WEIRD WORLD-STRANGE SKY
Lorna Simmons

Move over Bermuda Triangle! Somewhere under the Indian Ocean, according to the book, *Newton’s Clock* by Ivars Peterson, is "an unusually large concentration of dense material". This mass seems to be creating a greater gravitational field at that point and draws "orbital debris" and artificial satellites whose fuel is spent away from their original Earth orbits to float in this "orbital graveyard".

I am curious about this anomaly. The gravitational attraction of the Earth is not uniform throughout the globe but varies from location to location. I would be interested in knowing more about that "large concentration of dense material". Possibly, such concentration of mass accompanies the geological tectonic plate activity which continuously pushes India northward into the Himalayan mountain range. As the mass becomes more compacted, it naturally becomes more massive and, therefore magically, satellite heaven!

By the way, in order not to mislead anyone, the "Bermuda Triangle" is the center of a huge conglomeration of shipping and air lanes in the Atlantic Ocean. Ships and planes are lost there because this is where most of the ships and airplanes pass in the Atlantic Ocean. There is no anomaly involved here. Ships tend to sink and airplanes tend to crash, as a rule, where ships usually sail and airplanes usually fly. The "Bermuda Triangle" is not in strange, out-of-the-way, location but, to the contrary, is located at the center of things and, therefore, is the most likely place in the Atlantic Ocean for accidents to occur.

-Thank you Loma for the article. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Computer Chatter
Larry F. Kalinowski

You’re probably reading this at the banquet. Let me be the first from the . society to wish you a merry Christmas .and a happy new year. Please take advantage of our refreshments and don’t forget to buy some raffle tickets. This might be your lucky night.

1994 was a darn good year for amateur astronomy. The annular eclipse delighted millions in the U.S. and the Jupiter comet crashes showed everyone, with any size telescope, just how vulnerable we all are on our space ship Earth. Professional astronomers told us to just sit back and watch the news on TV for comet crash reports. As it turned out, even two inch telescopes gave us a ringside seat. An event never before witnessed by human
Among the many benefits of membership are

- Discount magazine subscription:
  - Astronomy $18.00 (12 monthly issues)
  - Sky & Telescope $20.00 (12 monthly issues)
- Loaner telescopes (with deposit). See 2nd VP.
- Free copy of each WASP newsletter.
- Free use of Stargate Observatory.
- Special interest subgroups. See chairpersons.
- Free use of W.A.S. library. See librarian.
- Call list: don’t miss unexpected events.
- Free membership in Astronomical League, including Reflector newsletter.
- More benefits are listed in Member Booklet.

The Warren Astronomical Society Paper (WASP) is the official monthly publication of the Society. Each new issue of the WASP is made available at the Macomb meeting on the third Thursday. Non-members will be charged $1.00 for each new issue. Back issues, when available are free. Requests by other clubs to receive the WASP and other correspondence should be addressed to the editor. Articles for inclusion in the WASP are strongly encouraged and should be submitted to the editor on or before the first Thursday of each month. For further information on subscription, see or call the editor:

Toni Bondono
51064 Kingwood
Troy, MI 48098

WASP reserves the right to edit or deny publication of any submission.

Stargate Observatory is owned and operated by the Society. Located on the grounds of Camp Rotary on 29 Mile Road, 1.8 miles east of Romeo Plank Road, Stargate features a 12.5 inch f/17 club built telescope under a steel dome. The observatory is open to all club members in accordance to the "Stargate Observatory Rules" published in the member handbook. Those wishing to use the observatory must call the 2nd VP by 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the session. The coordinates for Stargate Observatory are 82° 50.4' W, 42° 46' N.

Library: The Society maintains a library of astronomy-related books and periodicals at the Macomb meeting room. See the librarian, Louis Namee, to check out a book.

Special interest groups

- Computers Larry Kalinowski 810-776-9720
- Deep Sky Doug Bock 810-750-0273
- Lunar/Planetary Riyad Matti 810-648-3523
- Solar Marty Kuntz 810-477-0546
- Math John Herriott 810-648-1442

Diehard DOS users will be happy to know that even though WINDOWS 95 will become the chief operating software for the future, the DOS capability won’t be lost. WINDOWS 95 will let you run a DOS command line just like before and you’ll see a new icon that is very familiar to MAC users...the wastebasket. You’ll have all the advantages of a thirty-two bit system. Things like file names as long as you want (255 characters max.) and multitasking.

AMD has announced the 1995 production of its Pentium competitive microprocessor, the K5 (a 586 microprocessor). It’s development is entirely independent of Intel’s design because it uses none of Intel’s microcode. Some features are: five stage pipelining, 30% faster than the Pentium, 100 to 120 Mhz clock speed, with 150Mhz in ’96, 4.1 million transistors and pin compatible with the Pentium. Price should be about the same as Intel’s 586. Knowing AMD, I’m sure they’ll try to out price Intel also.

The Hubble telescope seems to have dredged up a cosmological puzzle. Photos by the space telescope indicate the universe is younger than originally thought. In fact, the universe’s age turns out younger than some measurements made of the age of individual stars. A problem?...not at all. In fact, it shows the significance of scientific investigation. What other discipline is so capable of weeding out mistaken theories with checks and counterchecks? The more we observe and measure, the more our knowledge advances.

The seven computers available to the WASP members at MCCC turned our last Macomb meeting into another computer workshop. Two programs were placed into operation, a lunar eclipse program showing the circumstances of the November 18 event and a planetarium program called Skyglobe. The members spent a good hour running those programs and all seemed to enjoy being armchair astronomers for fifteen free copies of version 3.5 were distributed to the membership. Many thanks to Paul beings. Comets were abundant, though not as brilliant as comet West or Bennett. Everyone with any kind of interest in astronomy got something to see, read or contemplate about.

Microsoft is planning to start another major new network with the introduction of WINDOWS 95. That’s the new name for project Chicago or version 4.0 of Windows. The network will be available through the use of smaller companies, much like Internet is now operated. TVO (Canada’s Ontario channel 32) is also getting into the telecommunications game. Viewers are being encouraged to call the TV station’s BBS and get television programming schedules as well as the usual BBS information and computer programs. You can also leave messages for the actors or producers of the various programs presented.
Strong for letting us use those computers. The .PCX files that are needed to show the graphic images of the planets and Messier objects in version 3.5 are available from the computer group at their meetings. If you'd like a set of those images, bring a blank computer disk the next time you attend our sub-group meeting.

The growth in CD disk drives, for the computer, has really amazed me. The CD-ROM is becoming standard equipment on many new models. It'll probably do more for popularizing the computer than any other piece of hardware ever has. Electronics, principally digital electronics, is revolutionizing the world around us. Change is the norm for today and the change rate is moving ever faster. You can't just sit back and watch those changes today, you have to fasten your seatbelt and hang on while you're reading the operators manual. Today's computer is no longer just a computer. It's a simulator, an interactive, electronic, device that brings the known universe to you, in any format you choose, while sitting in the comfort of your easy chair.

**Upcoming computer shows** for late December and early January are Saturday, December 17, Livonia Elks Lodge Hall, 31117 Plymouth Road, one block east of Merriman in Livonia and two shows at the Dearborn Civic Center on Sunday, December 18 and Sunday January 8. The civic center is located at 15801 Michigan Ave., comer of Greenfield Rd., in Dearborn.

David Chandler has indicated, in a flyer, that his program (Deep Space, version 5.0) will soon be available on a CD-ROM. The disk will also include the Hubble Guide Star Catalog. No price was mentioned.

Attendance at the Detroit Astronomical Society's software roundup was kind of sparse. Jeff and I attended along with two members of the Windsor society and a handful of Detroit members. One item did seem to stand out, the program EXPERT ASTRONOMER, for Windows. For the paltry price of $9.95, you get more than your money's worth of planetarium program. Another planetarium program that showed a lot of moxie was PROJECT PLUTO, a CD-ROM. Much of the program runs in automatic mode which can be switched off if you desire. A good example is stellar magnitudes. As you zoom into the sky, the program automatically increases the magnitude penetration to make up for the fewer stars as the screen scale expands. The stars are shown to fifteenth magnitude and better.

The December and January meetings of the computer group will continue at my home in Roseville. The dates are the 22nd and 26th respectively. See you there. Call me at 810-776-9720 for more information.

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**Minutes from John**

**MACOMB 11/17/94**


Prior to the evening's business Lorna Simmons and Frank McCullough reported recent sunspot activity. Lorna's observations were taken with the Solar Group at Cranbrook Institute of Science. Frank's observations were in conjunction with an Astronomy class he is leading. Also reported was a spectacular fireball seen over Lake Michigan.

Club business began with a distribution of Member Handbooks to those present. Following this Jeff Bondono made the following announcements. Kalmbach Publishing Co. is making a 20% off offer. See the Club Treasurer for pertinent details on this. Mentioned also was the club's upcoming Awards Banquet. A recent lecture given by club members to a Walled Lake school was rewarded with a check for $60.00. Our November activity will be an outing to a National Weather Service Station. The visit is planned for Saturday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. Participation on this trip is limited to 10 people. A second trip will be scheduled if necessary.

Additional announcements: Kim Dyer invites all interested members to visit the M.S.U. Abrams Observatory. Frank McCullough continues to provide Planetarium shows through the city of Southfield. Members are welcome. Bob Halsall reports the club's telescope is now in good working order. The Solar Group reminds us of their meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month. These meetings are held at Cranbrook. There is no charge for members. Meet Marty Kunz in the observatory. Some show and tell came next. Ben Tolbert displayed his globe of the universe. Ben also showed us a model of the Magellan Spacecraft. Marty Kunz recommends members read "Secrets of the Sun". Ken Bertin added "Fifty year cannon of Solar Eclipses" as another good read. A twenty inch (20") mirror was also brought out for display.

Annual Officer reports were given next. Mike O'Dowd submitted the report on the club's financial year. Marty Kunz furnished a list of all talks given this year. Riyad Matti reported on the status of our observatory. Jeff Bandana spoke of all the club activities for the year. This writer was unavoidably late to give a report but will do so now. My assignment was simply to write minutes for each meeting and submit same for publication in the WASP. I was also responsible for the monthly newsletter.
Election of Officers for 1995. Jeff Bondono explained officer duties and opened the floor to nominations. As there were no additional nominations to those previously put forth, we have the following as Officers for 1995:

**Secretary**  
Blaine McCullough

**Treasurer**  
Glen Wilkens

**2nd Vice President**  
Scott Jorgensen

**1st Vice President**  
Frank McCullough

**President**  
John Herrgott

Prior to a meeting break, Kim Dyer suggested the club wish Marty Kunz good luck on his eclipse trip to Bolivia. Also Riyad Matti thanked all those who assisted in bringing Stargate’s refurbishment to a successful conclusion.

The second half of our evening was devoted to a video on the early Russian Space program and a Solar Eclipse video.

**CRANBROOK 11/3/94**

Twenty six members, including four prospective members, attended the Cranbrook meeting held on the evening of Nov. 3, 1994. The meeting opened with Jeff Bondono asking for observation reports. Our club’s observers responded with a variety of interesting observations. Bob Watt, along with this writer, described recent sunspot activity. Noted in particular was the immense size of spots and the interesting patterns of spot activity. Lorna Simmons also mentioned the Sun seen during a gathering of the club’s Solar group at Cranbrook. Riyad Matti, Blaine McCullough and Jeff Bondono took advantage of a clear evening to recently view the heavens from our Imlay City site. Seen were M67, Saturn, Mars, M42, Stephens Quintet and Andromeda.

The meeting continued with a reminder that the observatory, Stargate, is now ready and open for use. Two additional items announced were the upcoming Weather Station trip and the Annual Awards Banquet.

Doug Goudie wrapped up the first half of the meeting with some thought-provoking news releases gleaned from the computer networks. The Hubble telescope has imaged the Rings of Uranus and Cepheids in the Galaxy M100. The Galileo Spacecraft has returned images of the "G" impact on Jupiter.

After a social bread Jeff Bondono, with his usual thoroughness, gave a presentation titled "Observing Tips".

Respectfully,

John Herrgott

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**Q.** What happens to the excellent column "Ask the Expert" when no one submits a question?

**A.** Mainly the panel of semi-experts sit around. Then the Editor has to cut the column.

**SNACKS, SNACKS**

**Update...**

CRANBROOK  
1/5 Scott Jorgensen  
2/2 Jack Simonton  
3/2 John Herrgott  
4/6 Mark Bieniek  
5/4 Marty Kunz

MACOMB  
1/19 Toni Bondono  
2/16  
3/16 Fred & Angie Judd  
4/20 Blaine McCullough  
5/18

**JUST IN...**

News about the Pentium. Intel has just announced that the chip has a flaw and makes mistakes. IBM will no longer ship their computers with these chips. Intel will give you some kind of trade on the faulty chip. You need to contact the manufacturer for more information.

**CALENDAR**

**Thu Dec 15** 7:00pm  Holiday Awards Banquet at the Warren Chateau

**Sun Dec 18** 1:00pm  Solar Group Meeting at Cranbrook  
Contact Marty Kunz

**Tue Dec 19** 7:00pm  Math Group Meeting

**Thu Dec 22** 7:30pm  Computer Group Meeting. Contact Larry Kalinowski

**Thu Jan 5** 7:30pm  Cranbrook Meeting

**Tue Jan 10** 7:00pm  Math Group Meeting

**Sun Jan 15** 1:00pm  Solar Group Meeting at Cranbrook. Contact Marty Kunz

**Thu Jan 19** 7:30pm  Macomb Meeting

**Tue Jan 24** 7:00pm  Math Group Meeting

**Thu Jan 26** 7:30pm  Computer Group Meeting. Contact Larry Kalinowski

**Thu Feb 2** 7:30pm  Cranbrook Meeting