

# *The W.A.S.P.*



The Warren Astronomical Society  
Celebrating 51 Years



# The W.A.S.P. Newsletter

February 2012

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## The President's Field of View

I miss you. When I'm away from Michigan's cold weather in the winter, I don't get much sympathy from my friends back home. But I do miss our club meetings.

I am involved with three astronomy clubs on Maui. The Haleakala Amateur Astronomers observes at the 10,000 foot summit of Haleakala volcano. The Maui Astronomy Club observes in beachside parks. The Mahana Astronomy Club observes in a condo parking lot or a nearby subdivision. None of those three Maui clubs has any indoor meetings, lectures, discussion groups, board meetings, or social gatherings. There's no equivalent to the chats we WAS members enjoy after meetings, at the Red Coat Tavern or National Coney Island. So I really miss the camaraderie of the Warren club when I am away.



The average temperature at sea level on Maui in February is a high of 80 and a low of 63. It's about 25 degrees colder at the top of Haleakala. I can't say I'd rather be freezing in Michigan. But every week I look at the calendar and notice that I am missing out on a meeting at Cranbrook or Macomb or Gathens or Stargate. Yes, I know, I'm not getting any sympathy from you.

Jon

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## 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](mailto:publications@warrenastro.org).



**FOR SALE:** Meade 10" LX200 Goto SCT with heavy duty field tripod and accessories. Asking \$2500.00 for everything. More photos all items. Call Tom, noon to 7 pm: 248-446-0072 [t\\_zimmerman@ameritech.net](mailto:t_zimmerman@ameritech.net) [4-2012]

**FOR SALE:** 12" Meade Lightbridge Dob with light shroud and shipping boxes. Also, 16" Meade Lightbridge with light shroud, rain cover and shipping boxes. Best offer on one or both. Contact John Rasmussen 248-858-3559 [5-2012]

**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:** 18 inch Starmaster Telescope with f/4.3 Zambuto mirror and Strehl Ratio: 0.987 Everything is in good to excellent condition. It comes with the Sky Commander DSC's, dew heater, Telrad finder, Televue Paracorr, wheel barrow handles, custom truss pole carrying covers, StarStep Observing Chair, and Starmaster oak mirror storage box. NOW \$5,995 or Best Offer! Scope Located in Plymouth, Michigan 48170... Pick up only. [w8tu@comcast.net](mailto:w8tu@comcast.net) Jim Frisbie [5-2012]



**FOR SALE:** 75 mm Unitron achromatic refractor. Doublet primary. 1200 mm focal length (f16). Alt Az tripod. Excellent visual scope. Collectable, due to high quality everything. New & unused condition & in original box. Chuck Peters at 586-445-8596.

**FOR SALE:** Excellent condition classic LX-200 Meade 12" (not GPS) with a good collection of Meade eyepieces and accessories. DSI Meade camera. Also: a Russian Maksutov of around a 5" aperture. Joe Tringali 586-663-0816 or [BlipsterJoe@gmail.com](mailto:BlipsterJoe@gmail.com) [5-2012]

## 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://bhmic.com/sevenpondsac/>. Please let me know if you might attend so that appropriate plans can be made. Any questions, please contact me.

- John Lines

<http://tinyurl.com/6zo6jt6> **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.

## 2012 Stargate Observatory Open House

Feb 18, March 17, April 21 & 28

### 2012 WAS Meetings

#### Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays

March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

#### Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays

Feb 16, March 15, April 19, May 17

## Astronomical Phenomena February 2012

d	h	
2	15	Aldebaran 5.7S of Moon
3	6	Moon furthest North (22.4)
7	8	Mercury superior conjunction
7	21	FULL MOON
8	12	Saturn stationary
8	17	Regulus 5.4N of Moon
10	2	Venus 0.3N of Uranus
11	19	Moon at perigee
12	12	Spica 1.7N of Moon
14	6	Mercury 1.2S of Neptune
14	17	LAST QUARTER
15	18	Antares 4.5S of Moon
16	8	Moon furthest South (-22.3)
17	20	Pluto 1.5N of Moon
19	20	Neptune at conjunction
21	18	Neptune 5.5S of Moon
21	22	NEW MOON
23	0	Mercury 5.6S of Moon
24	8	Uranus 5.3S of Moon
25	19	Venus 3.1S of Moon
27	3	Jupiter 3.8S of Moon
27	14	Moon at apogee
29	23	Aldebaran 5.5S of Moon

*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

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



A look through the February selection of WASPs turned up these gems: 1971, 1977, 1981 and 1986. The WASP started out 1971 as a bi-monthly, finishing as a strong monthly. Feb/Mar yields the magical "TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE FEBRUARY 1971 Now You See It - Now You Don't" by: Frank McCullough, along with the horological "WHAT TIME IS IT ON THE MOON?" by Kenneth Wilson, among other articles. Feb 1977 features some astro-photography by Roger Civic and Fran McCullough and an abbreviated look at WAS history by Cary White (we have two copies of this issue and both are missing pages 5-12).

Feb 1981 features a "SPACE SHUTTLE UPDATE" by Frank McCullough and "A Peek at the Peak" where Rik & Delores Hill describe their experiences at Kitt Peak. Finally, in Feb 1986, more Comet Halley (and Comet Hartley-Good(19851)) fever with Ken Kelly.

I'm happy to report that 1983 is about halfway through in the digitizing with the first batch (Feb, Mar, Apr, and May) available for uploading to the website and I'll have them with me on USB drives and my laptop at the next meeting.

Dale Thieme

## Astro Chatter

There are a lot of interesting aspects to astronomy. That's part of the appeal of it, really. Everyone isn't looking at the same things in the sky. We aren't limited to a small variety of useful instruments. Some of us aren't even *looking* at the sky, we're listening to it instead.

I'd like to appeal to the vast array of interests and experience our group holds. Our newsletter can be even more interesting with your participation. I'm compiling a short list of topics that I'd like everyone who might like to write to consider.

You'll notice that I've kept the topics a little vague. That's to get your ideas flowing. Define them as you want.

Articles can be of any length, from three paragraphs to several pages. Though if you find a topic that you want to write that much about, we might make it a multi-parter to keep folks interested in coming back to read! Your writing can be about your experience, things you've learned, or questions you've pondered. It can be humorous or scientific. Actually, I've heard many of you speak and know you can do both!

So, if you'd like to see your name in print, be published in a well read publication (for various values of well read), and to help contribute to our amazing organization...send me your articles!

Topic Suggestions:	Due Date:
April: <b>Best Accessories</b>	March 20
May: <b>Seeing in the Dark</b>	April 20
June: <b>My Most Stellar Moment</b>	May 20
July: <b>Home Built</b>	June 20

If you have in 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

## Oakland Astronomy Club Newsletter

<http://oaklandastronomy.ulmb.com/oacnews.html>  
**Clear skies, - Bill MacIntosh**

## Upcoming Talks

Feb 16 M	Steve Uitti	MESSENGER of the Gods
Mar 5 C	Bill Margolin	Einstein and Newton - two different views of the Kinetics of Motion
	Steve Uitti (Short Talk)	Telescope Steve won at AATB Kensington
Mar 15 M	Ken Bertin and others	Annual In The News
Apr 2 C	Ken Bertin Jonathan Kade	Ole Romer Alcyone Days (short talk)

## **WAS Board meeting, Jan 9, 2012**

**Board members:** Jon Blum via Skype, Dale Partin, Dale Thieme, Debra Chaffins, Bob Berta, Riyad Matti, Diane Hall

**General Members:** Ken Bertin, Steve Uitti, Brian Klause, Jonathan Kade

### **Reports:**

**President:** Diane Hall brought meeting to order at 6:41 on behalf of Jon Blum. Jon Blum expressed appreciation for the 2012 board jumping in on the job already.

**First Vice President:** Diane Hall asked Bob Berta to distribute the new member flyer tonight. We should add astro-photography topics to our talks.

**Second Vice President:** Riyad Matti submitted dates for open houses. 3rd Sat of every month. Astronomy day (April 28) and Perseids (August 12) at Stargate. Need to get floor done. Short term, restore 12.5 scope back in service so that we could use the Observatory for public use. We have a scope committee in place to get a proper scope for permanent placement.

**Secretary:** No Report.

**Treasurer:** We took in \$1662.05 and spent \$2339.66. We have \$7157.90 in the bank and \$245.29 cash. 501c3 work continues.

**Publications:** Publication date: Weekend before Cranbrook meetings.

**Outreach:** D-Bar observatory work continues. This Thursday night is Rochester Astronomy night. Thank you check to go to Wolcott Mill (\$100). Sidewalk Astronomy, March 31, pass around sign-up sheet by Feb.

**Old Business.** None mentioned.

### **New Business:**

**Banquet Date:** Pros and cons discussed regarding switching to Saturday evening and/or earlier in the year date. Survey proposed, email and live at meetings. Board agreed to eliminate the open bar due to cost and liability.

**Planispheres:** supply will be replenished. Due to low cost, no vote required.

Meeting adjourned by Diane at 7:25.

-Dale Thieme

## **Cranbrook Meeting 1/9/2012**

Meeting began 7:27, attendance: 46

Diane Hall called the meeting to order.

### **Officer Reports:**

**President:** Thank you letter from Jon Blum. Member introductions.

**First Vice President:** spoke on our talk subjects. next meeting Jan. 19th, Dave Bailey will speak on Classical Novae. Feb 6 Diane Hall will talk. Feb at Macomb, Steve Uitti on space probes.

**Second Vice President:** Stargate Open House to be on third Sat of month. Club scopes available for use. Work on observatory to recommence.

**Treasurer:** Banquet-net gain \$358, membership forms will be made available, took in a lot, spent a bit more. Calendars are available for sale. \$7,157.90 in the bank, \$245.29 cash. Raffle tickets. Membership mailing is coming out.

**Secretary:** No Report, too busy typing.

**Publications:** January WASP is out, new look, with cover art by Brian Thieme. We want to encourage articles from members.

**Outreach:** Club reaches out to scouts, schools and other organizations with talks and demonstrations. Scout D-Bar site tomorrow and a school in Rochester, Thursday. On March 31, we will participate in the St Clair Metropark Sidewalk Astronomy event.

### **SIG reports:**

**Discussion Group:** we discuss a wide range except: no Politics, no religion, plus no sports if Gary Ross is there. 4th Thursday of the month.

**Solar Group:** Invite to do solar observing. first Sunday of the month at Cranbrook, usually. Thanks to Bob Berta for Christmas appearance for astronomy demo. Scout group coming in Friday, need scopes.

**Hands on:** Stargate Jan 21, with double star list.

**History:** will be posting 1983 issues on site soon

**Astro photo:** Looking to have a first meeting at Redcoat Tavern on a Tuesday evening. Date and time to be determined.

**Urban Astro:** NR

**Radio astronomy:** NR

Library is open for book loans.

**Merchandise:** Jonathan is new merchandise vendor. we have calendars, pins, patches, stickers, coffee mugs, and t-shirts.

**Observing:** Gary Ross looked at the double star 113 Antliae and failed to split it, to be fair the sky condition was only fair and clouded over soon after observing started. Moon halo last night. Ken Bertin going on Annular eclipse trip to Texas. And to Hawaii for Transit of Venus, June 5th.

**In the news.**

Hundreds of tiny moons orbiting earth  
Quasicrystal fell from space  
Stephen Hawking turns 70  
2 new satellites orbit the moon - GRAIL probes  
Jupiter's core is dissolving

**Short talk:** Fred Gluckson, Asymmetry in the Cosmos

**Main Talk:** Bob Berta, Alien Life is on Earth and it will help us find life in the Universe.

Meeting over 9:56

- Dale Thieme

## *Speaker's Corner - February 6, Cranbrook*

**Main talk: "12/27/68: The day the USSR Lost the Moon Race" by Diane Hall**

Most Americans assume that NASA won the race to the moon when Apollo 11 touched down on the Sea of Tranquility in 1969. In reality, that touchdown was just the finishing blow to Soviet dreams of lunar preeminence, as the USSR was already reeling from a decisive setback suffered nearly seven months earlier. "12/27/68" will examine the convoluted and often contradictory Soviet lunar program, a bureaucratic and logistical fiasco that, in spite of itself, may have come tantalizingly close to reaching the prize.

Diane Hall began stargazing as a child, when her grandfather pointed out Cassiopeia to her from the sidewalk of their California subdivision. The obsession soon led to the acquisition of a tiny pair of binoculars, a pair of astronaut pajamas, and a plastic model of the space shuttle Columbia. She's upgraded the hardware and the toys a few times since then, but isn't any less obsessive about it.

**Short talk: "Curiosity Mars Rover" by Alan Kaplan**

Cheryl and I visited with Paul Goldsmith and his wife a few months ago in Pasadena and he took us to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory where he works. We had the opportunity to see the new Mars Rover Curiosity being built. I have a few pictures of this as well as the JPL campus that I thought I should share them with the club.

As for me, Cheryl and I have been members of the club for probably about 7 or 8 years. I am a pathologist (M.D.) and until recently was the Medical Director of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Michigan. Cheryl and I like to travel and do a considerable bit of photography. We also have a sailboat and sail on Lake St. Clair.

## Macomb Meeting 01/19/2012

Meeting opened at 7:31

Diane read President's report from Jon Blum, mentioned next Macomb meeting presentation by Steve Uitti

**Second Vice President report by Riyad:** This year, open house scheduled events are 3rd Sat of every month. Will continue construction on Observatory.

**Comment - Diane:** "Deadline for WASP content 6th Feb"

**Outreach report by Bob Berta:** Northhill observing was successful, spent 3 days at boy scout observatory - saw Neptune, kids braved 10 degree weather, worked on astronomy merit badges.

**Treasurer report by Jonathan:** Proceeds 358.00. Paid Stargate bill, received second installment of Mark Kalinowski donation. 4 Calendars available at 15.00

### Special Interest groups:

**Discussion group:** Next Thursday at Gary Gathen's house

**Hands-on:** This Saturday at Stargate

**Solar:** Good activity on the sun lately, large spots and prominences

**Astroleague:** Location and date for conference is announced, scheduled summertime in Chicago (July4th-7th)

**Comment - Bob Berta:** In need of steel pipe for pier, 10" diameter, 26" long, 0.25" thick

### Observing reports:

Comet was observed being absorbed into the sun, press report by AAVSO

### Comments:

-We were joined by Mike Simonsen of the AAVSO tonight, former WAS president

-Gary Ross is allegedly the second greatest observer in Michigan

### In the News:

Kepler Discovers a Tiny Solar System

How to Spot a Dark Matter Galaxy

Did the US Accidentally zap Phobos-Grunt?

Death by Helium for Cosmos-Mapping Planck Observatory

**Presentation:** Dave Bailey on Classical Novas

-Brian Thieme

## *Speaker's Corner - February 16, Macomb*

### "MESSENGER of the Gods" by Steve Uitti

The MESSENGER spacecraft currently orbits Mercury, the Roman messenger of the Gods. We'll cover why MESSENGER was roam'n the solar system to get there, what has been seen, and some of the unusual discoveries made. MESSENGER's up close and personal view has already changed the way we look at Mercury. Instead of using a telescope, or RADAR, now we use an arm chair. Also, Mercury is no longer "The Moon, only 1.4 times bigger".

Stephen ("Steve") Uitti ("Witty") holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering. The "S" in "BS" is for Science. He does something with computers for a living. He has been an active member of the WAS for about a decade, has served in various officer roles, is clublibrarian, and participates in outreach. Through the Ford club, he helps produce a free monthly astronomy TV show, Astronomy For Everyone.



# Treasurer's Report

January 31, 2012

## MAILER

The mailer that is sent out early each year was published and mailed to WAS members, detailing our major activities in 2011 and looking forward to 2012.

## INSURANCE

The WAS insurance policy with Auto Owners Insurance was paid for another year at a cost of \$922.00. This was a decrease from \$967.00 last year. Some details of this policy will be considered in the future (coverage of the 22 inch DOB).

## NONPROFIT STATUS

Jonathan has been working on our ledger for 2006-2011. Much more remains to be done in this area in preparation for renewal of our 501(c)3 status. He also did a summary of our 2011 ledger.

## RAFFLE

Dale Partin suggested that the board consider whether to suspend the 50-50 raffle until our 501(c)3 status is resolved.

## BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSAL

Dale Partin proposed a change in our by-laws to help bring them into compliance with past accounting practices in preparation for renewal of our 501(c)3 status. This change would enable the WAS treasurer to carry a cash balance larger than \$200.00.

## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

I verified that previous WAS member discounts to Astronomy Magazine, Sky & Telescope Magazine and Astronomy Technology Today are still valid, as shown on our membership application.

## MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 26 members (6 of which are family memberships), paid up through 12/31/2012 or later.

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)

We took in \$2829.87 and spent \$1174.43. We have \$8790.38 in the bank account, \$246.25 in cash, and a check for \$22.00, totaling of \$9058.63.

## COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

\$3.52 postage  
\$32.35 snack reimbursements  
\$100.00 donation to Wolcott Mill Metropark commemorating WAS 50th anniversary  
\$10.42 moving dolly for Blain telescope  
\$922.00 annual insurance premium  
\$106.14 to send out WAS mailer

## INCOME

New Memberships: \$47.00  
Renewals: \$250.00  
Calendars: \$300.00  
Donation: \$2000.00 (in memory of Larry Kalinowski)  
Miscellaneous Donations: \$94.75  
Merchandise sales: \$9.50  
Sky & Telescope corrected overcharge: \$15.95  
Reconciliation: \$112.67.

This is a carry-over amount from 2011, indicating that the bank says that we have this amount more than our ledger says as of Jan 1, 2012. I am adding it into the ledger, and Jonathan is trying to identify the source of it.

Dale Partin

*The time will come when diligent research over long periods will bring to light things that now lie hidden. A single life time, even though entirely devoted to research, would not be enough for the investigation of so vast a subject. . . . And so this knowledge will be unfolded through long successive ages. There will come a time when our descendants will be amazed that we did not know things that are so plain to them. . . . Many discoveries are reserved for ages still to come, when memory of us will have been effaced. Our universe is a sorry little affair unless it has in it something for every age to investigate . . . . Nature does not reveal her mysteries once and for all.*

— Seneca, *Natural Questions* Book 7, c. first century.

## Errata

Unfortunate errors and omissions from previous issues can be found here.

### January 2012 issue of the WASP

#### Page 2

The roles of Dale Partin and Dale Thieme were reversed. Dale Partin should have been listed as treasurer, and Dale Thieme as secretary.

Omitted: History S.I.G.

### *W.A.S. History S.I.G. (January)*

Happy New Year's wishes to all. I was thrilled to see so many members of the early WAS years show up at the banquet this year. I had the great pleasure to speak with Margaret Alyea, Diane Ingrao (McCullough), Tim Skonieczny and Dave Harrington before running flat out of time.

Back to the WASP: In years past, many issues at the turn of the year, combined December with January in one issue, but I was able to unearth some solitary January issues for showcasing this month. First up is January 1970. Riyad Matti tells me that any issues that feature telescopes on the cover are his artwork, so I'm giving him credit for this one (the initials, though blurry, look something like R.M.) Inside the issue, Larry Kalinowski teaches us more about astro-photography and Gene Francis goes theoretical with the Special Theory of Relativity. In January, 1976, the cover features a photo of Percival Lowell at his telescope. The issue takes note of Saturn's return (it went away?), Comet Bradfield(1975p), and observations of the Nov. 18, 1975 Lunar eclipse by Dave Harrington. Moving on to January, 1977, in the temporary renaming of the newsletter to Vespa, Chris Edsall goes astronomically archaeological with an article on "The Finder Scopes of Ancient China". Finally, we conclude with the 1986 issue cover featuring an image of the rings of Uranus. In this issue, Observing Data for Halley's Comet and a reprint of an article by J.Eberhart - "First Sharp Look at a Uranian Ring".

