

The W.A.S.P.



The Warren Astronomical Society
Celebrating 50 Years

August 2012



The W.A.S.P.

Newsletter

August 2012

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The Warren Astronomical Society Paper
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The President's Field of View

Dale Thieme is our club secretary. He writes the minutes of each club meeting and board meeting, that you can read in the WASP every month. Like our other six elected board members, he attends and contributes to our monthly board meetings, our general meetings at Cranbrook and Macomb, and our numerous board discussions of club business via email. But that's not all.

Dale is also our club historian, who has taken on the huge task of re-creating and digitizing all the old issues of our WASP newsletter. This does not just involve scanning decades of old newsletters. Each article in every old issue has to be read and carefully corrected in the digitized versions. The quality of the print in the old issues was not good, so the optical character recognition software does not correctly identify many of the words. Dale painstakingly fixes each word as needed. Our club is 50 years old. We have club newsletters going back for 43 years, to 1969. It is fascinating to read about what our club was doing way back then. You can enjoy the results of Dale's labor by reading our old club newsletters on the "WASP Newsletter" tab of our website at <http://www.warrenastro.org/was/newsletter/> Scroll to the bottom to click on various decades.



But wait, there's more. Dale also brings the napkins, plates, and cups for our snacks to every meeting at both Cranbrook and Macomb. And Dale's son Brian designed the new logo for this year's issues of our newsletter. Brian also prints out all our individual nametags for club members.

-Jon Blum

2012 WAS Annual Picnic



Our annual picnic on July 21 was a huge success. Many members and their families came to enjoy lots of food and great conversations. For the first time, we held our picnic in the pavilion, so we were shaded from the hot sun and had plenty of seating at picnic tables.



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 publications@warrenastro.org.

WANTED: Coarse mirror-lens grinding powder (60 to 80 grit), carborundum (silicon carbide) preferred. For a coarse, glass grinding, crafting application/experimentation. It doesn't have to be optical grade--I won't be mirror-grinding. I just need to take a rough glass surface down. If you have any such abrasive that's taking up space and you want to unload it, please let me know.

Contact Brian Klaus [8-5012]

alecbmdb1836ce@gmail.com (586) 731-0011

Reminder to all members:

We need your help to continue having snacks at the meetings. For full details on how to volunteer, what we need, or compensation, please email Sheila at scrapsalotsmb@yahoo.com or use the [signup form on our website](#). *Napkins and cups are now provided by the club.*

Suggested snacks:

Two to three packs of cookies or similar sweet snacks

One to two packs of salty snacks (pretzels or chips)

Optionally, one pack of small candies

Two to three 2-liter bottles of pop, juice, etc.

One bottle of water

Astronomy At The Beach

The biggest public astronomy outreach of the year takes place at Kensington Metropark in Brighton every September, Astronomy At The Beach. Our Warren club, the Ford club, and several other area astronomy clubs work together every year to put on this great event, which is organized and run by the Great Lakes Association of Astronomy Clubs. This year it will be Friday and Saturday evenings, September 21 and 22. WAS will have a table there to tell people about our club, and several of our members will set up telescopes to show celestial objects to the public. There will be talks on various astronomy topics from 6:30 to 10 PM. This year's featured speaker, starting at 9 PM both evenings, will be astronaut Andrew Feustal, who worked on the last Hubble repair mission.

Come one or both evenings. Volunteer to help at our club table, or to set up your telescope, or just come and enjoy the event.

See more info at <http://www.glaac.org/kensington-astronomy-at-the-beach/>

Email any questions to board@warrenastro.org

Great Lakes Star Gaze

The biggest star party for astronomy club members (not for the public) in Michigan every year is the Great Lakes Star Gaze in Gladwin. This year's dates are September 13-16. About 200 amateur astronomers from all over Michigan, and some from out of state, set up our telescopes under dark skies in a large field for three nights. Most people sleep in tents or their vans or recreational vehicles, but some of us sleep at nearby motels. There are talks and a swap meet in the afternoon, and a big raffle for door prizes one evening.

Details are at <http://www.greatlakesstargaze.com/>

If you register before August 23, you get a \$15 discount on the registration fee.

Jon's photos from last year are at <http://www.jonrosie.com/astronomy/glsg2011/>

Email any questions to president@warrenastro.org

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 <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

Speaker's Corner - August 6, Cranbrook

Our featured talk for Cranbrook in August will be will be **“Urban Observing: Targets, Tips, and Tactics” by Chuck Dezelah**. It will give an overview of the challenges and opportunities of amateur astronomy from light polluted observing sites. Particular attention will be given to strategies that can improve one’s success at observing under sub-optimal conditions. Chuck Dezelah joined the Warren Astronomical Society in 2011. He grew up in rural mid-Michigan, where he developed a strong interest in astronomy from a young age. He is an alumnus of Western Michigan University (B.S., 1998) and Wayne State University (Ph.D., 2004) and was a post-doctoral researcher at Helsinki University of Technology (2004-2007). He now helps manage a nanotechnology company in metro Detroit.

Our short talk for that evening will be **“Why You Should Go To Astronomy At The Beach and the Great Lakes Star Gaze” by Jon Blum**. Jon will show photos from these two major September events, describe who comes and what activities take place there, and discuss why he thinks all WAS members would enjoy attending them this year.

Jon is our current club president and recent past vice-president. Like most of us, he has been interested in astronomy since childhood. But he only started spending serious time in the hobby after he retired from dermatology ten years ago. This is his thirteenth presentation.

WAS Discussion Group

The WAS Discussion Group meetings take place at the home of Gary and Patty Gathen from 8 to 11 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month from January through October. Different dates are scheduled for November and December due to Thanksgiving and the holidays. The Gathens live at 21 Elm Park Blvd in Pleasant Ridge, which is three blocks south of I-696 and about a half block west of Woodward Ave. A map can be found at http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result.php?q1=21+Elm+Park+Blvd.%2C+Pleasant+Ridge%2C+MI.

The agenda is centered around discussing one science topic at a time by all. Soft drinks are furnished while snacks are contributed by attendees. We usually have from 4 to 16 members and guests, so come on over (and bring some snacks for the group). Gary can be reached at 248.543.5400 and at gary@gathen.net.

September Cranbrook Date

Our September Cranbrook meeting will be on Monday, September 10. This is one week later than in other months, because the first Monday of September is Labor Day.

Object of the Month - IC4665:

IC 4665 is a large, bright open cluster in the constellation Ophiuchus. Despite its relative obscurity, this object is worthy of attention for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, it is a bright cluster that is extremely easy to find. Secondly, it is easily observable in binoculars or in any sized telescope at low power and under almost any light pollution conditions. Additionally, it is a member of the Index Catalog of objects (IC), which is an expansion of the more familiar New General Catalog (NGC). Although the IC contains 5,386 objects in total, only a small number are readily viewable by most amateur astronomers, which adds a level of distinction to IC 4665. Finally, it is the most easily found of a trio of attractive summer open clusters that also includes NGC 6633 and IC 4765, which are respectively about 10° and 13° nearly due east from our object of the month. All three objects are large and bright, and are amenable to observation in the most modest of instruments even under poor conditions.

IC 4665 is easily found less than 2° from the magnitude 2.7 star Beta Ophiuchi, which is near the northeastern corner of the constellation. The cluster is a loose roughly circular arrangement of approximately two dozen stars spanning about a degree of sky (sources vary considerably as to the true angular size) and containing stars that range up to about 7th magnitude in brightness. The total integrated magnitude is 4.2, making the cluster a naked-eye object under a rural dark sky. In binoculars, one can expect to see a partially resolved patch of stars, with perhaps 5-10 individual members discernible. In a telescope, it is advised to use the lowest power available and place Beta Ophiuchi just outside the southern edge of the field of view, which reveals a field that is dominated by the cluster.

This column is a recently added feature written with the intention of introducing a new object each month that is visible from Stargate Observatory using a moderate-sized telescope typical of beginner and intermediate level amateur astronomers. In particular, special focus will be given to objects that are not among the common objects with which most observers are already familiar, but instead articles will mainly give attention to “hidden gems” or under-appreciated features of the night sky.

-Chuck Dezelah



Members are encouraged to join the [Warren Astronomical Society Yahoo Group](#) for messages, photo posting and more.

Save the Date

Annual WAS Banquet December 8, 2012

Our annual banquet at the end of this year will be on Saturday evening, December 8. This is different than in past years when we had the banquet on the Thursday of the December Macomb meeting.

There will still be no Macomb meeting in December.

Changes!

Change in Meeting Room at Macomb

From May through August, we will meet in a different room than usual at the Macomb Community College library on the third Thursday of the month. We will meet in room J151. This is on the lower level.

Enter through the back door on the ground, the door facing 12 Mile Road. This is the same room we met in last summer.

2nd VP, Observatory Report

July 7, 2012. Joe Tocco and I worked on the observatory floor yesterday and today. The floor is completed. Joe also added red LED lights to the steps at both doors and two Ethernet cables to the pier.

Next we need to paint and put the 12.5" Cass back in the observatory for now. We need at least 3 people to handle the scope.

On 7/14, we were able to paint the interior of Stargate observatory with a blue color (called Starry Night), which is similar to the older color of the walls and ceiling. The interior looks very good thanks to the efforts of the members who did the work. We started about 9:30 am and Larry and I finished just after 4:00 pm.

The work was done by the following members;

- Joe Tocco
- The Kaplans and their guard dog, Mandy
- Larry Phipps
- Bob Berta
- Riyadh Matti



Double Star Report

Using the mighty Borr Telescope @ 125X. Transparency good, although not as favourable as last night, but seeing fair.

A triple star is plotted on ATLAS OF THE HEAVENS (Becvar) due S. of Epsilon Pisces Austrini. I could only make a spectacularly bright very wide double P.A. 160 deg. This star is more interesting than that, however. It is double on SKY ATLAS 2000. Hirshfeld and Sinnott: 6.3/ 7.3, H IV 119, 87 arc-sec. (1783) and nothing from 1951. Position Angle is exactly 160 deg., as observed to-day. Also there is H N 117, an 8.1 star 3 arc-sec. off (1959). Although three seconds is easy in the Borr, seeing forbade no matter how much waiting for steady. In Becvar's ATLAS CATALOGUE, however, a different designation: H N 117 is a double of 6.3/ 6.8 mags. @ 87 arc-sec. (1919). The other component is h 5356,

Next week Joe and I will remove the masking tape, drop cloth and do some cleaning before the picnic which is scheduled for next Saturday 7/21.

On 7/13 after dropping off some painting supplies and do some cleaning at the observatory, I placed the finder back on the 12.5" telescope and aligned it looking at Arcturus. Optical collimation of the telescope looked acceptable. Later Joe stopped by and we looked at Saturn. The telescope is ready to use for the picnic.

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered and participated in the renovation of Stargate observatory. Everyone did a wonderful job since the dome was removed in July 2009 and until now.

Further minor work will certainly be needed to continue the maintenance and upgrade of Stargate observatory especially when the new 8" telescope arrives in a few months. For now we can use the 12.5" telescope as we have been for many years.

Riyad I. Matti
2012 W.A.S. 2nd VP

7.4/ 7.9 @ 3 arc seconds. H N 117 has integrated magnitude of 5.8 in Becvar's enumeration. Different sources/ reference materials compiled over long periods of time can have interesting quirks. Time will tell if the 3" pair will yield given southern Declination.

Thursday, July 12, 2012 1:58 PM
N Sgr 2012 no.4

Even though past upper culmination I observed the above this morning with the 4" refractor @ Veen Obs, made much easier by the 2 degree F.O.V. chart sent by Christensen (Fox Valley Ast. Soc.). Interestingly enough it is in a relatively star-free field for galactic location, an aid to identification. Again, the nova did not appear anything but ordinarily starlike. Given the supplied chart's magnitudes, I put it at 9.0 or less, at or even beyond ATLAS ECLIPTICALIS limit, so fading from initial observations (also forward by Christensen).

(continued)

Double Star Report (continued)

Friday, July 13, 2012 8:26 AM
Nova Sagittarii 2012 No. 4

Late last night the indefatigable Tyrrell (G. Rapids Ast. Assn.) and I observed the above in the West Dome's 4" refractor, the only ones at the Observatory all night. It is the same as last night using the Christensen chart, still slightly below the "8.8" star, we estimate 9.1 mag. T. noted the object seemed slightly ruddy, at least by comparison to other bright stars and I concur. Transparency was good to excellent for the site.

July 15-16
Nova Sagittarii 2012 N. 4

Late last night I observed the above-captioned in the 4" refractor at the Veen Observatory. The object has faded considerably, now approx. 9.6-9.8. Possibly because it is dim now, the colour does appear to be orangish at least by comparison. Without any idea of the type of nova this is, my prediction is the limit of visibility with that instrument in a week's time.

July 16
This morning I turned the mighty Borr into Sagittarius/ Corona Australis. At 240X:

Ascella -- Double on ATLAS OF THE HEAVENS. Could not split. ATLAS CATALOGUE lists @ 3.4/ 3.5, 0.5 arc-sec. Hirshfeld and Sinnott enumerate 3.2/ 3.4 without further data! They cite this system triple with a 10th mag companion at 75" away (1905), but ATLAS ECLIPTICALIS depicts Ascella as double.

Gamma Coronae Australis -- Could not split. H & S: 4.8/ 5.1 but no further information (1834, 1959), while the much earlier Becvar CATALOGUE lists 5.0/ 5.1 @ 3 arc-sec. Elevation is definitely a problem at 43 deg. N.

Brs[O] 14 CrA -- A fine "cat's eyes" at P.A. 280, widely split. Becvar: 6.8/ 6.6, 13 arc-sec. (1919) and he also lists Position Angle at 280, some indication of how slowly if at all the system is revolving. H & S: confirm a slow double star. 13 arc-sec. (1951), also 13 seconds sep. Both are "B" stars, not my impression,

thinking the system yellow-blue, a cautionary note when estimating colour in very low stars.

Then the confusion: Beta 957, which took some teasing out of Hirshfeld and Sinnott, because it is not depicted as double on ATLAS OF HEAVENS. The system is spot on the border of Sgr and CrA amongst Gamma and 14, supra. 957 is embedded in a tiny diffuse nebula. Seeing no multiple on Becvar's ATLAS, I ignored it. Not plotted at all on Tirion's map. In any case splitting is problematic from southern Michigan @ ~ 37 deg. S. considering a 13.3 mag. companion 4 arc-sec. away. This would require excellent transparency which last (hot) night was not.

JULY 16-17
LAMBDA CORONAE BOREALIS -- Past upper culmination and bad seeing, aggravated by door left open to the Observatory west dome. Shown triple on ATLAS OF THE HEAVENS; observed double in the 16" at 240X. Easy split @ ~ P.A. 220, companion mistaken for blue star but is in fact earlier. Nothing of the "C" component at telescope. Hirshfeld and Sinnott: 29 arc-seconds (1900) but no datum (1953). P.A. 214 deg., a satisfying agreement. 5.1/ 9.7 mags. The third element is 40 arc-seconds away, but no magnitude entered. Becvar's data: 27 arc-seconds (1903) for "A B" and 40 arc-sec. for "C" (1900). The mags. are 5.1/ 8.9/ 9.6. There is a real non-congruence of data and why H & S did not have access to "C" magnitude is difficult to understand. In decent seeing/ transparency the entire system would have been in reach of even the 4" refractor, but careful observation yielded only two. All these data are from the turn of the 20th c.

BETA 957 CrA -- Referred to in a previous report, this is the diminutive star between Gamma and Brs 14, and difficult to discern at the scale of ATLAS OF THE HEAVENS. In the 4" refractor an easy double but I cannot have seen the 7.2/ 13.3 mags. pair at only 4 arc-sec. (1927). (Hirshfeld and Sinnott) Also is a THIRD star at 58 arc-sec. (1928) but no magnitude therefor! That last component is what I observed. H & S report, "C is variable." 957 is an amazing sight modest power notwithstanding, surrounded by a diffuse nebula easily seen even at that elevation in a sky of not first rate transparency.

-G. M. Ross

WAS Club logo wear



(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 the catalog to meetings.

Astronomical Phenomena August 2012

d	h	
2	3	FULL MOON
3	18	Neptune 5.6S of Moon
3	19	Saturn 4.5N of Spica
6	12	Uranus 4.8S of Moon
7	15	Mercury stationary
9	18	LAST QUARTER
10	10	Moon at apogee
11	16	Aldebaran 4.7S of Moon
11	20	Jupiter 0.1N of Moon Occn
12	9	Moon furthest North (21.5)
13	19	Venus 0.5S of Moon Occn
14	3	Mars 1.8N of Spica
15	10	Mars 2.7S of Saturn
15	11	Venus greatest elong W(46)
16	3	Mercury 3.4N of Moon
16	13	Mercury greatest elong W(19)
17	15	NEW MOON
18	0	Regulus 5.5N of Moon
21	21	Spica 1.0N of Moon Occn
21	23	Saturn 5.3N of Moon
22	6	Mars 2.2N of Moon
23	19	Moon at perigee
24	12	Neptune at opposition
24	13	FIRST QUARTER
25	3	Antares 5.4S of Moon
25	18	Moon furthest South (-21.4)
27	2	Pluto 0.7N of Moon Occn
31	1	Neptune 5.6S of Moon
31	14	FULL MOON

All times are in UTC

2012 Stargate Observatory Open House
August 12 (Perseids), August 18, September 15

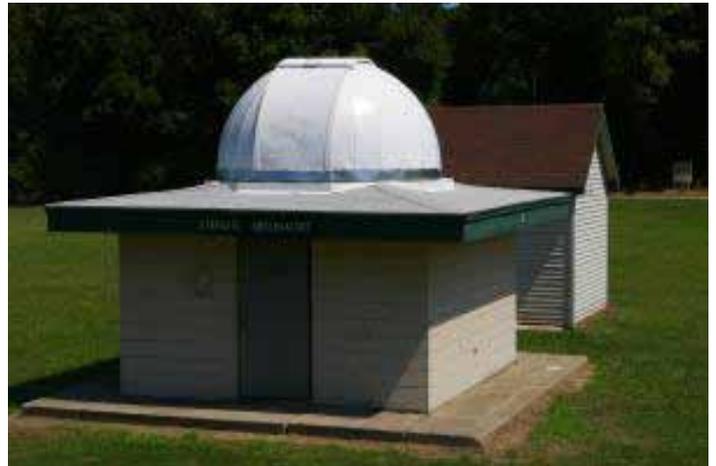
2012 WAS Meetings

Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays

August 6, September 10, October 1

Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays

August 16, September 20, October 18



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.

- Riyad Matti, 2nd VP

W.A.S. History S.I.G.



In the August 1972 issue, solar eclipse chasing fun as Frank McCullough writes “ECLIPSE 1972” A W.A.S.— K.A.S. trip to Cap Chat.

August issues of the WASP tend to be quite lean (or altogether missing), but 1975 was an exception with a comet report: ASSOCIATION OF LUNAR AND PLANETARY OBSERVERS Comets Section July 14, 1975 KOBAYASHI-BERGER-MILON 1975h, a member contribution: THE BEGINNER’S PAGE - “THE UNIVERSE IS SINGING” by Linda Call, a word to the wise in: CAVEAT EMPTOR or A CONSUMER’S GUIDE TO TELESCOPE BUYING INFORMATION by Kenneth Wilson, cleanliness is next to good viewing: HOUSEKEEPING FOR A.T.M.s by Carl Noble, THE ASTROPHOTOGRAPHERS CORNER (Exposure values for any film speed and any “f” ratio) by Larry F. Kalinowski, “One Lousy Night” or Another Page From The Apprentice Astronomers Notebook By Louis J. Faix and the OBSERVATION PAGE M81, M82 by Carol Cheatham. Whew!

And now, back to lean and mean: August 1977, featuring “Observing the Outer Solar System-Uranus” by David Dobrzelewski and another entry in “The Apprentice Astronomers Notebook - NGC 6572” by Lou Faix.

We finish up with the highly technical August 1986 issue which offers for our edification the CALCULATION OF AN EPHEMERIS FOR AN ELLIPTICAL ORBIT By Ken Kelly, a chart of MINOR PLANETS FOR JULY - AUGUST (calculated by Ken Kelly) and “Occultation Predictions for August 1986” - Douglas H. Bock.

Meanwhile, back in the Fortress of Solitude, the 1972 issues have been digitized and posted online, scanning of the 1973 issues are going hot and heavy.

- Dale Thieme

Oakland Astronomy Club Newsletter

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

Clear skies, - Bill MacIntosh

Newsletter Topics

We know that not everyone likes to talk in public, but we also know that our members have a lot of things they want to say. Please consider writing an article to share with your fellow astronomers!

Need a topic? Here are some suggestion:

- **Gadgets**
- **Techniques.**
- **Talk about your photos**
- **Tell us about your experiences**
- **Technical discussion for beginners or advanced readers.**

If you have an idea for an article that isn’t one I have listed, please submit that at any time and we’ll make room for it.

- Debra Chaffins

Upcoming Talks

Sept 10	C	Jim Shedlowsky	Houston, We Have A Problem
Sept 20	M	Film Night Jonathan Kade	Tree of Life and The Galileo Project
Oct 1	C	Dale Partin	Ultraviolet Light and You
Oct 18	M	Mike Simonsen	TBA

Treasurer's Report

June 30, 2012

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 95 members (23 of which are family memberships).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)

We took in \$452.35 and spent \$170.09. We have \$10316.99 in the bank and \$205.63 in cash, totaling \$10522.62. There is an outstanding check for \$51.39, so that our effective total is \$10522.62 - \$51.39 = \$10419.84.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

\$2.70 snack reimbursements
\$22.00 reimburse membership fee (was paid twice)
\$94.00 magazine subscriptions
\$51.39 WAS business cards (Jon Blum)

INCOME

\$126.00 new memberships and renewals
\$26.85 miscellaneous donations
\$94.00 magazine subscriptions
\$32.00 merchandise sales
\$67.50 Astronomical League memberships
\$100.00 donation for Stargate by Alan and Cheryl Kaplan
\$6.00 donation for Stargate (anonymous)

- Dale Partin



Ford Multi-club Astronomy Club Picnic Invitation

The Ford Amateur Astronomy Club had such a good time at our last three annual Multi-club Picnics that we have decided to host our Fourth Annual Multi-club Picnic.

The **Ford Amateur Astronomy Club** is planning our **Fourth Annual Multi-club Astronomy Club Picnic** on **August 25th at Island Lake Recreation Area** (Spring Mill Pond site).

We are inviting members of your club to join us for this fun social event.

We will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, soft drinks, plates and eating utensils. 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 with a just for fun mini-observing contest.

Please mark your calendars, as this is a fun event.

Ford club needs a rough count of how many plan to attend by August 20th in order to have enough food for everyone, so please email Doug Bauer, Ford club secretary, at DougBauer@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

Here is a link to a map for Island Lake: <http://www.fordastronomyclub.com/info/island.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.
(It is a State Park, so no alcoholic beverages are allowed.)

WAS Board Meeting July 2, 2012

Board members: Jon Blum, Diane Hall, Riyad Matti, Dale Partin, Dale Thieme, Bob Berta.

Visitors: Brian Klaus, Marty Kunz, Dave Bailey, Jason Daniels, Jon Root, Gary Ross, Gary Gathen, Jonathan Kade

Jon Blum called the meeting to order at 6:30

President: ordered 1500 business cards.

1st VP: Diane Hall reported that she filled in remaining gaps except for November at Macomb.

2nd VP: Riyad Matti reported on our open house on June 16th, the work party on Saturday, 23rd had more people out to work on the Observatory, did some solar observing with scouts. June 30, Joe and Riyad did some more improvements to the observatory. Need to finish deck boards and painting. remount 12.5 scope. Riyad raised a question of the necessity to have a barbecue grill on site at all times.

Treasurer: Would like to start carrying the balance of the telescope donation report separately from the General Fund.

Secretary: No Report.

Outreach: Bob Berta reported that he has finished up the school events. We need to start talking up Astronomy at the Beach.

Perseids are coming! Gladwin registration is open- (Star Gaze is September 13-16).

Publications: Jon Blum pointed out that the July WASP was available.

Old Business: Mount fund raising, Bob will talk with Riyad and Marty, about doing a pledge drive. 501(c)3 status: a 30 page form is just about filled out. Some narrative answers need finishing. Jon Blum asked Ken Bertin to comment. Ken suggested that we form a committee with a board member as ex-officio. Diane Hall, Debra Chaffins and Bob Berta will work on narrative answers.

Bob Berta is handling procurement of food and paper goods.

New Business: none brought up.

Jon Blum dismissed the meeting at 7:18

Speaker's Corner - August 16, Macomb

For August's Macomb meeting, we have three presentations on deck: a re-schedule of "In Search of Capella" by Gary Ross, a retrospective of recent celestial events entitled "Syzygy 2012" presented by current Program Chair Diane Hall, and a special surprise to be presented by former W.A.S. President Dave Harrington.

Outreach Report

I will be doing a special two day astronomy program for young children at the Macomb Rec Center. Lee Hartwell will assist in a partnership with my neighbor, Dr. Heidi Reed, who used to work for NASA and is now teaching science at a middle school locally. It is scheduled for the end of August.

- Bob Berta

WAS General Meeting, Cranbrook, July 2, 2012

The meeting began at 7:30 pm, with 45 present

Officer Reports:

President: Jon Blum called for small barbecue grills to be used for the picnic. mentioned the December banquet, Dec 8.

1st VP: Capella will be at July's meeting

2nd VP: Last open house June 16, cloudy but cleared, had scouts and general public 50-60 people, Lee Hartwell gave a lecture.

June 23, work at the observatory continued, new flooring was installed. Joe Tocco, Gary Ross, Al Kaplans, and Bob Trembley joined Riyad Matti at the site. LED lighting in the door steps were installed, we need to paint and re-install the 12.5 scope.

Picnic is the 21st, 28th is July's open house.

Treasurer: \$10,419.00, 4106.00 for the new telescope. 95 paid up members. Full report in the WASP.

Outreach: Bob Berta welcomed the new scouts in the meeting, reminded us of the approaching "Astronomy At The Beach" at Kensington and the Gladwin Stargaze coming up in the fall. Angelo has done a demonstration at an outreach event. The Ford Astronomy Club picnic was also mentioned.

SIG Reports:

Discussion Group: Meets the fourth Thursday of the month at Gary Gathen's house.

Solar Group: Sun's been getting busy. Had a big coronal mass ejection

History: Finishing up the digitizing of the 1972 WASP issues.

Astronomy League: ALCON announcement. Several of our members are going. AL renewal needs to be in tonight.

GLAAC: Astronaut Andrew J. Feustel will be speaking at AATB.

Merchandise bag is full of goodies, please buy something. We may do a new run of WAS jackets and windbreakers.

In The News: 07/02/2012

Far side of the moon offers quiet place for telescopes
First private space telescope may hunt asteroids
Titan's tides reveal hidden ocean that could host life
Solar cyclones hold fusion reactor clues

Short Talk: "The Mercury Machine" -Dave Bailey

Presentation: "Astronomical Space Observatories" -Larry Phipps

The meeting ended at 9:50 pm.



"The most exciting phrase to hear in Science, the one that heralds the most discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' (I found it!) but 'That's funny'."

~ Isaac Asimov

WAS General Meeting, Macomb July 19, 2012

The meeting began at 7:31pm with 44 present.

Officer Reports:

President: August will be the last time in this room (151), in September, we will be back in the library room.

1VP: Tonight:

Ken Bertin – Sky Safari Pro

Dave Bailey – Galaxies, the Largest Things.

August 6:

Chuck Dezelah Urban Observing:

Targets, Tips, and Tactics (long),

Jon Blum - Why You Should Go To AATB and GLSG next month (short)

August 16:

Gary Ross In Search of...Capella redux,

Diane Hall Syzygy 2012-- Eclipse and Transit, plus the special WAS memorial asteroid presentation by Dave Harrington.

2VP: The Stargate observatory interior has a new coat of paint. The new floor is completed and the 12.5" telescope is back on the mount. Thanks to the efforts of all the members who helped renovate the building. The observatory is functional and ready to use.

Next Saturday July 21 is the club picnic at Stargate and the following Saturday July 28 is the open house. We hope to see everyone at the picnic and the open house.

Also for next month, don't forget Sunday August 12 is an open house for the Perseids meteor shower, and the August open house is on Saturday the 18th. Treasurer: We have 95 members. We have \$10,419 of which \$4106 is in our new-telescope donations fund. Details are in the WASP.

Secretary: NASA's public outreach program requested reports from the various Transit viewing sites. Dale gathered reports on our four viewing events: Kensington, Stargate, Stony Creek and Wayne State and sent them in.

Outreach: WAS Picnic this Saturday. Bob has reserved the pavilion for our use.

Publications: July WASP newsletter is available on our website. Send any articles you would like to write for WASP to Debra.

SIG Reports:

Discussion Group: Meets at Gary's home in Pleasant Ridge at 8 PM on the 4th Thursday of each month. See the WASP and emails for details.

History: The digitizing of the old WASP issues is making progress, the issues for 1972 have now been posted on the WAS website, Dale Thieme has the full collection of all issues digitized so far on USB drives and they are available at the meetings for anyone to copy from, or if you brought your own USB drive, he can load the issues on it from his laptop. The files take up 314 Megs, or 1.5 Gigs if you want the original scans included.

In The News:

- Ken Bertin showed current sun pictures, followed by:
- In a Cosmology Breakthrough, Astronomers Measure a Filament of Dark Matter
- Solar Storm 7-12-12
- Discovery of fifth moon reignites the Pluto planet debate
- Earth's water piggybacked on asteroids, not comets
- Vital eye for killer asteroids could shut imminently
- Record-breaking mice return to earth to aid health
- Cern Scientists discover subatomic particle: Higgs Boson

Observing Reports:

Jonathan Diane went to Alpena to observe auroras and Venus, Jupiter and the moon. Dale Partin did some ultraviolet measurements from the sun, plans to demo at the picnic, Dave Bailey observed solar flaring on the radio.

Presentation: "Sky Safari Pro" -Ken Bertin, "Galaxies, the Largest Things" - Dave Bailey

The meeting ended at 9:34 pm.

