



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



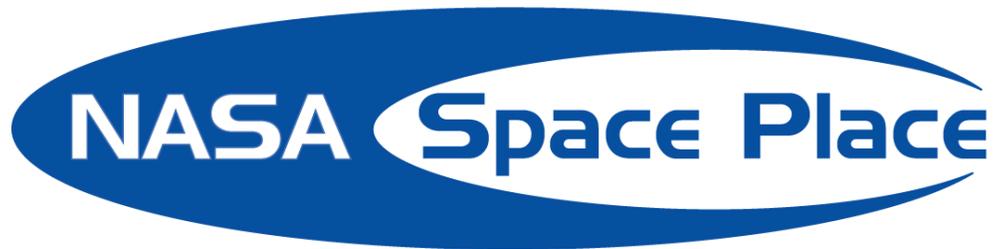
Crummy weather around here has dimmed our chances of getting pictures of Comet McNaught (C/2006P1). The best view probably being on January 10. Its brightness being estimated at -3,

around eight degrees from the Sun. The comet has moved into the southern hemisphere sky very quickly and is lost to northern hemisphere observers by now. Look for some really great shots by



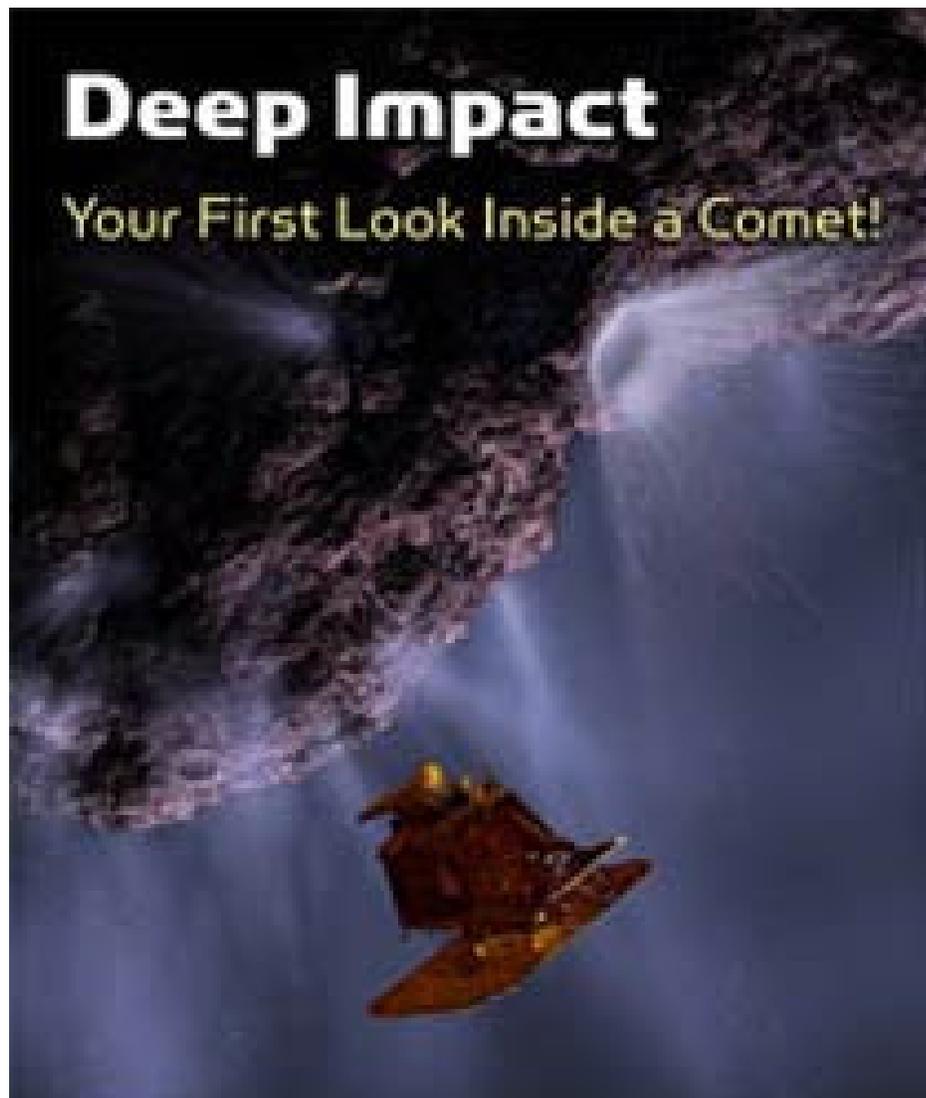
amateurs south of the equator in the near future. Dave Curtis, of Dunedin, New Zealand, took this photo on January 18, with a Cannon EOS 1D, ISO 1,000, 4 sec. At F2.8. No doubt, this is probably the best comet seen by northern observers in the last forty years and the southern hemisphere is getting the best part of the show.

Since the next total eclipse of the Moon occurs on Saturday, March 3rd, two days before our Cranbrook meeting, I decided it might be wise to discuss that eclipse in this month's issue. Totality begins at 5:44 PM and ends at 6:58 in the Eastern Standard Time zone. Mid eclipse is at 6:21. Lunar eclipses are easily photographed, so if the weather cooperates, a camera and tripod are all that's needed. Telephoto or zoom lenses are recommended for more appealing shots but a standard lens will suffice. This eclipse will not be as dark as some of the past ones because the Moon will pass through the upper portion of the Umbra, where the shadow is lighter. This type of eclipse can be quite colorful because of the large range of shading from the top of the Moon to the bottom.



After being launched in January 2005, Deep Impact met up with Comet Tempel 1 on July 3, 2005. Just 24 hours before this meeting, a part of the spacecraft, called the smart impactor, separated from the other part, called the flyby spacecraft. The impactor flew all by itself right smack into the path of the comet! The comet was traveling a lot faster, so BLAM! The impactor crashed into the comet . . . or rather, the comet crashed into the impactor at 36,000 kilometers per hour (or 23,000 miles per hour)! Whoever crashed into whom, the impact caused a big flash of light, threw up a lot of debris, and left a big crater! But, don't worry, the crash wasn't big enough to change the comet's orbit.

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





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

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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.