

After Dark



Updates from the Great Basin Observatory & the Great Basin National Park Foundation

NASA's picture of the day features an image taken from the Great Basin Observatory!

On September 5, **NGC 3628: Sideways Spiral Galaxy**, taken by Paul Gardner from the Great Basin Observatory (GBO), and processed by Rogelio Bernal Andreo, was featured on NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day. The beautiful image highlights the GBO's capabilities to capture a sharp telescopic view of a magnificent edge-on

spiral galaxy. This galaxy is about 100,000 light years across and 35 million light years away from Earth. Feeling hungry? Some astronomers must have been when they nicknamed this the "Hamburger Galaxy". See image below.

Reach for the Stars reaching Delta, Utah students

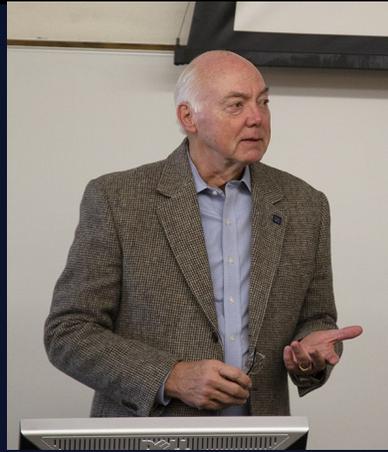
Janzen Quinn, graduating Southern Utah University student and *Reach for the Stars* intern, taught six third grade classes at Delta North Elementary about Great Basin National Park (GBNP), preserving dark night skies, and the planets in our solar system in November. Janzen reached 150 students with direct programming, extending GBNP's ability to reach local communities, and

supporting the goal of the GBO "to build public awareness of, preserve, encourage stewardship of, and appreciate the natural dark skies over Great Basin National Park and the Great Basin geographical region as a whole." The Great Basin National Park Foundation (GBNPF) is grateful to the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership for supporting this program.



Hamburger Galaxy— taken from GBO

Starfest 2018!



Left– Starfest undergraduate and graduate students. Middle– UNR President Marc Johnson opens the symposium with a welcome address. Right– Starfest presenters, partners and participants.

A big thank you to the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and Melodi Rodrigue for organizing and hosting the GBO's first student Starfest! Thirty five people attended, representing all four GBO partner universities. Graduate and undergraduate students, along with their professors, learned from GBO Project Manager Paul Gardner how to make all types of observations using the GBO, including planetary imaging, speckle interferometry, astrometry, photometry, narrow band imaging, astrophotography, and spectroscopy. Cole Niebuhr and Ruth Larson of Concordia University gave an overview of the installation of the new eShel spectrograph done this summer. Other presenters included, Guglielmo Panelli from UNR relating

his transiting exoplanet observations and Jacob Fausett from UNR presenting his research on "Tabby's Star". John Kenney, the GBO's Operations Committee Chair said of the conference, "Presentations and activities (by students, faculty, and staff) were excellent and highly informative. However, the most valuable part of the conference was being together in the same room for two days and getting to know each other. We connected names, faces, institutions, and research/education-outreach interests in many informal conversations between sessions." The first Starfest was deemed a huge success and the second Starfest is already in the works to take place next fall at Southern Utah University.

Park Progress

Each year Great Basin National Park Foundation (GBNPF) supports multiple projects of Great Basin National Park. This year GBNPF supported the Bioblitz, Green Box teacher program, Search and Rescue program, and astronomy program through telescope replacement. We

also are supporting the construction of a new 1873 Winchester Rifle exhibit and a bronze relief map for the Wheeler Peak Cirque through the generous help of the Fund for People in Parks. Be sure to check all the amazing programs and exhibits the Park has to offer.

Who We Are

The Great Basin National Park Foundation is the official nonprofit partner of Great Basin National Park. We help the Park engage and connect the public to Great Basin's spectacular wide-open scenery, dark night skies, cultural heritage and diverse native ecosystems.

The Great Basin Observatory, built by the Foundation, is the first research-grade



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observatory located in a National Park. The GBO benefits students, scholars, teachers, Park visitors, and the public, and enables exploration into the fundamental questions of our universe.

Learn more at:

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greatbasinobservatory.org