





# The W.A.S.P. Newsletter

July 2012

Vol. 43, No. 7

The Warren Astronomical Society Paper  
P.O. BOX 1505  
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## *The President's Field of View*

## My Telescopes



When I was a child, I had a cardboard telescope. It was a Newtonian reflector, with a mirror about 3 inches in diameter. It was on a wobbly wood tripod. The eyepiece focused by pulling it in and out, which was very jerky. There was no focus knob to turn. The only thing I could find with it was the moon.

When I retired at the end of 2001, my three grown kids bought me a Meade ETX-90. That's a Schmidt Maksutov telescope with a 3.5 inch mirror. The box said it was a go-to so I wouldn't have to know how to find anything. The box neglected to say that it wouldn't go to anything until you line it up on two known stars, and I didn't know the names of any stars.

I couldn't figure out how to use it, until I found out there is something called an "astronomy club" where people are happy to teach others how to use their telescopes. I went to a star party and was delighted to find friendly helpful club members. Over the next couple years, those wonderful people helped me learn to use my scope, and to recognize constellations and identify star names.

(continued)



In 2006, I decided that I needed a larger telescope, because everything looked small and fuzzy in my ETX-90. So I bought a Celestron 8" SCT. It was also a go-to, but this time I knew how to use it, and I knew the names of stars to line it up on. I also added some gadgets, including three eyepieces, a Telrad, a bigger finder scope (9x50), and an attached laser pointer to also use as a finder. Over the next two years, I managed to find and view all of the Messier objects in this new scope.



This year, I started using my next scope, a 22" Dob. Well, actually I only own 1% of that 22" Dob, and you own the other 99%. Yes, it's our WAS Dob that I used alone for the first time last month, and found four objects. Just as with my previous scopes, I never could have done this without a lot of help from my terrific astronomy club friends.

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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



*Member  
Photo  
Showcase  
Dick Gala*



For the Transit of Venus on June 5, I set up my Swift spotting telescope on the sledding hill in Madison Heights. I took the photos using my Cannon 610 digital camera (5 megapixels) using the zoom lens of the camera. I set the ISO at 200 and used the manual setting of the camera setting the camera focus on infinity and focused using the telescope. The lens opening was f 4.0 with the shutter speed varying from 1/1250 of a second early in the transit to 1/50 for the final shots. I have also enclosed a composite photo of the complete transit. The clouds got in the way for the first 15 minutes of the start of the transit and for about 45 minutes in the middle. But was able to get the last 30 minutes before the sun set. The sun spots were quit visible in most of the individual photos.

- Dick Gala



## *Speaker's Corner - July 2, Cranbrook*

### **"Astronomical Space Observatories"** presented by Larry Phipps

We have always looked to the stars. We are a curious species. We came, we saw, we conquered - with telescopes! Although the Earth atmosphere reflects and distorts light from space, we have, in recent years, lifted our observatories above this veil. Optical and some infrared and radio wavelengths are transparent through our atmosphere, but energy sources that are absorbed and unable to be seen include harmful Gamma Rays, X-Rays, and ultraviolet wavelengths. These are the wavelengths that carry most of the information from the Universe.

Space observatories provide the sharpest images of the cosmos that current technology allows and uncover aspects of the Universe that would otherwise be undetectable by humans. A large number of observatories have been launched into orbit, and most of them have greatly enhanced our knowledge of the cosmos.

Since my first memories of looking to the sky clutching my little field guide to the stars, the mysteries of the universe have haunted me. Time passed me by, I wandered to other pursuits. As we walked past the "Discover" store my wife noticed me looking at the telescopes on display. "Go ahead, you know you've always wanted one." I bought it.

I found WAS. Although I was sorely ignorant of astronomical trivialities, I found a way to learn, as well as express myself utilizing modern technology through presentations at our monthly meetings. Hoping that others may be as visually stimulated as I, I have presented a variety of topics such as "Arp's Peculiar Galaxies, Revisited", "Tube Hopping On the Interplanetary Superhighway", "The Antikythera Mechanism", "Cassini, There And Back Again", "The 10 Greatest Astronomical Discoveries of the Last 35 Years" as well as many others. I am pleased, and honored to be invited back to present another topic of interest to me, and I hope to others.

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Our short talk for the evening will be The Mercury Machine by Dave Bailey, in which our resident Einstein promises to teleport us to the surface of the planet Mercury so that we can experience its environment. "You may be surprised what Mercury is really like," says Dave.

## *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](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. A science video is shown from 9 to 10 PM, usually about astronomy, and selected by a vote. 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](mailto:gary@gathen.net).

## *Object of the Month - NGC6229:*

NGC 6229 is an often overlooked globular cluster in the constellation Hercules. Unlike its brilliant cousins M13 and M92 that also reside in this northerly constellation, NGC 6229 shines at a relatively modest magnitude of 9.4. Although this may not seem dim relative to the galaxies of spring and early summer, it is rather feeble in comparison to the showpiece globular clusters that dominate the summer nightscape. Nonetheless, this gentle wisp of light is worth seeking out. It cuts through even substantial light pollution with surprising ease, partially owing to its small size (4') and relatively bright core, but also due to its high northerly altitude placing it well above the bulk of the suburban sky glow.

NGC 6229 is very well positioned throughout the month of July, and can be found not far from zenith at the end of evening twilight for much of the month. It is located about 1.5° north of the magnitude 4.8 star 52 Herculis, which itself is about 5° west of the magnitude 3.9 star tau Herculis. At the eyepiece, it forms a conspicuous tight equilateral triangle with two 8th magnitude stars each of which is only about 6' away from the cluster. NGC 6229 in a medium sized aperture under moderate light pollution should appear as a small fuzzy patch that may show a mottled texture with perhaps hints of slight resolution at higher powers or under excellent conditions. It makes for a good challenge object, a fascinating contrast to the often-visited bright globular clusters, as well as being a nice diversion from the typical mid-summer targets.

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 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 features of the night sky.

-Chuck Dezelah



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

## *2nd VP, Observatory Report.*

The open house at Stargate on June 16 was held under cloudy sky and still a number of people attended from the general public. Lee Hartwell gave a presentation to a group of scouts and eventually we had gradually clearing sky and were able to see a few objects. Total number of people attending the open house is estimated at roughly 60 including the scouts.

- Riyad Matti

## *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.

# Four North students blend science and art

A.J. Hakim

The Grosse Pointe News

May 31, 2012

An independent studies course blending astronomy and photography, science and art, has four Grosse Pointe North High School students experimenting in instrumentation and resources part Stephen Hawking, part David Malin. The semester-long course, *Astronomical Image Processing*, is an astrophotography study, in which students take pictures of astronomical images through a telescope, or use raw images archived from the Internet, and, with computer processing software, transform their raw images into colorful works of art.



*Astronomical Image Processing teacher Ardis Herrold watches as juniors Chris Konen, forefront, and Zach Kaiser use GIMP to add detail to their respective images.*

*Robert Berta, right, of the Warren Astronomical Society, assists Grosse Pointe North High School freshman, Richard Green, in enhancing the detail of Green's astronomical image.  
Photo by Renee Landuyt.*

It started at the suggestion of teacher Ardis Herrold. "What I've been wanting to do for a long time is learn how to take astrophotos," Herrold said. "I said, 'Let's do this. We're going to learn together, just going to be totally collaborative on this' ... It just started with the fact, I knew all four of them and they all had a tutorial, period five, this semester that they could all get together, be in the class together. "It was serendipity. If they had four different hours, this would've never worked." Juniors Alison Alexsy, Chris Konen and Zach Kaiser, and freshman Richard Green, all of Herrold's afterschool Radio Astronomy Team, are the four students who meet daily and work collaboratively, oftentimes alongside local astrophotographers such as Robert Berta, of the Warren Astronomical Society. In their studies, they use a diverse mix of telescopes and cameras, computers and imaging software (Maxim DL, Adobe Photoshop, SalsaJ, GIMP and others). With Herrold, they often perform field studies, congregating at night for observation sessions in an attempt to capture images of nebulae, galaxies and comets, the sun, moon, stars and planets. Otherwise, they scan the Internet for raw image data, a collection of original, filtered images sparse on detail, yet full of electronic noise. It's the students' task, through stacking and other Photoshop-like manipulations and enhancements, to eliminate the noise and strengthen detail.

"When you take the pictures through your telescope, you end up with all the data," Berta said. "There's multiple files and you take all these files that are components of the final picture you end up with. But they're in different filters, etc, etc. "So what you have to do is take those pictures and stack them, which is to align them, to line up all the stars in the same place. You adjust the color on them. Using different processing steps you can bring out certain details on them." As students make progress with the imaging process, they log details of their accomplishments, discussions and observations into a daily journal via the class wikispace, also used as an online discussion tool during the times they aren't together in class or at observing sessions and to maintain the shared, collaborative learning experience of the course. "I get a lot out of this class," Green said. "We do observing nights and I've learned how to find all new things in the sky I didn't know before. That's really cool. I've learned a lot about astronomy just through this class alone." Added Kaiser: "I've really enjoyed it. I own a telescope and am big into astronomy."

## *Why I Love My Red Dot Finder*

Some people pooh-pooh the humble unit power/reflex/red dot finder. To them, it's little better than a rifle sight. "Real observers" use a finder scope that gives you a little magnification so you can spot your faint fuzzies and zero in on them before looking at them through your appropriately short focal length eyepiece. I have even read, in more than one book, snooty denunciations of low power eyepieces. To paraphrase one, "beginning observers may wish to use low powered eyepieces to find celestial objects, but experienced observers can usually navigate to them with their finderscopes and be saved the trouble of changing eyepieces."



That line of thought just baffles me. I rely on my red dot finder, and I think I do pretty well with this process. First, I locate the object's position relative to some bright stars in my atlas. I find the same stars in the sky, determine the location of my target, and use my red dot finder to get me to that precise spot. With a very low power, wide-field eyepiece (preferably my 2" 25mm or my 1.25" 40mm, which both provide similar fields of view), I look for my target.

Large, bright targets are often right there. The finderscope does well with them, too. But dim targets require some additional verification and checking against fainter star positions, and it's especially in this step that using the full 8" or 10" of aperture that my main telescope provides blows away finderscopes, ESPECIALLY in the light-polluted skies of Metro Detroit. I feel no shame in using low powered eyepieces to find faint objects quickly, efficiently, and with accurate identification.

I do not understand the bias against this style of observing. Perhaps it is a legacy of a world with darker skies. But my method of observing should be enthusiastically recommended without any sort of snooty put-downs to beginning amateurs. You get more aperture, more light. You avoid the sort of neck calisthenics that switching between peering intently through two different eyepieces requires. You only have to worry about keeping ONE telescope free from dew, instead of two, and have less equipment to store and transport. Most importantly, you get far more beautiful views while looking for objects, thus making your observing time much more rewarding.

"What about the Telrad?" some may say. It is a useful tool, to be sure, and the concentric rings make star-hopping all the more efficient. But I find the viewing angle to be more demanding, even with the riser that is essential for Dobs. I find it difficult to keep the dew off, even with a shield. It is fragile, bulky, a pain to transport, while the red dot finder is nearly indestructible and fits anywhere. The lack of a precise center dot can sometimes be more of a hindrance than the rings are a help. It requires a special mounting dock, while the red dot finder conveniently replaces your finderscope. And, importantly for those just starting in astronomy, the red dot finder is far less expensive, particularly if ordered from ScopeStuff.com. (It is, after all, just an adapted BB gun sight.)

Don't get me wrong, I love my Telrad for dark sky observing of faint and difficult objects. But if you have to pick one, pick the simple red dot finder. It's hard to better spend \$20 on astronomy equipment.

- Jonathan Kade

# Member Photo Showcase



*Annular Eclipse 2012*

*Jonathan Kade*

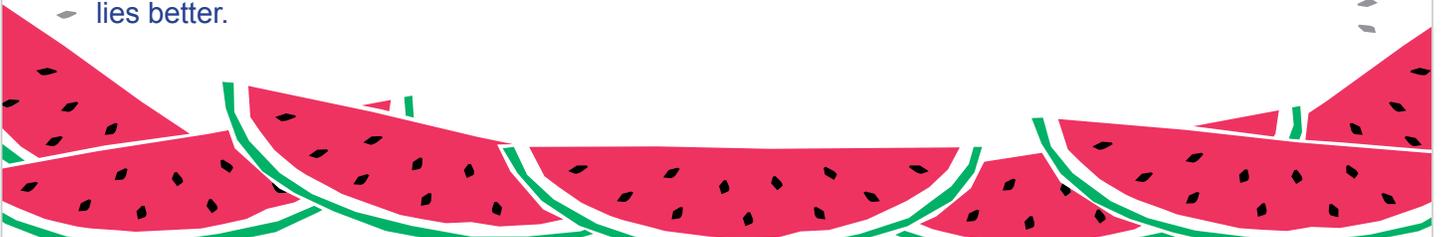


## WAS Annual Picnic July 21

Our annual picnic will be on Saturday, July 21, beginning at 4 PM, at our Stargate observatory. Members & families of all Michigan astronomy clubs are invited.

The picnic is a bring-your-own-basket affair, though we will provide drinks, hot dogs, and buns. PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS, TABLES, AND BLANKETS, and feel free to bring food to share, such as dessert or chips or salads. Wolcott Mill rules allow no alcohol on the premises.

Bring your whole family. This is a great event for all of us to get to know each other and our families better.



## 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 July 2012

d	h	
1	1	Mercury greatest elong E(26)
1	14	Antares 5.1S of Moon
1	17	Moon at perigee
2	4	Moon furthest South (-21.7)
3	12	Pluto 1.0N of Moon Occn
3	18	FULL MOON
5	2	Earth at aphelion
7	9	Neptune 5.7S of Moon
9	7	Venus 0.9N of Aldebaran
10	4	Uranus 5.0S of Moon
11	1	LAST QUARTER
13	16	Uranus stationary
13	17	Moon at apogee
14	5	Mercury stationary
15	2	Jupiter 0.5S of Moon Occn
15	8	Aldebaran 4.9S of Moon
15	14	Venus 3.8S of Moon
16	1	Moon furthest North (21.6)
19	4	NEW MOON
20	7	Mercury 0.5N of Moon Occn
21	17	Regulus 5.5N of Moon
24	19	Mars 4.0N of Moon
25	15	Saturn 5.7N of Moon
25	16	Spica 1.1N of Moon Occn
26	8	FIRST QUARTER
28	20	Mercury inferior conjunction
28	21	Antares 5.2S of Moon
29	8	Moon at perigee
29	12	Moon furthest South (-21.5)
30	5	Jupiter 4.7N of Aldebaran
30	20	Pluto 0.9N of Moon Occn

*All times are in UTC*

## 2012 Stargate Observatory Open House

July 21 (WAS Picnic), July 28,  
August 12 (Perseids), August 18

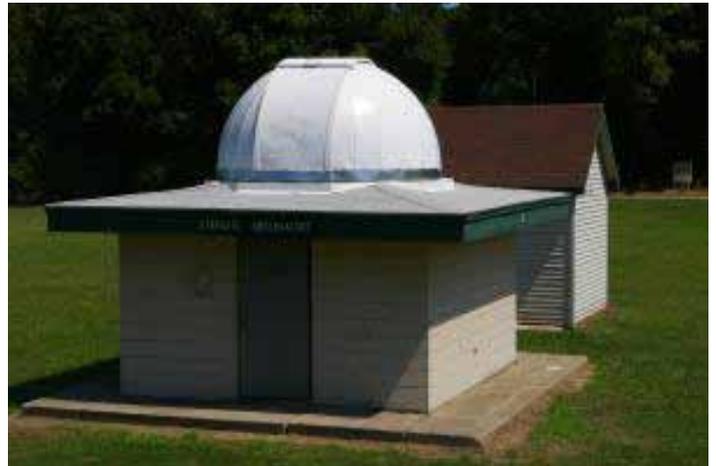
### 2012 WAS Meetings

#### Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays

July 2, August 6, September 10

#### Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays

July 19, August 16, September 20



## 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.

# 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:**

On the cover of the July/August 1971 edition, a grateful W.A.S.(P.) returns to the Macomb Campus. Meanwhile, Kenneth Wilson proceeds to punch "HOLES IN SPACE"

**Topics:** August: **Daytime Viewing** September: **Most Memorable Viewing Experience**  
**Due Date:** July 25 August 25

In July of 1975, the cover borrows a theme from an unnamed comic strip. Don Dossa discusses "Astronomy in Invisible Wavelengths" and Kenneth Wilson considers some rather interesting scope mounts in "Schemings For ATMs". You may enjoy taking a stab at the crossword puzzle in this issue as we do have the next month's issue with the answers in the archive.

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

A dense star field near Eta Carinae is the photo featured on the July 1980 cover. David Dobrzelewski writes a biographical sketch in "William Herschel, Amateur Telescope Maker" as part of a series on said astronomer.

## 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

The W.A.S. has a long history of public outreach, we could be called the Warren Astronomical Outreach Society. In the July 1986 edition, we have a resolution from the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority recognizing the contributions of the WAS to the Halley Comet viewing. Doug Bock engages in "Occultation Predictions for July 1986" and Ken Kelly calculates the "Minor Planets For June - July."

- Dale Thieme

## Upcoming Talks

August 6	C	Chuck Dezelah (long)	Urban Observing: Targets, Tips, and Tactics
		Jon Blum (short)	Why You Should Go To AATB and GLSG next month
August 16	M	Gary Ross	(Still) In Search of Capella
		Diane Hall	Syzygy Retrospective 2012
Sept 10	C	Jim Shedlowsky	Houston, We Have A Problem
Sept 20	M	Film Night	Tree of Life and The Galileo Project
		Jonathan Kade	

## Oakland Astronomy Club Newsletter

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

**Clear skies, - Bill MacIntosh**

## *Treasurer's Report*

May 31, 2012

### MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 93 members (22 of which are family memberships).

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)

We took in \$268.24 and spent \$468.88. We have \$9989.99 in the bank and \$198.98 in cash, totaling \$10188.97.

### COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

\$28.88 snack reimbursements  
\$140.00 purchase 8.8 mm eyepiece  
\$300.00 donation for Astronomy at the Beach

### INCOME

\$216.00 new memberships and renewals  
\$41.24 miscellaneous donations  
\$11.00 merchandise sales

- Dale Partin

*Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure "science."*  
*-Edwin Hubble*

## *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](mailto:DougBauer@comcast.net) if you plan to attend.

Here is a link to a map for Island Lake: <http://www.boonhill.net/faac/other/observe.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 Cranbrook Board Meeting June 4, 2012

Jon Blum brought the meeting to order at 6:36

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

**Visitors:** Jason Daniels, Dave Bailey  
Reports:

**2VP:** Open house went well, next open house Sat16th. Andy Khula and Joe Tocco are working on the observatory dome. Wiring is mostly done.

**Treasurer:** Working on bank records to build a history for the 501c(3) non-profit status.

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**Secretary:** Per Diane Hall's request, a letter of appreciation was sent to the community of Kanarraville for their hospitality during the Annular Solar Eclipse event.

**Outreach:** Tomorrow's Transit Events are looking to have a big turnout at the four sites we are participating at, Stargate, Stoney Creek Metro Park, Kensington Metro Park, and Wayne State University.

**Publications:** June WASP is up.

**Old Business:** The refractor for Stargate Observatory has been ordered. Fund raising for the mount is being developed.

**New Business:** Concerning partial year membership, Dale Partin made the motion: Anyone who joins or rejoins WAS will pay the full annual membership rate, regardless of what day of the year they join. All memberships will expire on December 31st of the current year, except that new members who join in the second half of the year (on July 1st or later), will have membership until December 31st of the following year. Members who are paid up for the current year may pay in advance for future years. Bob Berta seconded. Motion passed.

Jon Blum dismissed the meeting at 7:23



### *Speaker's Corner - July 19, Macomb*

We have a pair of short talks for the July 19th meeting at Macomb. Ken Bertin comes to us with the good word regarding Sky Safari Pro, which proved useful during this year's great celestial events. Dave Bailey will then present Galaxies: The Largest Things, a visual tour through some highlights of the universe. We'll visit galaxies thought to be near-identical to our home galaxy of the Milky Way, and galaxies so different from ours we probably ought to be glad we don't live there.

Ken Bertin-- history buff, eclipse-chaser, and the W.A.S. in-house iDevice evangelist-- is presently at work on a talk on Sir Edmond Halley, which we expect will debut sometime in 2013. David Y. Bailey, whose past presentations have ranged from discourse on stellar explosions to speculative trips to space stations and other worlds, promises that he can answer any question about astronomy. There is, of course, a catch to this offer, and we advise that you come to the meeting to find out.

## WAS Cranbrook General Meeting June 4, 2012

Meeting began: 7:31 with 54 present

### Officer Reports:

**2VP:** Received 2" 30 mm eyepiece by donation from Ken Bertin and Alan Rothenberg. We're looking to remount the 12.5 club scope by the picnic at the latest so that we can at least use it.

**Treasurer:** 10,200 balance, details elsewhere in the WASP. Dale Partin announced the mid-year new membership policy (details in the Board meeting report of this month's WASP).

**Secretary:** We sent a letter of appreciation to Kanarraville for their hospitality to our intrepid eclipse chasers, Ken Bertin, Diane Hall, Jonathan Kade, and Al Rothenberg.

**Outreach:** School presentations aplenty about the transit and other starry topics.

**Publications:** June WASP is up, good articles by our members.

### SIG Reports

**Solar Group:** Tomorrow (June 5th Transit of Venus) counts as a solar sub group meeting.

**Observations:** Brian Klaus observed a thin crescent Venus. Bill Beers reported, "That a few of us were up in Cadillac a couple of weeks ago for a star party. One of the best views I have ever seen of M51, was through Victor Valentino's brand new Webster 20" telescope! Also, it seemed like Doug Bock showed me every galaxy in the universe through his 10" Dob. He had so much fun up there that week, he came home and order a brand new 14" go-to Orion dobsonian telescope!" Steve Ultti was able to see a partial eclipse, Riyad looked at Venus in 10x50 binoculars.

**Short Talk:** Beijing Ancient Observatory- Jon Blum

**Presentation:** A Brief History of Astrophotography (A Personal Journey...Not yet complete) - Phil Martin

End time 10:01



## WAS Macomb Meeting June 21, 2012

The meeting began at 7:30, with 43 present.

### Officer Reports:

#### President:

- Our next two Macomb meetings July and August will be here downstairs in room 151. Enter lower level back door like last summer. Mark your calendar for our annual club picnic at Stargate July 21 Saturday starting at 4 PM. Club supplies hot dogs, burgers, pop.
- The W.A.S. Annual Banquet will be December 8th. Mark your calendar.
- No Macomb meeting in December
- Our club newsletter, the WASP, is sent by email shortly before the first meeting each month. It's full of useful information, including dates of future meetings and observing nights
- If you don't get email announcements about our meetings and our newsletter, sign up for our Yahoo Group, AND give your name & email address to any board member to give to Dick Gala for our mailing list
- If you want to join or renew your membership in the Astronomical League this year, you must TODAY pay your \$7.50 dues to treasurer Dale Partin, or at least tell him tonight that you will pay him within the next few days.
- We did not have most of our snacks at Cranbrook last meeting, and we will not have snacks at future Cranbrook and Macomb meetings unless club members volunteer to bring snacks. The club will reimburse you up to \$20. Bring some pop and cookies. Sign up on our website or tell me the date you are willing to bring snacks. (continued)

(cont.) **WAS Macomb Meeting June 21, 2012**

**1VP:** Upcoming speakers:

- 7/2/12, Larry Phipps, Astronomical Space Observatories
- 7/19/12, A Galaxy of Mini-Talks including “Sky Safari Pro” by Ken Bertin
- 8/6/12, Chuck Dezelah, Urban Observing: Targets, Tips, and Tactics (long) and Jon Blum, Why You Should Go To AATB and GLSC Next Month (short)
- 8/16/12, Speaker Wanted
- 9/10/12, Jim Shedlowsky, Houston We Have A Problem

We need speaker volunteers for Macomb for August 16, October 18, and November 15

**2VP:** The open house at Stargate on June 16 was held under cloudy sky and still a number of people attended from the general public. Lee Hartwell gave a presentation to a group of scouts and eventually we had gradually clearing sky and were able to see a few objects. Total number of people attending the open house is estimated at roughly 60 including the scouts.

**Treasurer:** We have 93 members paid in 2012. We have \$10,189 in the bank and cash. Details are in our WASP club newsletter

**Secretary:** We sent a letter of appreciation to Kanarraville for their hospitality to our intrepid eclipse chasers, Ken Bertin, Diane Hall, Jonathan Kade, and Al Rothenberg.

**Outreach:** Venus transit was successful...weather cleared up and had about 200 at Stony, 1000 at Kensington, and about 1000 for Wayne State. Our web site review of the transit was selected by Meetup.com as one of the featured sites of week...and CNN picked up a blog by an attendee at one of our events. School is out so we wrapped up a large number of astronomy presentations to elementary, middle and HS students. Bob also

provided a Astrophotography work shop for Grosse Pointe North HS 's astronomy club. There was an article about it in the Gross Pointe newspaper.

**SIG Reports:**

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

**Observations:**

G Ross saw two erupting variables also known as dwarf novae. One, GX Cassiopeia, showed a rather bright magnitude. The other, UU aquila. Gary is sure that he scooped Mike Simonsen. Ken Bertin was at Kitt Peak for the Transit, while there, observed Saturn, M13, a double double in Lyra and the Ring Nebula. Bob Trembley did some sidewalk astronomy at his wife's school. Saw a Prominence develop during the observation session.

**In The News:**

- The Dragon Capsule was successfully captured
- China on its way to space
- Planet x? Odd orbits In Solar system may mean unseen object, astronomer conjectures
- Titan's tropical lake hints at hydrocarbon wells
- Saturn moon spouts plasma unlike any seen before
- Annular Eclipse, May 20, 2012
- Venus transit, June 5, 2012

**Presentations:**

Riyad Matti introduced us to the “Larry Kalinowski Telescope”

Members discussed their Venus Transit experiences with Jon Blum, Ken Bertin, Jonathan Kade sharing some pictures of the transit viewing -to be continued in August.

Jon Blum dismissed the group at 9:33

-Dale Thieme, WAS Secretary

