



# Snake River Skies

February 2005

Volume 6 Issue 2

## Balloon Launch and Astrology, the Great Debate

### Club Officers

- Cheri Lowman, President, 736-7293
- Ken Thomason, Vice President 324-4532 ktst@pmt.org
- Rick Widmer, Secretary Webmaster 539-5162 rwidmer@developersdesk.com
- Jay Hartwell, Treasurer 734-6410 jhartwell@cableone.net
- Tom Gilbertson, Newsletter Editor 734-04383 palo@pmt.org

Write to MVAS at P.O. Box 5101, Twin Falls, ID 83303

Yearly membership is \$20 per person or family and \$10 per student. Sponsor memberships are \$100.

Friday evening at 7:00 pm come the the Rick Allen room and we will learn about the balloon launch and have the opportunity to assemble experiment packages. Paul Verhage will be coming down to organize the event.

Our regular meeting will feature the long talked about "Great Debate" August 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rick Al-

len Room Herrett Center. The resolution to be debated is "The Study of Astrology should be encouraged because it advances our understanding of science."

Presenting the affirmative will be Tom Gilbertson. Tom studies astrology and finds nothing wrong for those wishing to practice this ancient science. Chris Anderson is

the skeptic and thinks astrology is a waste of resources better used to study Astronomy.

This should be a fun filled weekend so plan to attend both events.

Astrophotographers remember the Twin Falls County Fair is coming up along with the Photographic exhibit. MVAS sponsors a prize for the best Astronomical Photo. Pick-up an exhibiter's handbook now at the Twin Falls County Fair office

My apologies to Jay Hartwell for leaving him off our list of Officers. Jay agreed to fill the unexpired Treasurer's term of Matt Holmquist who moved to Boise. Jay has been very active in keeping up our finances and attending Board Meetings.

# Astrology Primer


As the Debaters get ready you should get ready too. Below is a quick primer of terms that should help you understand the subject of the debate. Astrology takes its name from astro meaning pertaining to stars or celestial bodies and logy meaning writing or discourse. Oddly enough it is not the study of stars as the only star of consequence included in this form of astrology is the sun. It does study the planets including the Sun and Moon and their influence on human affairs.

To understand this form of astrology you imagine yourself in the middle of a vast sphere facing due south. Around this sphere are slices of this sphere similar to that of an orange that do not change position. These are the houses that make up various aspects of your life. These houses are numbered from 1 to 12 in a counterclockwise direction,



the same direction the planets, moon and sun appear to move from night to night in our sky. The famous zodiac ring rotates as the day progresses. In a clockwise direction (for us northern hemisphere observers) as the objects appear to move during the day and night they rise in the east and set in the west.





It is the planets that play roles in interpreting a horoscope (hour watch). They rule certain signs. The signs are given energies of yang or yin signifying extrovert or introvert energies. The signs also have qualities of cardinal (leaders of change) fixed (those less willing to change) and mutable (those willing to adapt to change). Each sign also has an element of fire, earth, air, or water. No one sign has the same combination of all these attributes.

After the Copernican revolution astrology practically died out. It was only in the past century that it has risen from the ashes and has become incredibly popular again. Come to the Great Debate and learn why astrology is so popular in this age of science.

For sale: 6" Celestron Refractor w/ equatorial mount (CR—150 HD) w 9/50 achromatic finder and Barlow, plossl eyepiece. As new in Box \$575.00 contact Bud Bullock 1-208-324-4409

## Rick Widmer explains the SHARE system

At our July meeting Rick Widmer went over the equipment that came with the SHARE system. Thanks to again to Terry Wolford who went to Boston for us to get the equipment and the many donors who contributed funds. There is an impressive array of equipment that will be very useful to us in our many future outings.

Speaking of outings we will be discussing at our August meeting an outing to Nat soo pah, and the Idaho Star Party in September. Jay Sneddon led a group of volunteers to show a church group some of the wonders of the sky at Alturas lake. If you have a group interested in having a sky vie wing event let us know.

## What is up in the Sky for August 2005

OK It is time to give the rundown of planets and their positions on the night of our meeting so you will be prepared for the Astrology debate.

Sun is in Cancer

Mercury is in Cancer

Venus is in Virgo

Earth is the center of the Universe well OK  
Capricorn

Mars is in Aries

Jupiter is in Virgo

Saturn is in Cancer

Uranus is in Aquarius

Neptune is in Capricorn

Pluto is in Scorpius

Moon will be 1st Quarter in Scorpius

Venus will be disappearing into the sun later this month to emerge later this year as the morning star. Mercury reaches greatest western elongation August 23 and visible in the morning sky. The Perseid meteor shower peaks Friday August 12. Jupiter is still a target but will be getting lower earlier. Mars is in good position after midnight getting ready for its good opposition in October. Clear skies so get your scopes out.