Treasurer’s Report
by Ben Tolbert

As this year’s treasurer, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as a club officer. I would especially like to thank Glen Wilkins for his helping me get off to a good start.

Most of you already know that club member discounts are available for both Astronomy Magazine - ($20 for 12 months), and Sky & Telescope - ($24 for 12 months). If you want to subscribe or renew your subscription at the club discount price, see me at the meetings or give me a call for any details.

Please remember to make all checks out to "Warren Astronomical Society" and not to me personally. This includes any membership dues, magazine subscriptions, and WASP mailings.

Any WAS member that would like to see a copy of my monthly treasurer’s report should let me know, I will be happy to provide you with a copy. Some of our major expenses this year are expected to be the building of a new club telescope, member activities, and the "Annual Awards Banquet". If anyone has financial business to take care at the meetings, I'll be at least 15 minutes early in order to cut down on some of the delay - or feel free to give me a call at (810) 790-8292 (after 5 p.m.).

Thanks!
Ben Tolbert, Treasurer

COMPUTER CHATTER
by Larry Kalinowski

Hyakutake bagged another comet and this one is even better than the first one. The highly inclined orbit not only passes through the circumpolar sky but it swings to within 0.1 AU from the Earth and 0.2 AU from the Sun. This means that if the refined orbit doesn't change much, there will be two brightness peaks, both nearly zero magnitude! The first brightness peak will occur at the end of March and the second at the end of April. An ephemeris will be available at the February MCCC meeting.

You've heard of CD-ROM and CD-R. Now there's CD-E. That's CD Eraseable. Up until now you could record on a blank CD-R but that was it. The powers that be, have come up with a standard that allows computer users to erase CD-E disks so that new data can be recorded again. The new standard will be able to read CDROM's and also be able to write to CD-R's. Size is still approximately 640 Megabytes. Look for the new technology in about a year.

Rumors abound concerning Apple Computer and its possible sale to Sun Microsystems. However, Apple executives keep denying any possible merger.

see Computer Chatter on page 3

MINUTES OF MEETINGS
by Blaine McCullough

MACOMB MEETING
Thursday, January 18, 1996

The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. with 28 members in attendance.

John Herrgott opened the meeting, welcoming new and prospective members. He welcomed Louie the librarian back.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Balance as of December 31, 1995 - $5,519.52.

BANQUET - Bob Halsall was presented the J. Searles award. Distinguished service awards went to Larry Kalinowski and Blaine McCullough. Ben Tolbert

Fred Judd and the telescope making group meet at Fred's house every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come and help make the new Club scope. You don't have to be an expert to lend a hand. Contact Fred at (810) 758-7458 for directions. Oh yeah, Angie's desserts are known far and wide as among the best.

The Deep Sky sub group will be meeting at Doug Bock's Northern Sky Observatory on Feb 24 Bring your scopes and enjoy the evening. Should cloudy skies prevail, Doug will have a program available. Anyone interested in presenting a program at one of the deep sky meetings should contact Doug at (810) 750-0273.

The Computer Group continues to meet at Larry Kalinowski's home on the 4th Thursday of the month. You can find directions to his home and his phone number in the Computer Chatter article.
The WASP
Published by
Warren Astronomical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1505
Warren, Michigan 48090-1505

1995 Officers
President John Herrgott 810-548-1442
1st VP Jeff Bondono 810-731-4706
2nd VP Gary Kondrat 810-673-5451
Secretary Blaine McCullough 810-573-8699
Treasurer Ben Tolbert 810-790-8392

The Warren Astronomical Society, Inc., is a local, non-profit organization of amateur astronomers. The Society holds meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month, starting at 7:30 p.m.

First Thursday meeting:
Cranbrook: Institute of Science
1221 North Woodward Ave
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
14600 Twelve Mile Rd.
Warren, Michigan

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. Any format of submission is accepted, however the easiest forms for this editor are files in plain text format, and graphics in PCX format. Materials can either be transmitted in person, via US Mail, via direct modem connection and serving utensils that you need.

Disclaimer: The articles presented herein represent the opinion of their authors and are not necessarily the opinion of the Warren Astronomical Society or this editor. The WASP reserves the right to edit or deny publication of any submission.

Among the many benefits of membership are:
- FREE Membership in Astronomical League, including Sky & Telescope
- FREE Use of W.A.S. library. See librarian
- FREE Use of Stargate Observatory. 
- Discount magazine subscription: Astronomy $20.00 (12 monthly issues)
- FREE Copy of each WASP newsletter.
- Special interest groups. See chairpersons.
- FREE Membership in Astronomical League, including Reflectors newsletter.
- More benefits are listed in Member Booklet

Membership and Annual Dues
Student  $12.00
College  $17.00
Family  $25.00
Senior Citizen  $30.00
Individual  $17.00

Send membership applications and dues to the treasurer:
Ben Tolbert
20206 Vermander
Clinton Twp., MI 48035

The Warren Astronomical Society is the owner and operator of the Stargate Observatory. 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° 56' 0.4' 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 810-790-0273
Lunar/Planetary Riyadh Matti 810-548-2323
Solar Marty Kunz 810-477-0546
Math John Herrgott 810-548-1442
Telescope Fred Judd 810-756-7498

1st Midwest Light Pollution Conference
This event will be held at the Midway Airport Hotel, Milwaukee, on Saturday March 30. If you are interested in attending, please contact John Herrgott

Chili Cook Off
Saturday, February 17, 1996
Bring a pot of your finest chili along with the your other essentials for the club’s Star Party at Stargate. Don’t want to bring chili? Feel free to bring something else to share. We have a stove and oven in the cabin, as well as a few electrical outlets that can be used for keeping the food warm. Remember to bring all heating, eating, and serving utensils that you need.

SOLAR ECLIPSE CRUISE 1998

7 Day Cruise to Aruba
The Astro League is sponsoring a solar eclipse. This Carnival ship will travel along the center line offering an excellent chance to observe the eclipse. The cruise sails from Sat., Mar. 21, 1998 - Sat., MaL 28, 1998. The price is approximately $2900 per person and includes all meals, as well as special eclipse speakers, star parties and observing, whales watching, and other events. You are offered the opportunity to get off the ship on Aruba to observe on land, Ken Bertin says there is a 97% chance to be in a clear area. The eclipse is expected to last for over 3 mins. 30 sees. over land. There is a $500 fully refundable deposit. Please contact Ken Bertin for further information.
Computer Chatter continued from page 1

has dropped market share and stockholders are showing great concern. The Wall Street Journal reported a thirty-three dollars per share offer.

Science News reports that Hale-Bopp is shedding more dust and gas than most comets. More dust than any previously known comet and more than five times as much gas (3 kilograms/sec.) than comet Halley released during its approach in 1985. The rates of release are bound to increase as it nears the Sun. Even if those rates don't increase, it will still be spectacular. Estimates of the comet's core size are about forty kilometers (twenty-five miles) in diameter.

Not too long ago, (Jan 27), The Detroit Free Press had a little article about Quadro Corp., the creator of The Positive Molecular Locator (or Quadro Tracker) and how the company duped some of the police departments across the U.S. into buying this incredible, electronic device, some for as much as $8000. Over 1000 units were sold in the U.S. It seems the Locator was capable of finding material like marijuana, cocaine, guns, explosives, lost keys and even golf balls. The device was a little black box with a telescoping antenna, very much like a transistor radio. It was even demonstrated by the manufacturer before purchases were made. Investigations into the box revealed a phony integrated circuit. Police departments aren't saying very much. They don't want to admit being sucked into the scheme. A school district in Texas bought three units to help detect drugs on students. Too bad it turned out to be a hoax. The astronomical world could have used one attached to radio telescopes. Just think what it could have meant to discover a golf ball in the farthest reaches of space. Positive proof of life existing on the other side of the universe!

After using Windows for the last four years, I can say one thing positively irks me about the system. It's boring. Same windows, same pull downs, same startup procedure. No matter what program you start in windows, whether its commercially made or shareware, it's the same. That's one thing DOS never did, bore you with sameness. Every time I started a new DOS program, the uniqueness of each author burst forth with a new presentation. Individuality ruled the DOS world. It became a pleasure just waiting to see how each program flowed through its presentation of ideas. Even Windows 95 is a continuation of boredom. No wonder people don't want to look at a computer screen after they spend eight hours each day, pounding keys or mushing mice for eight hours. Mr. Gates, if you'd design a system that was a pleasure to behold visually, that continually freshnessed our view, you'd have buyers pounding at your door. 'Til then ....ugh.

Mark February 17 on your calendar. That's our first camping trip at Stargate Observatory. A heated cabin will be available for overnight sleeping, as well as a source for a hot dinner. If the winter sky appeals to your observing eye, keep the 17th in mind.

Computer shows for late February are in Taylor, on Saturday, February 24, at The Democratic Club Of Taylor, 23400 Wick Road, four blocks east of Telegraph and Madison Heights, Sunday, February 25, at The UF & CW Hall, 876 Horace Brown Drive, one block east of I75 and one block south of Thirteen Mile Road.

General Motors now claims to have the world's biggest and best home page on the Internet. The reader can be linked to thirteen thousand pages that describe products produced by each of its divisions. You can even browse through dealer's used car inventories and calculate your monthly payment with the help of GMAC. A high speed modem is required to access all the multimedia features available. The address is http://www.gm.com.

The computer meetings continue at my residence at 15674 Flanagan, in Roseville. You can reach me at 810-776-9720, for further information. The next two meetings will be on the fourth Thursdays of February and March, the 22nd and 28th, respectively.

Camping Trips

Annual Perseids Camp Out
Aug. 9 - 11, 1996 at Port Crescent State Park. All those wishing to attend must make their own arrangements with the state park. It is not unwise to make those reservations now as the park seems to be booked quickly any time the club has gone there. You can contact the state park through their 800 number. Remember the peak time for the Perseids will be Sunday night Monday morning, so you may wish to plan accordingly.

Keep May 17 & 18 open for a possible trip to the Bad Axe area. More information will be available after the next Macomb meeting.

March Sky & Telescope

Interested in Variable stars? Want to understand more of what Larry Kalinowski and others are talking about when they mention Beta Lyrae? Pick up a copy of Sky & Telescope from your favorite bookstore. I recommend Borders!
MINUTES continued from page 1 received the Amateur of the Year award. John thanked all who helped with the banquet. Fred Espenak was a very good speaker from NASA. Several people have mentioned having the banquet on a weekend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Doug Bock announced a Deep Sky meeting and Program on January 20, 1996 with observing to follow. John announced that the Free Press had an article that two astronomers had found two planets, one in Virgo and one in Ursa Major. Very good article.

Saturday, January 27, 1996 we will be at the Detroit Science Center from about 1-4 p.m. for IMAX and the museum.

Saturday, February 17, 1996, there will be an overnight club event. There will be a warm cabin with a fireplace. We will have a chili cookoff.

There will be a Spring Equinox party on March 16, 1996 and a Summer Solstice party on June 17, 1996.

Telescope Sub-group - Fred Judd told the club we cut the rings for the upper cage and the optics are just about at hand. The next meeting is January 23, 1996 at 7:00 p.m.

John announced we need programs and speakers for meetings. Just contact Toni or Jeff Bondono. Break was at 8:57 p.m.

Larry Kalinowski did his Beta Lyra project results and demonstrated his computer program. The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

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WASP SURVEY

The last page of the February WASP has a simple survey. Please fill it in and return it to the editor. You can drop your survey off during the meeting or mail it to the editor. See page 2 for the mailing address. You need not sign the survey. Your input is very important. Correction to the survey - when asked about the number of pages in the WASP, the third choice should read "Leave the number of pages alone, publish as many as it takes to put out the paper!"

---

Masterpieces Messier Missed
by Jeff Bondono

pk205+14.1 at 07h29m +13d15m

This planetary nebula will be a real challenge for those who decide to try to find and see it, but should provide an unusually interesting sight for those who do. It also goes by the names of Abell 21, Sharpless 2-274, and the Medusa Planetary. The planetary shines with the light of a 13th magnitude star, holds a 16th magnitude central star which I've never seen, and has a size of a whopping 10'x6'. I've never tried for this object in my 8" scope, but the 14" showed it quite easily, so I think its in the range of a 10" scope, or perhaps an 8". As with many planetary nebulae, it benefits greatly from the use of a nebula filter like the UHC, so don't be scared away by its faint magnitude. A UHC will make the 12th magnitude Owl Nebula (M97) appear quite bright, and this one's only one magnitude fainter.

The treat in this object is the extremely unusual shape. The best way I can describe it is as a 5-day-old moon. The part of the "moon" shape which is aglow is the eastern arc of the imagined round circle of the entire "moon". There's a 12th magnitude star on the northeast edge of the glow, right on the limb of the moon, about 30 degrees of position angle from one of the points of the crescent. The crescent seems brightest near that star. I also saw a 14th magnitude star right at the center of the "terminator" and a 15th magnitude star inside the glow of the south-southwest point. To help you find the object, a 7th magnitude star is only 20' north-northeast from the planetary. If you're like me and appreciate having a picture to help you find faint objects, you'll find one in Sky and Telescope September 1995, page 8 and in Deep Sky Magazine, Summer 1989, page 29. The planetary is a mere 650 light years away, one third the distance to the Ring Nebula (M57) and double the distance to the Helix Nebula (NGC 7293).

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Speakers Wanted

Speakers are needed for our club meetings. Pick whatever topic interests you. Suggestions include your observations; how to use telescopes, binoculars or star charts; types of telescopes or mountings; the moon; the sun; meteors; comets; planets; satellites; star testing; telescope-making; software demos; cosmology; astrophotography; CCDs and image processing; astronomy-related places of interest; etc. Use your imagination and volunteer for a presentation by contacting Jeff Bondono.

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BOARD MEETING

Next scheduled board meeting will be Feb. 29 at Ben Tolbert's home. Everyone is encouraged to attend and give input into the on-going plans for the club. Thus is the place to state those suggestions, concerns and comments! Contact Ben for directions.
This month's challenge list:
(Lots of clusters this month)
Lifted with permission from Doug Bock's NCO homepage. Really! He told me to do it!

Blue Snowball, NGC 7662, Planetary nebula ring. Constellation And. Magnitude: 9.00 RA, Dec: 23h 25m 42.95, 42d 31m 415 N

Triangulum galaxy, M33, NGC 598, Spiral galaxy structure with bright knots. Constellation Tri. Magnitude: 5.70 RA, Dec: 1h 33m 40.75, 30d 37m 425 N

M77, NGC 1068, Round galaxy with bright core. Constellation Cet. Magnitude: 8.80 RA, Dec: 2h 42m 29.75, Od2m 55 S

NGC 1535, Planetary nebula ring with central star. Constellation Eri. Magnitude: 10.00 RA, Dec: 4h 14m 0.75, 12d 44m 435 S

Crab Nebula, M1, NGC 1952, Constellation Tau. Magnitude: 8.40 RA, Dec: 5h 34m 16.1s, 22d Om 415 N

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**1996 March 1996**

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**Page 5**

Detroit, MI

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M35 NGC 2168 Open cluster rich. Constellation Gem Magnitude: 5.09 RA, Dec: 6h 8m 39.75, 24d 19m 535 N

NGC 2129 Open cluster rich. Constellation Gem Magnitude: 6.70 RA, Dec: 6h Om 45.95, 23d 17m 515 N

M78 NGC 2068 Reflection nebula bright. Constellation Ori Magnitude: 8.00 RA, Dec: 5h 46m 30.15, Od2m 46s N

M37 NGC 2099 Open cluster dense. Constellation Aur Magnitude: 5.59 RA, Dec: 5h 52m 8.85, 32d 32m 47s N

M36 NGC 1960 Open cluster rich. Constellation Aur Magnitude: 6.00 RA, Dec: 5h 35m 50.7s, 34d 7m 42s N

M38 NGC 1912 Open cluster rich. Constellation Aur Magnitude: 6.40 RA, Dec: 5h 28m 26.55, 35d 49m 405 N

Christmas Tree cluster NGC 2264 Open cluster with nebulosity. Constellation Mon Magnitude: 3.89 RA, Dec: 6h 40m 53.25, 9d 53m 45 N

NGC 2403 Spiral galaxy structure with bright knots. Constellation Cam Magnitude: 8.40 RA, Dec: 7h 36m 31.2s, 65d 36m 245 N
This Month in History

brought to us by Brian Benning. All information is from the calendar, *Exploring the Universe 1996*, from the creators of *Astronomy* magazine in cooperation with the Planetary Society.

Mar. 1 Venera 3, first craft to impact Venus, 1966
Mar. 4 Voyager 1 flies past Jupiter, 1979
Mar. 7 John Herschel born, 1792
Mar. 10 Rings of Uranus discovered 1977
Mar. 13 Wm. Herschel discovers Uranus, 1781, Percival Lowell born, 1855, Giotto probe flies past Comet Halley, 1986
Mar. 14 Albert Einstein born, 1879
Mar. 16 Robert Goddard launches first liquid-fueled rocket, 1926
Mar. 18 Alexei Leonov, first space walk, 1965
Mar. 20 Vernal Equinox, 3:03 a.m.
Mar. 23 1st photograph of the Moon, 1840
Mar. 24 Walter Buade bom, 1893
Mar. 25 Christiaan Huygens discovers Titan, moon of Saturn, 1655
Mar. 28 Heirich Olbers discovers Pallas (asteroid), 1802
Mar. 29 Heirich Olbers discovers Vesta (asteroid), 1807, Mariner 10, first Mercury fly by, 1974

### Calendar of Events

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Feb.</th>
<th>Thur 15 7:30 pm</th>
<th>Macomb Meeting</th>
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<td>Tues. 20 7:00 pm</td>
<td>Telescope Making Subgroup meeting</td>
<td>Contact Fred Judd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 17</td>
<td>Dinner and Star Party at Stargate-Eve of New Moon.</td>
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- Thur22 Computer Subgroup Meeting Contact Larry Kalinowski |
- Sat. 24 Observing at Stargate-Eve of First Quarter Moon |
- Tues. 27 7:00 pm Telescope Making Subgroup meeting Contact Fred Judd |

- Mar. 5 7:00 pm Telescope Making Subgroup meeting Contact Fred Judd |
- Thurs 7 7:30 pm Cranbrook Meeting Cranbrook Institute of Science- Downstairs |
- Tues. 12 7:00 pm Telescope Making Subgroup meeting Contact Fred Judd |
- Sat. 16 Vernal Equinox-Northern Cross Contact Doug Bock |
- Tues. 19 7:00 pm Telescope Making Subgroup meeting Contact Fred Judd |
- Thurs 21 7:30 pm Macomb Meeting South Campus, Bldg. B, Room 209 |
- Sat. 23 Observing at Stargate-4 Days after First Quarter Moon |

- Tues. 26 7:00 pm Telescope Making Subgroup meeting Contact Fred Judd |
- Thur. 28 Computer Subgroup Meeting Contact Larry Kalinowski |

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<th>Tues. 2 7:00 pm</th>
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<td>Wed. 3</td>
<td>Lunar Eclipse at Metro Beach (Public Event)</td>
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<td>Fri. - Sat. 17 &amp; 18</td>
<td>Fish Lake Outing with E.M.U. Astronomy Club</td>
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