

The High Desert Observer

October 2020

The Astronomical Society of Las Cruces (ASLC) is dedicated to expanding public awareness and understanding of the wonders of the universe. ASLC holds frequent observing sessions and star parties, providing opportunities to work on Society and public educational projects. Members receive electronic delivery of The High Desert Observer, our monthly newsletter, plus membership in the Astronomical League including their quarterly publication, *Reflector*, available in either paper or digital format. ASLC members are also entitled to a discount on a subscription to Sky and Telescope magazine.

Annual Individual Dues are \$30

Annual Family Dues are \$36

Annual Student (Full Time) Dues are \$24

Annual Dues are payable in January. Prorated dues are available for new members. Dues are payable to ASLC with an application form or note to: Treasurer ASLC, P.O. Box , Las Cruces, NM. Contact our Treasurer, Patricia Conley treasurerasc-nm.org for further information.

Monthly Meetings

Our next ASLC meeting will be virtual, to be held on Friday, October 23rd at 7 p.m. Future meetings will continue to be virtual until the Covid-19 situation allows us to meet safely in person. Please note that the ASLC will not be holding other meetings, gatherings or public outreach events until it is deemed safe to do so. Please practice proper hygiene, social-distance and wear your mask!



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Coming Events (postponed due to Covid-19)

Typically, ASLC hosts public in-town observing sessions at the Pan Am Plaza on University Ave. and at Tombaugh Observatory on the NMSU campus. All sessions begin at dusk.

At our Leasburg Dam State Park Observatory, we normally hold monthly star parties. Located just 20 miles north of Las Cruces, our 16-inch Meade LX200 telescope at this site is used to observe under rather dark skies.

From the Desk of the ASLC President

Tracy Stuart

Well it happened. The sun is nine months into a new cycle. Astronomers predict that the sun's new active phase, called cycle 25, will peak in 2025. They foresee that this will be a fairly quiet cycle much like cycle 24 which ended in December.

For those of you who are more planetary orientated, on September 14th it was announced that phosphine gas was discovered in the atmosphere of Venus. So what's the big deal? Here on Earth phosphine is produced by microbes or human activity. Therefore the presence on Venus might indicate the presences of living microbes in the atmosphere. Well until the inorganic chemists come up with a mechanism to produce the gas.

Our presentation this month will be by Dave Doctor as he leads a discussion on the Leasburg observatory.

THE ANSWER IS 42.



ASLC Board of Directors

board@aslc-nm.org

President: Tracy Stuart	president@aslc-nm.org
Vice President: Ed Montes	vp@acslc-nm.org
Treasurer: Patricia Conley	treasurer@aslc-nm.org
Secretary: John McCullough	secretary@aslc-nm.org
Director: Tim Kostelecky	director1@aslc-nm.org
Director: Kevin Brown	director2@aslc-nm.org
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ASLC Slate of Officers & Ballot for 2021

Included below is a ballot for ASLC Officers for 2021 and notice of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Members have received similar ballots via email, however, this version may be printed, filled in, then scanned to attach to an email to arrive no later than Thursday, October 22nd to the ASLC Secretary at Secretary@ASLC-nm.org. Your name and signature are requested to enable verification of your voting status (current dues status).

The 2020 Vice-President, Ed Montes, has agreed to stand for President and current Director-at -Large Tim Kostelecky has agreed to stand for Vice-President. Patricia (Trish) Conley, Treasurer, and John McCullough, Secretary, have agreed to stand for an additional term in 2021. Tracy Stuart will fill the position of immediate Past-President on the 2021 Board of Directors. Michael Nuss has agreed to stand for a first-year term as the Director-at-Large, Position #1. Rani Bush has agreed to stand for the Director-at-Large, Position #2, also for the first year.

You will notice that there are Write-in options for each position. Please be aware that in accordance with the ASLC By-Laws “Nominations may be made from the floor at the regular meeting, provided: that only members who are present may be nominated from the floor, unless the nominator delivers to the Secretary a signed statement from the absent nominee stating that he will accept the nomination and will serve if elected”. This process will be complicated by the necessity of holding the Annual Meeting virtually via Zoom.

Please carefully consider your options, make your selections and return your signed and dated ballot either electronically or via USPS to arrive no later than 22 October 2020.

Astronomical Society of Las Cruces

Ballot for 2021 Society Officers

And

2020 Annual Meeting Announcement

Vote for one (1) candidate for each position OR write-in the member of your choice:



Position:	Candidate	Write-in
President-	<input type="checkbox"/> Ed Montes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice-President-	<input type="checkbox"/> Tim Kostelecky	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer-	<input type="checkbox"/> Patricia Conley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary-	<input type="checkbox"/> John McCullough	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vote for two (2) of the candidates below OR write in the member of your choice:

Position:	Candidate	Write-in
Director-at-Large (Position #1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Nuss	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director-at-Large (Position #2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rani Bush	<input type="checkbox"/>

Member Signature	Printed Name	Date
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Note: Write-in candidates must be current voting members of the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces (ASLC) and agree to serve if elected.

For membership status confirmation purposes, please sign and date your ballot. Mail or email your ballot to the Secretary at P.O. Box 921, Las Cruces, NM 88004 or Secretary@aslc-nm.org to arrive no later than 22 October 2020.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annual Meeting of the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces will be held at 7:00 pm on 23 October 2020 via Zoom. Additional details to follow via email.

2020 ASLC Annual Meeting, October 23rd

The ASLC monthly in-person monthly meetings are typically held in the Creative Arts Room, Good Samaritan Society – Las Cruces Village. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in-person meetings have been postponed and will resume once Good Samaritan and the State of New Mexico sufficiently relax their restrictions regarding large gatherings and the facility is available. In place of the in-person meeting, the ASLC Board of Directors has opted to continue another means of conducting meetings, i.e., the ZOOM video conferencing app.

Date & Time: Oct 23, 2020 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Meeting will be held via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/94615373384?pwd=VXlrRHVnajgzQ2xuSIB4Q1N0WmN5QT09>

Meeting ID: 946 1537 3384

Passcode: 746443

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,94615373384#,,,,,0#,,746443# US (Houston)

+16699006833,,94615373384#,,,,,0#,,746443# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/acJOC6mbpy>

Dave Doctor will be leading a discussion on the ASLC ongoing program and activities at Leasburg State Park north of Las Cruces.

Also this month's meeting is the 2020 Annual Meeting of ASLC. Officers for 2021 will be elected/announced at this meeting as well.

Member Article

A Worthy Hopservatory

Tim Kostelecky

Imagine having the opportunity to entwine two great passions into a single entity. Seemingly so disparate that combining them as a vocation would be so unlikely as to be only the stuff of daydreams. But someone has taken this fantasy and made it a reality. And I'm jealous.

I chanced upon this reality while attending the 61st Annual Hop Growers of America (HGA) Convention not too long ago in Bend Oregon. The HGA conference is a yearly winter get-together of hop growers, researchers, and allied industries - mostly brewers, anxious to discuss last year's hops and what's in store for the future. Despite being held during the messy aftermath of a major snow event, the HGA meeting went well with a fine series of Hop Research Council updates, hops/brewing presentations, and social events.

So this gets me back to my initial point...hops are one of my two great passions in life, and of course have been a major part of my brewing career. It's been wonderfully rewarding. So what about my second passion? It's been something I've been involved with for much longer than even hops and brewing — astronomy and love of the night sky. I've been an avid sky-watcher and telescopist since my youth.



So, back to the HGA conference — as part of the program, a series of tours were set up to visit a number of Bend's fine breweries. Separate tours were provided, and I was scheduled for one with no particular preference for which breweries to visit.

However, while on a break between a couple of research presentations - specifically, one on Hop Herbicide Trials and the other in the Development of Hop Integrated Pest Management Strategies, I overheard a conversation from a young woman telling others she was anxious for the brewery tours, but then mentioned that one of the breweries had a big telescope! What!?! That certainly piqued my interest and I had to interrupt the conversation to get more details. I was told it was the Worthy Brewery...they had an observatory as part of the facility. Well, my apologies to James Barbour, a professor at the University of Idaho, but following the break I paid little attention to his lecture describing his research efforts on the major arthropod pests of hops in Idaho. I was too busy checking out Worthy Brewing on my iPhone. I had to get the scoop on the scope.



What I found was certainly interesting. Worthy Brewing built an observatory, aka “Hopservatory” nestled with the brewery, and is part of their nonprofit Worthy Garden Club in partnership with the Oregon Observatory at Sun River and the University of Oregon. The telescope is no lightweight...it is a 16-inch RCOS-based Ritchey-Chretien catadioptric.



Of course, learning all this, my planned tour route was immediately changed to include Worthy Brewing. So, with the help of some brewing buddies at the conference, a personal side tour was arranged. And I'd like to thank Zach Brenneman, the lead brewer at Worthy, for his time and personal attention in letting me not only get a close look at the brewing operations, but also in providing a great tour of the observatory. As a special incentive, I've been invited to make it back up to Bend for another visit in the future, for beers and a personal observing session.

As a further note, Roger Worthington, the owner of Worthy Brewing, is enthusiastic about sharing his passion for the cosmos and is conducting public and private tours of the Hopservatory as well as various outreach programs and events scheduled throughout the year. Check out the website at: <https://worthy.beer/bend-oregon-observatory/>

To quote Roger from the website: "The cosmos is a refreshing reminder of how lucky we are to live on such a unique and precious planet...Let's leave it better than we found it".

There you have it. The lucky folks at Worthy's are living my dream. Go figure...astronomy and brewing! Kudos to Roger Worthington for his inspiration in intertwining his (and my) two passions in building the Hopservatory as part of the Worthy Brewery!

Member Images



M81 (BODE'S W/HOLMBERG IX) AND M82 (CIGAR) AND IFN (IMAGED OVER 2 NIGHTS)

FS-60C, EM200, QSI690WSG
19X15MIN, 20X10MINL (BIN1X1); 8X5MIN EA RGB (BIN2X2);

BY: JEFFREY O. JOHNSON

LARGER/DETAILS:
[HTTP://JEFFJASTRO.COM/DSO/M81M82_25APR20.HTM](http://JEFFJASTRO.COM/DSO/M81M82_25APR20.HTM)



COMET C/2020 F3 (*NEOWISE*) THE MORNING OF 11-JULY-2020 OVER THE ORGAN MOUNTAINS, LAS CRUCES, NM.

CLOUDS MOVING LIKE CRAZY, SO RESORTED TO THIS AS MY FAVORITE. SINGLE FRAME, 2SEC, ISO3200, 250MM, NORMAL TRIPOD.

BY: JEFFREY O. JOHNSON

SEVERAL DIFFERENT SHOTS FROM DIFFERENT MORNINGS ARE HERE:
[HTTP://JEFFJASTRO.COM/SOLARSYSTEM/C2020F3_8_11_12JUL20.HTM](http://JEFFJASTRO.COM/SOLARSYSTEM/C2020F3_8_11_12JUL20.HTM)