Professional Telescopes in Hawaii

There are about 137 islands that make up the State of Hawaii, but most of those islands are tiny and uninhabited. Only 7 islands have significant numbers of people on them, and only 6 islands can be visited by tourists. The islands on the western end of the chain are eroded, many down to sea level, because they are up to 28,000,000 years old. The islands on the eastern end of the chain are the newest, and so the least eroded. The largest two islands, the two most eastern islands, are the Big Island of Hawaii (400,000 years old), and the island of Maui (800,000 years old). Professional telescopes are only built at the tops of those two tallest islands, on the volcanoes called Mauna Kea (13,000 feet on the Big Island of Hawaii) and Haleakala (10,000 feet on the island of Maui).

There are 13 major telescopes on Mauna Kea. The largest optical scopes are the two 10-meter Kecks, though there is a 10.4 meter Submillimeter observatory. Those largest scopes are run by Caltech, while the others are run by other universities, NASA, Smithsonian, and foreign countries.

There are 6 observatories on Haleakala on the island of Maui. Some have multiple telescopes within them. The whole site is owned by the Institute for Astronomy of the University of Hawaii, but they lease space to various observatories run by other universities, the Air Force, and other countries. Facilities include Mees Solar Observatory, Pan-Starrs, Faulkes, and Maui Space Surveillance Complex. The Haleakala Amateur Astronomers is a club I belong to that has a small building and concrete pad there for setting up members scopes.

Jon
**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

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)

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**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/](http://bhmich.com/sevenpondsac/). Please let me know if you might attend so that appropriate plans can be made. Any questions, please contact me.

- John Lines
Speaker’s Corner – March 4, Cranbrook

For the Cranbrook meeting on March 4th, Marty Kunz will be spreading the word about Astronomy.fm.

Astronomy.fm is “the only all-astronomy radio in the known universe.” Streaming twenty-four hours a day to listeners in eight-five countries, Astronomy.fm is an all-volunteer organization founded in 2009. Marty, a key player on the Astronomy.fm team, co-hosts Space Pirate Radio every Wednesday night (EST) and The Event^Horizon! on Fridays. AFM’s mission is to bring astronomy education and outreach to listeners around the globe, and at this meeting Marty will be bringing the AFM mission to the WAS.

Marty Kunz is a veteran member of the Warren Astronomical Society as well as a former president and board member of the club. He also serves as the club liaison to its “home institute” of Cranbrook and, as “Solar Marty,” is the chairman of the Solar Special Interest Group.

For the night’s short presentation, Bob Trembley will be presenting The Dawn Probe: Investigating the Dawn of the Solar System

Bob Trembley has been an amateur astronomer since age eight. He graduated from MTU with a BSEE, and currently resides in Chesterfield Township Michigan. Bob has been collecting meteorites for two decades, and owns a 8” Dobsonian and a 40mm Solar Telescope that he uses whenever Michigan weather allows him.

Bob joined the Warren Astronomical Society in mid-2011, and has recently been doing an increasing amount of astronomy outreach: both solo and with the Society. Bob has lectured about meteorites in a middle school classroom, and recently gave an Astronomy lecture at a local Science Fiction convention. Bob recently become a volunteer NASA Solar System Ambassador. Bob runs a Blog, Balrog’s Lair, where he posts his better photos, along with current Astronomy / Space / Science / Technology news.

Seven Ponds Special Invitation

On March 23rd, 2013, Seven Ponds is hosting a talk by Harlan Neuville, a retired engineer who worked Mission Contol (Guidance and Navigation) for NASA in the heyday of the manned missions from 1966-1975. Harlan is very interesting. He has lots of behind the scenes stories of the missions, including Apollo 13. The main part of his talk centers around taking questions from the audience.

Please make plans to Seven Ponds Nature Center on Saturday, March 23rd at 7:00PM. The nature center is located at 3854 Crawford Road, Dryden, Michigan 48428.

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

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

January 31, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
We currently have 48 members (10 of which are family memberships).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)
We took in $2708.44 and spent $1078.11. We have $13137.06 in the bank and $196.84 in cash, totaling $13333.90.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS
$66.95 magazine subscriptions
$33.10 reimbursement for snacks
$8.06 postage
$909.00 insurance
$61.00 purchase more (500) WAS checks

INCOME
$356.00 new memberships and renewals
$44.69 donations for snacks
$22.50 Astronomical League memberships
$2068.05 donations for new telescope and mount
$66.95 magazine subscription
$120.00 calendars
$30.25 merchandise

$7455.55 Total donated to date for new telescope and mount

- Dale Partin

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

March 1973
The cover of this issue proclaims that it was the fourth anniversary of the WASP - and that was all the editor had to say about that. Once inside, we find a general article on “Constellations” by Frank McCullough, followed by “Constellation of the Month (Canis Major and Canis Minor)” by Frank and “Observational Astronomy (M-41, M-46, M-47, M-93), also by Frank. Ken Wilson rounded out the issue with an “Astronomical Almanac”

March 1976
OK, this is timely: a cover with a comet on it (as we look forward to another cometary display this March). This particular comet, West (1975n), is written about in the “Astrophotographer’s Corner: Another Super Comet??” by Larry F. Kalinowski. Roger Bullock gives us a Planetarium Guide, a column that needs reviving (any volunteers?). While we await the arrival of the Larry F. Kalinowski Refractor, “Stargate Status- A Report on Drive Renovations” should make interesting reading. Garry Boyd then instructs us on “Making A Coronagraph to View the Prominences of the Sun.” in A.T.M. for the Frantic Fringe!

March 1981
A must read: “Interview with Lou Faix”. Milan D. Radakovic lists observing opportunities in “Planets for 1981”.

WAS History Note: The SIG received an inquiry about Garry Boyd (above in the March 1976 issue), former member and observatory dome builder. Anyone who can provide contact information for Garry, please send it to history@warrenastro.org.

- Dale Thieme
Object of the Month - NGC 2392:

NGC 2392 is the famous Eskimo Nebula in the constellation Gemini. Many planetary nebulae are marked by having an integrated magnitude suggestive of a rather subdued object, but in fact most possess a surprisingly high surface brightness due to their typically small angular size. The Eskimo Nebula is no exception; it has a magnitude of 10.0 (although sources disagree), is a mere 42" in diameter, and yet is a conspicuous object even from heavily light polluted suburban locations. It is named for its resemblance to a human face that is ringed by the furry edge of a parka hood, akin to those worn by Inuit during the long arctic winters.

Locating NGC 2392 is not challenging, as it lies about 2 degrees southeast of Wasat (Delta Geminorum), a third magnitude star along the midsection of Gemini’s eastern half. Under favorably dark skies, the 5th magnitude star 63 Geminorum, which is only 40’ away, can serve as an additional signpost. Perhaps the main obstacle in finding the object is its minute size, which might cause one to pass over it. Unlike many small planetary nebulae, however, the Eskimo Nebula is quite easy to distinguish from a star—it has a prominent nucleus from what remains of its stellar parent, as well as a distinct shroud of light from which it gets its name. Like most objects of its type, NGC 2392 benefits from the use of increased magnification to pull out subtle hints of detail. While low to medium power will reveal the central white dwarf, a nebular glow, and the handsome pairing with an 8th magnitude neighboring star, high power may further uncover structure that can help make clear the object’s face-like character. Nights with above average seeing conditions are recommended, as steady skies will improve resolution and will render its attributes more amenable to observation.

Upcoming Talks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Jonathan Kade</td>
<td>Comet of Doom (short talk)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Diane Hall</td>
<td>Astrology 101 (long talk)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ken Bertin</td>
<td>ITN 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Ken Bertin</td>
<td>Edmond Halleyn(long talk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Dave Bailey</td>
<td>Sun Dogs, Rainbows, and Other Lights in the Sky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This column is 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 features of the night sky.

- Chuck Dezelah
"If I could get one message to you it would be this: the future of this country and the welfare of the free world depends upon our success in space. There is no room in this country for any but a fully cooperative, urgently motivated all-out effort toward space leadership. No one person, no one company, no one government agency, has a monopoly on the competence, the missions, or the requirements for the space program."

- Lyndon Baines Johnson, October 1961

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**Photo and Article Submissions**

Your WASP team wants 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

Documents can be submitted in Word (.doc), Open Office (.ods), or Text (.txt) formats, or put into the body of an email. Photos can be embedded in the document or attached to the email and should be under 2MB in size. Please include some captions for your photos along with the way you want your name to appear and dates taken.

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Cold, heavy air settled around Benjamin Banneker’s prone form as he lay on the hard soil of the Potomac River basin. Slightly cushioned by the wild rye and switch grasses, dew formed on his clothes and exposed skin. The air was musky, rich with the pungent smell of earth and the acrid scent of the nearby campfires. At 11:52 p.m. he was still hours from finishing his observations, but his feet, knees, and hands ached as the damp air sucked the heat from his body. The next day he would walk for an hour in the mid-morning sunlight before its warmth dulled the pain in his joints. The observations that he was making were from a level section of ground near the confluence of Huntington Creek and the Potomac River just south of Alexandria. Banneker peered into the instrument and watched as Tania Australis neared the zenith. Tania Borealis was brighter and easier to see, but he loved the soft, rusty-red color of Tania Australis. He looked at the graduated scale and jotted the angular distance in his linen notebook using a small, sharpened piece of charcoal as his pencil. It was difficult for him to see, but he was methodical and consistent, so the Ellicott’s would easily follow his notations the following day. The instrument he used was a Zenith Sector, a long telescope suspended from a pivot point at the top of a tall upright stand. With the eyepiece so close to the ground, there was no other way to observe than to lay on one’s back. It was procured by the Ellicott brothers who had been contracted by the newly-formed Federal Government to survey parts of Virginia and Maryland in order to establish the new Federal District – Washington, D.C. – and to survey for a Federal Residence to be constructed.

Banneker was rarely openly resentful of his station in life, but longed for equal acceptance. Peaceful and good-natured, he was always mindful of the inequity between his race and Europeans and wanted and worked to see slavery abolished for the benefit of his brethren.

The Ellicott brothers slept in relative comfort, while Benjamin toiled alone under the dark starry sky. He didn’t mind. He loved the night sky and the serenity and solitude that it provided. Banneker often watched the stars and moon cross the sky from east to west – appreciating the subtle changes of moon’s position among them. The planets also fascinated him, however, only Jupiter was visible that night. Only when cloud cover prevented his work did he enjoy the comforts of warm bedding. During the day Banneker enjoyed taking long walks in the sun – as he often did at his farm in Baltimore County, Maryland.

Braving the harsh elements from February of 1792, Banneker’s ambition and dedication was finally overcome. Feeling ill, he returned home before the end of April.
Benjamin Banneker was born on November 9, 1731. He was the eldest of four children born to Mary Banneky and Robert (a freed slave). Benjamin’s grandmother, Molly Welsh, was white and served as an indentured slave for many years. She had owned at least two slaves, but eventually freed them and married Banneky (changed from Banna Ka). Molly Welsh was instrumental in Benjamin’s early development and taught him to read Bible scripture and to write. Outside of limited opportunity to attend a Quaker schoolhouse, he was largely self-taught. Banneker loved reading and had a natural aptitude for mathematics. Banneker was primarily a farmer and worked tirelessly on his family’s Baltimore County, Maryland farm. With his father, they improvised and implemented many ingenious irrigation techniques that kept the farm productive – even during seasons of drought. Following his father’s death in 1759 Banneker acquired the family’s farm.

Banneker had a number of astonishing accomplishments. As a young man of 21 or 22 he studied the workings of a pocket watch – then working from his own plans and sketches he carefully constructed a hand-carved working clock. He used his knowledge and understanding of mathematics to calculate the dimensional relationships of the clock gears. His understanding of mathematics was so well versed and his attention to detail so meticulous that the clock kept time accurately and continued working throughout his remaining 50 years of life.

Banneker’s appetite for reading was great and he borrowed books from where ever he could to further his education. In 1763 he purchased his first book – a Bible. He loved reading the scriptures but was not devoted to any specific religion. Instead he embraced many and visited the churches in his area whenever he could.

Mathematics and his love for astronomy was more of an interest than a scholastic endeavor. Around 1773 he became more intrigued and began serious study of both subjects that continued through his 50’s. In 1788, at the age of 59 he borrowed books, charts, and a telescope from his friend and neighbor George Ellicott. George was also a mathematician and amateur astronomer and provided Banneker access to his library. One year later he would successfully compute his first solar eclipse and present his findings to his friend George.

George’s cousin, Andrew Ellicott, was seeking someone with knowledge of astronomy when he offered to hire George as part of a survey team. George had other commitments and recommended Benjamin Banneker as his replacement. Banneker was hired and worked four months, from February to the end of April, 1791. The winter and early spring weather was harsh and Banneker was not able to complete the survey due to health problems.

During Banneker’s life, watches and clocks were luxuries and not commonly found in most households. Almanacs were the primary way to mark time through the day. The ephemeris, a simple printed table of values that showed the position of astronomical objects at a given time, was crucial to determining the time of day by sunrise, noon, and sunset as well as the position of the moon and its phases, and the known planets.

Banneker completed his first almanac in 1792. It included several of his ephemerides. It was common for a scientist to turn over their ephemerides to publishers who would include them in almanacs.
Banneker's own almanacs not only contained his ephemerides but also other literature he selected or wrote; stories, opinion pieces, medical information and tide tables. The Chesapeake Bay region was heavy with maritime trade and many people made their living from the bay, rivers, streams, and ocean. Tide tables were considered crucial and Banneker alone included them in his almanac.

The title page of his first almanac read:

*Banneker’s 1792 Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland & Virginia Almanack & Ephemeris*

*Containing the motions of the Sun and Moon, the True Places and Aspects of the Planets, the Rising and Setting of the Sun, Place and Age of the Moon, & c. – The Lunations, Conjunctions, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Festivals, and other remarkable Days; Days of holding the Supreme and Circuit Courts of the United States, as also the useful Courts in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Also – Several useful Tables and Valuable Receipts – Various Selections from the Commonplace – Book of the Kentucky Philosopher, and America Sage with interesting and entertaining Essays, in Prose and Verse – the whole comprising a greater, more pleasing, and useful Variety than any Work of the Kind and Price in North America.*

That same year Banneker wrote to Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, to urge him to use his influence to end slavery. Banneker included copies of his ephemerides to demonstrate his level of intellect. Jefferson replied promptly with a favorable and encouraging position. Jefferson was markedly impressed and forwarded a copy to the Marquis de Condorcet, secretary of the French Academy of Sciences in Paris, with a personal cover letter. Unfortunately a reply was impossible since the diplomat was forced into hiding for political reasons.

Banneker continued computing his ephemerides and writing his almanacs until 1802, but they were only published through 1797 due to declining demand. In comparison to competing almanacs, Banneker's were surprisingly accurate, a testament to this self-educated man.

In 1806, Benjamin Banneker died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 74. On the day of his burial, his home mysteriously caught fire and many of his personal belongings burned or were otherwise destroyed, including his remarkable wooden clock.

Throughout America there are recreational facilities, cultural centers, schools, parks, and streets that are named in memoriam to Benjamin Banneker. In 1970, a small park was established in his memory in Washington, D.C. Benjamin Banneker Park is located behind the Smithsonian Museum near the waterfront. In 2006, a sculpture of Benjamin Banneker was commissioned and placed in the park.

In 1980, commemorating Black Heritage, the US Postal Service issued its third stamp in the popular series to honor Benjamin Banneker. While no photograph exists of Banneker, the stamp includes his portrait – an artist’s rendition based on written descriptions.

Joseph Tocco
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

Snack Volunteer Schedule

March 4  C  Bob Trembley
March 21 M  Dave Bailey
April 1  C  Jon Blum
April 18 M  Dale Partin
May 6   C  Dick Gala
May 16 M  Angelo DiDonato

If you are unable to bring the snacks on your scheduled day, or if you need to reschedule, please use the form on the website, or email the board at board@warrenastro.org as soon as you are able so that other arrangements can be made.

Astronomical Phenomena
March 2013

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Spica 0.1N of Moon          Occn</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Saturn 3.3N of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mercury inferior conjunction</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>LAST QUARTER</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Moon furthest South (-20.5)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Moon at perigee</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Pluto 0.7S of Moon          Occn</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>Jupiter 1.4N of Moon</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Aldebaran 3.6S of Moon</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Saturn 3.3N of Moon</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>31</td>
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All times are in UTC

2013 Stargate Observatory Open House
March 9, April 13, April 20 - Astronomy Day

2013 WAS Meetings
Cranbrook Meetings: 1st Mondays
March 4, April 1, May 6

Macomb Meetings: 3rd Thursdays
March 21, April 18, May 16
For our Macomb meeting on Thursday March 21, Gary M. Ross will be presenting The Rehabilitation of Percival Lowell.

Says Ross of the Lecture,

“Percival Lowell, once termed ‘the most brilliant man in Boston’, has seemingly of late come in for routine gentle ridicule. To those au courant in planetary science it is an easy sport, but less excusable in those who know the history of astronomy or the philosophy of science. He could be considered ‘eccentric’ because he and his family were fabulously wealthy, and only Americans who are rich can be judged eccentric. Lowell was energetic at least, driven most certainly, representing the very best of the Gilded Age. When others of his class would have been yacht basin bums or frequenters of Saratoga, he was in the wild-and-woolly studying the Solar System -- or writing big cheques for others of even greater skill. As uomo universale, his mathematics gave him the scientific tools and his power of reason gave him the drive in the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence. There was much antecedent expectation in modern astronomy to encourage someone. In the early twenty-first century when planetary science is, sometimes excessively, spiced with the ‘L’ word, Lowell was on that beach-head, studying and making his case, and although he went a bridge too far, for all his variegated achievement and self-confidence, he was simply human.

STAGE ASIDE: Those put off by the ‘archaic’ should make alternate plans. The above will be the 2014 Bruce P. Sidell Memorial Lecture.)”

Says Ross of himself,

“Vast and excessive education which took over-long to amass. I am ‘most brilliant man in Lowell Township’ (although Jerry Persha and James Steele Foerch are closing in fast).” He is also a former President of this august society.

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2nd VP Report

February Observatory Report

The Stargate open house was held on February 9th as planned.

The sky condition was mostly clear with some haze and a few thin clouds. Two 10 inch reflectors were set up in the field and the 12.5 inch Cassegrain in the dome was also used for observing.

Observing included Jupiter, deep sky objects, and a few double stars. We had about 40 people attending including roughly 18 scouts.

Next open house is scheduled for March 9th.

- Riyad I. Matti
WAS Board meeting, February 4, 2013

Board members: Jon Blum via skype, Diane Hall, Dale Partin, Dale Thieme, Bob Berta, Debra Chaffins

Visitors: Dave Bailey, Ken Bertin, Brian Klaus, Marty Kunz, Lee Hartwell

Diane Hall brought the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.

Reports:
President: 501-c3: updates to the data has been sent to the attorney. A question about section 8D was raised concerning fund raising plans. After discussion about crowdsourced fundraising, Dale Partin moved that we table discussion until we see what funds come from the membership for the telescope project. Debra Chaffins seconded, motion carried. Snack assignments are covered and reminders are sent via email. Jon has reserved DeCarlo’s for the awards banquet, Dec 5.

1st Vice President: In regards to programming, the front end of the year is filling up. GLAAC has a short list of candidates for Kensington speakers.

2nd Vice President: Reporting for Riyad, Bob Berta said the open house was scheduled for this weekend, complete with propane heater.

Treasurer: Dale Partin said we have $13,137.06 in the bank and $196.84 in cash, totaling $13,333.90. Full report in the WASP. The last of the WAS calendars will be distributed by mail.

Secretary: NR

Outreach: Bob Berta mentioned a Lutheran church event in May with local schools invited. We are also getting events listed in the Sky Safari program for mobile devices. Diane Hall said we need to publicize Ford swap meet (March 16).

Publications: The February issue is out, a possible new column is in the works.

New Business: Marty Kunz spoke of a Cranbrook Pre-astronomy event, daytime astronomy at Cranbrook, April 1. WAS members are invited to bring scopes. Bob Berta will be handing out some awards for outreach efforts tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Oakland Astronomy Club Newsletter

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

Clear skies, - Bill MacIntosh

Members are encouraged to join the Warren Astronomical Society Yahoo Group for messages, photo posting and more.
WAS General Meeting, Cranbrook
February 4, 2013

Diane Hall called the meeting to order in Jon Blum’s absence at 7:30 with 41 present.

Officer Reports:
President: Stuck in Hawaii, poor fellow.
1st Vice President: Plenty of openings left in this year for talks.
2nd Vice President: Open house this weekend.
Treasurer: 48 members so far, it’s renewal season so feel free to join up. $13,300 and change in treasury, details in the WASP.
Secretary: NR

Outreach: There is a Lutheran church outreach in May, Bob Berta presented Night Sky Network awards to: Bob Trembley, Dave Bailey, Ken Bertin, Diane Hall, and Jonathan Kade in recognition for outreach efforts. Bob Berta brought in some constellation scroll saw puzzles that he made for display. Ford astronomy swap meet coming in March 16, 7 Ponds Astronomy talk by a NASA veteran, March 23.

Publications: Debra Chaffins said the February WASP is up, we’re getting good contributions. This month try to submit earlier, Feb, 26 would be good.

SIG Reports:
Solar Group: Meets first Sunday of the month. Yesterday was a snowy meeting. Cranbrook is having a daytime Astronomy event on April 1st.
Discussion Group: Meets 4th Saturday of the month
Radio Astronomy: Meets at McMath-Hulbert Saturdays at 10 am. Restoration work being done.

Astronomy League: Renewal time, $7.50. Chuck Dezelah pointed out that there were new additions to the website, plus new observing programs.

GLAAC: Has a short list of speakers compiled.

Astro Photo: Bob Berta has taken over for Phil Martin, arrangements are being made to use the new Cranbrook telescope and facilities for imaging.

Observing: Jonathan Kade reported that a comet is coming: PanSTARRS, best view likely just after new moon in March.

Bob Trembleley used his Dob and a friend’s Celestron 8” at a Science Fiction convention outreach.

Lee Hartwell compiled a 45 minute movie from his visit to the Mauna Kea telescopes (sounds like a future talk).

In The News by Ken Bertin
• Australia wildfires delay black hole studies
• 8th-century tree rings hint at a close range space blast
• Did Mars hide life in its watery pockets?
• Dwarf planet Eris may reveal quantum gravity
• Earth and others lose status as Goldilocks worlds
• Close call coming: Averting the asteroid threat
• Dinosaur-killing asteroid was a twin terror

Short Talk: Bob Berta: Astronomy and Astrology in Ancient Egypt 3000-1500 B.C.

Presentation: Video- “Timescapes” shown by Bob Berta

The meeting ended at 9:57

- Dale Thieme
WAS General Meeting, Macomb
February 21, 2013

The meeting began at 7:29 with 31 present

Officer Reports:
President: Bob Berta filled in for Jon Blum who seems to be stuck in Hawaii

1st Vice President: Report from Diane Hall
3/4 Cranbrook
  Marty Kunz: Astronomy.fm live
  Bob Trembley: DAWN Mission (short)

3/21 Macomb
  G.M. Ross: The Rehabilitation of Percival Lowell

4/1 Cranbrook
  Diane Hall: Astrology 101
  Jonathan Kade: Comet of Doom (short)

4/18 Macomb
  Ken Bertin: In The News 2012

Diane also recorded an episode of the Ford Amateur Astronomy Club’s show, “Astronomy for Everyone,” tomorrow night. She discussed the W.A.S. and its activities for Astronomy Day. Also told everyone about our beautifully restored observatory and its future as the home of the LFK Refractor.

2nd Vice President: Open House on 2nd Saturday of month

Secretary: The WAS History SIG is seeking contact information on Garry Boyd, a dome builder and past member of the club who sold his business to a fellow in Australia.

Treasurer: Dale Partin reported that we have about $13,300 and change, with about 7,500 earmarked for the new telescope and mount.


- New Satellite will be first asteroid sentinel in space
- PanSTARR’s path
- NASA spy telescopes won’t be looking at Earth
- Space station’s dark matter hunter not telling
- Runaway stars to fill in the blanks in Milky Way map
- Mystery of cosmic rays’ origin finally solved
- Comet rain took life’s ingredients to Jupiter’s moons
- First exoplanet smaller than Mercury discovered - Kepler 37b
- Huge telescopes could spy alien oxygen
- Universe has finite lifespan Higgs-Boson calculations suggest
- Earth-like “Super Earth” planets more Like “Mini-Neptunes” Astronomers Say

Special Short Talk- Gary Ross
“Railing against the mediocre Solar Maximum”
After waiting 5 years for something to happen by way of a solar maximum, Gary is deeply disappointed in the sun’s performance. He recalled excellent displays back in the heroic era of the fifties.

Presentation: “Reverse Cosmology: People, Personalities and Problems in Cosmology” by James M. Marron (Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association)

The meeting ended at 9:35