SETI made another splash in the local paper with the announcement that it is asking all interested computer users to log onto their websites around May 15, and download a program that will actually analyze the data that radio astronomers have been collecting over the last few years. The expected starting date is May 15. Once the analyzing program and data are downloaded, it'll take about twenty-four hours to analyze one batch of data. It can be done at night when you're sleeping or just about any time you're not using your computer. You must sign up at the website in order to receive your data assignment and program. The following websites are available for sign-up: setiathome.ssi.berkeley.edu and http://planetary.org. If you happen to be the lucky one to recognize an extraterrestrial signal, your name could go down in the history books.

Mars has plate tectonics. The Global Surveyor space probe that was sent to Mars recently has seen magnetic signals that are very similar to the Earth's. It means that Mars does have moving plates, or did have in the past. However, it was long before (about four million years) the Earth had them.

Comet Lee (C/1999 H1) is becoming an interesting object to observe in the southwestern sky. By the end of May it will be located near the head of Hydra with a magnitude of about 7.0, just on the limit of visibility but a good object for a camera with ordinary film or a CCD chip. I'll provide an ephemeris for Lee at the meetings.

If you didn't make the May meeting at MCCC, then you missed a superb lecture on the expanding universe by Lou Faix. I hope Lou will present that same lecture to the Cranbrook group sometime in the near future. It was so good that I copied the electronic version that he used to give the lecture and will make it available from the WAS computer library. It's a self-running program that uses DOS to operate. You can run it right from your "A" drive if you're using WIN95 or 98.

The June computer meeting will be held at Gary Gatheren's home on Thursday, the 24th. His address is 21 Elm Park. Three blocks south of the I-696 expressway and about half a block west of Woodward in Pleasant Ridge. You can reach him at 248-543-3366 for further information.
On Looking Up by Chance at the Constellations

by Robert Frost

You'll wait a long, long time for anything much
To happen in heaven beyond the floats of cloud
And the Northern Lights that run like tingling nerves.
The sun and moon get crossed, but they never touch,
Nor strike out fire from each other nor crash out loud.
The planets seem to interfere in their curves -
But nothing ever happens, no harm is done.
We may as well go patienty on with our life,
And look elsewhere than to stars and moon and sun
For the shocks and changes we need to keep us sane.
It is true the longest drout will end in rain,
The longest peace in China will end in strife.
Still it wouldn't reward the watcher to stay awake
In hopes of seeing the calm of heaven break
On his particular time and personal sight.
That calm seems certainly safe to last to-night.

New Members

by Joe Van Poucher

The thing that makes the Warren Astronomical Society a great are its members. We are very happy to announce the following new members who joined during May of 1999. Please extend them a warm welcome.

Duane Birrell; Warren, MI
Gerald Franklin; Warren, MI

WASP Anniversaries for July:
10 Years: Larry V. Holloway; Shelby Twp., MI
9 Years: Ed Watson; Palms, MI
6 Years: Kenneth Bertin; W. Bloomfield, MI
4 Years: Ronald Marvin; Farmington Hills, MI
2 Years: Mark McNett; Royal Oak, MI
1 Year: David & Sabrina Heidmann; Bloomfield Hills, MI
A Symbolic Quiz

By

Kenneth Wilson

Our specialized world is full of symbols of all kinds. Astronomers are no different from anyone else, so they too have their symbols. Below are some of these symbols. See how many you can recognize and correctly identify. The answers are below the Astro-Almanac.

1) α

11) ⊕

2) h

12) □

3) β

13) ♀

4) σ

14) λ

5) δ

15) Ω

6) μ

16) ©

7) ☼

17) Ω

8) Ω

18) Ω

9) Σ

19) Θ

10) Π

20) Ρ
ASTRONOMY PUNS
for a cloudy night
(reproduced from the July 1974 issue of the WASP)

1. Me second, U-niverst.
2. TELE* scope We'll be out to use it later.
3. If you didn't get that one you're a real domey!
4. Go tell it on the Mount-an.
5. If I can't drive, the clock will.
6. Eyepiece, you peace, we all peace?
8. I didn't planet that way either.
9. Sun be home by Moon.
10. We are all making a crater profit here on the moon.
11. Because we are all a bunch of LUNA-tics.
12. You bet your BRECHAS we are!
13. I always had a nite- Mare, do you Sea?
14. Oh shucks I missed the Bald-win. (club joke)
15. Sun you're not too bright are you?
16. Another flareup like that and you'll be in a spot.
17. I ex- Spectrum all home soon.
18. I want to order a cheese and Astronomy sandwich.
19. It is my turn now it is Saturn.
20. They were all a bunch of nice guys when we went for a spin, but they all turned out to be a couple of Axis.
21. They majority of the people voted to view the solar eclipse without filters, I asked who opposed, no one did so the eyes had it!
22. Jerry Persha said, "Oscillalater Ya'll."
23. Pete Kwentis made a complete Reticle of himself!!
24. Lou Faix picked a Dry, but Ice night to shoot his pictures.
25. Dave Harrington shoots so many one minute exposures through his telescope, that a Film has started to collect over his eyes.
26. Poor Tony Bonmarito, his nagging wife has finally given him a reciprocity failure!!
27. The Reason! Angie made her Celestron her main Objective. (Our sympathy Tony)
28. Doug my son, hold your 8" f20 on the fence while I make this 4 hour exposure of Saturn.
29. THE OBSERVATORY REPORT.
30. There are so many space vehicles up in space that there has been a tremendous increase in parking Meteors.
31. The space baby got so sick that it threw Ejecta all over the moon.
32. When the American astronaut stopped at one of Jupiter's moons he decided he would shop, but they would not accept money, so he wrote out an Io-u.
33. When he went to the 7th planet of our solar system, they would not let him land until he took the URAN-us test.

BY THIS TIME YOU ARE PROBABLY PRAYING
FOR CLEAR WEATHER!!!
2nd VP Rick Gossett opened the meeting at 7:45 PM with 25 members & 1 guest, Claudia Voight.

All scopes are available for use at Stargate, 12 1/2", 10", 8" & the 22", all in good working order. An outing at Stargate on 5/1/99 to view Mars, good turnout in spite of a full moon.

On 4/17/99 Rick Kovari had Scouts at Stargate. Due to moving clouds each Scout had a quick look at the sun then clouds came blocking out the sun. The Scoutmaster made a donation to our group of $150.00.

About 20 Scouts are expected this Saturday & Sunday at Stargate, Saturday observing from sundown till ???.

On June 11 there will be between 150-175 Scouts at Stargate, volunteers are needed, get in touch with Rick if you plan to help.

The picnic will be on June 19 outdoors only, the buildings are not available. There is no cost for anyone for the picnic, free to all.

Family night will be at Cranbrook on August 2.

Attendance at Stargate to date this year, 64 members, 80 guests.

SMURFS will be from Thursday Aug 12 to Sunday Aug 15, this year early arrivals are accepted.

Doug Goudie made mention that Cranbrook will be closed in September to the public. Our meeting will take place on the 2nd Monday.

Break- 8:25 PM

The program for tonight was Ken Bertin’s coverage of Solar Eclipses from his worldly travels. The program was in the newly refurbished auditorium. Ken’s talk was both informative, very interesting & his deep interest in eclipses was well noted. Well done!!

The meeting ended at 10:10 PM

These minutes were submitted by Bob Watt.

PRESIDENT STEVE GREENE opened the meeting at 7:30 with 25 members and 2 guests in attendance.

SECOND VP RICK GOSSETT announced that if the popularity of Stargate continues to grow at its present rate our club may need to consider establishing a subcommittee for the observatory’s maintenance and activity schedule. He also told us about his latest celestial observance. One night he was aiming his telrad at Spica. When he looked through his scope he happened to be looking directly at a weather balloon. He tracked it for about 15 minutes and about 30 people there that night were able to view this rare sighting. He was using 244X power and said that he could see details on the balloon such as the tether and an electronic device. Way to go Rick!!!!

SECRETARY LORIANN SKONIECZNY extended a SPECIAL THANK YOU to LOU FAIX for donating boxes full of back issues of various astronomy magazines and past issues of the WASP dating back to the 1970’s and 1980’s. These will come in handy as we start to research the history of our club. She also added that there will be a new feature added to the WASP using these archives. It will be called The WASP 25 Years Ago. It will include one or two added items of interest from the WASP issue that date back 25 years ago to that particular month. It should be interesting to old and new members to see what things were going on and of importance 25 years ago in our club. She also confirmed that the Annual Awards Banquet will be at the Stephenson Haus on Thursday, December, 16, 1999.

TREASURER JOE VAN POUCKER gave the financial report for April. The club’s beginning balance was $5256.57 with $415.46 in income less expenditures with an ending balance of $4841.11.

Doug Bock and Clayton Kessler gave their overview of the Texas Star Party. Doug explained that there were around 600 attendees this year. The upper field was extremely crowded but he had a great time just relaxing, having fun and taking a few images. Clay took many images and shared some of them with the club at the break. He really got some gorgeous shots!! Doug said that there were a few other Michiganders there from the Ford Club and Traverse City. Clay told us about a new friend he met there who was a Brazilian physician. He was invited to view the southern skies down in Brazil when he gets the chance!! Clay told us all how this man was so excited to view the Northern objects that we take for granted such as the Little and Big Dippers. He mentioned how many people from all walks of life you can meet with a hobby like amateur astronomy.

(over)
Larry Kalinowski shared a schedule of Iridium flares with the club noting the dates, times and positions for anyone who wishes to try to see them.

Blaine McCullough shared with the club his recent solar observing activity. He saw huge sun spots and a couple that were so close together that their shadows were overlapping. Some children out at Stargate that day had a blast sharing in the view too.

Jeff Bondono announced that due to his upcoming vacation any submissions for the July WASP should be in to him by Tuesday May 25, 1999 at the latest. He also brought in a box of astronomy magazines and a mural of the moon for anyone interested to take for themselves at the break.

Bob Watt suggested that the club look into a safer ladder for the 22" telescope. When little children are viewing it isn't quite tall enough for them to get to the eyepiece. He suggested making some type of strap to secure them on the top of the ladder.

PRESIDENT STEVE GREENE surprised Jeff Bondono when he told him that he was mentioned in a recent issue of the Detroit Free Press. This article commended Jeff on a great website and complimented the WAS. Steve announced the break at 8:15.

At 8:45p.m. Lou Faix gave a talk on Cosmology that he called "What is Wrong with What is Wrong with Cosmology." He based his speech on an article from the January issue of Scientific American which discussed alternate explanations for the current view of cosmology including a fifth force and exotic new energy called anti-gravity. Lou made a point to refute this new idea of cosmology and to show that there's nothing wrong with our current view. This was a very interesting and mind-provoking presentation full of great visual effects from Lou's computer.

PRESIDENT STEVE GREENE adjourned the meeting at 10 p.m.

ANSWERS TO SYMBOL QUIZ

1.) Right ascension 2.) Saturn 3.) Celestial latitude 4.) Conjunction 5.) declination 6.) Proper Motion 7.) Uranus 8.) Vernal Equinox or Aries 9.) Obliquity of the ecliptic 10.) Parallax in seconds of arc 11.) New Moon 12.) Ascending node 13.) Earth 14.) Celestial longitude 15.) Opposition 16.) Jupiter 17.) Jupiter.
Get the latest-breaking events information at the club’s home page. Follow the Upcoming Events link from http://www.eaglequest.com/~bondono/WAS/ and be sure to check the link at the bottom of that page to Doug Bock’s NCO Schedule of Events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Mon 7</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Downstairs at Cranbrook Institute of Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Barry Craig will speak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11- Sun 13</td>
<td>16th Annual Summer Solstice Star Party at Doug Bock’s Northern Cross Observatory.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 11</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting. Theme: Astrophotography and Videography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 17</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Macomb Community College South Campus, Bldg. B, Room 209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 18</td>
<td>Sat 19</td>
<td>Club Picnic and Observing at Stargate Observatory, weather permitting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 19</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Open House at Michigan State’s 24-inch Telescope</td>
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<td>Theme: Solar Observing during the day, Lunar Observing and splitting double stars after dark</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Mon 12</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Downstairs at Cranbrook Institute of Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tue 13- Sat 17</td>
<td>ASTROCON ’99: The Astronomical League’s 52 Annual Convention, in Washington State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 15</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Macomb Community College South Campus, Bldg. B, Room 209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16, Sat 19</td>
<td>Open House at Michigan State’s 24-inch Telescope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 17</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting. Theme: Using Setting Circles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 18</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting. Using Setting Circles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>Mon 2</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Downstairs at Cranbrook Institute of Science: Family Night.</td>
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<td>Thu 12 - Sun 15</td>
<td>SMURFS Star Party</td>
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<td>Thu 19</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Macomb Community College South Campus, Bldg. B, Room 209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21</td>
<td>GLAAC Star Party at Kensington Metropark</td>
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<td>Sat 22</td>
<td>GLAAC Star Party at Kensington Metropark</td>
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<td>Sept</td>
<td>Sat 1</td>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 11</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>NCO Club meeting with Autumnal Equinox Star Party Doug Bock’s</td>
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<td>Sat 11</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting</td>
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<td>Mon 13</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Downstairs at Cranbrook Institute of Science</td>
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<td>Thu 16</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Macomb Community College South Campus, Bldg. B, Room 209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 18</td>
<td>Island Lake Star Party</td>
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<td>Sat 25</td>
<td>EMU sponsored conference (tentative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Mon 4</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Downstairs at Cranbrook Institute of Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 6- Sun 10</td>
<td>NCO Wilderness Spring Fall Party at Doug Bock’s Boon site, west of Cadillac. BYO Everything.</td>
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<td>Fri 8</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting</td>
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<td>Sat 9</td>
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<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting</td>
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<td>7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Mon 1</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Meeting: Downstairs at Cranbrook Institute of Science</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sat 6</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Stargate Open House, weather permitting</td>
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<td>Sat 6</td>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>NCO Club meeting with Star Party to follow at Doug Bock’s Northern Cross Observatory</td>
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<td>Thu 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Sat 4</td>
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<td>NCO Club meeting with Star Party to follow at Doug Bock’s Northern Cross Observatory</td>
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<td>Mon 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 16</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Annual Awards Banquet</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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Lunar Eclipse: July 28, 7:33

Key to times:
- SunRise
- MoonRise
- SunSet
- MoonSet

WASP
Warren Astronomical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 1505
Warren, MI 48090-1505