RAYMOND B. LARSON, REQUIEM AETERNUM

On Friday, 30th of September I sat in a funeral home in White Cloud wearing a Kalinowski button of honour as minister-with-portfolio from the WAS. In April it was John Francis Szymanski and in September it was Ray. Astro-blokes from the 1960s are starting to go pretty fast. Why this is of any interest to W.A.S. members will presently be seen.

Ray was a real man, an attractive figure to someone in his ‘teens: day truck driver like out of central casting, veteran of New Guinea who nearly was killed in an airplane and saw real combat slaughter, cigar smoker, patently masculine. Per contra he looked deceptively young, almost boyish, and an impishness to strengthen the impression. Married but childless with no prospects, he was fatherly with very young men and understood them, a sub-set of his gregariousness.

One was struck from the first by his intellectual curiosity. Much later would come a realization of his sense of art as a painter. When he took to astronomy in the 1950s and joined the Grand Rapids Association it was serious business. He not only helped design the future Veen Observatory, Ray was literally "in the trenches." It was my great honour to have slung dirt with him in the spring of 1966. He built the grinding machine for the 12.5 inch Newtonian mirror and manned the thing during rough and fine grinding. Ray would be aghast, naturally, but he was Mao Tse-Tung's "Every student a worker. Every worker a student."

He was an Idea Man but beyond coffee-house intellectual. Ray had some night school courses in architectural drawing, yet thought of the night sky fired him and he wanted to bolt things together to get at it, not the sort who shows up in golf pants "just to see what's doin'." Any operation with big dreams needs a Raymond B. Larson or, better yet, two.

From some nuttiness in which he was not at fault, the man was a historical figure by Observatory dedication at Summer Solstice, 1970. The reflector which he helped build has been refitted, bearing his name on brass at the Wessling Observatory in Newaygo County. Ray watched us that brilliant October evening six years ago as we mounted it and celebrated first light. The day after his funeral, October 1, I made an observation of GX Cas. The belt of single malt was the evening before. Bon voyage.

- 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 [10-2011]

FOR SALE: Discovery PDHQ 12.5” Dob Telescope, f5 (94% Pyrex mirror reflectivity). 1¼” & 2” Crayford Focuser. Base plus 2x2’ platform. 12 Volt Anti-Dew System. Telrad Reflex Sight. Aluminum Foam-Lined Lens Case. Meade Lenses: 40mm super wide, 32 mm super plössl, 8.8 mm ultra wide, 12.4 mm super plössl, 4.7 mm super plössl, 2X “shorty” Barlow. Sirius Lenses: 25 mm plössl, 17 mm plössl, 10 mm plössl. Filters: 1¼” 13%, 25% Moon, 1¼” Variable polarizer (moon), 1¼”, 2” Oxygen III. 1¼” Narrow Band, 1¼” blue, green, red and yellow. 2” fine focus adaptors. Orion Collimating Cheshire, Red Beam Flashlight, Desert Storm “Aluminum” Cover, Transporting Dolly. Purchase price: $3,500. Asking price: $1,950. Contact Al McDonald, 248 343-1643. [11-2011]
FOR SALE: 2 year old Celestron CGEM 800 telescope (8” SCT, Eq mount, Go To), with accessories purchased at the same time including the Celestron Power Tank. Asking $1800 for the entire set up. Please feel free to call with any questions. David Rumble 586-295-5853 [3-2012]

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

Diane Worth, dianewsly-night@yahoo.com or 248-980-7832 sells club logo clothing (hats, shirts, sweatshirts, jackets). Stephen Uitti brings the catalog to meetings.

Astronomical Phenomena - November 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Event (Times in EST)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>FIRST QUARTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Neptune 5.6°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Uranus 5.7°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Moon at apogee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Jupiter 4.8°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Neptune stationary</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Venus 3.9°N of Antares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Mercury 1.9°N of Antares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>FULL MOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mars 1.3°N of Regulus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Aldebaran 5.9°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Moon furthest North (22.6°)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mercury gr8est elong E (23°)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Saturn 4.3°N of Spica</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>LAST QUARTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Regulus 5.6°N of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Spica 1.9°N of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Moon at perigee</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mercury stationary</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>NEW MOON Eclipse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Antares 4.1°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Moon furthest South (-22.6°)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mercury 1.6°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Venus 2.7°S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pluto 2.1°N of Moon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Oct 22, Nov 19, Dec 3

2011 WAS Meetings
Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays
Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5

Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays
Oct 20, Nov 17

WAS 2011 Upcoming Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Oct</td>
<td>Dale Ochalek</td>
<td>Astro Jeopardy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Nov</td>
<td>Phil Martin</td>
<td>Hawking's Paradox &amp; the Black Hole Mystery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Nov</td>
<td>Tom Field</td>
<td>2012 Officer Elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Nov</td>
<td>Tom Field</td>
<td>Do-able Spectroscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>David Cinabro</td>
<td>Golden Age of Cosmology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Dec</td>
<td>Chuck Dezelah</td>
<td>Open Clusters: The Trumpler Classes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Events
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

November Talks
After the Annual Election of Officers at the Cranbrook meeting, Phil Martin will give a talk entitled Hawking's Paradox & the Black Hole Mystery. Hawking stated (and backed it up with some impressive math) that if you drop stuff into a black hole, the information it contained is lost to the Universe forever. However, one of the pillars of physics is that information is never lost. Phil untangles all the strings of this mystery for us.

At our November 17 Macomb meeting, our speaker will be Tom Field talking about
spectroscopy. This will be a very unusual presentation, because it will be done live but remotely, with our speaker being in Seattle and doing his presentation with PowerPoint slides and live video via computer.

On page 68 of the August 2011 issue of Sky and Telescope, is an article about our speaker, Tom Field, about this same topic. And here is a video preview of Tom’s talk:
http://tinyurl.com/3eq8wco

Annual Election of Officers Nov 7 at Cranbrook

At the meeting at Cranbrook on November 7, we will have our annual election of officers. The WAS is managed by a board consisting of seven elected officers. They each serve for one year at a time, with a limit of two consecutive years in any one office. None of the current officers will remain in their current positions next year. Four plan to drop off of the board, and three plan to run for a different office. The names of the current officers are listed in the upper right corner of the front page of every issue of the WASP newsletter, and on our website at www.warrenastro.org (click on Officers in the left column).

The current board, with help and advice from past-president Ken Bertin and other long-term members, has created a slate of recommended candidates for office for the coming year. Each of the people on this list has agreed to run in the November 7 election, and to serve in these offices for the year beginning on January 1.

- President - Jon Blum
- 1st Vice President (programming) - Diane Hall
- 2nd Vice President (observatory) - Riyad Matti
- Treasurer - Dale Partin
- Secretary - Dale Thieme
- Publications (newsletter) - Debra Chaffins
- Outreach - Bob Berta

Any club member can run against any of the above people for any of those seven offices at the election on November 7. If you would like to run, please email to board@warrenastro.org. You can announce your intention to run at any time up to the time of the election. In addition to performing the duties of each office, board members are expected to attend monthly board meetings held at 6:30 PM on the first Monday of each month at Cranbrook, to attend general meetings each month at Cranbrook and Macomb, and to keep up with daily board business via email.

- Jon Blum

WASP History SIG

To date, 83 issues have been scanned and converted to PDF files. Nearly all are posted on the website. In future meetings, I will have at least one USB memory stick loaded with the complete (so far) collection of files for downloading to any laptops present at the meeting (Ken Bertin pointed out the usefulness of this).

We now have the DVD collection of the Sky & Telescope magazine, a notable addition to our archives.

The four covers selected for this issue are from: September/October 1970, October 1971, October 1975 and October 1986. The 1970 issue contains an article on the Dall-Kirkham telescope design; in 1971, several noteworthy articles, such as Telescopic Resolution and Double Stars and a touching story about famed comet hunter Kaoru Ikeya. In 1975, Louis Faix reported on Nova Cygnus 1975. In the 1986 issue, Alan Rothenberg offered up some good pointers for preparing a talk for the WAS meetings.

- Dale Thieme
Board Meeting 12 September 2011

Officers Present: Jon Blum, Gary Ross, Therese Oldani, Jonathan Kade, Dale Partin,

Guest: Dale Theime, Dave Baily, Marty Kunz, Ken Bertin

President: Diane’s email of Kensington’s success at Astronomy at the Beach speaks well to the success of the night and the clubs presence & participation.

1st VP: With regard to the AATB, It was great to see the young people feel pride in getting 6 items on the scavenger hunt and get their rewards of two choices: Astronomy photograph or pinwheel.

Outreach: Next year at AATB, it would be good to have additional attention to gizmo settings. Maybe a lunar lander.

Treasurer’s report: Handed out his report for August 2011. 501c3 is stalled. Looking for next meeting on writing the fund raising plan, putting together a complete narrative description of activities (5000 words is a good length). Gary asked if Jonathan sends him referred website, he will draft the first efforts.

Old Business: 501(c)(3) work to do, Gary will start with Jonathan’s email with website info.

A bill from Madden Houser for $560 for legal service. Jonathan motioned it be paid, Dale P seconded. We were like dyslexic frogs until this help came. (Guess who said that.) Motion carried.

Stargate: Persied meteor shower success in August with 6 people camping. Great night despite weather challenges. Jonathan does not trust the roof. Appointed communication from the public with regard to a wedding at the observatory, the board replied with a consensus of holding this event at the observatory is inappropriate.

New Business: Jon B 25 new planispheres were bought. Therese motioned to buy 25 planispheres. Motioned died.

Jonathan motioned that the club should buy Sky & Telescope 50 year DVD box for $130. Dale P seconded. Discussion. Motion passed.

Elections November 7th.

Jonathan & the Secretary will create a Beg List.

We need to renew our Articles of Incorporation documents. The website was down when tried.

Gary spoke with Chris “moon” lady at Hazel park to have WAS volunteer for the International Observe of the MOON night, October 8th.


Treasurer’s Report

MEMBERSHIP: We have 102 members in good standing. Expect a couple renewals this month.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE: We have at last count 20 members joining the AL. Chuck Dezelah is preparing our submission package.

CORPORATION STATUS: Our corporation status with the State is renewed. We need to file an updated report next year, with the new board.

NONPROFIT STATUS: I did not accomplish anything significant on the 501(c)(3) work in September, either. I will set up a special meeting sometime this week, if anybody is available.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES: We took in $340.50 and spent $817.02. We have $6946.57 in the bank account and $251.19 in cash.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS
$59.90 to Jon Blum for planispheres for Astronomy at the Beach. $560 to Maddin Hauser for consultation on our legal status. $10.76 to Gary Ross for postage. $129.59 to Sky & Telescope for their 7 decade collection. $20 for State of Michigan corporation renewal. $34 for an Astronomy subscription renewal. $2.77 postage.

INCOME
Planisphere sales at Kensington: $100
Memberships: $51.50
Renewals: $82
Astronomical League: $45
Donations: $39.50 (Cranbrook), $22.50 (Macomb).
No snack reimbursement. - Jonathan
Cranbrook General Meeting 52 attended

President: Introductions made. DeCarlos is confirmed for Dec 15 Annual Banquet with presentations by members for 50th anniversary.

1st VP: Macomb at 221 (regular room) enter from Library. If you signed up for name tag, Pick them up tonight. Scheduling for short and long talks for next year.

Tonight's talks: Jim Shedlowsky – The Way we Found the Universe.

Short talk: Phil Martin – Calculating Mercury’s Perihelion Shift.

WAS offers a handout for new people with basic club information.

Elections are made on November 7th. Due to term limits, no current board members are staying in the same office, but some are running for other office.

Sheila Bennet Judd is our hospitality person. Please volunteer to bring snacks. The club will reimburse you for the cost of the snacks. See Sheila or me to schedule a date. Please donate a dollar or any amount of your choice into the cup.

Secretary: We are accepting donations for December Annual Banquet. Books/equipment, gift certificates.

We could also use some volunteers at the beginning of the event for table sign in, name tags, raffle tickets, and other jobs. Including welcoming folks.

Outreach: Gratitude is shared with all members on the outstanding efforts of Diane Hall as a GLAAC representative and other great team players. Warren is present to many events standing out in their blue and gold jackets.

Discussion Groups: With recent storms a tree has come down and opened to the sky for better viewing from the observatory.

Star Parties: Bill mentioned 3 parties coming up.

- Sept 22 – 25 at Gladwyn at River Park
- Oct 18 – 23 Orion meteor shower in Cadillac.

Radio: Jupiter back up. Sai gave radio astronomy updates. See Sai for more information.

Hands On: Open House is September.

Archivist: Dale T gave report on progress on archiving, slow and steady.

Imaging: Phil offered a meeting at Red Coat Tavern at 7:30 coming soon. First talk will be on what equipment to bring to Oct Cadillac Party for imaging.

Astronomical League: 14 members signed up for Astronomical League. Deadline is September 15, this Thursday during current membership drive. If you are interested, free copies of Reflector magazine. $5 sign up.

In the News 1) Third experiment sees hints of dark matter. 2) Antimatter surplus is not dark matter’s smoking gun. 3) Saturn look alike galaxy has a murky past and other current astro news.

Short Talk “Calculating Mercury’s Perihelion Shift: by Phil Martin

Main Presentation: The Way We Found the Universe By Jim Shedlowsky. Jim presented a 30 year period beginning in 1898, during which our entire concept of the universe was transformed. Einstein, Hubble and Hale as well as Keeler, Slipher, Leavitt, and von Maanen are referenced in the talk. The presentation discussed the events, the controversies, the people, the technologies, and the circumstances that revolutionized our understanding of the universe. - Therese Oldani

Macomb General Meeting 17 Sept 2011

1st VP: Jon Blum mentioned tonight’s talk, Participatory Hubble by Gary Ross, next month’s offerings, Last Shuttle Launch by Jonathan Kade and Cosmic Ray Astronomy by Dale Partin at Cranbrook.

Still have name tags to hand out.
Nov. 7 is the annual election of Officers. In January, the Cranbrook meeting will be on the 2nd Monday (Jan 9) because of New Year's falling on the 1st Monday. Need volunteers for Snacks.

**Treasurer:** 3 members added in August, 19 signed up for the Astronomy League. The 501.C3 work is progressing. We took in $382, dispersed $201, and have $7300 in the bank. We're also purchasing a DVD set of the Sky & Telescope magazine for the Club Library.

**Publications:** WASP not out yet, no carpet bag so nothing to sell tonight, however a stack of September Sky charts are available.

**Outreach:** Great turnout by the members of WAS, both at the table and at the scopes. Kensington Raffle Prizes given out at the meeting:
- Chuck Dezelah, Jim Shedlowsky, Larry Phipps - 2 tickets each to Cranbrook
- Dale Thieme, Diane Hall - 1 free year of Astronomy Magazine, compliments of David Eicher
- Jon Blum, Steve Greene - $25 gift certificate to Great Red Spot
- Jonathan Kade - $25 gift certificate to Camera Mart
- John Schroer - Zhumell 9mm 80deg field of view
- Stephen Uitti - Celestron 60mm goto telescope (grand prize!)

**Discussion Group:** Meeting Thursday, September 22.


**Solar:** Diane Hall mentioned the Sun is pretty active right now.

**Hands On:** Riyad Matti will be on hand at Star Gate for the next Open House with some measuring eyepieces to use.

**Observing Report:** Dave Bailey observed hearing a symphony by William Herschel on the radio, but no mention of his astronomical accomplishments were mentioned. Report on *Nostalgia For the Light* documentary, general consensus was that it started well, pretty good through the first half then fell apart in the second half.

After the break, the incognito Gary Ross presented the "Participatory Hubble", comments from the peanut gallery greatly encouraged.


- Dale Thieme