

See the night sky

through a variety of telescopes and binoculars, bring your own or use Club members'.

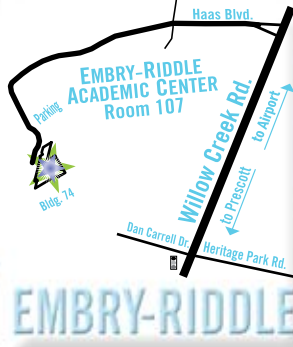
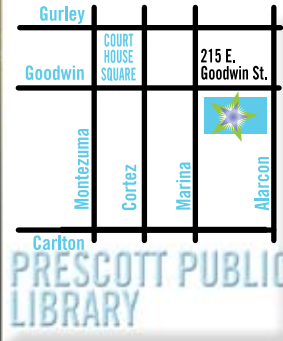
KNOWLEDGEABLE Prescott Astronomy Club members will have available their personal telescopes, a Club telescope, or binoculars for the public to view interesting objects in the night sky. Starry Nights is sponsored by the Prescott Astronomy Club in cooperation with the Prescott Department of Parks and Recreation, the Prescott Valley Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Highlands Center for Natural History.

Starry Nights and Sunny Days in Prescott and Prescott Valley:

- **March 12:** Starry Night at Highlands Center for Natural History, 7:30 to 9:30 PM; see the crescent Moon, Jupiter, Cigar Galaxy, Great Orion Nebula, Pleiades cluster, double stars
- **April 9:** Starry Night at Pronghorn Park, 8 to 10 PM; see Jupiter, Sombrero Galaxy, Whirlpool Galaxy, Bode's Galaxy, Crab Nebula, double stars
- **May 7:** Starry Night at Vista Park, 8 to 10 PM; see Jupiter, Beehive cluster, Sombrero Galaxy, Whirlpool Galaxy, Bode's Galaxy, Crab Nebula, double stars
- **June 4 to 11 (each evening):** Grand Canyon Star Party, South Rim, Grand Canyon National Park
- **June 11:** Sunny Day and Starry Night at Pronghorn Park, 5:30 to 10:30 PM; see the Sun through a solar telescope; then see the Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn, Keystone cluster, double stars
- **September 10:** Starry Night at Vista Park, 7:30 to 9:30 PM; see the Moon, Saturn, Mars, Ring Nebula, Dumbbell Nebula, Keystone cluster, double stars
- **October 1:** Starry Night at Pronghorn Park, 7 to 9 PM; see Mars, Andromeda Galaxy, Ring Nebula, Dumbbell Nebula, Keystone cluster, Wild Duck cluster, double stars
- **November 5:** Starry Night at Vista Park, 6:30 to 8:30 PM; see the Moon, Mars, Andromeda Galaxy, Ring Nebula, Dumbbell Nebula, double stars

Vista Park is at 1684 Sarafina Drive in the Prescott Lakes subdivision. GPS coordinates—34°35'39.92"N; 112°26'33.00"W

Pronghorn Park is at 7931 E. Rusty Spur Trail in the Pronghorn Ranch subdivision. GPS coordinates—34°39'8.14"N; 112°19'34.96"W



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PRESCOTT ASTRONOMY CLUB
www.prescottastronomyclub.org

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Photos courtesy of Prescott Astronomy Club President Jeff Stillman.

Starry Nights

2016

Starry Nights

PRESCOTT/PRESCOTTVALLEY2016

DUMBBELL Nebula

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STARGAZING
PRESCOTT & PRESCOTT VALLEY

2016 Starry Nights

The Prescott Astronomy Club meets at 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in the Academic Center (Building #74), room 107 (the Lecture Hall). The building is easily accessible on Haas Blvd. GPS coordinates—34°36'59"N; 112°27'6"W
The public is welcome to attend.

Third Thursday Star Talks at Prescott Public Library Founders Suite

These presentations on a variety of subjects relevant to astronomy are sponsored by the Prescott Astronomy Club and the Prescott Public Library and are free to the public. Speakers are selected from a variety of regional organizations for their knowledge and outstanding ability to discuss their topic. **Note new starting time for Third Thursday Star Talks: 6PM.**

■ January 21, 6 to 8 PM

Ancient Astronomy of the Southwest.

Bryan Bates, Professor, Coconino Community College

Humans have long observed the night-time sky, often asking probing questions about the different patterns they see among the stars (constellations), why some stars wander (planets) and what forces are driving the change as well as stability of certain celestial objects. In the Southwest, the ancestral Puebloan people have a long history of observing the sky and recording their cosmology through petroglyphs and stories. Our speaker has had the good fortune to research numerous ancestral sites and attempt to discern what the ancestral Puebloan people may have been observing and how they used the information they extracted from their observations. He will share with us his research from Wupatki National Monument, Chaco Canyon & Mesa Verde National Parks and numerous other sites.

■ February 18, 6 to 8 PM

Gravitational Waves from Core-Collapse Supernovae

Marek J. Szczepanczyk, Graduate Student, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

In September last year the Advanced Gravitational Wave Detectors started observations for Gravitational Waves, leading to a new field of astronomy—gravitational astronomy. Core-Collapse Supernovae are believed to be a great source for gravitational radiation. When a star explodes all information from its core carried by electromagnetic waves are lost. Gravitational Waves can go freely through the hot mantle and can bring new unique information to our understanding of exploding stars. Our speaker will present how we can do the observations of Gravitational Waves and what we can learn from those signals focusing on Core-Collapse Supernovae.

■ March 17, 6 to 8 PM

Through Compact Telescopes to New Research Realms

Christopher Corbally, S.J., Vice Director, Vatican Observatory

Not always the biggest telescopes count in space science discoveries. Often it is imagination, innovative technology, prime location, and persistence, coupled with compact telescopes. These include ones from the Vatican, Toronto, and Arizona—and your backyard. The research touches on stellar physics, supernovae, black holes, exoplanets, and brown dwarfs. After this pioneering, the big facilities can get in on the game.

■ April 21, 6 to 8 PM

New Horizons Mission to the Pluto System

Dr. Will Grundy, Co-investigator New Horizons Project, Lowell Observatory

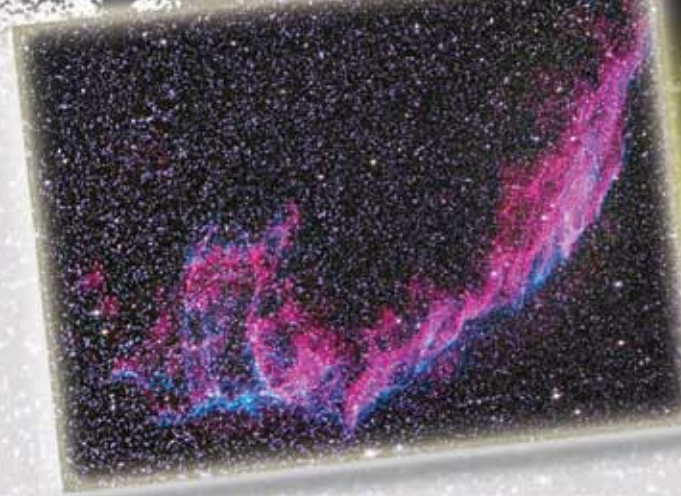
Dr. Grundy is co-investigator and leader of the surface composition theme team on NASA's New Horizons mission to Pluto. New Horizons has returned an amazing amount of scientific data on Pluto and our solar system beyond. Dr. Grundy will provide an overview and update of this historic scientific mission.

■ May 19, 6 to 8 PM

The Great Solar Eclipse of 2017

Fulton Wright, Professor, Retired, Prescott Astronomy Club

If they ask you "Have you seen a total solar eclipse?", and you answer "I think so", then you haven't. Your best chance to see one in the old 48 states, as it travels across the continent, is August 21, 2017. We will talk about what you can see and where you can see it. It is not too early to plan your trip.



CIRRUS Nebula

2016 Starry Nights

■ June 16, 6 to 8 PM

Deep-Sky Observing: The Astronomical Tourist

Steve R. Coe, Professor, Retired

Steve has been watching the deep sky from locations near his home in Arizona for over 40 years. He will share his accumulated wealth of knowledge, observations, hints and tips that will help every deep sky observer, regardless of experience. Steve will also include photographs of a variety of deep sky objects: star clusters, glowing nebulae and distant galaxies.

■ September 15, 6 to 8 PM

Kuiper Belt Objects

Dr. Stephen C. Tegler, Professor and Chair, Physics and Astronomy, Northern Arizona University

Dr. Tegler will discuss Kuiper belt object discoveries from laboratory experiments, telescopes, and spacecraft.

■ October 20, 6 to 8 PM

Moondance

Rik Hill, Coordinator, AZ Lunar & Planetary Lab

For lunar photographers, except for the *Dark Side of the Moon*, there is no such thing as a *Bad Moon Rising*. But when *There's a Moon Out Tonight*, I will show you how *Once in a Blue Moon*, you can get very detailed images of the *Mountains on the Moon* and become *Children of the Moon* and maybe even *Master of the Moon*. Rik will discuss considerations needed in taking and processing high resolution images of the moon with easily available freeware and relatively inexpensive cameras.

■ November 17, 6 to 8 PM

Latest Results from the Mars Curiosity Rover

Dr. Ryan Anderson, Physical Scientist/Developer, United States Geological Survey

The Mars Curiosity rover launched on November 26, 2011. Dr. Anderson will provide an overview of Curiosity's mission, key findings, and recent activities, including the latest images from Mars.