:52
Uranus	01-15-08	10:12	21:45
Neptune	01-15-08	08:54	19:39
Pluto	01-15-08	05:24	15:58

All Times Arizona Time

January 15 2008

Sunrise: 07:28

Sunset: 17:37



Q3: December 31



New: January 8



Q1: January 8



Full: January 22

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