

The Warren Astronomical Society Paper

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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



Looks like the crater near the Yucatan peninsula is a piker compared to what was found in Antarctica. There's satellite evidence that a 300 mile crater lurks a half mile under the ice in Antarctica.

Changes in soil density, which is revealed as a Mascon, shows the 300 mile ring. That means there has been more than one mass extinction in the Earth's past.

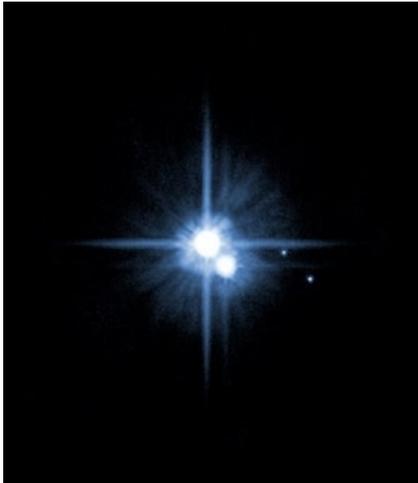
Norway, the land of the midnight Sun, has been christened with a sensational meteor landing, according to Internet reports. The impact occurred and could be heard and recorded seismologically by NORSAR, a research center in Karasjok, Sweden. The trail of the meteor was witnessed by Peter Bruvoki and was also photographed. Reports from all over Sweden are being scrutinized so that the landing site can be accurately determined. NORSAR estimates that the impact was the equivalent of

a bomb about the size of the Hiroshima explosion back in 1945. Anyone that might have picked up any of its pieces are asked to bring them to scientific institutions for scrutiny.

According to Robert Roy Britt, senior science writer at Space.com, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) will be coming up with a definition of a planet during the meeting of the union in September, 2006. I'll believe it when I see it. If you look at the history of the committee that's supposed to do the deciding, they've been passing the buck to other committees, simply because they can't even decide on what parameters to use for defining a planet. The only agreement they've been able to come to was the fact that newly discovered bodies have to orbit the Sun. Anyone can add an adjective to the word planet to define the mess, like asteroidal, gaseous, giant, spheroidal, high inclination or extra solar to separate the wheat from the chaff, but that's not a scientific definition. Let's face it, all objects formed and orbiting the Sun are planets. Do we have to subdivide those objects into categories like we subdivide humans by country or color?

We're all humans. Looks like astronomers are going to have to learn more about these things we call planets before any decisions can be made.

Chalk up two more moons for the planet Pluto. That brings its count to four. The Hubble space telescope photographed the two new moons recently and the IAU has given them the names Hydra and Nix.



Our secretary, Dale Partin, has proposed joining the Astronomical League. We have been a member of the League in the past but decided to drop our membership a few years ago because our large membership created quite a large bill to join. In fact, it's become a trend with large societies. Large groups feel it isn't worth the price. The best part of the League is its publications and awards. If you're an ambitious amateur looking for recognition for your observing or contributions, it might be worthwhile to join as an individual. Our club didn't have many individuals that wanted awards and the one publication that members received quarterly was the only thing the League offered to all our members. If you're into awards, conventions, observing handbooks, astronomical books and collectors items with the League logo, this might be a good investment for you. League members get a ten percent discount on any items the League sells.

Open houses at the Stargate Observatory will be on July 29 (picnic), August 19, September 16, October 14, November 11 and December 2. All these dates occur on a Saturday.

If you have anything to swap or sell, bring those items to the July 29 club picnic at Stargate observatory. The site will be opened at 12 noon, if you like to arrive early for setting up any equipment and getting a favorite spot to observe. As before, the club will provide hotdogs and some burgers, however, you are required to bring some kind of dish or

condiments to participate in the eating activities.

Be prepared to have your picture taken at the upcoming club picnic on July 29. There's talk about getting a group picture and some individual pictures of members and their telescopes for adding some recent club activity pictures on our web site.

Last month's discussion/computer group covered methods for analyzing stocks, Seti At Home, voice over the Internet and MP3 and Wave files. July's discussion/computer group meeting will be on the 27th, (the fourth Thursday of the month) 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.

By the way, There is a meeting, at Cranbrook, on July 3, in case you weren't sure about it.

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. Rare, Edgar Rice Burroughs book, "Thuvia, Maid Of Mars", dated 1920, dust jacket in color, 256 pages, hard cover. It's the fourth volume in his Mars series with Earthman John Carter. Asking \$14.99 + postage. Proceeds go to Vollbrecht Planetarium. Mike Best, Cell: 734-968-3496, starmikebest@comcast.net. (11-06).

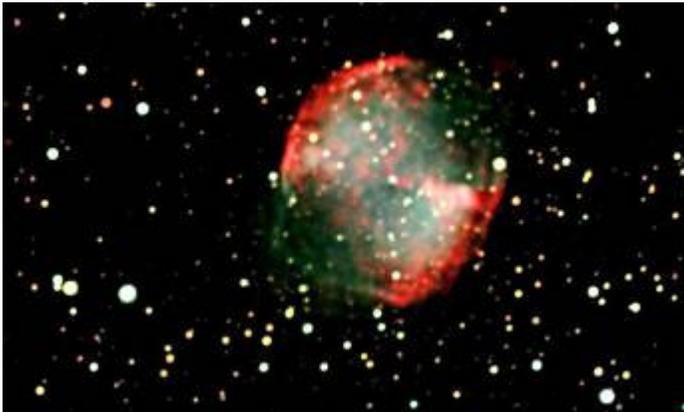
FOR SALE. Ten inch, box, Dobsonian telescope. F4.5, 1/8 wave parabolic mirror. 50 inch long tube. Two inch (with 1 1/4 in. adapter) rack and pinion focuser. An 8X50 right angle, upright image, dovetail mounted, crosshair finder with interchangeable eyepiece capability and an inch and a quarter 12mm eyepiece.

dedicated large format focal reducer (being machined now to attach to the STL camera). The camera is the SBIG STL 6303e with the AstroDon emission filter set and my 6" AstroTech Engineering, A&M APO refractor with TMB triplet optic. I don't have the large format focal reducer yet nor the motorized focuser yet...hope to have both in a month or two. But was happy with the results I got. These are full frame uncropped images.

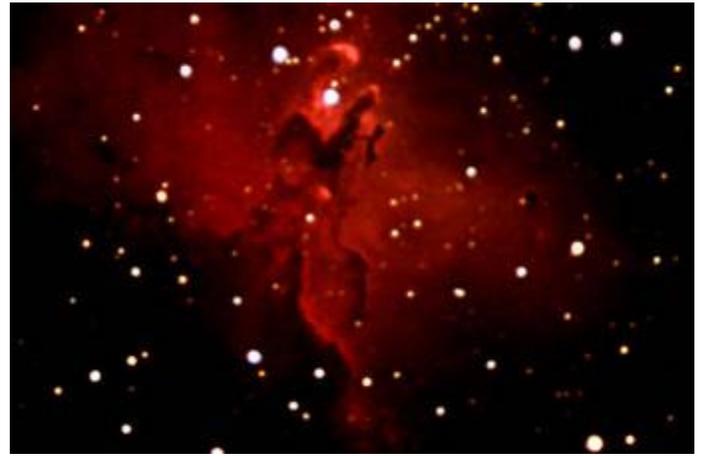
The scope shows lots of resolution in the nebulosity and stars and the colors from the emission filters are really interesting. Will be trying some other combinations down the road with the same shots. You can assign the Ha, OIII and SII filters to any combination of the RGB translation and get completely different "versions" of the image. I thought it was interesting that the central colors tended to be in the green violet area whereas the nebulosity near the upper corner had more of the yellows. This is due to the different types of gasses in the nebulas. On my monitor you can see lots of very faint areas of nebula that go out a long way. You don't see this type of detail even when looking through a very large scope. Goes to show that a camera and a small aperture (6") refractor can do some pretty amazing things.

Bob Berta

From Dr. Phil Martin's collection:



M27



M16

Great Lakes Star Gaze 2006 September 22nd thru September 24th

Great Lakes Star Gaze. The Gladwin location provides excellent observing without having to travel hours into northern Michigan. Limiting magnitudes are estimated to be around 6.5 at the zenith with some minor light domes from the cities of Mt. Pleasant and Midland (approximately 30 miles away).

We mix interesting talks and events during the day with great observing at night. Some great door prizes have been given out in past years, and this year will be no exception. This event is well attended and provides a great opportunity to network with other amateurs. The range of equipment that people bring is awesome and there are some good views to be had.

Sponsors & Donations

Great Lakes Star Gaze gets strong support from local and national vendors, who provide us with a fantastic selection of door prizes. See [last years sponsors](#) for details.

For a copy of the Flyer in PDF, go to the web page: <http://www.boonhill.net/sunset/PDFforms/GLSG4Flyer.pdf>

For a copy of the registration form in PDF, go to: <http://www.boonhill.net/sunset/PDFforms/GLSG4Reg.pdf>

Announcing...

The Cadillac West 2nd Annual
“SUMMERFEST”
STAR PARTY



August 23 – 27, 2006
(Wednesday thru Sunday)

Hosted By: Bill Beers (Warren Astronomical Society)

Located 14 miles west of Cadillac, Mich. at Bill Beers cabin (RSVP for map)

****DARK SKIES****

Saturday Barbecue



Accommodations Available:



Limited Floor Space in Cabin
Plenty of Space for Tents/Campers
Best Value Inn (231-775-2458) 12 miles east
Driftwood Lodge (231-775-2932) 12 miles east
Caberfae Peaks (231-862-3300) 1 mile east

----- A/C POWER AVAILABLE -----

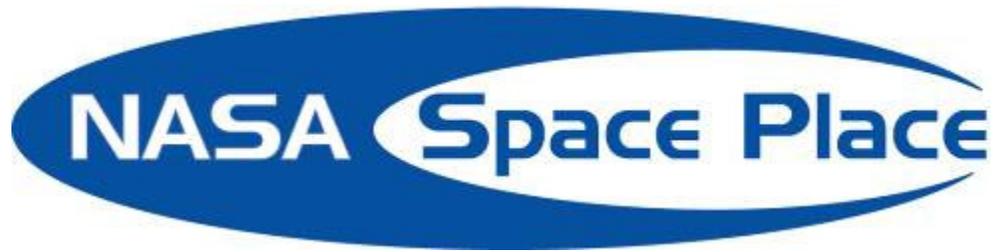
For More Info Contact:

Bill Beers Phone #586-566-8367 or E-mail “BEEZOLL@AOL.COM”

(PLEASE RSVP IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING)



****This will be a find the “Fairy Ring” event****



From Thunderstorms to Solar Storms...

by Patrick L. Barry

When severe weather occurs, there's a world of difference for people on the ground between a storm that's overhead and one that's several kilometers away. Yet current geostationary weather satellites can be as much as 3 km off in pinpointing the true locations of storms.

A new generation of weather satellites will boost this accuracy by 2 to 4 times. The first in this new installment of NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites series, called GOES-N, was launched May 24 by NASA and Boeing for NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). (A new polar-orbiting weather satellite, NOAA-18, was launched May 2005.)

Along with better accuracy at pinpointing storms, GOES-N sports a raft of improvements that will enhance our ability to monitor the weather—both normal, atmospheric weather and “space weather.”

“Satellites eventually wear out or get low on fuel, so we've got to launch new weather satellites every few years if we want to keep up the continuous eye on weather that NOAA has maintained for more than 30 years now,” says Thomas Wrublewski, liaison officer for NOAA at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Currently, GOES-N is in a “parking” orbit at 90° west longitude over the equator. For the next 6 months it will remain there while NASA thoroughly tests all its systems. If all goes well, it will someday replace one of the two active GOES satellites—either the eastern satellite (75°W) or the western one (135°W), depending on the condition of those satellites at the time.

Unlike all previous GOES satellites, GOES-N carries star trackers aboard to precisely determine its orientation in space. Also for the first time, the storm-tracking instruments have been mounted to an “optical bench,” which is a very stable platform that resists thermal warping. These two improvements will let scientists say with 2 to 4 times greater accuracy exactly where storms are located.

Also, X-ray images of the Sun taken by GOES-N will be about twice as sharp as before. The new Solar X-ray Imager (SXI) will also automatically identify solar flares as they happen, instead of waiting for a scientist on the ground to analyze the images. Flares affect space weather, triggering geomagnetic storms that can damage communications satellites and even knock out city power grids. The improved imaging and detection of solar flares by GOES-N will allow for earlier warnings.

So for thunderstorms and solar storms alike, GOES-N will be an even sharper eye in the sky.

Find out more about GOES-N at goespoes.gsfc.nasa.gov/goes . Also, for young people, the SciJinks Weather Laboratory at scijinks.nasa.gov now includes a printable booklet titled “How Do You Make a Weather Satellite?” Just click on Technology.

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



New GOES-N satellite launches, carrying an imaging radiometer, an atmospheric sounder, and a collection of other space environment monitoring instruments.