The W.A.S.P.

The Warren Astronomical Society
Celebrating 50 Years

December 2012
Debra Chaffins is our club’s Publications Director, and the editor of our newsletter. She has completely redesigned and modernized the WASP (Warren Astronomical Society Paper). She fills it every month with great information about club events and about astronomy. She gets it out on time before the first meeting every month. She has encouraged more of our members to get involved in writing for the newsletter.

Debra just joined the WAS four years ago, but she has been interested in astronomy since childhood. She got her first telescope at age 9, but now she often uses binoculars when viewing the night sky. Her current favorite instrument is her Lundt solar telescope, because she enjoys watching the ever-changing patterns on the sun. She and her husband Brian are a bonded pair, appreciating both computer work and the astronomy hobby together.

With all the time she spends at work (designing and coding websites and doing graphic design work) and as an author (seven books on Novell Networks and computer technology, and working on two novels about art, spirituality, and epic tales of human nature), I don’t know how Debra has time for hobbies. But in addition to astronomy, she is also an avid weather enthusiast. She likes the cold snowy winters in Michigan and the cold clear nights in Colorado. She calls herself an adrenaline junkie with severe weather, following storms and major weather systems and even earthquakes.

We’re all lucky to have Debra on our WAS board. She brings innovative ideas and she volunteers to see those ideas through. Her most recent project is researching and arranging with a website to help us get outside donations for our new telescope and mount at our Stargate observatory next year. And sometimes she bakes and brings my favorite snack to our meetings: her Blonde Brownies.

-Jon
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.

FREE Telescope!
Meade 230 60mm f/11 with 25mm eyepiece, finder, and fairly good tripod. Presumably rarely used.

Contact both bevniedelson@gmail.com and rmg@wmis.net or call 897-5713

Detroit area delivery would be at a Warren Astronomical Society meeting. (4-2013)

ETX 90, not used, like brand new. (3-2012)
$350 or Best Offer
Contact Jim Hurley at coachjimjv@yahoo.com

Meade #775 Hard Carrying Case for ETX-125.
Brand new, never been used. Received as a gift but not for the right telescope. Cost $200 new asking $75. Would like it to find a good home where it would be useful. (2-2013)
Dick Gala (248) 549-5238)
rrgala@med.wayne.edu

When Karen and I were in Chicago recently at the conclusion of our Great Lakes Cruise, we visited the newly renovated Adler Planetarium. In the gift shop I was smitten by a telescope (no, it didn’t fall on me, but its brass fittings and hardwood tripod found the way to my heart). Then I learned it was on a closeout special and the deed was done.

Now it is looking for a new home. Sale price was $200 plus tax and shipping. I am asking for $150. This is NOT an astronomical telescope – it is called Harbormaster and is intended, I believe, for scanning the horizon for arriving sailboats. Further details are on BrassBinnacle.com.

Fred Gluckson, 248-788-8066 or fgluckson@cs.com
It does look nice in one’s living room. In fact I have had more fun looking AT it than THROUGH it. (3-2012)

Light descends like a flying newspaper,
Lands this evening smack on my porch.
Glancing up, I see stars as paperboys
Peltling me with packets of light.
Like my neighbors, I view the messages,
Singly muted stories in light.
Light, when touched, falls to bits like ancient books,
Leaving space for subsequent news.

-Cynthia Maher
For our December 3rd meeting at Cranbrook, Michael Foerster of Astronomy.FM will present to us on the exploits of SpaceX, specifically the successes of their Dragon capsule, which may be the next American-made vehicle taking astronauts to space.

Michael Foerster describes himself as “astronomer, NASA Educator (JPL/CalTech), broadcaster.” He has the unenviable task of corralling Marty Kunz and Diane Hall into producing a radio show at 9PM every Wednesday night. The fruits of Michael’s various labors in bringing astronomy to your mobile listening devices can be found at Astronomy.FM.

Our keynote speaker for the December 8th annual banquet will be Professor Claude Pruneau of Wayne State University, presenting on “Mysteries of Mars.” A Professor of Physics at WSU, Dr. Pruneau is committed to promoting the discovery and enjoyment of science. The Physics and Astronomy Department has been a great focus of activity in recent years, including extensive upgrades to its planetarium and the “Science Under the Dome” lecture series attended by (and enjoyed by!) numerous W.A.S. members. WSU provides enthusiastic support for outreach events ranging from Astronomy at the Beach in Kensington Metropark to Sidewalk Astronomy down at Metro Beach. In the spirit of enjoying science, we’re very pleased to have Dr. Pruneau as our final speaker of 2013!

The last open house for 2012 will be on Saturday December 15th.

2013 Stargate open house schedule will be the on the second Saturday of every month.

- Riyad I. Matti

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
NGC 1981 is an open cluster in the constellation Orion. Although at least one source cites a common name of “The Coal Car Cluster” for this object, it does not seem that this title is widely used among amateur astronomers. Its real claim to fame, however, is as one of the many overlooked objects occupying the richly fascinating region of sky within the Sword of Orion. Finding this curiously shaped cluster is an inconsequential matter, as it is about 1 degree due north from one of the indisputable icons of the night, M42, the Orion Nebula. NGC 1981 is about 25’ in size, has an integrated magnitude of 4.5, and a Trumpler Class of III 2 p n, which denotes it as a very bright cluster of moderate size that is only weakly separated from the field stars, has stars that are relatively few in number with a moderate range in brightness, and exhibits some degree of nebulosity. It is considered as part of the Orion OB1 association and contains the double star Struve 750.

Despite its relative lack of notoriety, our object of the month is an immediately obvious and outstanding cluster upon entering the field of view. It is best observed at low magnification and wide-field, where it is well framed and the individual stars are much more evidently associated with each other. Also, such views are able to potentially incorporate some of the other nearby attractions for a collective scene that can enhance overall beauty notably. Although it should not require too much imagination to picture a coal car when viewing NGC 1981, the placement of stars may also evoke a teapot shape not dissimilar to the asterism envisaged when Sagittarius adorns the southern sky. Although considered as only “weakly separated” from the star field, this hardly seems the case when looking at the brilliance and the cohesiveness of the member stars. Given the magnitude, size, and neighborhood of the cluster, binoculars should be also expected to yield good results.

This column is a recurring 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 underappreciated attributes of the night sky.

- Chuck Dezelah
Outreach Report

Outreach for 2013 is starting to get more active. A couple of presentations are scheduled for schools in the next month or two...one is our standard “astro 101” the other is a request to talk about astronomy during the age of the pyramids in Egypt...should be interesting!

If you would like to be added to our presenters contact Bob Berta. No experience in presenting is necessary...just enthusiasm. We will mentor you and let you work alongside us until you feel comfortable presenting yourself.

We have a wide variety of groups we talk to, ranging from young children to boy and girl scouts and even the occasional church or club group. We also assist at other non astronomy specific functions such as science fairs and as “add ons” to other events such as Metro Park events.

-Bob Berta

Dec 1969

Dec 1972
This issue starts out with a tongue-planted-firmly-in-cheek “Deep Sky Wonders” by ‘Walter Scott Harrington’. Frank McCullough covers Taurus (the Bull) in Constellation of the Month. In Observational Astronomy, C.J. Edsall takes us on a thrill ride in the University of Michigan’s observatory on Peach Mountain, with comments on the Spot on the Horse’s Nose (M15), and the Fly in Perseus’ Eye (M 76).

Dec 1975
Frank McCullough guides our winter observing with Open Clusters in a Cluster and the Constellation of the Month, Canis Major. Raymond Bullock discovers the ultimate in armchair astronomy in Planetarium Gazing by E. Cliptic. Raymond Bullock then tackles history in Astronomy--1930’s Style.

Dec 1979/Jan 1980
The issue which lit the fire for the History S.I.G.: Paul Strong writes about the establishing of “The History of Astronomy Resource Center” and a reprint of “Amateur Astronomy in America--A Story on the Verge of Being Lost” by Paul W. Luther prompted a discussion between Jonathan Kade and Dale Thieme resulting in the WASP scanning project. Bob Wilson works on Improving the View from the Backyard Sagittarius/Scutum Region. Finally Rik Hill takes us shopping with Night Watch: Choosing Binoculars.

-Dale Thieme
A proclamation from G. M. Ross

For those unfamiliar with mediaeval German or some hybrid of north European slang, the “Mother Night,” is the birth of the new year. Now, to people in Cuba listening to son, or in Brasil listening to the bossa nova this event may not mean too much. “Hey mon, Mutternacht? Are you about to throw up or something?”

But in these northern climes in forbidding places like Warsaw, or worse, Lake County, this astronomical turn of events is a very big deal. This is cause for, mon, a fiesta alegre! In mid-northern latitudes the earliest sunset is on the 6th of December. Sort of creeps up on you after Thanksgiving (U.S.), and para mi, present (26th Nov.) dreary scene outside notwithstanding, the fateful 6th is the beginning of winter. How many times, Thanksgiving done in western Michigan, or even worse, eastern Michigan, has the autumn slunk away on a truncated afternoon, and a bloke as he sensibly reaches for the bottle, says, “Who needs this c---?” Then we know why Jon Blum, who may not look too bright, is wise beyond principle.

If you want to know dispirited, see the above-cited Warsaw or northern England -- York at 55 N. -- to know why the Europeans took to the seas in the fifteenth century in anything that would float, albeit barely. Get out of here and colonise warmer, sunnier places, native populations move far side of the bed.

For the “stat freaks,” a parting shot: at Latitude 60 deg. on Winter Solstice the Sun is above the horizon ~ 5h and 52m. You say, ‘Wow! That is really far up nort’, where real Canada ends and those Territories begin.” I answer, “Nah. That is Bergen and Riga, real civilisation, and in late December not too happy about it.

Hence, Mutternacht. The new year begins and the days very s-l-o-w-l-y lengthen. Let us celebrate.

Kissing Rock Farm has over the decades witnessed some pretty disgraceful scenes around the “Yule Burn.” Sometimes we bother with a permit . . . when we remember. Once the police showed up, but not because of the conflagration and sometimes gunfire. The cars were parked all over the county road out front and someone called in uniform, and in force. The man across the road, an equestrian, and new people (then about twenty years) made reference to our “parties,” but I insisted they were scientific meetings. There will be a Mutternacht celebration beginning precisely at astronomical twilight on the evening of the 20th. The immense pile: dead construction materials, dead pines, and assorted rubbish, awaits behind the barn to frighten away the daemons of dark and welcome the new year.

Why the 20th of December? The book of all knowledge, OBSERVER’S HANDBOOK, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, puts Solstice at 11h 12m U.T. the next morning. Astronomical twilight on said occasion is 11h 27m U.T., fifteen minutes of true dark to spare. During that long night the new year is born. For those of a Christian bent -- and a little Christianity never got in the way of a good time -- the Northern Cross of Cygnus will stand as a crucifix in the north-west at nightfall, assuming no clouds.

Warrenbillies fit right in. Bailey has been invited. There is a vast expanse of floor space -- in the house of course -- to receive the dead and dying. Generally in a state of undress, I make tea in the morning.

Members are encouraged to join the Warren Astronomical Society Yahoo Group for messages, photo posting and more.
Comet's Debris Is Stargazers' Treasure

By KRIS HUDSON

A meteor streaks across the skies early Sunday in Clinton Township, Mich. The annual six-week Orionid meteor shower peaked Sunday.

Thousands of meteors streaked through the sky early Sunday as Earth passed through the thickest point of its intersection with the orbit of Halley's comet, allowing astronomers in dark, cloud-free areas to glimpse up to 25 meteors an hour.

The astronomical event, called the Orionid shower because the meteors appear to originate from the constellation Orion, doesn't often produce as many meteors as other annual showers. But it carries the cachet of being fueled by debris from Halley's comet, which passes Earth roughly once a century, last in 1986.
Orionid meteors, typically the size of a grain of sand and rarely larger than a football, travel into the Earth's atmosphere at about 148,000 miles per hour, said Donald K. Yeomans, the Los Angeles-based manager of NASA's Near Earth Objects Program Office. They burn up roughly 60 miles above Earth's surface, after the reaction created by their speedy entry lights a long trail visible from the ground.

The six-week Orionid shower was at its most intense before dawn on Sunday, as Earth passed through the center of Halley's path. However, stargazers still can view Orionid meteors in lesser quantities for several nights. "If you were to get up [Monday] before sunrise with no city lights, you still would see meteors every few minutes," Mr. Yeomans said. "It will continue for a few more days at least."

Dale Mayotte, an amateur astronomer in Clinton Township, Mich., braved chilly temperatures from 1:30 a.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday. He shot several hundred photographs to catch one streak in an image and says he saw 40 to 50 Orionids. "It was beautiful," said Mr. Mayotte, a 38-year-old machinist. "From everything that I read, it was supposed to be the best one in years, and from what I saw, it was."

Other cities weren't so fortunate, as some such as Los Angeles and Dallas had cloud cover.

Albany, N.Y., astronomer Alan French wasn't impressed, but he admitted he didn't wait late enough for the best part of the meteor shower. He started watching the skies at 11 p.m. Saturday and turned in at 1 a.m. Sunday. "In the two hours, I only saw two Orionids and two sporadics [meteors], which weren't from the Orionid shower. It was a pleasant, comfortable night, but I certainly didn't have an exceptional show here."

The Orionid shower generally is considered "second string" to larger events such as the Perseid shower in August and the Geminid shower in December, which can generate up to 100 meteors per hour, Mr. Yeomans said.

Write to Kris Hudson at kris.hudson@wsj.com
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](mailto:sheila@scrapsalotsmb@yahoo.com). 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,
- One bottle of water

2012 Astronomical Phenomena

**December 2012**

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Jupiter at opposition</td>
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<td>Mercury greatest elong W(21)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Regulus 5.7N of Moon</td>
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<td>Mercury 1.1N of Moon Occn</td>
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<td>Antares 5.9S of Moon</td>
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<td>Moon at perigee</td>
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<td>NEW MOON</td>
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<td>Uranus stationary</td>
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<td>Pluto 0.1S of Moon Occn</td>
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<td>Mars 5.4S of Moon</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Aldebaran 4.1S of Moon</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Moon furthest North (20.9)</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>FULL MOON</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Pluto at conjunction</td>
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All times are in UTC

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.

- Riyadh Matti, 2nd VP

2012 Stargate Observatory Open House
December 15, January 12, February 9

2012 WAS Meetings
Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays
December 3, January 7, February 4

Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays
No December Macomb Meeting
January 17, February 21
Treasurer’s Report

MEMBERSHIP
We currently have 117 members (30 of which are family memberships).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)
We took in $494.53 and spent $94.67. We have $10336.60 in the bank and $226.63 in cash, totaling $10563.23.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS
$11.91 snack reimbursements
$49.81 Stargate repairs
$32.95 magazine subscription

INCOME
$96.00 new memberships and renewals
$49.81 donations for snacks
$50.00 donations for new telescope and mount
$285.00 Banquet tickets
$4366.50 Total donated to date for new telescope and mount

- Dale Partin

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.

Photo and Article Submissions
We at your WASP want to include your photos and articles. After all, this is YOUR publication!

To share your photos for submission in the WASP, please email them to publications@warrenastro.org

Please include some captions for your photos along with your name and dates taken.
WAS Board meeting, November 5, 2012

Board members: Jon Blum, Diane Hall, Riyad Matti, Dale Partin, Dale Thieme, Debra Chaffins.
Visitors: Ken Bertin, Dave Bailey, Brian Klaus, Steve Speigel

Reports:
President: Jon Blum called the meeting to order at 6:35. He reported that the Discussion Group will meet at his house Monday November 19 at 8 PM. Continuing the logo clothing discussion, Jonathan Kade is taking orders for old-style logo jackets, light or heavy. Bill Beers can get us logo caps for $20 from his sister. Alternately, the Ford club is arranging to let members order logo clothes online from LL Bean, we may want to look into that option.

1VP: Banquet Speaker, Mysteries of Mars. April 26, Macomb College event.

2VP: Next year’s open house will be every second Saturday of the month. Riyad Matti moved, Diane Hall seconded, to get an additional ladder for the observatory. Motion carried. Riyad Matti moved, Dale Thieme seconded, that we acquire a “secondary spectrum filter” for the observatory scope, some debate about purple. Motion carried.

Treasurer: We took in $494.53 and spent $94.67. We have $10336.60 in the bank and $226.63 in cash, totaling $10,563.23. Full details posted in the WASP.

Secretary: The door prize donation request letters have been sent out. We’ll make a request for donations announcement to the members tonight.

Outreach: Jon Blum reported (in Bob Berta’s absence) that Bob & Riyad spoke to scouts at Stargate on Saturday even though it was cloudy. Jon suggested we ask Bob to reserve the pavilion July 13 for the WAS picnic.

Publications: Debra reported that the November WASP is up on the web site.

Old Business: Stickers that Jonathan wants WAS to buy and sell: tabled for now. Dale Thieme working with his brother to make banquet awards plaques. After a brief discussion on the wording, Dale will send the inscription details for completion of the plaques. 501c3 status – we are ready for review by the attorney.

New Business: The board decided that everyone gets 1 free ticket at the banquet for the door prize drawing. Jonathan Kade and Diane Hall will arrange and coordinate our involvement in the Ford club Swap Meet scheduled for March 16.

End time: 7:26

WAS Discussion Group

There will be no Discussion Group meeting in December. Discussion Group meetings will resume in January on the fourth Thursday of each month at the home of Gary Gathen. Enjoy your Holidays and Happy New Year!

Upcoming Talks

No Macomb Meeting in December

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>C Riyad Matti</td>
<td>Riyad’s Refractors</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>M James Marron (GRAAA)</td>
<td>Reverse Cosmology</td>
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WAS General Meeting, Cranbrook
November 5

The meeting began at 7:32 with 40 in attendance

Officer Reports:
President: Jon Blum announced that tonight is the election of officers night. Phil Martin is taking submissions of astrophotos for the club calendar, which is priced at $15.00. Jonathan Kade is taking orders for club logo-wear (jackets) Bill Beers can get club logo caps for $20.00. He suggested we may want to participate in a survey on hobbies run by the North Carolina State University. Cranbrook needs volunteers for scout events here on November 16 and other dates over the next few months. Please see the list sent by email or contact Bob Berta (outreach@warrenastro.org) to volunteer. Banquet will be Saturday December 8 - last chance for a $5.00 discount from the 35.00 per person price is the Cranbrook Dec 3rd meeting. No Macomb meeting in December.

1VP: Diane Hall reports that we are finishing the year’s talk schedule with:
• November 15 Larry Phipps – Astronomical Space Observatories
• December 3 Michael Foerster – SpaceX’s Dragon Capsule
• No Macomb meeting in December. Banquet December 8.

Treasurer: 117 memberships, of which 30 of which are family memberships. $10,563 in the bank with 4,400 designated for the new scope.

Secretary: Request letters have gone out to astronomical (and a couple gastronomical) companies for the banquet door prizes. Donations from the membership are also welcome.

Outreach: In Bob Berta’s absence, Jon reported that Bob and Riyad spoke to scouts at Stargate on Saturday even though it was too cloudy for viewing.

Publications: The November WASP is up on the web site. Getting good articles for the WASP and certainly need more.

SIG Reports

Discussion Group: Jon Blum will host the discussion group at his house this month (November).

Solar Group: Marty reports that the sun died this week, but hope remains for a sunspot revival.

Hands On: Riyad Matti reports that next year’s open house schedule will be on the second Saturday of the month.

Astro Photo: Phil Martin is overworked and can’t make an astrophoto meeting but would like to get photo contributions from the club astrophotographers.

Astronomical League: Chuck Dezelah mentioned that the Astronomical League has a moon observing program (beats cursing the moon for spoiling the view of faint fuzzies.

GLAAC: Diane Hall reports that planning for next year’s Astronomy at the Beach are underway, looking for a keynote speaker (suggestions are welcome).

Observing reports: Gary Ross maintains that early morning is best for observing. Did his best to observe the Orionids from a secret location and got two hours of observing in. On the 17th he saw 7 meteors per hour from the radiant during predawn. Agrees with Marty’s assessment that the sun has died. Diane Hall and Jonathan Kade observed the Shuttle Atlantis being rolled over to its final resting place. Surprise bonus was the parade of astronauts accompanying the shuttle as it rolled along.

In The News:
• First star’s light seen through extragalactic fog
• Last life on Earth: microbes will rule the far future
• Galaxies could give glimpse of the instant time began
• SpaceX brings back blood and cucumber plants
• Confounded by Mars: Climate history thrown into doubt
• Exoplanet ‘paparazzi’ to stalk worlds for habitability
• Alien hunting: how to find DNA on Mars

Elections: Ken Bertin officiated the election proceedings. All standing officers were elected without opposition:  
President: Jon Blum
1st Vice President: Diane Hall
2nd Vice President: Riyad Matti
Secretary: Dale Thieme
Treasurer: Dale Partin
Outreach: Bob Berta
Publication: Debra Chaffins


End time 9:52
WAS General Meeting, Macomb,
November 15, 2012
Meeting called to order 7:32.

Officers present: Jon Blum, Diane Hall, Riyad Matti, Bob Berta

Two new people present tonight. Call for name tags for those who don’t have them.

Club calendar pre-orders being accepted now. Place pre-orders with the W.A.S. treasurer and send your photos and drawings in to Phil Martin.

Logo Wear: Jonathan Kade is taking orders for uniform jackets and windbreakers; Bill Beers is accepting orders for club logo hats.

Annual banquet: Banquet to be December 8th, a Saturday. Spouses and friends are welcome; tickets are $30.00 in advance and $35.00 at the door. The deadline for early orders is the Cranbrook December meeting.

Discussion group will meet this month at Jon Blum’s house on Monday, 11/19. All are invited for an 8PM freewheeling discussion; Jon will provide all snacks and refreshment. If you did not get the address emailed to you, see Jon.

Officer reports summaries:
1st VP: December 3 Michael Foerster – Dragon capsule. No Macomb meeting in December. Banquet December 8. Contact Diane if you would like to give a short or long presentation

2nd VP: Next Open House will be this Saturday, 11/17. Dress for cold weather! The last open house of the year will be 12/15. Clear weather expected. Open houses to be on the second Saturday of the month next year to keep with a favorable moon cycle.

Treasurer report: We have 117 members. We have $10,563 of which $4,366 is donations for our new telescope and mount. Details are in the WASP newsletter. Email any questions to the treasurer, Dale Partin.

Secretary: Dale Thieme has sent out beg letters for the banquet and has received a good response so far; donors can also present door prizes to Dale in advance or bring them to the banquet.

Outreach: No report

Publications: The W.A.S.P. for November is out and Debra is accepting submissions for the December newsletter. See Dick Gala to get yourself on the mailing list if you are not receiving the W.A.S.P. by email.

In The News: Presented by Diane Hall, subbing for Ken Bertin.

Dick Gala announced the opening of the new Cranbrook Observatory, open to the public on Friday and Saturday nights. W.A.S. members participating in Cranbrook outreach events like the 11/16 Girl Scout event will be able to have a look.

Observing reports:

Chuck Dezelah at Stargate Tuesday night (11/13) and saw aurora activity-- a single band of green light that flared up on several occasions during the night. Chuck also saw about a dozen late Taurid meteors, about half of which were fireballs. Joe Tocco was there as well and saw M108 and M109 and the Owl Nebula. Joe reported seeing grayish aurora that he mistook for clouds.

Gordon Miller saw a greenish-white fireball Sunday (11/11) night and a smaller one on Monday 11/12.

John Lines of the Seven Ponds club reported amazing aurora displays on Tuesday 11/13 as well– from Presque Isle. If you see auroras, get the word out via Yahoo or the club Facebook page ASAP so the rest of us can find out.

Tony Semenuk won a car from the Power Block television show on the SPIKE network. He will be on the episode airing December 15th from 9-11 AM.

No snacks tonight. If you are interested in volunteering to bring snacks there is a suggestion list and a sign-up form on the club web page. The club will reimburse you for up to 20 dollars.

Larry Phipps presents:
Astronomical Space Observatories II.

Meeting adjourned 8:29 PM.

Macomb minutes submitted by Diane Hall