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...
Laser collimator, Cepheid variables and finally a proposal to encourage club members to do more observing by awarding observing badges, designed to wear on shirts and jackets.

April’s discussion/computer group meeting will be on the fourth Thursday, the 26th, at Gary Gathen’s home in Pleasant Ridge. He lives at 21 Elm Park Blvd., three blocks south of I-696 and about a half block west of Woodward Ave. Meeting will start at 8:00 PM. You can reach Gary at 248-543-3366, or me, at 586-776-9720 for any further information.

All space photos are courtesy of SPACE.COM and SPACEWEATHER.COM, unless otherwise noted.

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THE SWAPSHOP

This column is for those who are interested in buying, trading or selling items. Call 586-776-9720 (cometman@mybluelight.com) if you want to put an item for sale or trade in this section of the WASP. The ad will run for six months. The month and year, the ad will be removed, is also shown.

FOR SALE. A nice Orion SkyQuest XT8 Intelliscope. The scope is in great condition and well taken care of. Orion’s Object Locator, with holster, comes with the scope, as well as two rechargeable 9V batteries and a 10mm Sirius Plossl eyepiece. All the encoders on both axis’ are also installed. The batteries were only used about five times but they hold a good charge. The scope has a 9X50 achromatic finder. There are two nice aluminum focus wheels installed on the two inch Crayford focuser. A cooling/warming fan has been placed on the bottom of the mirror cell to stabilize the scope’s temperature. The fan runs from a standard 12 volt male adaptor. The fan has a twelve volt female adaptor. All user’s manuals are included. I’m selling this scope to aim towards a Celestron Go To scope, possibly a Celestron 5se. I need portability, ability for tracking and for astrophotography. Asking price is $450, or best offer. Michael Robacker at mbrobacker@hotmail.com or call 248-398-7010. (7-07).

FOR SALE. Coulter Odyssey 1 , 13.1 inch, red tube model with rack and pinion focuser, University Optics RACI finderscope and a handy wheel system for easy moving in or out of your garage. $475. Mark Gottlieb, 248-542-9426. wolfcave@mich.com. (4-07).

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WAS SUB-GROUPS

Want to delve more deeply into a specific field of interest in astronomy? Joining a sub-group just may be the answer. Please contact the chairperson listed by the subgroup of interest for more information, meeting times and location. Current sub-groups are:

Discussion/Computer Group - Larry Kalinowski
Lunar/Planetary/Double Stars - Alan Rothenberg
Deep Sky Group - Phil Martin
Solar Group - Marty Kunz
Hands on Group - Riyad Matti

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WAS Meetings scheduled for 2007

Cranbrook Meetings – Every 1st Monday
Apr. 2 May 7 June 4 July 2
Aug. 6 Sep. 3 Oct. 1 Nov. 5
Dec. 3

Macomb Meetings – Every 3rd Thursday
Apr. 19 May 17 June 21 July 19
Aug. 16 Sep. 20 Oct. 18 Nov. 15
Dec. 20 (Banquet Date)

Warren Astronomical Society
2007 presentations

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<td>Gary Ross</td>
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<td>Jon Blum</td>
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<td>Jim Shedlowsky</td>
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<td>21-June</td>
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<td>Justin Nomura</td>
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<td>19-July</td>
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<td>Norman Dillard</td>
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<td>6-Aug</td>
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<td>Philip Martin</td>
<td>Evolution, the Real Science</td>
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<td>16-Aug</td>
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<td>Larry Phipps</td>
<td>Of Belts and Clouds</td>
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<td>3-Sep</td>
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<td>20-Sep</td>
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<td>Dave D'Onofrio</td>
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<td>1-Oct</td>
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<td>18 Oct</td>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Guy Maxim</td>
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<td>5-Nov</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Larry Kalinowski</td>
<td>“Let Me Demonstrate”</td>
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<td>Alan Rothenberg</td>
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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/](http://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
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

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.


Member’s Astrophotos
Where are the latest and greatest I’ve heard about?

Editor
Early Bird Gets the Worm
or “Black Hole Breakfast”
by Dr. Tony Phillips

We all know that birds eat worms. Every day, millions of birds eat millions of worms. It’s going on all around you! But how often have you awakened in the morning, stalked out in the dewy grass, and actually seen a bird having breakfast? Even though we know it happens all the time, a bird gulping a worm is a rare sight.

Just like a black hole gulping a star...

Every day in the Universe, millions of stars fall into millions of black holes. And that’s bad news for the stars. Black holes exert terrible tides, and stars that come too close are literally ripped apart as they fall into the gullet of the monster. A long burp of X-rays and ultraviolet radiation signals the meal for all to see.

Yet astronomers rarely catch a black hole in the act. “It’s like the problem of the bird and the worm,” says astronomer Christopher Martin of Caltech. “You have to be in the right place at the right time, looking in the right direction and paying attention.”

A great place to look is deep in the cores of galaxies. Most galaxies have massive black holes sitting in their pinwheel centers, with dense swarms of stars all around. An occasional meal is inevitable.

A group of astronomers led by Suvi Gezari of Caltech recently surveyed more than 10,000 galactic cores—and they caught one! In a distant, unnamed elliptical galaxy, a star fell into a central black hole and “burped” a blast of ultraviolet radiation.

“We detected the blast using the Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX), an ultraviolet space telescope,” explains Gezari. Her team reported the observation in the December 2006 issue of The Astrophysical Journal Letters. “Other telescopes have seen black holes devouring stars before,” she adds, “but this is the first time we have been able to watch the process from beginning to end.”
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
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.