



WINSLOW-HOMOLOVI OBSERVATORY

A brief history of a community outreach event that became a successful partnership between the City of Winslow, Homolovi State Park and the Little Colorado River Valley Astronomy Club.

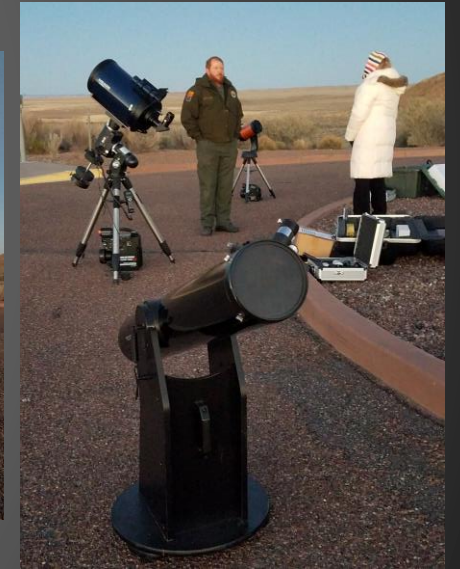
In the Beginning...

- ...there was an idea that came from the City's Librarian to hold a Star Party. She asked permission to hold the Star Party at Homolovi State Park, just outside of Winslow. Then they needed telescopes, so the word went out. Just by luck, several people in the community happened to have some small telescopes, binoculars and cameras, and that first event consisted of a bunch of people with no idea how a Star Party works, along with about 50 spectators. It was so much fun that we decided to keep doing it.
- There are no images of this event, which took place on June 5, 2014

The Pioneers...

- Docia Blalock, Winslow Library Director (Ret.)
- Chad Meunier, Park Manager, Homolovi State Park
- Kenn Evans, Ranger, Homolovi State Park
- Bill Wood, Little Colorado River Valley Astronomy Club
- Patrick McLeod, LCRVAC
- Steve Pauken, Winslow City Manager (Ret.)
- Tim Westover, Winslow Public Works Director
- Elias Jouen, Winslow Finance Director

The Early Days...



At first, we brought our own telescopes. By 2016, we had a donated 10' diameter dome and 10" Meade SCT. From somewhere, a 6" Dob appeared.

The Early Days...



By 2017, we were lugging around a 14" SCT, 16" Dob, 10" SCT and smaller scopes every month. We had a 10' diameter dome and nothing to put under it.

2017, the Construction Begins

First things first; an adequate base for the Pier, then a 14'x14' floor and entrance pad. All of the concrete and labor was donated by a Winslow Contractor.

Block work was next. A Winslow mason and his crew donated the labor, using block donated by a Winslow hardware store.

Electric service was installed by APS with assistance from Winslow Public Works. All of the above work completed 1st quarter.

Framing to support the dome was installed by a Joseph City contractor, who donated the labor. This was completed in July.

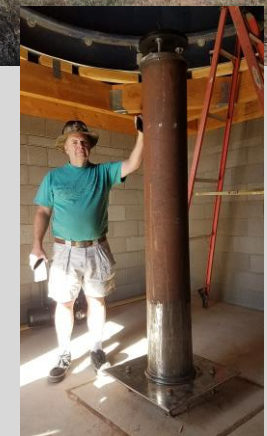


2018, Progress to Completion

The donated dome was transported from Show Low and taken to a Winslow paint shop where it was repainted white. The service was donated. It is a HD 10 from Technology Innovations.

Assembly of the dome was accomplished by a group of volunteers along with personnel from the City, Homolovi, and ADOC inmates in January of 2018.

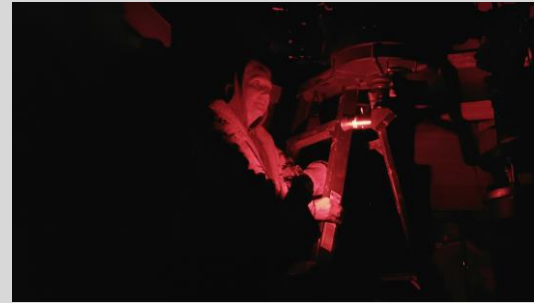
The pier was fabricated from 8" well casing. Initial height was 6'. After fitting the telescope mount and OTA, we decided to lower the height to 5'. It was ready for final fabrication in April of 2018.



2018, Summer. Maiden Voyage!

In June, it was all complete! While the pier would be painted later, the CGE Pro Mount and the C14 Optical Tube were mounted and tested. We started using it at star parties that month.

In total, the observatory partnership has received \$41,000 in cash donations and documented in-kind services, along with thousands more that we never documented.





2019, Installation of Mallincam

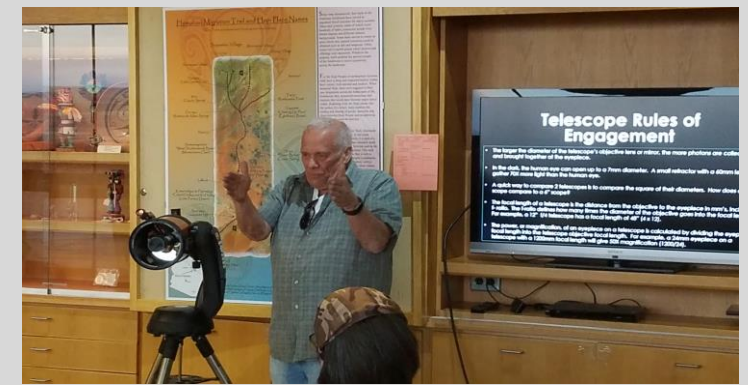
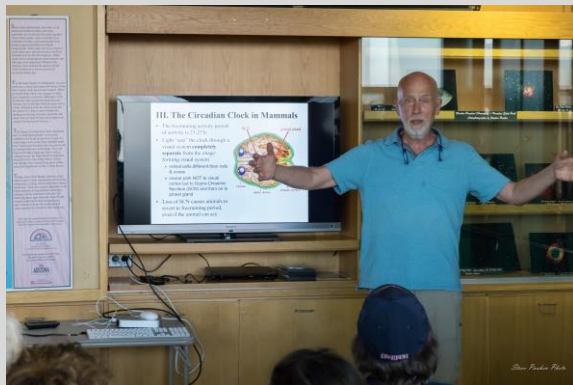
◦ With an observatory and a big telescope, we found that our star parties were getting more popular. We invested in a Mallincam and installed it on a 100mm refractor which was then mounted on the 14" SCT for simultaneous viewing.

We mounted brackets for monitors both inside and outside the building so that we could monitor our targets live and give our guests a preview of what they would see in the eyepiece.



Programs

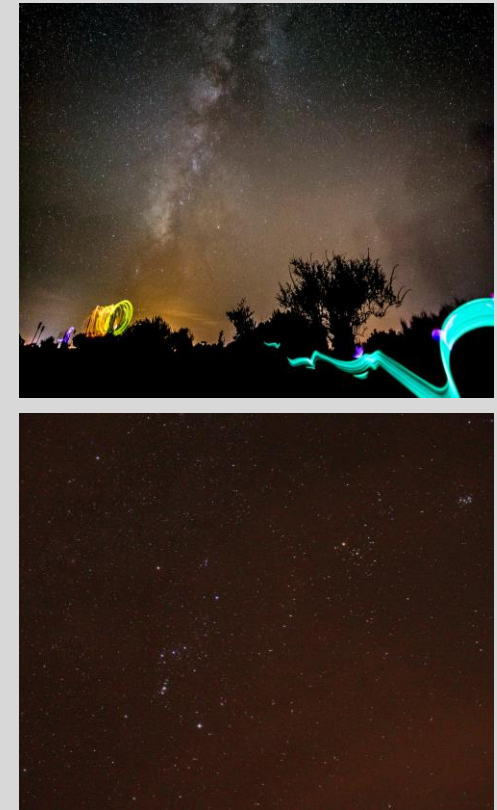
- Winslow High School enrichment classes, 2015-16.
- Fool Hollow State Park star parties (2).
- Presentations at WHO; telescope etiquette, how telescopes work, astrophotography, importance of dark skies, Meteor Crater, Navajo Astronomy
- Solar viewing and Lunar Eclipse Viewing



Instruction

We don't advertise it, but when we can help a budding astronomer or astrophotographer, we invite them to bring their equipment and will help them as much as we can during a star party.

We are always on the lookout for people who may have the aptitude to learn how to operate the 14" telescope. We aren't getting any younger 😊



Astrophotography

M51, Whirlpool Galaxy,
Bill Wood LCRV
Astronomy Club at the
Winslow - Homolovi
Observatory, 5/31/19
21:35 C14 f/11, Canon T3,
ISO 6400, CG5
uncorrected native
tracking 4x90s Lites, 20
Bias, 11 Darks, PixInsight
This was a test image
taken following drift
alignment & a periodic
error correction
recording.



...and Food!

It's a good way to get people to attend when it gets dark early, and we make a little money in donations for the food. It's usually something easy like hotdogs or chili.



Elias, our Chef!

Sponsors and Benefactors

City of Winslow
Homolovi State Park
Little Colorado River Valley Astronomy Club
Friends of the Winslow Library
Winslow Chamber of Commerce
Winslow Rotary Club
Mc Cauley Construction Co.
Hardy Masonry
Casey's Color Center
Bushman & Bushman Construction
Arizona Public Service
McLeod Fabrication
Graceland Portable Buildings
ASPC Winslow
Starizona

Jack & Annette Hasten
Steve & Karin Moore
Ed & Donna Moore
Bill & Carol Wood
Randy Turner
Harry Passafaro
Steve & Peggy Pauken
Elias Jouen
Pat McLeod
Cameron McLeod
Tim Westover
Docia Blalock
Kenn Evans, II
Chad Meunier
Randall Sahmie

Lawrence Kenna
Devin Singh
Michelle Pennington
David Hartman
Mark Strango
Mark Woodson
Kevin Coolidge
Jeff Hancock
Ben Foster



Thank You!



WHO images in memory of Todd Roth