



The Warren Astronomical Society Paper

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2007 WAS OFFICERS

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The WASP (Warren Astronomical Society Paper) is the official monthly publication of the Society. Each new issue of the WASP is e-mailed to each member and/or available online www.warrenastronomicalsociety.org. Requests by other Astronomy clubs to receive the WASP, and all other correspondence should be addressed to the editor, Cliff Jones, email: cliffordj@ameritech.net

Articles for inclusion in the WASP are strongly encouraged and should be submitted to the editor on or before the first of each month. Any format of submission is accepted, however the easiest forms for this editor to use are plain text files. Most popular graphics formats are acceptable. Materials can be submitted either in printed form in person or via US Mail, or preferably, electronically via direct modem connection or email to the editor.

Disclaimer: The articles presented herein represent the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of the WAS or the editor. The WASP reserves the right to deny publication of any submission.

Astro Chatter

by Larry Kalinowski



Astronomy Day, Saturday, April 21 is a big day for members of our club. It means passing along to the public, our enthusiasm for outer space. Most people are so involved with their lives that they don't get the chance to reach beyond their everyday problems and enjoy what lies beyond our home planet. Very few get the chance to contemplate the universe because they only read about it in books and newspapers. Astronomy day actually shows them what lies beyond their supposed reach. You can join some of our members at Cranbrook's science museum in the afternoon and at our public open house at the club's observatory, Stargate, in the evening. Bring your telescope and/or binoculars. Solar telescopes are needed for Cranbrook's event, as well as any kind of display you might have for astronomical, public viewing.

Another green comet is headed our way. It's called Comet Lovejoy (C/2007 E2) and won't be

anywhere near as bright as the last green comet (McNaught). It nears the Sun on March 27, then approaches the Earth on April 25. If you're lucky you'll see it around eighth or ninth magnitude in April, unless an outburst brings it to naked eye brightness, but don't count on it.

Normally I don't bring up meteor events because the big city deteriorates the sky so much that most people will be lucky if they see one meteor per hour around the Detroit Metro area. However, the Lyrid shower is worth mentioning because it peaks on April 22nd, with a five day old Moon. In good skies, the count could go to 20 per hour.

A new attendance record was established during last month's meeting when 15 members and visitors crowded within the Gathen residence for some serious, astronomical, jaw flapping. The meeting started off with the revelation that Newton's first successful reflector was only about an inch, or so, in diameter. Then it was on to the 200 inch Palomar telescope, a demonstration showing how to collimate a Newtonian telescope with a

The meal began about two years ago. After the initial blast, radiation diminished as the black hole slowly consumed the star. GALEX has monitored the process throughout. Additional data from the Chandra X-ray Observatory, the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and the Keck Telescope in Hawaii helped Gezari's team chronicle the event in multiple wavelengths.

Studying the process in its entirety "helps us understand how black holes feed and grow in their host galaxies," notes Martin.

One down, millions to go.

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



In this artist's concept, a giant black hole is caught devouring a star that ventured too close.



Clarkston Community Band

Vince Chrisman, Music Director & Conductor

STARS OVER CLARKSTON II

A Concert of Space Music and Star Party

With The

WARREN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Norman Dillard, President

Saturday

May 19, 2007

7:00 PM



FREE ADMISSION

Family & Friends Fun

Bring a picnic, Lawn Chairs, Blankets, and your Telescope

Clintonwood Park

6000 Clarkston Road

Clarkston, MI 48348

Music of stars & space Multimedia presentations Astronomy talks

Telescope viewing – solar, planetary and deep space

Learn about telescopes or bring your telescope and learn how to use it

Independence Township Parks and Recreation

Michael Turk, Director

For more information call 248.625.8223 or email clarkstonband@hotmail.com

www.clarkstonband.org

Clarkston Community Band

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Warren Astronomical Society

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FOR RELEASE

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**STARS AND MUSIC FILLS THE AIR WITH THE CLARKSTON COMMUNITY BAND AND
WARREN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY CONCERT AND STAR PARTY**

The **Clarkston Community Band (CCB)** joined by members from the Greater Windsor Concert Band, **Warren Astronomical Society (WAS)**, and **Independence Township Parks and Recreation** present “**Stars Over Clarkston II**”. This **FREE** event will take place on Saturday, **May 19, 2007**, at **7:00 pm** in Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48348.

The evening starts off with a dazzling musical concert featuring space music from the movies including “Star Wars”, “Lost in Space” and “Star Trek”. Treasures from the band’s extensive music library will bring you the big band sound with “Star Dust” and “Fly Me to the Moon.” Recently the Chandra X-ray Observatory has detected the deepest musical note ever sounded in the universe - B flat, 57 octaves below middle C - emitted by a black hole. Join the CCB tuba and low brass sections as they attempt to repeat this historic event.

After the concert the WAS will have short astronomy presentations with a Q&A period including how to use your telescope! WAS members will bring their telescopes and Southern Michigan’s largest portable 22” Dobsonian telescope for you to view through. So pack up a picnic dinner, blankets/lawn chairs, your telescope (optional) and shoot on over for the greatest musical star party ever!

Now in its 11th season, the Clarkston Community Band is one of the areas fastest growing and most respected wind bands. Its 52 volunteer musicians dedicate their time and talents to performing free concerts for the greater Clarkston area and presenting various educational and family entertaining themed concerts. The band was selected to perform internationally in 2007 for the “Spectacle of Winds” with the Greater Windsor Concert Band. CCB programs are made possible in part by Independence Township Parks and Recreation and the Clarkston Community Schools.

For more information, contact Independence Township Parks and Recreation at 248.625.8223, email clarkstonband@hotmail.com or visit www.clarkstonband.org.