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

September 2010

2010 WAS Officers
President: Gary M. Ross
1st VP: Jon Blum
2nd VP: Bob Berta
Secretary: Therese Oldani
Treasurer: Jonathan Kade
Publications: Stephen Uitti
Pub. Outreach: Diane Hall
Entire board: president@warrenastro.org
firstvp@warrenastro.org
secondvp@warrenastro.org
secretary@warrenastro.org
treasurer@warrenastro.org
publications@warrenastro.org
outreach@warrenastro.org
board@warrenastro.org

Space Exploration Debate
September 13th is your lucky day. Two teams discuss the pros and cons of Manned vs. Robotic exploration of space. Will it come to blows?

The Blaine McCullough 13.5" Truss-Tube Dobsonian Reflector.

After much discussion, the board decided to buy deceased W.A.S. Member/officer Blaine McCullough's telescope. Mary Lou, Blaine's widow, was happy that it would be "in the family" and we are happy to have such an excellent telescope for members to use.

This isn't just any medium-large telescope. The telescope was designed and built by the W.A.S. telescope making subgroup. The mirror was ground, tested, and finished by hand and with specialized equipment at meetings of the subgroup, which met at Blaine's house, over a period of several years in the late 90s. Many notable W.A.S. members were involved.

The telescope is in great shape in general. The mirror was resilvered just a few years ago and looks beautifully clear. The design of the scope is very sensible and is very easy to take apart and reassemble.

Unlike most of our equipment, we are not loaning out this scope. It's a part of the club's history and we want to keep it safe and always have it available. However, members are welcome to use it at its permanent home at Stargate. See Bob Berta, the observatory chairman, for more information.

- Jonathan Kade
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.


FOR SALE: Konusky-Motor 200 with Laser Alignment/Collimator. This 8" Newtonian on a motorized GE mount has a 1000mm focal length. It comes with 10 mm (100x) and 25 mm (40x) eyepieces. Was $700 new. Asking $425. wilfird@aol.com [12-2010]

FOR SALE: Celestron Optima 2000, an 8" Schmidt-Cass go-to scope. It's in good shape, works well, and has fine optics. Includes hard case. Asking $900. Contact Bob Zinke, 586-264-0884, email: r1d3z@yahoo.com. [2-2011]

FOR SALE: Celestron StarSeeker 114mm computerized telescope. 450 mm focal length. Includes 5 eyepieces (6.3mm, 10mm, 17mm, 25mm, 40mm), 2X Barlow lens (11x - 143x), variable polarizing filter, 4 color filters, light pollution filter, additional 6X30 finder scope, laser collimating tool, ac adapter plus the battery adapter, flashlight and cleaning brushes, and accessory case. Mint condition. Was $750.00, asking $425.00. Roger 1-313-585-7434, pick up only. [1-2011]

FOR SALE: 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 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, dianewsky-night@yahoo.com or 248-980-7832 sells club logo clothing (hats, shirts, sweatshirts, jackets). Stephen Uitti brings a catalog of available items to meetings.
Astronomical Phenomena - September 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>LAST QUARTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mercury 1.5° N of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>NEW MOON / Moon at perigee</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Venus 0.3° N of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Antares 2.1° S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Moon furthest South (-24.7°)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>FIRST QUARTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Jupiter 0.8° S of Uranus</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mercury greatest elongation W(18°)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Neptune 4.2° S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Moon at apogee</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Jupiter at opposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Uranus at opposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Equinox</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Uranus 5.7° S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>FULL MOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Moon furthest North (24.6°)</td>
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**WAS 2010 Upcoming Presentations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Sept</td>
<td>Bertin, Kuchera, Bailey, Shedlowsky</td>
<td>Manned vs Unmanned Space Exploration</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Sept</td>
<td>Dale Partin</td>
<td>Gravitational Waves</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Oct</td>
<td>Phil Martin</td>
<td>General Relativity, Quantum Reality, and Black Holes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jon Blum</td>
<td>Bill Beer’s Star Party</td>
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<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>Michael Foerster</td>
<td>Mysterious Mars</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Nov</td>
<td>Dave Holt</td>
<td>1908 Tunguska Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Nov</td>
<td>Stephanie Leitzel</td>
<td>Astronomy Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Nov</td>
<td>Diane Hall</td>
<td>The Secret Apollo Files</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Dec</td>
<td>G. M. Ross</td>
<td>3rd Annual Astro-Film Fest</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>Mark John Christensen</td>
<td>Life after the Shuttle</td>
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**2010 Stargate Observatory Open House Dates:**
Sept 11, Oct 16, Nov 13, Dec 11

**2010 WAS Meetings**

**Cranbrook Meetings:** 1st Mondays

**Macomb Meetings:** 3rd Thursdays
Sept 16 (Same week as Cranbrook), October 21, Nov 18, Banquet Dec 16

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**Observatory Rules**

1. Closing time depends on weather, etc.
2. 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. Call 586-992-0498.
4. An alternate person may be appointed to open.
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 staff availability.
7. Postings to the Yahoo Group and/or email no later than 2 hours before starting time in case of date change or cancellation.
8. It is best to call or email the 2nd VP at least 2 hours before the posted opening with any questions. Later emails may 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, 2nd VP

**Astronomy Events Calendar**

September 10-11 - Astronomy at the Beach.
September 14 – 6:30 pm Bob Berta at Troy REI
September 18 – Larry’s 10 Biggest Discoveries in the last 35 years - at Mensa.
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.
December 16 – WAS Annual Banquet & Presentation - Mark John Christensen
LOCAL (WAS MEMBER) DOES GOOD!

Thanks to the recommendation of our own 1st VP Jon Blum, and our President G.M. Ross, the Southeast Michigan chapter of MENSA, in Southfield, has invited Larry Phipps to present to their membership on Saturday, September 18th, 2010 at 8:00 pm. Larry will present The 10 Biggest Discoveries Of The Last 35 Years"

This is a reprisal of the presentation given at Cranbrook on February 2, 2009. Although they are still the "Biggest", Larry has included a few more recent videos and images as updates.

Although the MENSA meetings are open to the public, they do charge $5.00 for non-members to attend. The meeting will be at the Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church, 23925 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield, MI 48075 (Mensa has no affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Church).

From Galactic Cannibalism to Dark Energy. Larry Phipps of the Warren Astronomical Society will provide a visual journey through the most amazing discoveries of our universe presented in an easy to understand, yet intellectually stimulating program."

Troy REI - Intro to Astronomy
Date: 9/14/2010 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Event Location: Troy REI
Event Fee: Free

Astronomy is a great outdoor hobby for individuals and families, and this free class will show you how to get started! Bob Berta, of the WAS, will cover the basics, including where to go, the best times to be there, and basic equipment (with some equipment displayed). Bob will also discuss opportunities to get started at little or no cost, and he'll be highlighting the excitement of astronomy with a special multi-media display. Michigan has many areas that are perfect for observing planets, stars, and constellations. And, you can combine this rewarding hobby with other great outdoor activities like camping, hiking, backpacking, and kayaking. Best of all, no previous experience is required to begin enjoying astronomy!

Macomb Talk – Dale Partin

The September Macomb meeting will feature Dale Partin's talk The Search for Gravitational Waves. Dale Partin received B.S. and M.S. degrees in physics and a PhD in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. He has worked in applied science and engineering at GM Research Labs and now at Delphi Corporation for over 31 years.

The topic of his presentation will be The Search for Gravitational Waves. Astronomers have observed electromagnetic waves coming from celestial objects from very long to very short wavelengths: radio waves through microwaves, infrared, visible, ultraviolet, X-rays, and gamma rays. They have also observed cosmic rays (charged particles) and neutrinos. Each reveals something different. According to Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, gravitational waves should also be observable. Detection of gravitational waves should enable a new type of measurements of supernovas, binary stars in the last stages before they spiral into each other, and even the earliest stages of the Big Bang. The story of the search for these waves will be discussed, with some emphasis on the people who have been looking for these waves.

Seven Ponds Open Invitation

WAS members are invited to The Seven Ponds Astronomy Club monthly meetings. More information about upcoming meetings, maps to Seven Ponds Nature Center, etc. is available at at http://bhmich.com/sevenpondsac/. Please let me know if you might attend so that appropriate plans can be made. Any questions, please contact me.

– John Lines

Oakland Astronomy Club newsletter
http://oaklandastronomy.ulmb.com/oacnews.html

Clear skies,
- Bill MacIntosh
August 2, 2010 BOARD MEETING
Officers Present: Bob Berta, Gary Ross, Stephen Uitti, Jonathan Kade, Diane Hall, Jon Blum, Therese Oldani,
2nd VP: August 21 will be a joint venture with the Park Service at Stargate with events for the public. We will have use of the building at Rotary Park.

The work done on the shed looks great (new shelving, and the floor uncluttered).

There was an invitation from REI to do talk on September 14th, a Tuesday, for outreach. This has great potential for receiving a donation from REI.


Membership handbooks and business cards with general club information. Jonathan proposed $267 dollars for upgrades for improvements for the observatory. The motion passed unanimously.

Outreach Report: See General Meeting notes.

Next Spring – March date for Astronomy Day for activities in the planning.

Putting more focus on indoor activities with telescope demonstrations.

Old Business: Sept 10 and 11 is the Astronomy at the Beach with special guest Brad Whitmore, from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore.

Comments on Annual Club picnic: Great having the tent. Weather was great! Raffled off 4 t-shirts and a calendar.

Bob Berta has scheduled the POM reward of Australian observation access at his house for Oct 2nd. Contact Bob at SecondVP@warrenastro.org

New Business:

Jon Blum: Name tags and business cards. Look into number of cards and cost and print designs/styles. Name tags designed by Jerry Kuchera.

Jonathan: Proposal to make an offer on Blain McCullough’s telescope.

Gary Ross: The work done on Stargate was necessary and saved the building. Need thorough planning for future work to save the historical and functional purpose of the complex.

For example, the floor is shot and the roof still isn’t done. Bob and Jonathan have started contacting contractors.

Marty: The inside is the issue, and the floor.

Diane: We should set a deadline for use in the winter, so people can use it for shelter.

A motion was made to put forth a time table.

Plan A- for October

Plan B – Rip out the Carpet by Nov.

Diane made a motion if we do not have the roof leak resolved by Oct meeting, that we put a temporary floor for Nov so we can get through the open houses. Motion Passed. - Therese Oldani

Special Board Meeting 19 August

Officers Present: Jonathan Kade, Gary Ross, Stephen Uitti, Diane Hall, Jon Blum, Therese Oldani

President: Called a special meeting to discuss a financial item: Payment to GLAAC for Astronomy at the Beach Kensington.

After some email between board members, we have come to vote. Jon Blum motioned that we pay $300 for Astronomy of the Beach for 2010, and Jonathan seconded it. Motioned passed.

Jonathan presented a proposal for purchase for Blain’s telescope: Blain’s 13 ½ inch telescope purchase for $750. After discussion Jonathan motioned to purchase the scope for $750. The motion carried.

- Therese Oldani

Treasurer’s Report

MEMBERSHIP: Two new members.

We’ve had a number of members renew, but there are STILL a lot of outstanding renewals.

NONPROFIT STATUS

Significant progress has been made on IRS Form 1023, the form we need to file. The easy fields are done, and have started the more involved information. Appealed to the board for additional help.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES:

We took in $379.81 in August and spent $1458.30 for a loss of $1078.49 on the month. We have $191.51 in cash and $3909.98 in the bank for a total of $4103.49.
Cranbrook Meeting – 2 Aug – 50 present

President: Introductions were made of general club members.

1st VP: Jon Blum gave an overview of the presentation's structure for each meeting and answered questions about the difference between short and long talks.

2nd VP: Yearly joint event with the Detroit Metro Park with observation and events planned for families.

REI invitation to Warren Astronomical Society for a talk on September 14th 6:30pm in Troy.

Bob has scheduled the award winning of 490 about 6 or 7 hours of access to New Mexico or Australia observation. Sat Oct 2nd at 8am. Please email Bob at 2ndVP@warrenastro.org.

Publications: The WASP is intended to be up on website near the beginning of the month each month. The submission deadline is when it's published.

Treasurer: Announced new members. Reminders were announced for renewal. Please see Jonathan if you need to renew membership.

Secretary: Rick Kovari presented a telescope as donation from the generosity of Ray Chaplin from Highland Michigan. 6 “ reflecting TASCO telescope with equatorial mount. Club received the donation enthusiastically.

Outreach: Diane thanked all those who helped with the Annual picnic at Stargate on July 10.

Cradillac Perseid Star Party Hosted by Bill Beers, Aug 10-15

Multi Club Picnic at Island Lake Recreation on Aug 7.

Seven Ponds: Cookout August 21.

Astronomy at the Beach/Kensington - Sept 10-11, Speaker at Kensington to be Brad Whitmore from Space and Telescope Science Institute from Baltimore.

REI outreach in Farmington September 14th (see Bob Berta)

Great Lakes Star Gaze/Gladwin - October 7-10

In the spring, Astronomy Day will be moving from April to Late March 2011. More to come.

Hands on: Gary Ross informed us that Riyad is moving to Illinois. Gary commended Riyad’s years of dedicated work with the club.

Solar: Marty reported some large spots are seen currently. Great observing.

Star Party: Bill Beers announced the Aug 10 - Aug 15 Perseid Star Party, with Barbecue and Door prizes. See the flier on the website for accommodations. Contact Bill Beers.

Astronomy at the Beach: at Kensington, Maple Beach, Sept 10 and 11. The Main Presentation is “Legacy of the Hubble Space Telescope.” There will be a 1pm talk at Nature Center for Members on Saturday.

Wayne State University is adding to the sponsorship of the event.

Many events are geared for kids. Fliers will be on the GLACC website.

Hospitality: New Host, Sheila Judd announced Signup Sheet for snacks.

Club Wear: Diane Worth showed club wear for purchase.

Discussion Group: Gary Gathen announced upcoming meeting on 4th Thursday of every month with a movie between 9pm and 10pm.


Also: space walk pictures for repairs on the International Space Station to correct cooling.

Last shuttle launches are scheduled STS 133 Discovery and STS 134 Endeavor in Feb, with a possibility of one in the summer….

8:22pm Short Talk: Jon Blum –, Tour of Celestron Factory, visit in April 2010 in California.

8:35pm Main Speaker: Jim Shedlowsky; McMath-Hulbert Observatory THEN and NOW, 80 years old this year, founders are Francis McMath, Robert McMath and Henry Schoolcraft Hulbert.

Jim presented a history of the founding of the observatory. Tower one, first light July 1, 1930.
The Observatory was operated by University of Michigan for some time by people such as Hebert Curtis. Second tower was built in 1936 specifically for solar observation. In 1941, Tower 3 at 75 foot was constructed with conference rooms and a library (the McGregor Building.)

Jim further presented the Instrumentation & Technique developments from the McMath-Hulbert contributions. Jim described the current physical status of the Observatory (with pictures) and the ongoing activities to preserve, restore and make use of it. An Observatory trip is planned.

Jim finished his presentation with guitar & singing with a composed lyrics tribute to the McMath Hulbert Observatory. (Sung to the tune: Sunrise, Sunset).

-Aug 19th Macomb Meeting, 32 Attended

President: Introductions were made. Discussion around the fate of the Stargate Observatory. What sort of facility is it? What is the value of the facility for? To be discussed in the next several months.

1st VP: Invitations went out to the club during the meeting to recruit for talks in the next year. Please email JON at FirstVP@warrenastro.org if you are interested in giving a talk. Jon reported how the list of presentations are sent out by Dick Gala and if you sign up for yahoo group they are mailed periodically.

2nd VP: August 21 OPEN HOUSE, joint venture with Park Service. Also on Park Calendar with night time observing.

Bob gave a short presentation on the building of an observatory with the D-A Boy Scout camp that 40,000 kids come to every year. Bob showed pictures and explained the work being done. The scouts have a 14” scope at this site that is handicap accessible for children with ½ mile 4ft boardwalk for access to the site. It is located near Seven ponds near Metamora.

Treasurer:

Insurance is paid. We paid $300 toward Astronomy at the Beach. We voted to purchase Blain’s 13½ inch Dob that was built by the telescope making subgroup in the 1990’s at $750.

Secretary: Looking for your contacts to send “beg letters” for donations to the club for Annual Banquet.

Secretary: Therese put out of pitch for contacts from club members of their vendors. Letters to be sent for Annual Banquet raffles/donations.

Outreach: (See the Cranbrook Outreach report.)

- Sept 18th – Open house and International Observe the Moon night.

- Oct 2nd – Bob Berta’s invitation for POM, (Picture of the Month) award of 400 minutes on a scope. Stay tune for the flier coming out soon. First come first serve.

- Oct 7 – 10th, Gladwin with Sept 10 deadline discount http://www.greatlakesstargaze.com/

Hands on: Gary Ross shared a recent travel to PHOENIX and observations in great skies.

Discussion Group: This month, The Universe series: The Seven Wonders of the Solar System.

Star Party: Bill Beers showed pictures from the Perseid Star Party, 18 in attendance. Tues and Wed, good Thurs was an excellent night for meteor observation. Fred Judd won the raffle of $50 donated by Steve Green. This year members did GEOCACHEing in the Milky Way. Kayaking and Eagle watching were some of the days ventures.

Bob gave a short presentation on the Bubble Nebula was observed in Cadillac using a 40 mm Pentax eyepiece.

President: Is it too early to petition for upcoming Board members starting in January? President began description of each position.

In the News: Ken Bertin presented news including showing original an Sky & Telescope magazine from 1964.

Main Presentation: Tom Hagen - Observing the Effects of the Sun on Our Atmosphere and Magnetosphere by Radio. When most people think of radio astronomy, massive arrays of paraboloid receiving dishes come to mind. There's another type of radio astronomy that's easy for the amateur to do, and that's radio astronomy in the extremely long-wavelength portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

- Therese Oldani