

Volume 2021_1

WVAC News Letter

Let's hope 2021 will allow us to fire up our club for physical meetings and events, I don't know about you but I'm a little tired of not being in a group of people. I've comprised a list of upcoming activities; some require you to register beforehand so please click on the links provided. We want to thank the many astronomy clubs across the country that are hosting virtual events and seminars and allowing everyone to attend.

WVAC General Meeting

February 2, 2021 Presentation to WVAC

Presentation: "The Search for Planet X" We will discuss the history and current state of the hunt for a hidden world orbiting deep in the far reaches of our solar system.

Presenter: Will Oldroyd



Will is a graduate student at NAU studying Astronomy and Planetary Science. He grew up in Provo, Utah and graduated from Brigham Young University in Physics and Astronomy with minors in Math, Geology, and Spanish. Will's main research focuses on searching for a mysterious undiscovered giant planet—called Planet X—hidden in the distant outer solar system. Some of the most exciting parts of this research are using supercomputers to visualize how the planets are connected through gravity and using some of the biggest telescopes on Earth (or off of it) to discover

new worlds. When he's finished with school, Will plans on becoming a professor so he can continue studying the universe and share new discoveries with others. In his spare time, Will enjoys hiking and playing board games with his wife and son.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dvusd-org.zoom.us/j/8112317903>

Meeting ID: 811 231 7903

Passcode: Welcome

DUES ARE DUE

A big **Thanks** for those who have already sent in your 2021 dues. **The deadline of February 2nd is getting closer**, after that if you haven't paid your dues you'll be removed from the roster and the club email list. This pandemic has been a real set back but with zoom meetings and star parties we're still going. Even though we haven't needed a physical meeting location the club still has expanses. Most speakers we've had over the past year receive some type of monetary compensation. We also have the cost of our website and membership in the dark sky network just to name a few. So to keep things going please renew your membership by sending a check payable to WVAC for \$20.00 to:

WVAC Membership Director

13738 W. Summerstar Dr.

Sun City West, AZ 85375.

Or if you're in the neighborhood drop it off, we look forward to seeing you.

For those of you who are looking for an introduction to Astronomy the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society is hosting a 5 part series. The **Kalamazoo Astronomical Society** is the oldest organization of its kind in Michigan and one of the largest. You are welcome to attend these sessions by following the registration link at the bottom of the attached PDF flyer. The 5 part series continues on February 6th with part 2 "Discovering the Night Sky" This is schedule from 1 – 3est or 11-1 here in AZ.

You are invited to join the Southern Cross Astronomical Society 2021 Winter Star Party Virtual Edition. This virtual star party will broadcast on Feb 8-11, from 7pm to 11pm EST. Below is a link to a promo video on YouTube . You can be part of this free online event. The video includes instructions on how to register for the door prizes as well as tune-in information for the star party.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mOg0H9uXuYs>

To sign up for door prizes, please visit...

<https://www.scas.org/winter-star-party/virtualregistration.cfm>

WVAC February Star Parties

February Star Parties are scheduled for the 13th and the backup date of 20th. Please mark your calendar, hope for clear skies and warmer temps. We always have fun so plan on joining us. Social distancing is applied and there is plenty of space to spread out. So bring your chairs and enjoy the Arizona night sky.

Night Sky Network

Webinar Series: Darkness In Distress with Kelly Beatty (Jan 28)



NSN members are invited to join our latest webinar on **Thursday, January 28, at 6:00pm Pacific Time (9:00pm Eastern)** when **Kelly Beatty** will lead a discussion about the impact of light pollution on both society and our

ability to view the night sky.

Light pollution has become a pervasive and ugly consequence of our 24/7 society. Few of us can enjoy a star-spangled night sky any longer, thanks to the glowing pall caused by all the lights that line roadways, parking lots, and backyards. Fortunately, the spread of light pollution can be halted and even reversed. Join Sky & Telescope's Kelly Beatty as he discusses how we can safely light up our homes, businesses, and communities without wasting energy, disturbing the neighbors, or creating an unhealthy environment for humans and wildlife.

About Kelly Beatty

Kelly Beatty has been explaining the science and wonder of astronomy to the public since 1974. An award-winning writer and communicator, he specializes in planetary science and space exploration as Senior Editor for Sky & Telescope magazine. He served for a decade on the Board of Directors for the International Dark-Sky Association and is an officer for IDA's Massachusetts Chapter.

Registration link for NSN members:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3OLRWWieTbqpTVgtbtXqEw

Find additional info on this webinar's resource page (*NSN login required*):

https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-view.cfm?Doc_ID=684

A **livestream** will also be available to everyone via the Night Sky Network YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/_udmZngg9hg

Please note that member questions submitted via Zoom will be prioritized, as the Zoom registration link is NSN members-only. You may also wish to update and restart your Zoom software before the session begins for the best experience.

We're still looking for someone to step up to the plate to be our Hospitality Director. We want to thank Suzanne Atkins who took on this job for quite a few years. Currently the director doesn't need to do much since we're having virtual meetings but when we do meet again the director will be making the coffee and pickup the cookies we all enjoy. If you're interested please contact us.

Well that about does it for now. There's a lot to do even when we're not gathering. It seems we've been spending a lot more time on the computers, so I suggest checking out the many videos on YouTube related to astronomy. You can find just about everything you need from simple telescope alignment to identifying the constellations. If you have a smart phone put it to use, there are many Apps that will help you identify objects in the night sky. So keep looking up and hope for clear skies.

Thank You
Bob Randle
President WVAC