



THE W. A. S. P. NEWSLETTER

The Warren Astronomical Society paper

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2010 WAS Officers

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Update from 2nd VP

The Orion 10" DOB is being repaired (dents knocked out and collimated) not sure when it is due back. Believe Marty is the one working on it.

The next Open House is Feb. 20th.

The floor is in the process of being completely removed and replaced by Marty and Riyad. Additional water proofing of the roof is planned when the weather gets better. Marty has figured out a way to do it.

January had 4 different scout groups out on different days. Bob, Riyad, Lee Hartwell, and Dave Bailey were the presenters. One large troop has been out every year for 4 years and they told me it is considered one of their highlights of the year.

The dates of all the open houses have been given to Wolcott Mill Park for inclusion in their calendar. Wolcott also has reserved the reception hall in Rotary Park for two events this year...more to come...but the plan is to have a joint astronomy event where they would participate with crafts for kids, etc. and we would provide talks, videos, etc. in addition to our telescope observing. One of the dates is Astronomy Day. The other is planned for either a Solar Astronomy Day or a Perseids Watch.

I am continuing to work with D bar A Scout camp in Metamora. Camera Mart has already offered to donate a 12" Lightbridge Meade DOB to the camp. Plans are for a 12'x15' roll off roof observatory with a 14" SCT and GOTO mount on a PierTech motorized post that will enable wheel chair bound scouts to also use the facility which is also planned to be handicapped accessible. They are also pouring concrete pads around the observatory for other portable scopes. In exchange for our participation in the design of the observatory and occasional scout camp with lectures and observing help, they will let us have access to the observatory which is near 7 Ponds Astronomy Club and is a quite nice location....much darker than Stargate.

Bob Berta



The SWAP SHOP

This column is for those interested in buying, trading or selling items. The ad will run for six months unless you cancel it. The month and year

the ad will be removed is shown. You may submit ads to Stephen Uitti, 313 389-5609 publications@warrenastro.org.

For Sale: Meade 8" LX-90 UTHC with 8X50 finder, matching blue dew shield, 26mm eyepiece, diagonal, tripod, bobs knobs, counter weights, and piggy-back camera mount. \$950 or best offer.

Call Bill Kippen at 586-202-6484 or email billkip@comcast.net for more information and pictures. Other accessories are available. [7-2010]

FOR SALE: Williams Optics ZenithStar 80 II ED refractor telescope. Nice 80 mm scope, F/6.8, 545 mm focal length. ED glass, doublet, air spaced, APO, fully multi-coated. It has a retractable lens shade/dew shield, a 2 inch adjuster, 1:10 fine focus, and 2 inch to 1.25 inch adapter. Has a red dot finder that I added. Did not come with mirror diagonal, eye piece, or tripod. Has a foam-lined carrying case. Purchased in August 2008 from Scope City for \$528 plus shipping. On sale for \$270. Contact Dale Partin, dpartin@comcast.net or call cell phone after 5 pm at 810-338-3418. [7-2010]

FOR SALE: Celestron Optima 2000, an 8" Schmidt-Cass go-to scope. It's in good shape, works well, and has fine optics. It comes with a hard case. Asking \$900. Contact Bob Zinke, 586-264-0884, email: r1d3z@yahoo.com [6-2010]

FOR SALE: I have a few parts left over from my now defunct LX200 telescope. For sale as follows:

- *Tripod* for a Meade scope – will take best offer, not sure what it would be worth. Still in good condition.
- *Fork arms w/ drive base* for an LX200. Circuit boards are bad, but gear systems work. Hand controller included – Any decent offer not refused.
- *Finderscope*, 8x50, straight thru design, non-illuminated - \$20.

Sorry, I kept the optical tube assembly for my new CGEM mount. Anyone interested, send email Saxon1066@comcast.net or call Fred Judd after 4 pm on my cell: (586) 489-0245 [2-2010]

FOR SALE: 1977 *Dynascope* RV-6. Original owner. Includes pier and finder, painted blue. The motor drive and housing are missing (the drive never worked). Otherwise it is in good working order. I only cleaned the mirrors a few times, so the coating might still be OK. I also replaced the primary cell. I'm asking \$200 for this scope and mount.

Also: Homemade 10" F/5.5-ish Dobsonian to sell. It works pretty well for my first try. The primary is a Coulter thin mirror that I purchased around 1993. Cleaned only a few times. The primary cell is a classic thin mirror multi-point support. The tube is a Sonotube and the mount is plywood with teflon bearings. Someone could use this as-is, fix it up, or use the components for something new. I'm asking \$300 for this 1 scope minus the finder, which I'll keep.

I'm selling both to use the money toward a new Omni XXLT 127 refractor. Mark Sortzi mark_sortzi@hotmail.com [3-2010]

FOR SALE: Turn your 2x Barlow into a 2.5, 3, 4, or 5x device with my Barlow amplifier. Use it with your lowest power eyepiece and keep that eye relief and apparent field, no matter how much you magnify your image. No more squinting with a 4 or 6mm eyepiece. The Barlow amplifier is a simple extension tube available for \$4. A 40 power eyepiece becomes a 200 power eyepiece with my 5x amplifier. Call at 586-776-9720 or email cometman@mybluelight.com and I'll bring your amplifier choice to the next meeting. If you buy the set of four amplifiers, I'll take \$4 off the total price. For mail delivery to your home address, add \$1.50 for shipping. [4-2010]

FOR SALE: Blaine McCullough's Telescope for sale! Mary Lou McCollough wishes to find Blaine's telescope a good home. Hand built by Blaine and Steve Greene, this 13" mirror, beautifully crafted truss dob has excellent optics. Finder scope and telrad included. \$1000 or best offer. Contact Bill Beers for details at BEEZOLL@AOL.COM or 586-321-8207 [7-2010]

Scope Theft at Rider's

Sorry to report that an Explore Scientific ED127 f/7.5 Triplet OTA was taken from our store. The nameplate on the side of the tube next to the focuser will read ED127. Serial number (also located on nameplate) of the scope is 1277500031. The baseplate G-11 style is not stock and will say Disc Mount. Please contact either myself or Brent Martin at 734-971-6116 (Rider's Hobby Ypsilanti) if you have any information regarding the theft of this telescope. Regards, *John Kirchhoff Manager*

WAS Club logo wear at WAS meetings



(Photos and modeling by Jon Blum)

Club logo clothing (hats, shirts, sweatshirts, jackets) are still available from Diane Worth, 248-980-7832, or if not at a meeting, email dianesky-night@yahoo.com. Stephen Uitti, who currently brings WAS goods for sale also brings a notebook to meetings and has "a reasonable catalog of available items".

The Other Clubs

Oakland Astronomy Club newsletter

<http://oaklandastronomy.ulmb.com/oacnews.html>

Clear skies,

Bill MacIntosh

Seven Ponds Astronomy Club:

Open Invitation

The Seven Ponds Astronomy Club extends it's invitation to the Oakland Astronomy Club, Ford Amateur Astronomy Club, and Warren Astronomical Society members to our monthly meetings. Our club website is: <http://bhmich.com/sevenpondsac/> and has all the information about our upcoming meetings, maps to Seven Ponds Nature Center, etc. Please let me know if you might be attending the meetings so that I can make appropriate plans to handle the expected crowd. If you have any questions, please contact me. *John Lines*



2010 Stargate Observatory Open House

Dates: Feb 20, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22, June 19, July 17, Aug 21, Sept 11, Oct 16, Nov 13, Dec 11

1. Normal closing time will depend on events, weather, and other variables.
2. The observatory may be closed one hour after opening time if no members arrive within the first hour.
3. Contact the 2nd VP for other arrangements, such as late arrival time.
4. An alternative person will be appointed to open the observatory if the 2nd VP cannot attend a scheduled date or opening time.
5. Members may arrive before or stay after the scheduled open house time.
6. Dates are subject to change or cancellation depending on weather or staffing availability.
7. An email will be posted no later than 2 hours before starting time in case of date change or cancellation.
8. It is best to email the 2nd VP up to 2 hours before the posted opening with any questions you may have. Later emails will not be receivable.
9. Generally, only strong rain or snow will prevent the open house... the plan is to be there even if it is clouded over. Often, the weather is cloudy, but it clears up as the evening progresses. *2nd VP*

The WASP

The Warren Astronomical Society Paper (WASP) is the official monthly publication of the Society. Each new issue of the WASP and/or is available online at the <http://www.warrenastro.org/> website. Requests by other astronomy clubs to receive the WASP, and all other correspondence should be addressed to the Publications Director, Stephen Uitti, at publications@warrenastro.org. Articles for inclusion in the WASP are strongly encouraged and should be submitted to the editor by the 28th day of each month. Any format of submission is accepted, however, the easiest form to use are plain text files. Most popular graphics formats are acceptable. The preferred method of submission is electronically via email with attachment to the editor. Alternative submissions include printed form delivered in person, or via US mail. 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.

WAS on Facebook

The Warren club has a presence on Facebook. Recent wall posts refer to space debris, getting a look at Vesta, a new eyepiece mini-review, cub scout outreach, rotating HST Pluto image, and an upcoming ISS/Shuttle pass overhead. On Facebook? Join the fun! Check it out by clicking here: <http://www.facebook.com/warrenastro>.



The Stargate – The Moon and Mars

Thanks to everyone who came out January 23rd to the Stargate - I hope you all enjoyed it. It was very nice to meet the new members David and Shawn.

We had a very successful night of Mars observations. It took until about 9:30 for everything to cool down so we could see well, but after that we tried a succession of eyepieces and filters with the Big Dob and the 10" Meade SCT. Mars' ice cap was bold and well-defined, and we saw a very nice collection of dark markings on the face of the planet using Ken Bertin's 13mm Televue eyepiece with a blue filter. The blue filter worked better than expected - cutting glare and improving contrast of dark areas without seeming to obscure much. It was the best view of Mars I've had this opposition.

Not only was Mars at its closest of this orbit, the moon was at its closest to the earth, called perigee. Last night's was the largest full moon of 2010, and one of the brightest of our lifetimes, according to Milt F. from the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club in Dearborn, who says:

"This is due to favorable circumstances:

1. moon is in very close perigee (55.91 earth radii).
2. Moon near the node so more of it is illuminated (elongation 177.3).
3. Earth is near perihelion so the Sun is brighter.
4. Full Moon is near transit (full Moon is at 1 AM with the moon crossing the meridian at 12:40 AM)"

So it wasn't just us or the cold, it really was almost as bright as daytime out there! I was struck early in the evening by how amazingly detailed everything on the moon was, naked-eye.

Once we finished with Mars, we looked at some nice deep-sky objects near the moon. The Dog Tag open cluster (aka M41), just southeast of Sirius in Canis Major, was stunning through the Big Dob, with jewel-like red/orange stars scattered across a beautiful loose field of white stars. And the Orion Nebula withstood the moonglow admirably with its usual breath-taking 3D folds and whorls.

Earlier in the evening, we listened to former observatory director Marty Kunz's Event Horizon radio show on astronomy.fm over my car speakers. Marty interviewed WAS member and astronomy-sector professional Mike Simonsen of the AAVSO about variable stars, the AAVSO, and why they both matter. The show will be re-run on AFM later in the week; you can catch it at <http://www.astronomy.fm/>.

All in all, it was a great night (especially for a full moon!) at the observatory.

Clear skies,

Jonathan Kade

WAS 2010 Upcoming Presentations

1 Feb	Jerry Kuchera	Mars 4.0
18 Feb	Sandra Macika	R.O.G. Astronomy, 17 th to 19 th Centuries
1 Mar	Ken Bertin	Christian Huygens
18 Mar	Larry Phipps	Won't You Be My Neighbor?
5 Apr	Stephen Uitti	Strings
15 Apr	Gross Pointe North Radio Astronomy Team	Return to Grosse Pointe North / TBD

**Diary of Astronomical Phenomena -
February 2010**

d h Event

4 11 Spica 3.2N of Moon
6 4 LAST QUARTER
8 0 Antares 1.2S of Moon Occn
8 9 Venus 1.0S of Neptune
8 19 Moon furthest South (-25.7)
12 9 Mercury 2.2S of Moon
13 6 Moon at apogee
14 7 NEW MOON
14 9 Neptune 3.4S of Moon
15 1 Venus 5.0S of Moon
15 4 Neptune at conjunction
15 6 Jupiter 4.6S of Moon
16 19 Uranus 5.4S of Moon
17 7 Venus 0.5S of Jupiter
22 5 FIRST QUARTER
23 10 Moon furthest North (25.6)
26 8 Mars 5.2N of Moon
27 18 Mercury 1.7S of Neptune
28 1 Moon at perigee
28 5 Regulus 3.8N of Moon
28 15 Jupiter at conjunction
28 21 FULL MOON

Astronomy Expo & Swap

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club is sponsoring it's 7th Annual Astronomy Expo and Swap, to be held on Saturday, March 6th, 2010 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Holy Cross Church Gymnasium, 30650 Six Mile, Livonia. There are tables where people are selling their stuff (get your table for \$15 in advance (by 2/15), \$20 at the door – if available). Catering (Pizza, Hot Dogs, etc.) by KIM. Contact Doug Bauer by email at DougBauer@comcast.net for details.

Expo Speakers

Astronomy 101	G. Hansen
DLSR Astrophotography	C. Kessler
Backyard Observing	J. Frisbie
Lunar & Planetary Imaging	J. Kirchoff
Secrets of the Sun	F. Acona
Planetarium 10 am, 11, 1 pm, 2	T. Cervenak

Update from the Treasurer

New members:

Welcome to new members Angelo DiDonato, and Nicole Harper!

Change to membership renewals:

Membership dates have changed: annual membership now goes from January 1 to December 31. If your membership is current, you are eligible for prorated dues in 2010. Watch your mailbox in early March for a bulletin and renewal letter. We are working on getting membership cards made (thanks to Brian Thieme for all his work on this) and updated membership handbooks. If you have any questions or concerns before then, please contact me at treasurer@warrenastro.org or 313-282-2562.

Non-profit status:

We have our documents filed with the State and should be fully in shape soon. After that, we will be working on 501(c)(3) status.

Events:

The W.A.S. paid \$15 for a table at the Ford Club's Astronomy Expo March 6. We will be selling glow tape, merchandise, and memberships. If you would like to help at the table, please contact me.

Miscellany:

We donated \$50 to the Clear Sky Clock website to sponsor the Stargate CSC. We are looking to purchase a 10" digital photo frame for public events.

Accounting:

Our funds increased by \$333.81 in January to \$3883.47.

January cash flow:

Credits \$592.00
Debits \$258.19

Jonathan Kade, Treasurer

What's Up in Outreach

The year has kicked off with some very exciting developments.

On February 1st, the W.A.S. sent a delegation to a special NASA-affiliated event at Athens High School in Troy that included a live downlink to the ISS; Second V.P. Bob Berta, Recording Secretary Therese Oldani, and I participated along with members Lee Hartwell, Ken Bertin, and Stephen Harvath. We were able to mobilize a team to participate in this in the span of a week, which speaks well of the dedication of this club to serving the community. The W.A.S. participants showed off their club pride and an array of telescopes and multimedia presentations, though the Michigan weather didn't allow for observing.

On February 2nd, Second V.P. Berta and I took part in a joint W.A.S./Seven Ponds/FAAC meeting with Michelle Serryn of Metro Beach Metro Park to plan our activities for Astronomy Day this April 24th. We want to build on last year's success to make this an annual treat for the east side of the Metro area, and this year's program will feature presentations, observing, a planet walk, and more.

On February 3rd, Treasurer Jonathan Kade and Publications Director Stephen Uitti joined Cub Scout Pack 1520 to help the scouts obtain their Astronomy badges; it is the first time this pack has worked with us and we are happy to expand our service territory!

Thanks to a tip from Recording Secretary Oldani, we may soon have some events coming up with 4-H of Oakland County--stay tuned for developments there.

Other events to look forward to include the FAAC Annual Expo and Swap Meet at Holy Cross Church Gymnasium in Livonia on March 6th and the Multi-Club Messier Marathon hosted by the Seven Ponds Astronomy Club at their observing site on March 13th. Show up, have fun, and represent! *Diane Hall Outreach Director*

WAS Macomb Meeting Minutes 22 Jan

7:30 to 9:45 PM. 30 attended.

Bob Berta updated us on the D bar A Scout Camp. Please see the 2nd VP's Update, this issue.

Treasurer Report was given by Stephen Uitti filling in for Jonathan. See the Treasure's Update in this issue.

The board is debating starting the Macomb Meeting at 7 PM instead of 7:30 PM.

It was reported that a telescope was stolen from Riders Hobby Shop in Ypsilanti. See John Kirchoff's announcement in this issue.

Dave Bailey filled in for Jerry Kuchera for the main presentation. His talk was entitled "Formation of the Solar System".

Jerry Kuchera gave his presentation, Mars 4.0. at the February Cranbrook meeting.

Mike O'Dowd

WAS Meetings scheduled for 2010

Cranbrook Meetings: Every 1st Monday
Mar 1, Apr 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug 2,
Sept 13 (not Labor Day), Oct 4, Nov 1,
Dec 6.

Macomb Meetings: Every 3rd Thursday
Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, June
17, July 15, Aug 19, Sept 16
(Same week as Cranbrook)
Nov 18, Banquet Dec 16

