IN WHICH THE PRESIDENT REFLECTS UPON THE RECENT PICNIC

All the dukes and earls and peers are here.
Everyone who should be here is here.
It's a dashing, positively smashing moment...
-- Frederick Loewe

At the conclusion of my term I, like all politicians with an eye on future historians, will write a self-justifying memoir. But why wait?

The fiftieth year of the Society was duly celebrated, in part, by the picnic of 9 July, and said event was evidence of the character of the organization. The participants were far worse dressed than the "Ascot" scene in *My Fair Lady*, in fact had they appeared at Ascot they would have been immediately ushered out, and the whiskey did not flow as it did at the great Rendezvous of the Rocky Mountain fur trapping days. One cannot have everything.

Such minor considerations aside, the hanging about, clowning around, the pounding down cheap eats by the number of people who chose a hot venue at Stargate over the early twenty-first century distractions, is ample evidence of the collegiality without which we are nothing. Telescopes sprouted from the barrens of northern Macomb County as they have in the past. Gone are the days of my youth in which an eight-inch reflector would have drawn a crowd with or without clock drive. The evening was clear and reasonably good for astronomic poking about, certain bloody-minded grousing to the contrary notwithstanding.

Kade and Hall drove over every chicken on the way from Metro Airport fresh from a victory at the "Cape." Bock was there, blast from the past. Some Ford Club sorts came to "set a spell," as is right. Next year Mark D. Kalinowski should make an effort to put in an appearance despite a tough commute: consider the invitation in the mail.

It is easy to take a vibrant operation for granted. After all, is there any other way? Years ago I attended a similar celebration elsewhere, but the attendance and general *bonhomme* were not commensurate with the magnitude of the occasion. Was it exaggerated sophistication, in that the group took for granted its considerable past, or simple indifference? Warren is a different culture, something I noted with bemusement a long time ago. Nothing of the sort was about to happen here and those -- who know who they are -- doing the preparatory work are here-by thanked.

- G. M. Ross
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: Celestron Ultima 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 [7-2011]

FOR SALE: Late 1970's model Criterion RV-6 Dynascope 6" Newtonian reflector. Original owner. Well used, but good condition. Mirrors rarely cleaned and could use another cleaning. Original pier, German equatorial mount, setting circles, finder scope and Ramsden eyepieces. Clock drive motor died & replaced with a hand-made manual slow-motion control. Includes hardware for mounting a camera & solar projection screen. I can no longer lift it and am looking for something smaller and lighter. Asking $200 or best offer. Contact Brian Klaus 586-731-0011 [7-2011]


FOR SALE: 14 eyepieces: 5 mm Ortho, 7 mm, 7.4 mm Tele Vue, 8 mm RKE, 12 mm EDSCORP, University 12.5mm illuminated plossl, 16 mm University Konig, 17 mm Tele Vue, 18 mm Criterion, 23 mm & 24 mm University Plossl, 25 mm super plossl, 26 mm, 40 mm University plossl. Barlows: Criterion CP-4 2 No. 2 focal reducer. x, Meade variable tele 2x-3x Video eyepiece, SBIG ST-5C , SBIG ST-7 JMI Moto-focus Scopes: 80 mm refractor - 400 mm FL (below) Meade 102 mm SCT 1000 mm FL. Celestron 45 degree diagonal Contact Brian Johnston at 248-622-6612 or Bjohnston47@comcast.net [12-2011]
FOR SALE: Large 30” x 40” NASA 1982 framed Manned Space Achievements poster. Starting with Mercury it shows all the teams, logos and descriptions of the flights. NASA stickers that represent the flight logos. Several front pages from these flights including Shepard etc. Can be brought to meeting. nbiz@sbcglobal.net [12-2011]

Snacks Form
A new web based form is up as an alternative way to sign up for snacks. Sheila Judd will see it, and use it to coordinate who's bringing snacks when. If there's a conflict, Sheila will contact you.  
http://tinyurl.com/6zo6jt6

WAS Club logo wear at WAS meetings
(Diagram of WAS Club logo wear)

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 - August 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Event (Times in UT)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Regulus 5.2°N of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mercury 1.3°N of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Moon at perigee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spica 2.3°N of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>FIRST QUARTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mercury 5.0°S of Regulus</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Antares 3.5°S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Moon furthest South (-23.2°)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>FULL MOON</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Neptune 5.2°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Venus superior conjunction</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Mercury 5.9°S of Venus</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mercury inferior conjunction</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Uranus 5.7°S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Moon at apogee</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jupiter 4.7°S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>LAST QUARTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Venus 0.9°N of Regulus</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Neptune at opposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Moon furthest North (23.1°)</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mars 2.7°N of Moon</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Mercury 2.4°N of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Regulus 5.1°N of Moon</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NEW MOON</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Jupiter stationary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Moon at perigee</td>
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</tbody>
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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

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

2011 Stargate Observatory Open House
Aug 20, Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 3

2011 WAS Meetings
Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays
July 11, Aug 1, Sept 12, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays
July 21, Aug 18, Sept 15, Oct 20, Nov 17

WAS 2011 Upcoming Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>Gary Strumolo</td>
<td>Lasers, Light, and Lunacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Aug</td>
<td>Cody Holoday</td>
<td>Black Holes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Aug</td>
<td>Sai Rajagopalan</td>
<td>Radio Astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Aug</td>
<td>Mark Jeffery</td>
<td>Meteorites</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>Phil Martin</td>
<td>Mercury’s Perihelion</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>Jim Shedlowski</td>
<td>The Way We Found The Universe</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Sept</td>
<td>Gary Ross</td>
<td>Participatory Hubble (video)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Oct</td>
<td>Jonathan Kade</td>
<td>Last Shuttle Launch</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Oct</td>
<td>Dale Partin</td>
<td>Cosmic Ray Astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>Dale Ochalek</td>
<td>Astro Jeopardy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Events
9 July 50th Anniv WAS multi-club picnic at Stargate
6 Aug FAAC multi-club picnic Island Lake
12 Aug No Hope Perseid Star Party at Stargate
14 Aug No Hope Perseid Star Party rain date
9-10 Sept Astronomy At The Beach
22-25 Sept Gladwyn – Great Lakes Star Gaze
18-23 Oct Beers’ Star Party West
15 Dec – WAS Annual Banquet 50th Anniversary

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

Clear skies,
   - Bill MacIntosh
August Cranbrook Talks
The short talk for August 1st will be by Cody D. Holoday, speaking about *Black Holes*. The information comes from Wikipedia and Science Daily. Cody is home schooled, and in the 6th grade. As a Cub Scout, he earned the Astronomy Belt Loop and Pin. As a Boy Scout, he plans to earn the Astronomy Merit Badge. He has been attending WAS meetings since 2010.

The main talk will be by Sai Rajagopalan. High Frequency Radio Astronomical Observations of Jupiter and the Sun at the McMath Hulbert site will be the topic of this talk. A Radio telescope inspired by the "Radio Jove" project was set up in late 2010 using a modified phased dipole antenna and dual radios tuned to a frequency around 20 MHz. Plots and results from the setup will follow a short introduction of Radio Astronomy as pertaining to the study of Jupiter and the Sun.

Sai has been an avid electronics enthusiast and tinkerer since his early youth. Although his foray into Astronomy is recent, he has found a perfect match between old and new hobbies in Radio Astronomy, considered by many in the amateur astronomy community to be an esoteric black art! He currently dabbles out of the McMath Hulbert facility in Lake Angelus in collaboration with other like minded amateur radio astronomers. His principle objects of interest are the Sun and Galactic noise. He is currently a Senior Research Engineer at the GM Technical Center in Warren, MI working on Control Theory and Systems.

August Macomb Talk
Mark Jeffery from the Oakland Astronomy Club will talk on *Space Stone Stories*. See and touch rocks from space! Learn about the controversy surrounding the very existence of meteorites. Hold in your hands samples that illustrate the features that make meteorites distinctive. See the Moon, Mars, and Vesta from just a few inches away instead of millions of miles.

FAAC Multi-club Picnic Aug 6
The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club had such a good time at our last two annual Multi-club Picnics that we have decided to host our third annual Multi-club picnic.

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club's third annual Multi-club Astronomy Club Picnic is on August 6th at Island Lake Recreation Area (Spring Mill Pond site). We would like to invite the Ford, Lowbrows, Oakland, Warren, Henry Ford Community College, and Seven Ponds Club members. We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers and soft drinks. Anyone attending is asked to bring a dish to pass. The picnic will start around 5:00 PM, and if it is clear, we will do observing after dark.

Here is a link to a map for Island Lake:
http://www.boonhill.net/faac/other/observe.html
And a link to Google maps:
http://maps.google.com/?ie=UTF8&ll=42.504819,-83.713074&spn=0.042522,0.076818&z=14

Take I-96 to Kensington Road south to the park entrance. (No alcohol is allowed at the State Park)
- Doug Bauer, Ford Amateur Astronomy Club

No Hope Perseid Star Party
On Friday, August 12th, there is a nearly full Moon, which will be up essentially all night. This will wash out the sky, making meteor watching difficult at best. However, several WAS members have decided to make an attempt to see some at the Stargate. It starts getting dark around 9 pm. Poor weather backup date is Sunday the 14th.
**NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT**

In his new masterpiece, director Patricio Guzmán travels 10,000 feet above sea level to the driest place on earth, the Atacama Desert, where the sky is so translucent that it allows astronomers from the world over to see to the very boundaries of the universe. The Atacama is also a place where the harsh heat keeps human remains intact: those of Pre-Columbian mummies; 19th century explorers and miners; and the remains of political prisoners, "disappeared" after the military coup of September, 1973. Melding the celestial quest of the astronomers and the earthly ones of families who still search for their dead and archaeologists who seek ancient civilizations, *Nostalgia For the Light* miraculously becomes a gorgeous, moving, deeply personal yet cosmic odyssey of the mind and heart. In Spanish with English subtitles. (90 min.)

Friday, August 12 at 7:00 pm
Saturday, August 13 at 7:00 pm
Sunday, August 14 at 2:00 pm
Sunday, August 21 at 4:30 pm

Note: some WAS members plan to go on Friday, August 12. If the 12th has poor weather, perhaps Sunday the 14th is better for meteor watching.


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**The Astronomical League**

The WAS board has recently approved a proposal to offer membership for its members to the Astronomical League (AL) by means of the WAS becoming an AL member society. Membership in the AL is completely optional, but offers numerous potential benefits, which were described in a recent presentation (Cransbrook meeting, July 11) and a WASP article (June 2011 issue). In addition to a modest cost to the WAS, each person choosing to participate in AL membership will need to pay an annual due of $7.50. Due to the timing in the current billing cycle, however, this amount is pro-rated to $5.62 to those joining during our current membership drive, which will end September 15, 2011. For those who choose not to participate at this time, there will be additional future opportunities to join. For details on the Astronomical League, please visit their website at [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org). For additional information on AL membership, please contact either Chuck Dezelah ([alcor@warrenastro.org](mailto:alcor@warrenastro.org)) or Jonathan Kade ([treasurer@warrenastro.org](mailto:treasurer@warrenastro.org)).

- Chuck Dezelah

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**Stargate Roof Leak Fixed**

The Stargate roof leak has been fixed. The observatory dome is very complicated, and repairs last summer to the roof left ongoing leaks. But thanks to several, but importantly, Mark Kedzior, the roof no longer leaks. An excerpt from Mark's report to the board:

I got up on the roof and proceeded to flood the circumference of the repaired area. Only a few low spots remained but the puddles were only 1/8th inch deep at the most, then it started to run off the roof. The low spots can be raised with another thin application of brush grade asphalt - it will flow and self-level itself.

After 1/2 hour I proceeded to flood the circumference again. In both tests there were no leaks anywhere. It looks like we are good to go to get the interior of Stargate back into operation. I left (donated) the liquid asphalt sealant in Stargate so it is available to maintain the integrity of the repair. Over time the elements will heat and contract the asphalt so a light coating when signs of stress are observed is all that is needed - it simply brushes on.

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See images, later this issue.
The Milky Way Cache – sponsored by the Warren Astronomical Society

Since Bill Kippen, Bob Berta, and myself started doing Geocaching at the Cadillac Spring Star Party in June of 2010, we decided we needed our own Geocache. So in August, while attending the Cadillac Fall Star Party, we hid our cache in the woods and called it the “Milky Way Cache”. How appropriate for a star party! It gets better!

Geocaching is basically a scavenger hunt using your GPS. A person will hide a cache anywhere in the world. The cache can be a container of any size (we used a small ammo box). You put in a logbook and any other item you would want the finders to have. I added our WAS stickers and business cards to our cache box. Then you register, and log the GPS coordinates onto the Geocaching.com web site. Geocachers will then use those coordinates to try to find your cache. As other people find your cache, they will write in the log book the date they were there, then go on the web site and officially log it for all to see. There are 1.4 million Geocaches logged worldwide!

Here’s where it gets better. There are also items that are put in the caches called “travelers”. When found by a “cacher”, they are removed and placed into another cache. Then they will log it on the web site. Who, when, and where, so everyone knows where the location of the “traveler” is. The traveler can be anything that has an official Geocaching identification code number on it. Geocoins are very popular.

So back in December of last year, I decided to add a traveling Geocoin to our cache. It is officially called the “First Geocoin in Orbit”. It is a replica of the one taken on the STS-122 Space shuttle that went into orbit. (I’ve attached pictures of it, with the code # removed). The information that I added with the coin was that I wanted it to travel around the world like it did when it was in orbit. Here’s our Geocoins history so far:

1. March 17, 2011: retrieved from our location and taken to Wisconsin.
2. June: retrieved & placed in Hessen, Germany
3. June: retrieved & placed in Niedersachsen, Germany

It’s on it way around the world! 5,716 miles logged so far, amazing! I'll keep everyone updated of the coins whereabouts as time goes on.

If you are interested in Geocaching, here's the web site: www.geocaching.com

Also, check out and try to find our other WAS cache that Bob Berta hid at Stargate. It's called “Rotary Park Stargate Geocache”. It's very unique!

Have fun and happy caching! – Bill Beers
6 June Cranbrook Board Meeting

Officers: Jon Blum, Gary Ross, Therese Oldani, Jonathan Kade, Dale Partin, Bob Berta, Steve Uitti

Guest: Marty Kunz, Ken Bertin

Officer’s Reports:

President: Discussion around Bill Beers generosity and the Cadillac Star Parties.

1st VP: Jon Blum reminded club members of the Macomb meetings now through August will be in room 151. Enter through the North West corner door. Arrive no later than 8:30pm because the door will be locked after that time.

Name tags are to be worn at all meetings so we can better learn and remember each other’s names. Please sign up for your name tag.

Long talk presentations are filled through 2011. Email FirstVP@warrenastro.org if you are interested. Some emails around short talk at last minutes.

2nd VP: Picnic is the 9th, open house on the July 23rd. Shared tasks for open house and boy scouts on the same day (shared with other astronomy clubs too). Weather was hot, but well attended.

Treasurer: See report, this issue.

Secretary: Purchased pencils and gave Bill Beers a pack for Cadillac. Looking for help for games and activities for the July 9th picnic.

Therese was also concerned about sign up for attending the table at Kensington. And not waiting till last minute, even July is too late to discuss September activities and help with Astronomy at the Beach.

Old Business: 501c3 Jonathan and Ken Bertin will work with attorney on phone, and meet with Catherine the attorney on hopefully Sunday.

Stargate: Suggestion to remove floor boards completely to allow walking. The leak is still a problem. Board agrees to the floor joists being taken out; slated for July 9th.

New Business:

Bill suggested to put $200 toward trailer undercoated. A motion was made by Bob Berta, 2nd by Dale, discussion was made. Motion passed. Kensington Astronomy at the Beach - Sept 9 and 10th – Sign up

Treasurer's Report

MEMBERSHIP We had one new membership in June: Dale Mayotte, who has come to a number of events in the past and is active on the various local astronomy mailing lists. One family renewal.

NONPROFIT STATUS Lots of work on nonprofit status. I've been talking to Ken’s lawyer contact and have requested referrals from other contacts. We have advice from them that we qualify as a 501(c)(3) from the date of our formation in 1961. I've reexamined the 2008-2009 treasury files. I will start putting together the 2010 balance sheet this week, and will see what I can do for 2008 and 2009 thereafter. We need to come up with a fundraising plan, which may be a good thing to do at a special meeting.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES We took in $200.02 and spent $359.99. We have $7369.43 in the bank account and $201.12 in cash.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS $200 to Bill Beers for trailer undercoating. He presented the receipt from the undercoating company, for $201.20 or so, at the Macomb meeting.

$60.63 to Jon Blum for nametag supplies.

$95.84 to Therese Oldani for WAS pencils.

$3.52 to Gary Ross for postage

INCOME

New memberships: $30

Renewals: $37

Special donation: $50 from Bill Beers, the "profit" from the Spring Cadillac West star party.

Donations: $29.59 (Cranbrook), $26.43 (Macomb).

Snack reimbursement of $12 for each meeting was taken before the donation was counted.

Merchandise: $27 (stickers, patch, and glow tape)
**June 6 Cranbrook General Meeting**

**President:** Encouraged club members to sign up for Kensington.

Invitation to Grand Rapids and Astronomy events, see Gary R.

**1st VP:** Jon Blum reminded club members of the Macomb meetings now through August will be in room 151. Enter through the North West corner door. Arrive no later than 8:30pm because the door will be locked after that time.

Nametags are to be worn at all meetings so we can better learn and remember each other’s names. Please sign up for your name tag.

If you would like to do a talk, short or long, please email FirstVP@warrenastro.org.

Our Cranbrook meeting for July will be one week later due to the holiday.

If you have not received the handout for new people with basic club information, please get it from me tonight. If you are not on the club’s Yahoo Group email list, ask for my handout that tells you the website to sign up for these emails. If you are not on Dick Gala’s email list for announcements about meetings, give your email address to Dick or to me and we will put you on the list.

Sheila Bennett Judd is our Hospitality person. Please help her by volunteering to bring snacks. The club will reimburse you for the cost of the snacks. See Sheila or met to schedule a date.

**2nd VP** Club picnic is at Stargate on July 9th. Club only July 23 open house

**Treasurer:** See report, this issue.

**Secretary:** Looking for balls for July 9th picnic for kids activities to start at 4:30pm.

**Publications:** June WASP is not out. Library open at break.

**Discussion Group:** Took place in Cadillac.

**Hands on:** Group will be present at the July 9th picnic.

**Solar:** Aurora on Sat night at the Thumb Star party. Sun was active on Astronomy day here at Cranbrook. Sunday, June 5th there were 3 prominences.

**History:** Working on the year of 1970. 1980 is done.

**Observation:** Super Nova in M51 and a Super nova in Scorpios.

**In the News:** Ken’s in the news of current science in the skies.

**Next talks:** Short Talk given by Jim Shedlowsky of a video from the Texas Star Party.

**Tonight’s Main talk:** Debra Chaffins – Understanding Weather Clues

**Attendance:** 42 present

- Therese Oldani, Secretary

Mark Kedzior works on the dome
Macomb General Meeting

Gary Ross (President) Called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Gary reminded the club to the upcoming 50th WAS Club Star Party and Picnic on Saturday July 9th. This is a multi-club event. Members from the Ford and 7 ponds will be there. Bring your own food and drinks, except alcohol. Official start time is 4 PM.

Jon Blum (1st VP) had club member Name Tags to hand out to those people who signed up. If you signed up to have a Name Tag, they are now available.

Bob Berta (2nd VP) with a few club members attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new observatory on June 4th Saturday at Camp D-bar-A Scout Ranch. A representative from NASA was on hand to give a presentation and answer questions. Poor weather prevented any nighttime observation through their new Celestron 14” SCT telescope mounted on a CGE Pro Mount.

Next Stargate open house, July 23 Club members are invited to come before the official 4 PM start time of our Club Star Party picnic in order to work on repairs to the observatory.

Upcoming star parties:

Great Lakes Star Gaze in Gladwin Michigan, September 22-25.

Bill Beers’s next Cadillac star party is October 18-23.

The annual Kensington Astronomy at the Beach star party will be Sept. 9th Fri. & 10th Sat.

Jonathan Kade (Treasurer) and Marty Kunz spent several hours working on the 501(c)(3) application with Catherine Bostick, a lawyer who is helping us. Jonathan has also been in communication with several tax lawyers.

Jonathan also announced that he and Diane won a lotto draw to see the last shuttle flight, STS-135 Atlantis. Launch is tentatively set for July 8th Friday at 11:30 AM.

Stephen Uitti (Publications) will be bringing hot dogs to the July 9th club picnic. It is still recommended to bring your own food and drink. Steve also has club items for sale including club logos, red led lights and glow tape.

Ken Bertin’s In the News covered the following subjects: Sun may skip solar cycle, Voyager discovers magnetic bubble, China to make largest radio telescope, Neutrinos seen changing color: Galaxies spirals to pretty: Small galaxies small stars: Super bright Super Nova’s spotted.

The main presentation was given by Dave Bailey called Planetary Encounters to Form Venus and Mercury. He started off with our own moons formation by a Mars size impactor then moved on to the formation of Mercury by orbit shifting planetary encounters and collisions with planetesimals. This non-power point presentation was presented in Dave’s usual style of live black board illustrations and a several page handout to each person in the audience. Dave’s unique approach always ends up entertaining and enlightening everyone. Thanks Dave.