What’s Special Tonight?

There are three questions that the public always asks us when they see us observing with our telescopes. (1) What’s that bright thing? (The answer is usually Venus.) (2) It’s my birthday this month, so where is my zodiac constellation? (The answer is you can’t see it during the month of your birth.) And (3) what special event is happening in the sky tonight that made you come out here with your telescope? My answer to that third question is that the ordinary sky visible every clear night is special.

In David Eicher’s column in the July issue of Astronomy Magazine, he quoted Roman philosopher Lucius Seneca. “Such is our constitution that objects of daily occurrence pass us unnoticed even when most worthy of our admiration... So natural is it to admire what is strange rather than what is great.” This explains why 10,000 people came to Kensington’s Astronomy At The Beach in 2003, when Mars was the closest in 60,000 years, but none of them bother to look at Mars for a couple months every two years when it looks almost as good as it did that year. It explains why thousands of people buy telescopes when a naked-eye comet appears every few years, but none of them bother to look through those telescopes at the beautiful galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters visible every single night. It explains why hundreds of people showed up at Stargate to see a handful of Perseid meteors this August, but none of them bother to come to Stargate all the other months when we are out there with our telescopes happy to show and explain the wonders of the universe.

We are the lucky few. We notice what is worthy of our admiration, even if it is an object of daily occurrence. We admire what is great, not only what is strange.

Jon
**Speaker’s Corner - October 7, Cranbrook**

“On Monday, October 7th, Program Chair Diane Hall returns to the Manned Spaceflight soapbox with this look at the ‘shuttle’ Enterprise. She’ll cover what a shuttle is and is not and look at the missions carried out by this high-tech glider before its retirement to a string of museums.

For the short talk this evening we have the indefatigable Ken Bertin, who has just returned from a visit to Yerkes and wants to spread the word about the largest refractor ever built.”

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**2014 Elections**

These are the nominees to date for the 2014 WAS Board. Additional nominations may be made. The election will take place at Cranbrook on November 4, and new officers will begin their terms on January 1.

- **President** - Jonathan Kade
- **1st VP** - Dale Partin
- **2nd VP** - Joe Tocco
- **Treasurer** - Dale Thieme
- **Secretary** - Chuck Dezelah
- **Outreach** - Angelo DiDonato
- **Publications** - Bob Trembley

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**Speaker’s Corner - October 17, Macomb**

At the Macomb meeting on Thursday October 17th, the Warren Astronomical Society’s newest Solar System Ambassador comes to the podium with the latest, greatest word on the astronomical vermin known as asteroids. If you didn’t love asteroids before now, Bob Trembley will show you the way to enlightenment.

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**Upcoming Talks**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>Cranbrook</td>
<td>Gordon Hansen</td>
<td>AstroJeopardy!</td>
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<td>November 21</td>
<td>Macomb</td>
<td>Dave Bailey</td>
<td>Strange Little Stars: White Dwarfs</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>Cranbrook</td>
<td>Michael Foerster</td>
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<td>Jim Shedlowsky</td>
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NGC 7331 is a prominent spiral galaxy located in the constellation Pegasus. The object is among the most readily observed non-Messier galaxies in the northern sky, and is commonly recommended on “best of” lists compiled by amateur astronomers due to its ease of observation and attractive features. It is also noteworthy for its resemblance to the Milky Way; NGC 7331 is considered to be of similar size and structure, and may provide some insights into the makeup of our own galaxy. The object presents itself to viewers at an angle that is intermediate to that of a face-on and an edge-on galaxy, although it is considerably nearer to being the latter. NGC 7331 is brightest member of a galaxy cluster known as the Deer Lick Group, an assemblage that also contains the famous Stephan’s Quintet, which is well-known for its remarkable physical characteristics, as well as for being a challenge object amongst amateur astronomers. NGC 7331 is categorized as SA(s)b spiral galaxy with a visual integrated magnitude of 9.5 and an angular size of about 10’ x 4’.

Locating October’s object of the month is relatively easy for those who are familiar with the autumn constellations. NGC 7331 is positioned near the front legs of Pegasus, the legendary winged horse of Greek myth. By following a path from Mu Pegasi to Eta Pegasi and continuing onward another 4.5°, the field of view should be almost centered on the object. At low power, the galaxy should be evident in most mid-sized telescopes as an elongated strip of glowing light. With increasing magnification and aperture, the figure of a spiral with a fairly small degree of inclination will become gradually more apparent. The overall visual impression is interestingly reminiscent of a miniature version of the Andromeda galaxy—with a shape, angle, and leading edge dark lane not so dissimilar to our illustrious neighbor, albeit from a much more removed perspective.

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

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.
**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:** NexStar 5, Schmidt-Cassegrain lenses, carrying case, tripod, spotting scope and a couple of lenses.

Contact name: Lee Prain  
E-mail: leeprain@sbcglobal.net  
Cell: 248-891-8673  
Location: Oxford, MI

$500.00 OBO for all. Excellent condition. used very little. Has capability of complete portability using AA batteries. Can be tied to the computer via RS232 cable. Everything works.

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**2 TELESCOPES FOR SALE**

- Meade LX200-GPS 10" Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope  
- Meade Tripod  
- Meade Eyepiece case with Meade Super Plossil 6.4mm, 9.7mm, 12.4mm, 15mm, 20mm, 26mm, 32mm, 40mm  
- Meade Autostar Suite LPI Lunar Planetary Inager  
- Meade #610 Dew Shield  
- Orion 10" Solar Filter SCY/2120  
- Burgess Binoviewer BaK4 FBBMC  
- + many other filters and accessories  
- $2,500  

- Meade ETX-90EC w/carrying case & tripod  
- Meade ETX Autostar  
- Meade Super Plossil LP 26mm Multi-coated Eyepiece  
- BC&F Solar Filter + other accessories  
- $200  

If interested, contact Vince Chrisman  
(586) 231-2339

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8-inch RV-8 Dynascope by Criterion for sale and wonder if you would make this announcement available to your membership. It is in very good condition. It is motorized and has 4mm, 9mm, and 18mm eyepieces. There is also a 8X50 finder scope; a Criterion Variable Speed Control; Criterion sun filter, S-4; and Criterion 2X eyepiece multiplier, CP4. $250.00 cash.

Contact: Duane Birrell (586) 294-2980
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

2nd Vice President’s Observatory Report

The September Stargate open house was held on Saturday the 14th as planned. The sky condition was good at dusk but became cloudy later and the observatory was closed by 10:45 pm.

Roughly 45 people attended including WAS members and a few scouts. The moon and a few objects were observed.

The next open house will be on Saturday October 12th.

New Policy - No Pets at Events

The W.A.S. Board has adopted a new policy stating that all pets, except service dogs, are banned from all Warren Astronomical Society events. This includes the picnic and observing nights.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Oakland Astronomy Club Newsletter

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

Clear skies, - Bill MacIntosh
Treasurer’s Report
August 31, 2013

MEMBERSHIP
We currently have 111 members (22 of which are family memberships).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)
We took in $215.10 and spent $228.26. We have $13572.83 in the bank and $156.04 in cash, totaling $13728.87 as of August 31, 2013.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS
$41.27 reimbursement for snacks
$20.00 WAS annual corporation fee
$94.99 new treasurer’s briefcase
$72.00 Meetup semiannual expense

INCOME
$50.10 donations for snacks
$99.00 new memberships and renewals
$15.00 Astronomical League memberships
$41.00 donations for new telescope and mount
$10.00 miscellaneous merchandise sales
$7734.05 Total donated to date for new telescope and mount

-Dale Partin

Members are encouraged to join the Warren Astronomical Society Yahoo Group for messages, photo posting and more.

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

Oct 1973
The cover of this issue features images from Mariner (9?)
Ken Wilson talks about two state parks, Port Crescent and Albert E. Sleeper in “Observing Site Report: Port Austin, Mich.” Anyone willing to make a return trip and report on the seeing now?

Frank McCullough offers up Delphinus, the Dolphin in “Constellation of the Month” and then in “Observational Astronomy”, the Saturn Nebula. In the DIY dept.Bev. Bock writes “Using the Stereoscopic Ability of the Eyes for Locating Stellar Objects in the Viewfinder”. The 1973 Transit of Mercury is discussed by David L. Harrington.

Oct 1976
The cover of this issue is graced by the Crab Nebula (M1)
The only feature article is a reprint: “Science and the Parascience Cults” by Kendrick Frazier.

Oct 1978
Summer nebulae are featured on this month’s cover. Ken Kelly acquaints us with the latest news “FROM THE IAU CIRCULARS”. Louis Faix reports on an organized (with 14 WAS members and associates) of the 1978 PERSEID METEOR SHOWER. Brad Vincent hits up the plumbing supply stores in “The Economical ATM (3. Pipe Mounts)”.

Oct 1984
Ken Kelly instructs potential Messier hunters in “Messier Objects and Guide Stars”. “A Comparison of Three Solar Filters” is made by Richard Hill.
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
WAS Board Meeting, September 9, 2013

Board members: Jon Blum, Diane Hall, Riyad Matti, Dale Partin, Dale Thieme, Bob Berta, Visitors: Marty Kunz, Bob Trembley, Brian Klaus, Ken Bertin, Jon Root
Jon Blum opened the meeting at 6:32 pm

Reports:
President: Jon Blum - reminded the board that Kensington’s Astronomy At The Beach is Sept 27-28. The Awards Banquet is on Thursday, December 5 (no Macomb meeting Dec). Jon will miss the next board meeting and Cranbrook October 7. Diane will run both of those meetings on that date.

1st Vice President: Diane Hall pointed out that she has one open slot for the Macomb meeting. We need to get next year’s talks lined up. Concerning 501-c3, she said the 1982 articles of incorporation- employer ID number is needed. Apart from that everything is ready to go.

2nd Vice President: Riyad Matti said that Sept 14 is the next open house. We sold the 6” f8 Newtonian and mount to Brian Grider for $400 (the board agreed this will go to the new telescope funding). At Stargate, we had some more issues with the horse people again, leaving piles of manure around. He’s waiting on a reply from the D&G telescope company.

Treasurer: Dale Partin reported that we are up to 111 memberships. He also renewed our corporation and Meet-up fees. We now have a new briefcase.

Secretary: We have the door prize tickets available for tonight’s give away of the remaining Cranbrook Galactic Pass.

Outreach: A couple of talks coming up at schools in October, also with scout groups.

Old Business:
Following discussion, the board decided for the Awards Banquet, the sever will be tipped $20 and the bartender $10, based on information from the banquet facilities.

Insurance Companies: Because of issues with the current company, Ken suggested that we change insurance companies now even though our policy is paid to February 1, and Ken suggested we add coverage for Dob pulled by members. New total price $1129. There will be significant added cost if we insure our new refractor We do have liability insurance. Bob moved that we immediately change policy carrier, as of Oct 1. Dale Partin seconded. Motion carried. Ken Bertin will facilitate the transition.

We have discount coupons from Woodland Telescopes (Telescopes.net) for our members, one per membership.

New Business:
Discussion of issue member Michael Biernat had with Park Police, visiting Stargate for observing on an “off” night. Riyad and Bob are working with Wolcott Mill to inform patrols that we have permission to use the grounds around the facility, but if challenged and told to leave, do so rather than jeopardize our standing with the park authorities. Also suggested: Resume printing membership cards to show authorities (Jon Blum offered to handle the printing), and maybe posing a letter of permission from the Park to post on the building.

Discussion on handout for Stargate (Bob Trembley). Time sensitive content may be an issue. Should it be a news bulletin? Bob Berta suggests we put one in an sealed outside display, with copies available for the asking. Bob Trembley will handle the printing.

Chuck Dezelah’s handout for Kensington advertising Stargate/ astronomy 101 Diane will talk to Chuck about reducing verbiage.

Discussion on NASA partners program- mostly aimed at children. Also free content for the WASP if we want. Next Macomb meeting, Dale Partin can’t make it, Bob Berta offered to handle Treasurer duties.

The board meeting ended at 7:28 pm

“I believe that the extraordinary should be pursued. But extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.”
Dr. Carl Sagan
WAS General Meeting, Cranbrook, September 9, 2013

The meeting began at 7:30 pm with 47 present

Officer Reports:
President: Jon Blum pointed out that our meetings at Macomb this month and thereafter will be back upstairs in room 221. Enter through the main library front entrance (south side of the building)

Mark your calendars for Astronomy At The Beach at Kensington Metropark, September 27 and 28, beginning at 6 PM. Bring your telescope, or help at the WAS table, or talk to the public or just come and hear the speakers and enjoy the event.

Our annual club banquet will be on Thursday December 5. There will be no Macomb meeting in December.

Please send the board suggestions on which members have done a lot for our club this so we can consider them for awards at this year’s banquet. Email your suggestions to board@warrenastro.org with a sentence about why that person should get an award.

The WAS board has adopted a new policy. Dogs and other pets, other than service dogs, are now banned at all of our club events, including the picnic and observing nights. This policy was adopted because of some problems caused by a member’s dog at the picnic.

We have gift certificates $30 off (amount of our standard dues) from Woodland Hills Telescopes. One per paid membership. Get the certificates at the meeting (none mailed).

1st Vice President: Speakers schedule- Diane Hall said we need someone to fill the spot at Macomb (October). 2014 is pretty much wide open.

9/19/2013 Macomb Dave Bailey Recipe for a Comet
10/7/2013 Cranbrook Diane Hall Enterprise: the myth of the sixth shuttle

Contact Diane if you would like to give a short or long presentation

2nd Vice President: Riyad Matti announced that Sept 14 is our next open house, last one was great. The Oct 12 open house will be the Astronomy 101 with expected boost in attendance from Kensington. Riyad pointed out that the Metroparks are sharing their police forces, with the result that there have been some misunderstandings as to our presence there, if asked to leave, please do so. We are in talks with the park to resolve this.

Treasurer: Dale Partin reported that we are now up to 111 memberships, $13,700 in the bank with $7,700 reserved for the new telescope.

Secretary: We have the door prize tickets available for tonight’s give away of the remaining Cranbrook Galactic Pass. Tonight’s winner: Bob Trembley.

Outreach: Bob Berta mentioned we have a couple school presentations coming up, with scouts as well. Jon Blum pointed out that the past weekend was the Great Lakes Stargaze up by Gladwin.

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

Solar Group: Marty reported no spots, Ken Berta refused to project an image without spots. Bob Trembley saw a small spot Sunday, and a flare.

Hands On: Riyad will have a list of objects to observe at the next open house.

Astro Photo: Next step is fine tuning the Cranbrook scope this Thursday. Bill Beers is helping out with this next year’s calendar, he asked the members for photos and drawings.

GLAAC: AaTB on Sat afternoon event for the club members, 1:00 pm at the nature center.

Other announcements:
Bob Trembley- NASA ambassador program accepting applications in September for the program.
October Stargate event: Chuck Dezelah is organizing an event for Stargate October 12: lessons on how to use a telescope or learning the night sky. These will be promoted at Kensington. He has several volunteers to help, but can use more. Please sign up on the signup sheet or email Chuck at alcor@warrenastro.org.
Club Library- Marty Kunz pointed out that the club library is open and he will serve as librarian tonight.

In The News September 9, 2013 by Ken Bertin:
• Fireball sighting report by Bob Berta, from Gaylord.
• Huge lava fountains seen gushing from Jupiter moon
• Black hole ejects ‘space slinky’ for Hubble
• Japanese probe to sniff out why planets lose gases
• Strike blinds the world’s largest radio telescope
• Primordial broth of life was a dry Martian cup-a-soup
• Martian soup may have been tasty to early life
• Death by Higgs rids cosmos of space brain threat
• Solar system caught in an interstellar tempest
• Virgin Galactic ship shakes its space-flight feathers
• NASA orbiter will use laser to bring broadband to the moon
• NASA moon probe steadies itself, heads for lunar orbit
• Just in case you missed this annular eclipse: Phobos eclipses sun.

Short Talk: 2013 Stellaphane convention (longest running star party in the US, maybe the world) by Jim Shedlowski

Main Presentation: Peenemunde: The Birth of Spaceflight by Jim Shedlowski

End time: 10:05 pm
The meeting began at 7:31 pm with 52 present

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Jon Blum

Jon pointed out that our meetings at Macomb this month and thereafter will be here in room 221. Enter through the main library front entrance (south side of the building)

We should mark our calendars for Astronomy At The Beach at Kensington Metropark, September 27 and 28, beginning at 6 PM. Bring your telescope, or help at the WAS table, or talk to the public or just come and hear the speakers and enjoy the event.

On Saturday, September 28, there will be a talk for astronomy club members at 1 PM in the Kensington Nature Center, by Dean Regas, our guest speaker for Astronomy At The Beach. This is a chance for you to hear him in a small group, instead of in the crowded tent with the public on Friday and Saturday evenings. His talk to us, different from his public talk, will be «I Want to Believe: Returning to an Age of Reason» about the public›s absurd beliefs about astronomy.

Chuck Dezelah is organizing an event for Stargate October 12: lessons to be promoted at Kensington on how to use a telescope or learning the night sky. He has several volunteers to help, but can use more. If you want to volunteer and have not already signed up, tell Chuck here tonight.

Our annual club banquet will be on Thursday December 5. There will be no Macomb meeting in December.

Please send the board suggestions on which members have done a lot for our club this year, so we can consider them for awards at this year›s banquet. Email your suggestions to board@warrenastro.org with a sentence about why that person should get an award.

Gift certificates for $30 off (amount of our standard dues) from Woodland Hills Telescopes. One per paid membership. Get yours at meeting tonight (none mailed).

1st Vice President: Diane Hall

10/7/2013 Cranbrook Diane Hall
Enterprise: the myth of the sixth shuttle Ken Bertin Yerkes

10-17-13 Macomb Bob Trembley
Asteroids

11-4-13 Cranbrook WAS Elections
Gordon Hansen Astro Jeopardy

11-21-13 Macomb Dave Bailey
Strange Little Stars: White Dwarfs

12-2-13 Cranbrook Michael Foerster
Space X Dragon
Jim Shedlowsky Stellafane, Part 2

Contact Diane if you would like to give a short or long presentation

2nd Vice President: Riyad Matti

The September Stargate open house was held on Saturday the 14th as planned. The sky condition was good at dusk but became cloudy later and the observatory was closed by 10:45 pm. Roughly 45 people attended including WAS members and a few scouts. The moon and a few objects were observed. The next open house will be on Saturday October 12th.

Treasurer: Dale Partin

We have 111 members paid up for 2013. We have $13,728 out of which $7,734 is donations for our new telescope and mount. See details of each month›s treasurer report in the WASP, or ask any questions to the treasurer Dale Partin.

Secretary: Dale Thieme

Dale mentioned the date recorded in the board minutes for the Awards Banquet was wrong, it is on the 5th of December, not the 8th.

Outreach: Bob Berta

We have a few talks scheduled over the next three months at various scout, schools and a library in Romeo.

After Bob Berta and Ken Bertin›s presentation to Warren Rotary Club they gave us a $1000 donation towards our new telescope and mount. Another Rotary member is personally going to donate $100 also. Kensington Astronomy At The Beach is by far our biggest outreach of the year, so we hope to have many WAS members participating there September 27 and 28.

Publications: Debra Chaffins

The September WASP is available on our website
WAS General Meeting, continued

Gary Ross reported from the Windsor Royal Astronomical Society meeting at the Ojibway Nature Center. A lively, amiable group was observed by Gary. He also learned the Earth was round at the meeting. Gary suggested that we need to cultivate relations with them, perhaps exchange speakers.

Ralph DeCew printed up bookmarks with the Greek alphabet on them, adorned with our logo and made them available to the members.

The group was duly warned that Ken Bertin will soon be collecting names for next year’s snack volunteers.

Bob Berta- Concerning the movie, “Gravity”, another preview showing on October 1 at 7:00 pm, AMC theater at Mound and M59.

In The News 9/19/2013 by Ken Bertin
• Cell scaffolding found in odd California meteorite
• Strength of gravity shifts - and this time it’s serious
• Crispy frog photo-bombs LADEE launch
• NASA says Voyager 1 has left the Solar system, honest
• Where next for interstellar pioneer Voyager 1?

Presentation: “Recipe for a Comet” by Dave Bailey

The meeting ended at 9:35 pm

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.

Discount Certificates for WAS Members

Woodland Hills Telescopes is giving away $30 discount certificates for WAS members. You can apply this to any order from their website www.telescopes.net where they sell a wide variety of astronomy equipment, telescopes, and accessories. You will need to pick up the printed gift certificate from the president or treasurer at a WAS meeting. They cannot be mailed or emailed. Only current paid-up WAS members are eligible, one certificate per membership.