

The Warren Astronomical Society Paper

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2006 WAS OFFICERS

// October 2006

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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



The last weekend in September proved to be pretty exciting as far as space and science are concerned. John Glenn, of astronaut fame, made a showing at the Macomb County Cultural Center and a few club members were there to shake his hand and get photographed with. I didn't attend his final talk for the evening but Ken Bertin mentioned that John Glenn didn't approve of chopping funds for scientific exploration and also wanted more robotic exploration of space. He agreed with Ken that less emphasis should be placed on manned exploration until there is a way to reduce the rate of loss of human lives.

Instead of recording signals from outer space that involve only one frequency, how would you like to catch a multiplexed signal that contains alien TV programs? If there are such a thing. The latest proposal from the scientific front is just such a set of wideband radio or TV

antennas to scan nearby space. The suggestion for such an antenna array would take the size of a dish about one square kilometer in surface area. Of course, the antenna or antennas would be used for other deep space programs too.

Pluto, our ninth planet, has now been reduced to a number by the group in charge of recording asteroids. I still believe that it will be returned to its former self after the powers that be finally see their mistake.

The speakers for October will be Dale Partin and Jim Frisbie. Dale will be talking about the Drake equation, the long discussed equation that predicts the number of planets, with intelligent life, that exist in our galaxy. His talk will be at our Cranbrook meeting, in the science museum, on the first Monday of the month. Jim will be talking about double stars at our, south campus, MCCC meeting on the 19th, Bldg. B, room 209. Both meetings begin at 7:30PM.

October is election month for the WAS. If you're interested in really instilling the message you preach, becoming an officer in the club will give

Bob said that there will be an open house on September 16.

The following was approved. Only officers information will be available on line or published. A complete list of membership information will be available to the officers only. Officers at their discretion may disseminate information from the master list for club business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Partin

Warren Astronomical Society
Minutes of club meeting
September 11, 2006
Cranbrook

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

The officer and committee reports were given.

Dale read the text of the motion that was passed at the board meeting relating to disclosure of personal information. There was much discussion about it. Some members wanted to have a printed list of members and email addresses handed out at club meetings, at least for those who do not object to having their information disseminated.

Bob Berta announced that we are having an open house this Saturday, September 16.

Bob said that major repairs are needed on the Observatory roof and described the quotation for repair that he has so far.

Phil Martin gave a presentation entitled, Collecting CCD Images in Narrow Band and then Processing the Images.

Norman announced that the club elections will be held at the Macomb meeting in October. Members were encouraged to consider running for a club office.

41 people attended the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Partin



Warren Astronomical Society
Minutes of club meeting
September 21, 2006
Macomb

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

The officer and committee reports were given. Phil reported a balance of \$3357.43. Dale presented the minutes of the last WAS meeting at Cranbrook . A comment was made about those minutes that the synopsis of group discussion about disclosure of members personal information did not adequately and correctly summarize members views that were expressed in the meeting. Therefore, in order to further assess members views on this topic, Norman asked each person present to briefly state their views.

It was reported that there are very significant repairs needed to the roof of Stargate Observatory and to the 12.5 inch telescope in it. Therefore, it was suggested that a committee be formed to investigate the future of Stargate Observatory (location, building, telescope, etc.).

Dave Bailey gave a talk entitled, Not Quite Empty Space.

Norman mentioned that elections of club officers will be held at the next Macomb meeting.

21 people attended the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Partin

Editor's Notices:

Here is a web address Dick Gala sent in that some of you may find interesting.

<http://dingo.care-mail.com/cards/flash/5409/galaxy.swf>

I would like to verify the speed and distance stats used in this clip so that I can use in presentations to school children. We are traveling through the Universe at a pretty good clip as we walk around on Earth.

The Universe is full of surprises.

The Sun doesn't set,
the horizon rises!

Cliff

Great Lakes Star Gaze

GLSG4, River Valley RV Park
Gladwin, Michigan, September 22-24, 2006



Observing field under cloudy skies



Dennis attaches identifying ribbon to his vehicle



Oakland Astronomy Club members John Mcsorley,
Bill, Don Wheeler, Mark Javit, Bob Berta, Dave Holt



Ford Amateur Satronomy Club members at dinner at the Remedy
John Schroer, Jon Blum, Dennis Salliotte, Doug Bauer,
Bob MacFarland, Jim Wright, Gordon Hansen, Diane Worth



Phil Harrington, Astronomy Magazine columnist, author of Sky Watch and Sky Wares, spoke Friday on the history of amateur astronomy over the past 100 years, and Saturday on how to build a backyard observatory.



Looking for bargains at the Swap Meet



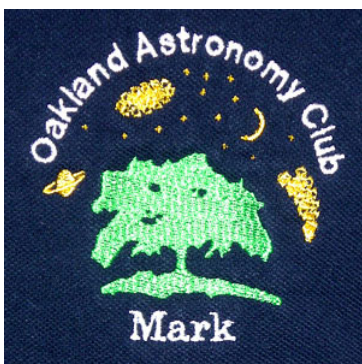
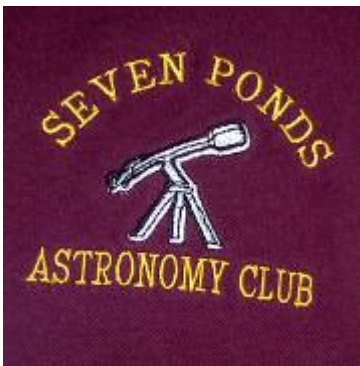
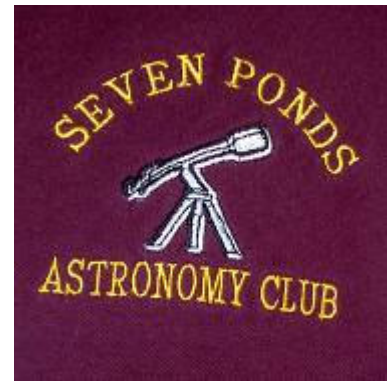
The crowd anxiously awaits the drawings for door prizes



The only star we saw at the Star Gaze was the sun briefly peaking through

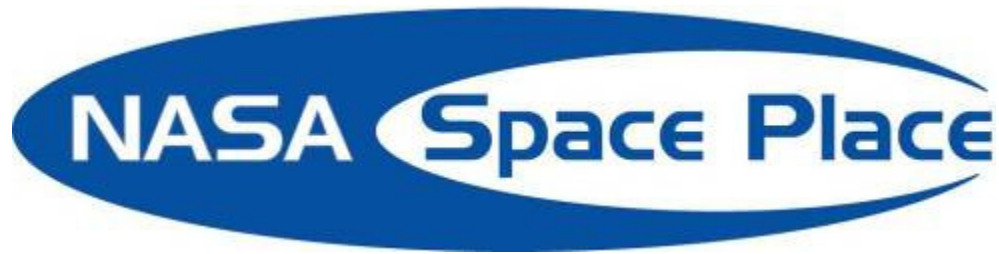


The only constellations we saw were these on a shirt from GLSG2 (2004)



- [Website of the Great Lakes Star Gaze sponsored by the](#)
- [Sunset Astronomical Society](#)
- [Photos of Ford Club site at SEMSA's Richmond Airport](#)
- [Transit of Venus, June 2004](#)
- [Astronomy on Maui 2005](#)
- [Astronomy on Maui 2006](#)
- [Maui Vacations - Jon's Maui Info](#)

Club logos on jackets and shirts



Staggering Distance

By Dr. Tony Phillips

Tonight, when the sun sets and the twilight fades to black, go outside and look southwest. There's mighty Jupiter, gleaming brightly. It looks so nearby, yet Jupiter is 830 million km away. Light from the sun takes 43 minutes to reach the giant planet, and for Earth's fastest spaceship, New Horizons, it's a trip of 13 months.

That's nothing.

Not far to the left of Jupiter is Pluto. Oh, you won't be able to see it. Tiny Pluto is almost 5 billion km away. Sunlight takes more than 4 hours to get there, and New Horizons 9 years. From Pluto, the sun is merely the brightest star in a cold, jet-black sky.

That's nothing.

A smidgen to the right of Pluto, among the stars of the constellation Ophiuchus, is Voyager 1. Launched from Florida 29 years ago, the spacecraft is a staggering 15 billion km away. It has traveled beyond all the known planets, beyond the warmth of the sun, almost beyond the edge of the solar system itself.

Now that's something.

"On August 15, 2006, Voyager 1 reached the 100 AU mark—in other words, it is 100 times farther from the Sun than Earth," says Ed Stone, Voyager project scientist and the former director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "This is an important milestone in our exploration of the Solar System. No other spacecraft has gone so far."

At 100 AU (astronomical units), Voyager 1 is in a strange realm called "the heliosheath."

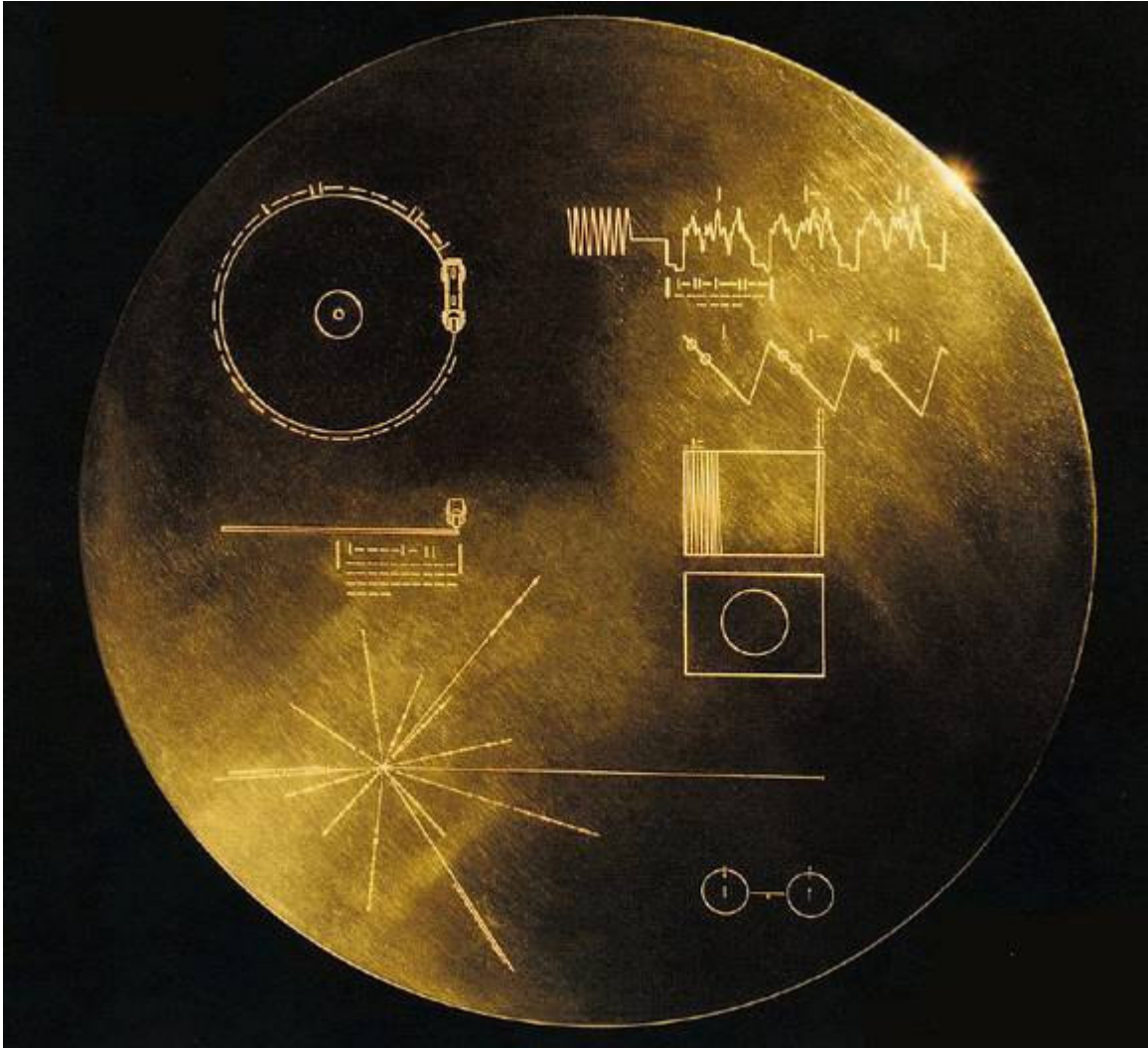
As Stone explains, our entire solar system—planets and all—sits inside a giant bubble of gas called the heliosphere. The sun is responsible; it blows the bubble by means of the solar wind. Voyager 1 has traveled all the way from the bubble's heart to its outer edge, a gassy membrane dividing the solar system from interstellar space. This "membrane" is the heliosheath.

Before Voyager 1 reached its present location, researchers had calculated what the heliosheath might be like. "Many of our predictions were wrong," says Stone. In situ, Voyager 1 has encountered unexpected magnetic anomalies and a surprising increase in low-energy cosmic rays, among other things. It's all very strange—"and we're not even out of the Solar System yet."

To report new developments, Voyager radios Earth almost every day. At the speed of light, the messages take 14 hours to arrive. Says Stone, "it's worth the wait."

Keep up with the Voyager mission at voyager.jpl.nasa.gov. To learn the language of Voyager's messages, kids (of all ages) can check out spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/vgr_fact1.shtml.

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



In case it is ever found by intelligent beings elsewhere in the galaxy, Voyager carries a recording of images and sounds of Earth and its inhabitants. The diagrams on the cover of the recording symbolize Earth's location in the galaxy and how to play the record.