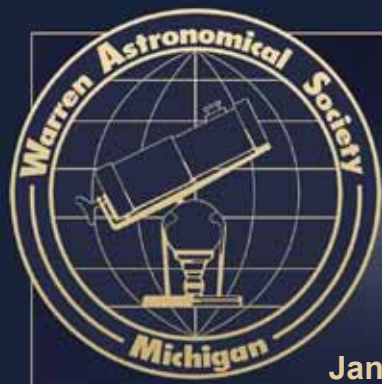


The W.A.S.P.



The Warren Astronomical Society
Celebrating 50⁺ Years



The W.A.S.P. Newsletter

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The President's Field of View

When I joined the Warren Astronomical Society in 2004, I could not have imagined, and would not have believed, that some day I would have the honor of being its president. Since that time, this club has become an important and extremely enjoyable part of my life.

I started coming to meetings in order to learn about astronomy and to learn to use my telescope. I struggled the first year to learn the names of the people I met at meetings, and I struggled to understand the talks, just as I struggled to find things in the field of view of my telescope. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of club members who patiently showed me and taught me. I am still overwhelmed by their kindness and friendship. Learning astronomy has become secondary now, as the real reason I come to meetings is to enjoy the company of other club members.



During the past two years, as I served as Vice President for programming, I learned just how much work so many dedicated volunteers do to make our club great. Before that time, I had no idea that seven board members and eight Special Interest Group leaders were spending hours every month in meetings and emails to make our meetings and observing nights so valuable.

When I think of the past presidents of the WAS who have done so much for so many years, I can only hope to keep up with what they have started. Thank you for letting me try to, as Isaac Newton said, stand on the shoulders of giants.

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.



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 [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 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 [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.

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

2012 Stargate Observatory Open House

Jan 21, Feb 18, March 17, April 21 & 28

2011-2012 WAS Meetings

Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays

Feb 6, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4

Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays

Jan 19, Feb 16, March 15, April 19, May 17



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

Astro Chatter

I have the best news to share. NASA has announced that the world isn't going to end this year.



That's right! Despite the Internet rumors, Mayan calendars, and Doomsday conspiracies, there's nothing of apocalyptic proportions in space heading to impact the earth or moon in the near future. Even the fears of a polar shift and a polarity change are meeting with a lack of scientific evidence. A magnetic reversal was deemed unlikely to happen in the next few millennia.

Now, we did, recently, have a lot of talk about the lack of solar sunspot activity. There was much talk about another mini ice age imminent. Did you enjoy the 40 degree days this January? Seems like the sun has been putting on a lovely display the last few months. However, the fear of giant solar storms are also unfounded. There is nothing special happening on the sun that is associated with the year 2012.

So the good news is that we don't have to worry about the world ending due to astronomical phenomenon. The bad news is that we are probably going to have to talk more science and fact to more nervous types this year to help calm their fears.

That being said, I still admit, I am going to be

taking December 21st as a vacation day anyway. I did ask for the time off over 5 years ago. You know, just in case!
-Debra

Editor's Pier

Thank you to all the W.A.S. membership for giving me an opportunity to present you with another year of The W.A.S.P. Each new editor puts a little of their own flavor into these issues, and I hope you like the changes to the format.

One of the most notable changes is that we now have a graphical cover and a new header image. A huge thank you to Brian Thieme for creating these handsome images.

Starting with the February issue, I am going to be listing a variety of topics that I will be building future W.A.S.P. issues around. We have a lot of talent in our ranks. Those of you who would like to contribute, but aren't comfortable getting up on the stage, may find writing a fine way of sharing your interests and knowledge. I encourage everyone that wants to write to submit your articles of any size to me at publications@warrenastro.org.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2012! -Debra

Oakland Astronomy Club Newsletter

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

Upcoming Talks

Jan 19	M	Dave Bailey	Classical Novas
Feb 6	C	Diane Hall	12/27/68: The day the USSR Lost the Moon Race
		Alan Kaplan (Short Talk)	Curiosity Mars Rover
Feb 16	M	Steve Uitti	TBA
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

Cranbrook December Board Meeting

December 5, 2011, opened 6:30pm

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

Guests: Brian Klaus, Dale Thieme, Dave Baily, Ken Bertin, Marty Kunz, Debra and Brian Chaffins, Jim Shedlowsky, Diane Hall.

President: see notes to general meeting.

First VP: Thanks to Gary and his efficiency and fun at the meetings. Schedule is full in the next few months.

Second VP: Very pleased with 4 signs at observatory regarding horses. Nice open house two weeks ago. All open houses are third Saturday of the month. We do have the public pavilion for the Summer Picnic.

Outreach: Bob will be taking this position next month and I look forward to helping with Treasurer.

Treasurers: Acceptance letter to the Astronomical league. Dale Partin completed his draft plan... see treasury notes.

Secretary: Dale got the beg letters out, and we are receiving donations for the Annual Banquet. Publications: November WASP is out. December WASP to be out before the banquet.

Old Business: Jonathan Kade made a motion for additional \$400 for the fund to pay for legal fees for 501c3. Second by S Uitti. Discussion was made. Vote was taken, motion carried.

- Dinner will begin at 7pm. People can arrive at 6pm.
- Gary Ross will make sure piano be available for banquet.
- Menu questions are taken care of .
- Ken is bringing projector and screen.
- Debra Chaffins showed us sample of dinner cards.
- Uitti will do certificates.
- Jonathan is working on historic slide show.
- Gary Ross will be there at 5:30.
-

New Business

Motion made by Bob Berta for \$100 to the park for Wolcott Mill Park in recognizing their support over the years. Second Dale P. Discussion was made. Vote was taken. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bob Berta to purchase one more length of shelving for DOB shed. \$40 cost doesn't need a motion.

No water in observatory after the amount of rain in the past few weeks.

Jonathan Kade motion to close meeting. Bob Berta second. Vote Taken, Motion carried. Meeting closed at 7:20pm

General Meeting:

President Introductions. Dec 6 marks dark long nights for a few days before the turn.

First VP – Nametags encouraged and are provided by club. Next talks: tonight – December 5 – David Cinabro, Professor from Wayne State, Astronomy professor from Wayne State, We are doomed, insignificant, and ignorant, and Chuck Dezelah , Observing open clusters, the Trumpler classes.

Next meeting is annual banquet at DeCarlo's. In January our Cranbrook meeting will be on the second Monday, January 9, because the first Monday is a holiday January 2.

Jon will be present through SKYPE at all the board meetings as Diane Hall will run the meetings for the next three months.

WAS provides a handout for new people with basic club information. Dick Gala has an email list for announcements about meetings. Sheila Bennett Judd is our Hospitality person. Please volunteer to bring snacks. Please donate a dollar or any amount of your choice into the cup when you have snacks.

Second VP: Stargate Observatory open houses... great nights and talks with scouts. Showed picture of the signs made by the park regarding challenges from horses impeding observatory space. We are donating \$100 to the park to support our continue presence and use of pavilion for Summer Picnic.

Treasurer: Most documents are ready for the non profit status.

Secretary: Thanks to those members who have helped me fulfill my secretarial duties for the past two years, especially at Thurs Macomb meetings; Dale Thieme, Diane Hall, Debra Chaffins, and Mike ODowd.

Thanks to Dale Thieme who did the beg letters this year. Members here offered to bring donations for annual banquet, please bring to DeCarlo before 6pm on Dec 15th.

Raffles will be sold at the banquet. Thanks to Debra Chaffins and Jerry Kuchera for the art work on the Dinner Card.

Publications: to be submitted soon, please feel free to submit articles.

Outreach: Consider bringing someone to the banquet. Marty is looking for helpers between Dec 26 and Dec 30 here at Cranbrook for kids.

Discussion Group held at 21 Elm Park BLVD, West of Woodward every 4th Thursday at Gary Gathen.

Solar: Invitation to anyone.

Hands on: Riyadh reported for double star and deep sky observation at open house.

Erica has donated a log book to the observatory.

Radio: Hope to get telescope going by January. Archivist: Dale T, hope to pick up more in January.

Astronomical League: Chuck Dezelah reported receiving letter from Ronald S. Whitehead, Executive Secretary from the Astronomical League, dated November 18 admitting Warren Astronomical Society at the National Level.

Astrolmaging: Calendar Images are ready. Glaac report from Diane Hall. First meeting in January.

8:11 pm In the news: Ken Bertin

8:28 pm Short Talk: Chuck Dezelah,

Presentation: Observing Open Clusters: A Tour of the Trumpler Classes.

Main Talk: 8:55pm The main presentation was given by Professor David Cinabro of Wayne State University with the title Doomed, Insignificant, and Ignorant; or, The Golden Age of Cosmology.

Meeting closed: 10pm

44 persons attended.

Speaker's Corner - Macomb

At the WAS meeting at Macomb on January 19, our speaker will be Dave Bailey. He will talk about **Classical Novas**.

A nova is not a star. It is a type of behavior exhibited by a type of star called a cataclysmic variable. These stars are nova specialists. They can produce dwarf nova outbursts, classical nova outbursts, and type Ia supernovas. The presentation will include some of the following sections:

Cataclysmic variable stars
What are dwarf novas made of?
Classical nova outbursts
Ocean surface on a white dwarf?
We have booster ignition, and lift-off!
Another kind of waves: earthquake waves?
A third kind of outburst: Supernova type Ia

Observing dwarf novas
How do dwarf novas work?
How does a nova outburst ignite?
We have main engine ignition . . .
Nova fusion: The rapid p-process
What happens after the fusion stops?

Dave Bailey's parents met each other as graduate students at Yerkes Observatory, so Dave has been in astronomy since before he was born. Unlike most club members, he's mostly a theoretician, not an observationalist, and he does not own a big telescope. Dave loves to give astronomy talks to adults and older kids. He has written about 30 presentation handouts, and has given numerous presentations at our club and at other local astronomy clubs. Dave's engineering degree is from Harvard.

Speaker's Corner - Cranbrook

At the Cranbrook meeting of the Warren Astronomical Society on Monday, January 9, we will have a main presentation and a short presentation. The main talk will be "Aliens ARE Here on Earth" by Bob Berta. The short talk will be "Asymmetry in the Cosmos" by Fred Gluckson.

Aliens ARE Here on Earth:

Scientists are discovering new forms of life on earth that are drastically changing their thinking about life here on earth as well as the possibility of life in our own solar system as well as beyond our solar system. In his presentation Bob will discuss some of those strange "alien" life forms here on earth and the impact their discovery will have on our search for life beyond earth.

Bob Berta joined WAS after retiring in California in 2004. He is also a member of the Oakland and 7 Ponds clubs here and the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers in California. His two interests in astronomy include public outreach and astrophotography. Besides his job with the Gas and Electric company in California as an electrical engineer, construction superintendant and finally Safety, Health and Claims Director he found time for nearly 40 years to run his own photography studio. Combining his love for photography with astronomy was a natural progression to astrophotography. Besides those two interests Bob is an accomplished musician on a variety of keyboard instruments including pipe and electric organ, synthesizers and his favorite...accordion. He enjoys kayaking, fly fishing, bicycling and many other delights that come with living in Michigan.

Asymmetry in the cosmos:

The cosmos is overwhelmingly symmetrical. At a recent Discussion Group meeting, when the subject of asymmetrical cosmological events came up, WAS members quaked. Even Victor, Gary Gathen's fearless Great Dane, put his paws over his ears. But when asymmetrical events do arise, Attention must be paid, to quote Death of a Salesman. Popular theories of the Big Bang hold that matter and anti-matter were created in nearly equal amounts, a symmetry which would have pleased the cosmologists of the initial nanosecond. The background radiation seen in WMAP is thought to be the result of their annihilation. Some examples of asymmetry in today's cosmos include Tidal locking, Pulsar kicks, and Asymmetrical supernovae.

Fred Gluckson was an automotive engineer until he discovered that computers don't drip oil on you. So he switched to applications development, ultimately retiring from Compuware. He has restored three vintage cars, the last of which he donated to the Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills. His proudest accomplishment in retirement was starting the Implications of Science and Technology lecture group, which prospered and has continued for 15 years. Fred has masters degrees in engineering and in business.



Treasurer's Report

BANQUET

In total, we took in \$1862 in banquet ticket sales and \$344 in banquet raffle tickets. We spent \$1847.57 on the banquet. Our net proceeds for the night were \$358.43.

MEMBERSHIPS

Dale and I have been working on a membership flyer. I started it and Dale completed it. I will be working with him to prepare it to mail this week. Expected cost is around \$80 to mail it to all members. As it includes a lot of useful information, I would like it sent to all members, even those that have paid their 2012 dues. Those who are paid up will see a message to that effect on the payment page.

We have a new member: Marlene Brownlee of Southfield. She was referred by members Cliff Jones and Mike Best, who run the Vollbrecht Planetarium in Southfield. We had three renewals.

NONPROFIT STATUS

December was not a productive month for our 501(c)(3) filing. I will be continuing to help with this as a civilian in the new year.

SKY & TELESCOPE BILLING ERROR

Sky & Telescope claimed they refunded our \$15.95 (a shipping charge incorrectly applied to our order of the S&T box set with free shipping), but it hasn't shown up in the bank account. I CCed Dale P on my last email about it and asked them to talk to him about it.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

We took in \$1662.05 and spent \$2339.66. We have \$7157.90 in the bank and \$245.29 cash.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

\$1847.57 to DeCarlo's for our banquet cost.
\$449.62 to Calyptic Creations for 32 2012 calendars.
\$34 to Kalmbach Publishing for an Astronomy Magazine subscription.
\$3.20 to Gary Ross for postage fees.
\$5.27 to Gary Ross for snack reimbursement.
\$5 to Bank of America for a fee for Dale Partin's ATM card.

INCOME

\$1172 for banquet tickets.
\$344 in raffle proceeds at the banquet.
\$34 for an Astronomy Magazine subscription.
\$52 in renewals.
\$22 in new memberships.
\$10 in merchandise sales. (The remaining two planispheres - should we consider stocking these normally?)
\$28.05 in donations at Cranbrook.

But if there is no solace in the fruits of our research, there is at least some consolation in the research itself. Men and women are not content to comfort themselves with tales of gods and giants, or to confine their thoughts to the daily affairs of life; they also build telescopes and satellites and accelerators, and sit at their desks for endless hours working out the meaning of the data they gather. The effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little about the level of farce, and gives it some of the grace of tragedy.

— Steven Weinberg
last paragraph, *The First Three Minutes: A Modern View of the Origin of the Universe*, 1977.