

## Community Star Parties

I wish I could take credit for having the foresight to schedule three Community **\*\*Star\*Parties\*\*** (CSP) during Astronomy Week, but no such luck. Didn't even know it was Astronomy Week until Thursday, I believe. On Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> I was the only volunteer to show-up at Consumnes River College in Elk Grove. With the sky being socked in with thick clouds though, if I didn't live so close, I would not have shown up either.

Much better luck with Thursday & Friday nights' **\*\*star\*parties\*\***. I believe it was a first time event for Irene B. West, and first time for sure concerning Sierra Elementary School.

I really have not yet decided if the students or the teachers are more enthralled with what might be their first time looking through a telescope. I find it hard to believe that someone can make it into their thirties or even older before the opportunity would present itself. It's so hard for me to put into words the feeling of satisfaction I get when I hear that "Ooh" or the "I can see it!", or my favorite, "that is so cool".

There have been some new-to-the-Society Members at the last few school CSP's. I think they are now hooked, after just a few fixes. No way I can't say, "thank you" to the regulars who show up with their usual gusto. Some of them have been doing CSP's for a decade or longer. You have to wonder, how many people, young or old were introduced to the wonders of the night sky by these fine people?

Stay tuned to the Yahoo Group for updates of where and when the next CSP will be held. If you have any questions about any CSP, I can usually be found wandering around at the end of our Monthly General Meeting, or if you would like, contact me anytime through my email address at:  
[perryprestonporter@yahoo.com](mailto:perryprestonporter@yahoo.com).