



The Warren Astronomical Society Paper

P.O. Box 1505
 Warren, Michigan 48090-1505
www.warrenastronomicalsociety.org

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2007 WAS OFFICERS

\\ April, 2007

President	Norm Dillard	email: jupiter1927@sbcglobal.net
1 st VP	Riyad Matti	email: riyadmatti@yahoo.com
2 nd VP	Robert Berta	email: biker123@netzero.com
Secretary	Dale Partin	email: dpartin@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dr. Phil Martin	email: drpdmartin@hotmail.com
Steve Uitti	Director, Publications	email: suitti@uitti.net
Marty Kunz	Director, Public Relations	email: solarmartykz@att.net

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

17-May	Thurs		TBD
4-June	Mon	Jim Shedlowsky	TBD
21-June	Thurs	Justin Nomura	Philosophy of the Universe
2-July	Mon	Bob Berta	TBD
19-July	Thurs	Norman Dillard	TBD
6-Aug	Mon	Philip Martin	Evolution, the Real Science
16-Aug	Thurs	Larry Phipps	Of Belts and Clouds
3-Sep	Mon	Ken Bertin	TBD
20-Sep	Thurs	Dave D'Onofrio	Backyard CCD imaging from the city.
1-Oct	Mon	Dale Partin	The Hubble Constant
18 Oct	Thurs	Guy Maxim	TBD
5-Nov	Mon		
15-Nov	Thurs	Larry Kalinowski	"Let Me Demonstrate"
3-Dec	Mon	Alan Rothenberg	TBD
20-Dec	Thurs	Banquet	

Please contact the 1st V.P. (program chairperson) to:

- 1 : Schedule new presentation.
- 2 : Alter scheduled presentations.
- 3 : Add a subject title to your presentation.
- 4 : Change the subject title of your presentation.

Thank you for your support,

Riyad I. Matti
W.A.S. 1st V.P. (program chairperson) 2006/2007

April, 2007 Calendar

Monday, Apr 2 • 1:15 P.M.: Full Moon (Smallest of the year)

Tuesday, Apr 3 • 5:00 A.M.: Moon at apogee (252,481 miles from Earth)

Saturday, Apr 7 • Dawn: Antares 0.6° north of Moon

Sunday, Apr 8 • Dawn: Moon near Jupiter

Tuesday, Apr 10 • 2:04 P.M.: Last quarter Moon

Saturday, Apr 14 • Dawn: Moon near Mars; Venus passes 1/3° north of 37 Tauri (mag 4.4)

Tuesday, Apr 17 • 7:36 A.M.: New Moon; Moon at perigee (221,914 miles from Earth)

Saturday, Apr 21 • Lyrid Meteor Shower (best after midnight)

Tuesday, Apr 24 • 2:36 A.M.: First Quarter Moon

Wednesday, Apr 25 • 8:07 P.M.: Vernal equinox (beginning of Spring)

Editor's Note: For an in depth calendar I suggest you go to: www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/SkyCalendar/ Click on the picture of the calendar. It's my opinion that this is the best out there for visual observing; however,

because of copyright restrictions I am unable to publish it with this paper. - Cliff

2007 Stargate Observatory Open House Schedule

April 21st, May 19th...NOTE this will most likely be adjusted as this is the same day as the Skies over Clarkston AND I believe National Astronomy Day is June 16th. NOTE that there are two events this month: July 7th Club Picnic starting at noon (closed to public), July 21st Normal open house date. Aug 11 Perseids watch. Pending open house dates are: Sept 15th, Oct 13th, Nov 10th and Dec 8th. Dependent of weather.

1. Normal closing time will depend on events, weather, and other variables.
 2. The observatory may be closed one hour after opening time if no members arrive within the first hour.
 3. Contact me for other arrangements, such as late arrival time.
 4. An alternative person will be appointed to open the observatory if I cannot attend a scheduled date or opening time.
 5. Members may arrive before or stay after the scheduled open house time.
 6. Dates are subject to change or cancellation depending on weather or staffing availability.
 7. An e-mail will be posted no later than 2 hours before starting time incase of date change or cancellation.
 8. It is best to email me up to 2 hours before the posted opening with any questions you may have. I will not be able to receive e-mail after 2 hours before open time.
- Generally only strong rain or snow would prevent the open house...even if it is clouded over I plan on being there. Often the weather is cloudy but clears up as the evening progresses.

Bob Berta

W.A.S. 2nd V.P. (2007)

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Meeting Minutes

Warren Astronomical Society
Minutes of BOARD Meeting
March 5th, 2007
Cranbrook

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

Attendance:
Norman Dillard, Marty Kunz, Dale Partin, Bob Berta, Riyad Matti, Stephen Uitti, Phil Martin

The treasurer's report said that we had \$5183.51.
Approved.

The minutes from the February 15th meeting were corrected. WAS will be recognized for their service to the Clarenceville School District in Livonia on April 26th

(not 24th) at Grandview Elementary at 6:30pm. The minutes were approved as amended.

The membership list will be published based on information obtained from the opt in list. Approved.

There was a discussion about a new observatory site.

A six inch aperture Newtonian telescope is on loan to Therese Oldani for use in education. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Partin
∞
Warren Astronomical Society
Minutes of club meeting
March 5th, 2007
Cranbrook

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm.

The officer and committee reports were given.

The treasurer's report said that we had \$5183.51

The next open house at Stargate will be on March 24th.

April 21st is National Astronomy Day. Members are encouraged to be at Cranbrook from 11am to 4pm, and then at Stargate in the evening.

“Stars Over Clarkston” will be on May 19th.

Larry Phipps gave a presentation on the lunar eclipse of March 3rd, a video entitled, “The Warren Astronomical Society 2006: That was the year that WAS”, and a video of John Dobson.

32 people attended the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Partin
∞ ∞

Warren Astronomical Society
Minutes of club meeting
March 15th, 2007
Cranbrook

The meeting was called to order at 7:43pm.

The officer and committee reports were given.

Therese Oldani announced that WAS will be recognized for their service to the Clarenceville School District in Livonia on March 29th at Boxford Elementary at 6:30pm.

Upcoming astronomy star parties in 2007:

March 24th next Stargate open house

April 13 to 15 EMU fish lake star party, Lapeer, MI.

April 21 National Astronomy Day. Members are encouraged to be at Cranbrook from 11am to 4pm, and then at Stargate in the evening.

May 13 to 20 Texas Star Party

May 19 Stars Over Clarkston

Larry Phipps presented some astronomy-related movies, including a flyover of Martian terrain, Cassini images of lakes on Titan, and images of the construction of the International Space Station.

Dave Bailey gave a presentation entitled, “Reactions that Run our Universe.”

20 people attended the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Partin
∞ ∞

MEMBER'S ASTROPHOTOS

Where are the latest and greatest I've heard about? - Editor



What? Where? Who? How?

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

www.clarkstonband.org

Warren Astronomical Society

www.warrenastronomicalsociety.org

FOR RELEASE

Contact: Vince Chrisman

586/344.5505

clarkstonband@hotmail.com

**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.