



# THE W. A. S. P. NEWSLETTER

The Warren Astronomical Society paper

P.O. BOX 1505  
WARREN, MICHIGAN 48090-1505

<http://www.warrenastro.org>

More contact information

<http://www.warrenastro.org/was/officers.aspx>

## 2010 WAS Officers

President: Gary M. Ross [president@warrenastro.org](mailto:president@warrenastro.org)

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Jon Blum [firstvp@warrenastro.org](mailto:firstvp@warrenastro.org)

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Bob Berta [secondvp@warrenastro.org](mailto:secondvp@warrenastro.org)

Secretary: Therese Oldani [secretary@warrenastro.org](mailto:secretary@warrenastro.org)

Treasurer: Jonathan Kade [treasurer@warrenastro.org](mailto:treasurer@warrenastro.org)

Publications: Stephen Uitti [publications@warrenastro.org](mailto:publications@warrenastro.org)

Pub. Outreach: Diane Hall [outreach@warrenastro.org](mailto:outreach@warrenastro.org)

Entire board: [board@warrenastro.org](mailto:board@warrenastro.org)

### Good Bye, Larry

It is our sad duty to report that Larry Kalinowski, the "Comet Man," has passed away. This is the 49th year of the Society's existence; Larry has been a member for 48 of them.

Larry's contributions to the society were countless. For many years, Larry wrote the Computer/Astro Chatter column for our WASP newsletter. His dedication to comet observing and his desire for other members to join him in rigorous observing led him to take over our observing award program, in which capacity he awarded hundreds of his beautiful hand-made badges to members who earned them. He created, hand-made, and sold a "barlow extender" to allow people on limited budgets to boost their magnification without buying new eyepieces. If there was a project we worked on, an event we hosted, or a way he could help fellow members, Larry did it, with enthusiasm, skill, and caring.

Larry was always an enthusiastic supporter of the club and had one of the longest continuous memberships if not the longest. We will all miss him greatly.

- Bob Berta

He was the quiet, good looking older bloke with the horn rims, the 1950s young "male lead." Much later in the years, Jack Szymanski was always bumming smokes off him. They met at a public star party on Belle Isle in 1965. Jack's first words were probably the standard, "Gotta cigarette, Larry?"

-G. Ross



When I joined the WAS six years ago, I looked forward to each issue of the WASP newsletter with Larry's front-page column. In more recent years, I only won one of Larry's hand-made observing awards, the Messier Observer's 110, but I see it on my desk every day and it always reminds me of Larry and how good it was to know him.

- Jon Blum



### 2010 WAS Meetings

#### Cranbrook Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays

May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug 2, Sept 13 (not Labor Day), Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6.

#### Macomb Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays

May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug 19, Sept 16 (Same week as Cranbrook), October 21, Nov 18, Banquet Dec 16

## Board Meeting April 5, 2010

**Officers Present:** Bob Berta, Gary Ross, Stephen Uitti, Jonathan Kade, Diane Hall, Jon Blum, Therese Oldani, **Guests:** Ken Bertin and Marty Kunz

**President:** Macomb meeting outgrowing space and options. See New Business.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Jon Blum reported that the scheduled for presentations is filled through January 2011.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** One of Bob's pics made Astro photo of the month and received free observation time via access by computer. Bob has graciously opened to share this time and make available to people in the club. A time frame will be set up to go to Berta's house for this access.

**WAS wear:** Diane Worth sent a new version of her order form. She will be at upcoming meetings.

**Secretary:** Snacks for meetings by sign up. May 3rd is Steven Baggette. Therese to send reminders.

9 units of Warrenastro.org pencils were purchased to use for upcoming Astronomy Day and events.

Lumicon gift certificate will be raffled at upcoming May 3<sup>rd</sup> general meeting.

### **Treasurer:**

Membership renewal letters went out. Renewals are coming back in the mail.

Hubble IMAX outing: NET \$898. Cost \$892.06 Meet up will be charged to club . \$964.06 - Sky and Telescope. Reimbursement to Jonathan: \$ 938.06.

Working on inventory at Stargate and library at Macomb for insurance coverage. (including telescopes and eye pieces.)

**Publications:** April WASP is not ready. Article preference is to fit on a page.

Gary Ross is sending out about 11 manual WASP newsletters (paper copies).

**Outreach:** Saturday May 1, Clarkston, Tom Cervanek will bring a portable planetarium for DISCOVERY day. Solar scopes are welcomed. Looking for volunteers

We will work out logistics of getting the big WAS sign from April 24th for May 1st to Clarkston.

### **New Business:**

Gary reported on the work toward moving to a larger meeting room in Macomb to allow for more people. Discussed options for a projector.

Jon Blum suggested that we have a quick introduction of names to encourage learning each other names.

Jonathan suggested July 10th (new moon) for our annual picnic. Open house is July 17th. Jon Blum will check with Ford club on date availability. Jonathan will check Seven Ponds availability.

Berta proposed purchase on first scope. There was a move to purchase an ORION scope. Jon Blum second motion, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm - *Therese Oldani*

## **The WASP**

The Warren Astronomical Society Paper (WASP) is the official monthly publication of the Society. New issues of the WASP are 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](mailto:publications@warrenastro.org).

Articles for inclusion in the WASP are strongly encouraged and should be submitted to the editor by the 24<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Any format of submission is accepted, however, plain text files are the easiest form to use. 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. -Stephen Uitti*

## Cranbrook General Meeting

Meeting opened at 7:32pm, 50 present

**President:** Introductions were made and Jon Blum gave visitors an information hand out.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Jon Blum reviewed an overview of presentation's structure per each meeting in every month. Jonathan Kade reviewed different ways to find out about events found by internet.

Jon Blum also introduced the ware that Diane Worth offers our club to order. She will be at the next two meetings to show items and answer questions.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Bob Berta did a quick introduction to our observatory at Rotary Park and the upcoming ASTRONOMY DAY on April 24th starting at 6pm. There will be presentations and crafts for all ages.

Bob announced the free time for observation from Photo win and to contact him for interest.

Treasurer: 54 people attended the Hubble Imax 3D at Ford Imax at Greenfield. Well attended by Ford, Seven Ponds and members from Ann Arbor's Lowbrow.

\$1 each or 6 for \$5 dollars.

**Publications:** April WASP is not out yet. As librarian, if you need to borrow anything, just let him know.

Items for sale during the break, along with glow in the dark tape, Warren logo stickers, patches, some small t-shirts and clip on RED LED lights.

**Outreach:** Oakland Macomb events: 4 activities during Astronomy Day on April 24,

Metro Park: Evening events with Seven and Ford clubs, looking for more volunteers from 6pm - 10pm

Wolcott Mill starting at 6pm throughout the evening, weather permitting

4-H Discovery Day, Oakland County Fair Grounds and looking for solar scope volunteers, Saturday, May 1

July 10 will be our annual picnic starting at 5 pm.

**Hands-on:** Riyadh reported next observation with 5 inch Cassegrain at Wolcott Mill/Rotary park to

observe double stars.

**Solar:** Bob Berta reported more activity with Solar Astronomy.

**Star Parties:** Cadillac Star Party to be held June 8 - June 13 hosted by Bill Beers. Second party to be held in Nov 2-7

Astronomy at the Beach - September 10-11

Great Lakes Star Gaze/Gladwin - October 7-10

**In the news:** Reported on events and current news on space stuff, including news from LHC and the quantum world to icy moon and "missing matter" articles.

8:35pm break with a Giant binocular telescope video.

**Presentation:** Stephen Uitti

"The View from the Cassini Spacecraft"

Meeting adjourned - *Therese Oldani*

## Would You Like to Do A WAS Meeting Talk?

At our two monthly meetings of the Warren Astronomical Society, we have talks given mostly by members about astronomy topics. I am the person scheduling those talks for 2010 and 2011, and I would like to encourage more people to give the talks.

You can speak for any amount of time from 10 minutes to 1 hour. You can use PowerPoint slides, or not use any slides at all. If you use PowerPoint, you don't need your own laptop, but you can just bring your PowerPoint presentation on a flash drive or CD, and let me know in advance, and I will arrange for you to use another member's laptop to show your PowerPoint slides at the meeting. You can choose any topic, as long as it is about astronomy or any closely related subject.

All of the talks for 2010 are already scheduled, but I am now scheduling talks for 2011. Please email Jon Blum at [firstvp@warrenastro.org](mailto:firstvp@warrenastro.org) or talk to me at any meeting, if you might be interested in giving a talk at one of our meetings.

-*Jon Blum, 1<sup>st</sup> VP*

## **Astronomy Day**

The weather did not cooperate, but we had a good show at both Cranbrook and Rotary Park (the two events I attended).

Cranbrook saw about 70 people attending with a nice talk by Ken Bertin on the *History of Astronomy*. Prior to his talk we showed "Solar Max". Telescopes were setup for attendees for a "view" of a couple of astronomical pictures on back lit screens. Kids didn't seem to mind that they weren't the real thing.

Rotary Park saw people showing up as early as 5:00. Wasn't a star to see all night but that didn't prevent us from getting out the BIG DOB, the 10" LX200 GPS and the 10" Orion DOB. People could see exciting sights like the top of the transmission tower to the North ;-). The real action was down at the reception hall at Rotary Park where the Wolcott Mill representatives helped us by putting on various astronomy craft projects for the kids: planispheres, sun dials, Pringle Can Constellations.

About 140 people attended the event and were entertained with a Larry Phipps "extravaganza" presentation, Ken Bertin's history talks, and Lee Hartwell's demo's. We had a few potential new members so hope to see them at upcoming WAS meetings. Several people remarked how awesome the event was... and appreciated that it was targeted towards a young audience.

- *Bob Berta*

## **Treasurer's Report**

The club had another great month financially. Thanks to everybody who has renewed their memberships - thirty-two this month alone - and to our new members: Stephen Marsh, Fred Gluckson, Stephanie Leitzel, Jens Janzen, and JoAnne and Jim Jachyra.

The board has been discussing membership cards and hopes to have them made soon, once the majority of renewals have been received. In the next month, we will be asking all paid members

what name you would like printed on the card, as they will double as name tags.

Our attempts to get insurance back in force for the observatory and its contents have hit another roadblock. Our insurance company is asking for an extra \$600 to cover the telescopes at Stargate. The board is discussing approaches and will report back as soon as possible. Your input would be appreciated.

Hopefully in the next month we will make more progress on the 501(c)(3) application.

It was a boom month for magazine subscriptions, in part due to the membership renewal mailers including the magazine subscription options. We had twelve subscriptions or renewals across the three magazines the club offers, and a number more directly through Sky and Tel. We don't make money on magazine subscriptions, but the discount we offer to members makes the work required worthwhile.

We made the following reimbursements:

\$72 to me for our 6-month Meetup.com subscription

\$54.12 to Therese Oldani for warrenastro.org promotional pencils

\$20.61 to Diane Hall for several hundred copies of our flyers for Astronomy Day.

We received a refund from the State for our overpayment of incorporation fees. I'd thought that \$20 was gone forever, so that makes me happy.

We sold \$14 of merchandise and took in \$26.10 in donations.

We had income of \$1327.15, largely from memberships and magazine subscriptions, and paid out \$550.34, mostly for subscriptions. This leaves us with a gain of \$776.81, bringing the treasury authentically above \$5000 for the first time in my term.

We have in cash: \$264.45

In the bank: \$4779.19

For a total of \$5063.64.

- *Jonathan Kade*



## 2010 Stargate Observatory Open House

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

### Observatory Rules

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 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for other arrangements, such as late arrival time. Call 586-992-0498.
4. An alternative person will be appointed to open the observatory if the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

-Bob Berta, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP



### The SWAP SHOP

This column is for those interested in buying, trading or selling. Ads run for six months. The month and year the ad will be removed is shown. Submit ads to Stephen Uitti, 313 389-5609 [publications@warrenastro.org](mailto:publications@warrenastro.org).

**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](mailto:r1d3z@yahoo.com) [6-2010]

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

**FOR SALE:** A Meade Moto-focus for SCT's. Attaches to your current focuser knob, uses hand control to operate functions. Designed for a "classic" Meade scope, but may work with newer models. Asking \$ 10, includes mounting bracket and screws. Interested: [Saxon1066@comcast.net](mailto:Saxon1066@comcast.net) or Fred Judd: (586) 489-0245 after 4 pm [10-2010]

WAS Club logo wear at WAS meetings



(Photos and modeling by Jon Blum)

Diane Worth (248-980-7832, or [dianesky-night@yahoo.com](mailto:dianesky-night@yahoo.com)) sells club logo clothing (hats, shirts, sweatshirts, jackets). Stephen Uitti brings a catalog of available items to meetings.

## Astronomical Phenomena - May 2010

Day	Event
1	Moon furthest South (-25.1)
6	LAST QUARTER
14	NEW MOON
15	Moon furthest North (25.1)
16	Venus 0.1S of Moon
20	Moon at perigee
20	1 <sup>st</sup> QUARTER
26	Mercury greatest elong W(25)
27	FULL MOON
28	Moon furthest South (-25.0)

### The last Venus Transit

The speaker at our WAS meeting at Macomb on May 20 will be Jonathan Kade. His topic is "6 + 1; or The last Venus transit of your lifetime." Jonathan is our current club treasurer and was our secretary for the previous two years. He sends the following information about his talk.

In the days before space probes, every scrap of data about the solar system was acquired with some trickery, a once-in-a-lifetime insight, or a lifetime of hard work - Copernicus turning the universe inside-out, Galileo discovering the moons orbiting Jupiter, Kepler discovering the true shape of planetary orbits. Kepler knew the relative distances to the sun of all the planets in 1609, but nobody knew the scale of what they were relative to: the astronomical unit, the distance from the earth to the sun. More than half a century later, a solution was to measure the transit of Venus from locations around the world.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> transit of Venus seen by humans, to a world-famous observer who photographed the Black Drop effect in 2004 - W.A.S. member Vince Chrisman - we'll take a tour of the adventures of one of the first worldwide scientific efforts.

We'll meet fascinating characters. We'll take a look at the Venus Transit of 2012.

Light, fast-paced, and often humorous, this presentation aims to leave you excited to observe the last Venus transit of your lifetime. - J. Kade

## WAS 2010 Upcoming Presentations

3 May	Jeff Dickerman	Optec Inc
20 May	Jonathan Kade	Last Venus Transit
7 June	Jim Van Prooyen	Amateur Radio Astronomy You Can Do
17 June	Dave Bailey	White Dwarfs
5 July	Gary Gathen	Librations of Moons
15 July	Bob Berta	NASA - Lost in Space?

### Seven Ponds Astronomy Club: Open Invitation

The Seven Ponds Astronomy Club extends its invitation to the 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

### Oakland Astronomy Club newsletter

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

Clear skies,

- Bill MacIntosh

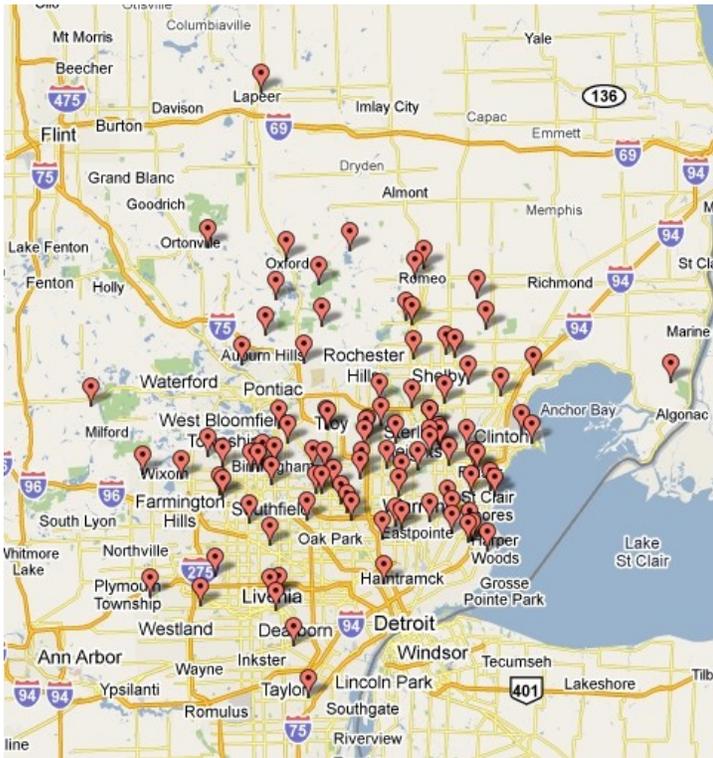
### LARGER PRIZE AT RAFFLES IN MAY!!!

A gift certificate from Lumicon will be raffled at the Warren Astronomical Society meetings in May to help celebrate Astronomy Day.

The certificates are in the sizes of \$25 and \$50 and will be raffled on May 3rd and May 20th club meetings, (one per meeting).

Thanks to Lumicon for their generous donations!





**Where We Are**

I found a way to load a list of addresses into Google Maps, and answered the eternal question of where members live once and for all (until it changes). The uniformity of the distribution throughout the region is truly impressive. The plurality of members live along 696 or 75.

It's interesting to note that a number of the most active members are the geographic outliers. Of course there are heavily involved members who live in the midst of things, as well.

It seems to me that the centroid of our membership distribution lies somewhere around Royal Oak or Troy. I wonder what the other local clubs' distribution looks like. *- Jonathan Kade*

**Astronomy Events Calendar**

May 9-16 - Michiana Star Party in Indiana.

May 9-16 - Texas Star Party.

<http://www.texasstarparty.org/>

June 8-13 - The Cadillac West spring star party at Bill's

July 10 - WAS Picnic!

- August 5-8 - Stellafane in Vermont.
- September 17-18 - Astronomy at the Beach.
- October 2-10 - Okie-Tex star party: Oklahoma.
- October 7-10 - Hidden Hollow star party at Warren Rupp Observatory in Ohio.
- October 7-10 - Great Lakes Star Gaze.
- November 2-7 - The Cadillac West fall star party
- December 16 – WAS Annual Banquet & Presentation - Mark John Christensen

**Outreach Report, April 2010**

Though Michigan weather didn't cooperate with us on Astronomy Day, we still had a great turnout for our trifecta of events at Cranbrook, Stargate, and Metro Beach. I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered for these events-- to all of you who brought in your 'scopes despite the weather, who gave presentations, and who connected with the public, I truly appreciate it. Special thanks to our Second VP Bob Berta, who not only participated at Cranbrook but also coordinated activities at Stargate that evening.

Our second annual Metro Beach "Sidewalk Astronomy" event, a joint event with the FAAC and the Seven Ponds club, was great fun even though the actual "astronomy" part was cancelled. Our three speakers drew enough of an audience that Jonathan Kade and I were able entertain the overflow crowd by assembling a Galileoscope that Bob Watt generously donated for the occasion. We're thrilled to have this new activity on the east side of the metropolitan area, and we look forward to building on this event in years to come.

May got off to a good start with 4H Discovery Day at the Oakland County fairgrounds; Tom Cervanek's portable planetarium was a huge success, and we've been invited to participate in the Oakland County Fair as a result. Stay tuned for details!  
*- Diane Hall*



PRESENTS

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual  
CADILLAC WEST - SPRING  
STAR PARTY  
June 8-13, 2010



Hosted By: Bill Beers (Warren Astronomical Society)

Located 14 miles west of Cadillac, Mich. at Bill Beers cabin (Register for map)

\*\*\*DARK SKIES\*\*\*

☆ Raffle Prize Drawing ☆

\*\*Saturday Barbecue\*\*

Registration donation fee:  
\$15 per person \$20 per family  
Contact Bill Beers to register before June 4

----- A/C POWER AVAILABLE -----

**Accommodations Available:**

- Plenty of Space for Tents/Campers
- Caberfae Crossing (231-862-3330) 1 mile east
- Caberfae Peaks (231-862-3300) 1 mile east
- Coyote Crossing Resort (231-862-3212) 3 miles east
- Roadway Inn (231-775-2458) 12 miles east

For more info contact:

<b>Bill Beers</b>	Phone #586-321-8207 or E-mail "BEEZOLL@AOL.COM"
John Lines	Phone #248-969-2790 or E-mail "JELINES@YAHOO.COM"
Doug Bock	E-mail "DBOCK1@CHARTERMI.NET"