Snake River Skies

February 2005 Volume 6 Issue 2

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.

A highly successful Balloon Launch and everyone wins at the Great Debate

Congratulations to Paul Verhage and his crew for launching a high altitude balloon. It was exciting to see the various cameras that recorded the event. Chris Anderson skillfully trained the big telescope on the balloon even to the point it burst in the sky. The balloon parts and packages were found within a short distance of the freeway by Burley.

Everyone wins at the great debate. Especially those mystified by the many misconceptions regarding Astrology. Tom Gilbertson and Chris Anderson had a friendly battle of the minds regarding this controversial ancient Science or farse depending on your viewpoint.

This month for those

not able to make the Idaho Star Party the club will meet at he Herrett Center to discuss a power point program to be presented to schools or other groups. Weather permitting sky viewing will follow.

Congratulations to Paul McClain for winning the MVAS award for the best Astronomy Photo at the Filer Fair. He won with a black and white view of the star trails of the northern polar stars highlighted by stone pillars.

Coming in October Candace Wright will talk about Gravitational Lensing. Candace is the Twin Falls High School teacher of Astronomy For information on the Idaho Star Party link up to www.boiseastro.org. For information about Bruneau try www.idahoparks.org/parks/bruneaudunes.html. This is a fun event rain or shine with a number of quality speaker, fun raffle, and fellowship with knowledgeable fellow Astronomers.

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

What is up in the sky for September 2005

If you have not been looking at the sky for the past month you have been missing out. This is the best time of year to view the sky before the long winter storms come in November. Mars is a good telescope target now, and is getting into position for a very good opposition in late October. The Venus and Jupiter are doing an intriguing dance in the early evening hours now and for the next week or so before they will both disappear into the evening sun. Full moon this month is the Harvest Moon on September 18. The Hunter's moon will be October 17 and will feature a partial lunar eclipse. Equinox is September 22. Scorpius and Sagittarius shine in the early evening hours and mighty Orion, Taurus and the Pleiades are in the morning.

Volume 6 Issue 2 Page 2