Astronomy At The Beach

The biggest and best public astronomy event in Michigan every year is Astronomy At The Beach, at Kensington Metropark. This year’s dates are September 27 and 28.

On each of the two evenings, a Friday and a Saturday every September, there are identical programs. Every half hour, beginning at 6 PM, there are constellation tours in an inflatable portable planetarium. Starting at 6:15 PM, there are different astronomy talks every half hour in a large tent. Subjects include making comets, kids taking part in a play about constellations built around the story of the rescue of Andromeda, light pollution, how cold is space, fire tornado, 3D voyage into deep space, and the major presentation by a guest speaker. This year’s main speaker at 9 PM both nights is Dean Regas doing a tour of the universe. At 10 PM out on the beach, there’s a laser guided tour of the constellations.

All through the evening there are 50 or more telescopes set out along the grass adjacent to the beach. They start out showing the sun in both white light and hydrogen alpha. Once it gets dark, they show the public numerous celestial objects, including the moon, planets, nebulae, galaxies, and star clusters. It is wonderful to hear people’s excited exclamations the first time they see these objects in a telescope.

This is a terrific event for kids and families, as well as adults of all ages. For us WAS members, it’s our best opportunity to spread our love of astronomy to an audience of thousands. You can bring your telescope to show objects to the public, or you can spend an hour at our club table telling people about astronomy and about WAS, or you can mingle with the crowds and chat with the kids, or you can just come and attend the talks and look at the exhibits yourself or with your family. More info is at http://www.glaac.org/kensington-astronomy-at-the-beach/

Jon
“Serendipitous Circumstance” by Joe Tocco

I accidentally stumbled across a multiple exposure feature on my camera and created it without intention. The photo was taken on June 7th, in Overgaard Arizona, at Steven Aggas’s property and site of his 36” telescope. Present in the images are: Bill Beers, John Lines, Steven Aggas, Lori Aggas and Don Wrigley.

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

Upcoming Talks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Cranbrook</td>
<td>Diane Hall</td>
<td>“Enterprise: The Myth of the Sixth Shuttle”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>Cranbrook</td>
<td>Gordon Hansen</td>
<td>AstroJeopardy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Macomb</td>
<td>Dave Bailey</td>
<td>Strange Little Stars: White Dwarfs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2013 Club Picnic Photos
Courtesy of Mike O’Dowd with his AR Drone 2.0 QuadCopter

Photos taken at the W.A.S. club picnic on July 13
Top 4 photos taken from Mike O’Dowd’s remote control QuadCopter called the AR Drone 2.0

The Drone has an inbuilt video camera that can shoot video or take pictures

RC control is through an iPad

The highest taken that day was just over 200 ft
The pictures looking at the observatory and shed were from that altitude
Outreach report from “Meteors and S’mores”:

In addition to the very successful Stargate open house, four WAS members, Diane Hall, Jonathan Kade, Brian Klaus and Dale Thieme attended the “Meteors and S’mores” event at the invitation of the Bald Mountain Recreation Area personnel. Members of the Oakland Astronomy Club were there as well. While we waited for the meteors to show up, we showed views of the moon, Saturn and, once they set behind the trees, several deep sky objects. Several actual Perseid meteors were spotted plus an impressive fireball near the zenith.

Speaker’s Corner – September 9, Cranbrook

On Monday, September 9th—the second Monday of the month—Jim Shedlowsky will be our presenter for the entire evening. First he will share with us his recent visit to Stellafane. Says Jim, “my short talk will present photos from this major amateur astronomical event, my impressions, and a bit about its 92-year history.”

Then for the main course we have Peenemunde: The Birth of Space Travel. Jim says, “This presentation will tell the story of an historic technological undertaking that rivaled the Manhattan Project in its scope and resulted in sending mankind’s first object into space...in 1942. The multiple and complex challenges of liquid fueled rocket propulsion, guidance and control, supersonic flight, re-entry dynamics, etc., were comprehensively addressed at a place called Peenemunde, which resulted in the world’s first ballistic missile: the A4/V2. I will discuss its antecedents (Tsiolkovsky, Goddard, Oberth, the VfR, etc.), its rapid evolution as a technology center, its destruction, and its legacy (the Cold War missile race and the successful landing of men on the moon).”

Come to Cranbrook ready for an evening with Jim and don’t be surprised if he brings out a guitar for the closing credits!

Cranbrook Meeting Date Change for September

Our Cranbrook meeting for the month of September will be on September 9. It will not be on the normal first Monday of the month, due to the Labor Day holiday.
Object of the Month - NGC 7009:

NGC 7009 is an attractive and unusual planetary nebula in the constellation Aquarius. Although it is not a member of the famous Messier catalog, it is a well-known object and is easily among the best examples of planetary nebulae available for amateur telescopes. It is more widely known as the Saturn Nebula due to its oblate central disk and narrow protrusions that extend in a manner that is suggestive of Saturn’s rings viewed at an edge-on angle. Perhaps rather unexpectedly, the Saturn Nebula lies within 3° of two of the less impressive Messier objects: the globular cluster M72 and the asterism M73, which is sometimes misidentified as an open cluster. While it may be surprising that Messier only managed to record four planetary nebulae in his list despite an abundance of good candidates, it may indicate some systematic or technical reason for their exclusion, and therefore also may help explain the omission of NGC 7009. The Saturn Nebula has a visual magnitude of 8.3 and is classified as 4+6 using the Vorontsov-Velyaminov system, which denotes both an annular structure and an anomalous form.

NGC 7009 is located just within the southern border of Aquarius, above the arching back of Capricornus and about halfway between and few degrees above the horns (alpha and beta) and the tail (gamma and delta) of the celestial sea goat. More precisely, the nebula can be located about 1° west of the fourth magnitude star Nu Aquarii. At low power, the Saturn nebula will display the characteristic greenish glow that is often indicative of a planetary nebula, as well as a small, but clearly non-stellar angular size (28” x 22”). With a moderate increase in magnification, however, the lateral protrusions for which the object is acclaimed should become readily observable. With steady seeing conditions, high power, and large aperture, it may be possible to detect some additional elements of internal structure or perhaps catch a glimpse of the 12th magnitude bluish-white dwarf star that resides at the center of the nebula. The diversity of structural variation present among planetary nebulae makes them a source of great fascination for amateur astronomers—and NGC 7009 is certainly no exception.

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+Bd.+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-Casegrain 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.

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 Plantary 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

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
Speaker's Corner - September 19, Macomb

On Thursday, September 19th, we will return to room 221J, our normal room for Macomb. With Comet ISON approaching in a storm of hyperbole, Dave Bailey will give us the lowdown on those fearsome harbingers of death and destruction called comets. Expect "Recipe for a Comet" to be presented with humor, imagination, and one of Dave’s trademark multi-page handouts.

2nd Vice President’s Observatory Report

Over 300 people attended the August 10th open house and many members brought their own telescopes. The event was advertised by the Metroparks authority to observe the Perseids meteor shower. The sky was clear and many people observed through the Stargate 12.5” Cassegrain as well as the many telescopes set up by the observatory. A few meteors were spotted which pleased the crowds. By 11:30 pm the clouds started moving in and by 1:30 am the observatory was closed.

Many of the members attending the open house like Ken Bertin, Bob Trembley, Lee Hartwell, and others, did a great job helping with lectures, presentations and sky tours. Thanks to all, the open house was a great success.

Next open house is on September 14th.

- Riyad I. Matti

Oakland Astronomy Club Newsletter

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

Clear skies, - Bill MacIntosh
Award Nominations Now Being Taken

Each year, WAS gives awards at our annual banquet, to club members who have done a lot of work for the club this year, or for several years. Officers are not usually eligible for the awards, and we try not to repeat the same people who got awards within the past couple years. The board selects the winners, and we would like your help in choosing those for this year.

Please email the board board@warrenastro.org with the name of anyone you recommend for a club award this year. Please include one or two brief sentences about why that person should get an award.

“Look, here is a tree in the garden and every summer it produces apples, and we call it an apple tree because the tree “apples.” That’s what it does. Alright, now here is a solar system inside a galaxy, and one of the peculiarities of this solar system is that at least on the planet earth, the thing peoples! In just the same way that an apple tree apples! ~ Alan Watts

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.

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.
Treasurer’s Report
July 31, 2013

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 107 members (22 of which are family memberships).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES (SUMMARY)

We took in $209.50 and spent $370.82.

We have $13544.82 in the bank and $197.21 in cash, totaling $13742.03 as of July 31, 2013.

COSTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS

$30.72 reimbursement for snacks

$167.50 Astronomical League memberships (21 memberships + $10.00 WAS cost)

$172.60 annual picnic supplies (Bob Berta)

INCOME

$46.00 donations for snacks

$91.00 new memberships and renewals

$7.50 Astronomical League memberships

$61.00 donations for new telescope and mount

$4.00 miscellaneous merchandise sales

$7693.05 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.

Sep/Oct 1970
The WASP Dart Board issue. Tim Skonieczny presents “The Constellation of the Month: Cepheus” with a bit about Comet Abe passing through it. In a stroke of good timing, here is “The Dall-Kirkham Telescope Design” by David T. Ther. An actual specimen of the type is now in the W.A.S. possession, thanks to the donation by Roger Civic. David the fills out the issue with “Deep-Sky Challenges, NGC 729, NGC 6822, NGC 7789.”

Sep 1973
With all the nail-biting going on over Comet ISON, this issue serves a cautionary message: “As everyone who reads “Sky & Telescope” knows, Comet Kohoutek 1973f should be making a spectacular appearance during December of this year and January of next year.” Coming back down to earth, Frank McCullough posts the Messier Contest Results (I won’t spoil the news by mentioning the winner). In “Notes from an Apprentice Astronomer’s Log Book”, Lou Faix measures planetary retrograde motion.

Sep 1976
In this issue we find a short V.S.O. (Variable Star Observing) article by Rik Hill concerning R Lyrae.

Sep 1980
Here we find part 3 of a five part series by David Dobrzelowski on William Herschel, this month’s installment: Georgium Sidus. And there is a report on the 1980 Perseid Meteor Shower in the “Apprentice Astronomers Notebook”. You may want to dust off your TI-57, 58 and 59s for Larry Kalinowski’s report from the Cal - Comp Users Group where he ends it with a Newtonian Diagonal Size Program (TI-57, 58 & 59).
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

Astronomical Phenomena
September 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Regulus 5.2N of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>NEW MOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mercury 4.5N of Moon</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Spica 0.7S of Moon Occn</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Venus 0.5N of Spica Occn</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Saturn 2.3N of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>FIRST QUARTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Moon furthest South (-19.7)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pluto 1.4S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Moon at perigee</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Neptune 5.3S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Venus 3.5S of Saturn</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>FULL MOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pluto stationary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Uranus 3.1S of Moon</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Equinox</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mercury 0.7N of Spica</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aldebaran 2.8S of Moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Moon furthest North (19.6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>LAST QUARTER</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Moon at apogee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Jupiter 4.8N of Moon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All times are in UTC
WAS Board Meeting August 5, 2013

Officers present: Jon Blum, Diane Hall, Riyad Matti, Dale Partin

**President:** September meeting to be 9/9 because of Labor Day. Astronomy at the Beach 9/27-9/28. The Great Lakes Star Gaze will be Sept 5-8.

Banquet to be December 8th.

**1st VP:** Macomb slots open for Oct & Nov

**2nd VP:** Open House to be upcoming Sat 9/10, the same date as the Ford Club Picnic and the S’mores and Meteors event. Riyad to issue a call for volunteers at the meeting because it’s been advertised by the Metroparks and we expect high turnout.

No information on the new refractor yet.

Meade 8” Newtonian received as a donation from the Metroparks-- from Stoney Creek

**Treasurers’ Report:** Received electronically

**Secretary:** Absent

**Outreach:** Donations received from Metroparks and Roger Civic, Bob Berta asks the board to write a thank you note to Stony Creek Metropark for the donation of the 8” Newtonian and mount to be used at the Nature Center. Details on the 6” f15 donated by Roger Civic will be provided soon. Bob Berta also donated a small barbecue to the club for use at the picnic and the fate of the old grill should be decided soon. Bob also reports the Rotary Club may make a donation but it could hinge on tax-exempt status.

**WASP:** Is out

**Old Business:** 501[c]3: Reviewed by lawyer Rob Kaplow and is good to go with minor changes to the narrative description and Schedule G.

**New Business:** Whether or not to ban dogs (aside from service dogs) at our Stargate functions. The Board adopted the policy that pets be banned from all events hosted by the Warren Astronomical Society events except for service dogs.

Insurance: Ken Bertin has had a bad experience with a personal claim on our current insurance company and recommends we change insurers before the current policy expires. He has looked at a $1129.00 policy that requires additional coverage for the Dob in transit. Board decided to table the issue pending investigation into what kind of liability insurance policy the Astronomical League offer.

Vince Chrisman donated a box of nice hardcover books to the club library.

Jon Blum received an email from Woodland Hills telescope, who are offering $30.00 gift certificate to all 107 dues-paying members.

Waitress Tip issue: DeCarlo’s charges us an 18% service charge and claim they pay their waitresses an adequate wage and that a twenty-dollar tip is sufficient. Last year the club tipped at the $20.00 rate and individual members contributed additional money to match the 2011 tipping rate, which was in excess of $20.00.

Suggestion from Blum to pay $20.00 to the waitress and $10.00 to the bartender, who will also be tipped by individual patrons. All officers present agreed with this suggestion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

-Notes from Diane Hall

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**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.
WAS General Meeting, Cranbrook, August 5, 2013

General meeting called to order at 7:32 PM with 42 in attendance.

New visitors tonight, Holly and Gene and Adam Smith.

Call for nametag orders.

Meeting in Macomb back to room 151 J, our normal summer room. The September Macomb meeting will be back upstairs in room 221.

Great Lakes Star Gaze Sept 5-8 in Gladwin. September Cranbrook meeting to be the second Monday.


Call for general membership to submit award nominations to the Board.

1st VP: October and November 2013 Macomb currently open. Upcoming talks.

2nd VP: Last open house had spotty cloud cover. Next open house on the 10th should feature clear weather and heavy attendance, so please come. It will be the Perseid meteor open house.

New telescope has not yet arrived.

We have received telescope donations from Stony Creek Metropark and from Roger Civic, a former member who designed the club logo.

Treasurer’s report: We currently have 107 members (22 of which are family memberships). We took in $209.50 and spent $370.82. We have $13544.82 in the bank and $197.21 in cash, totaling $13742.03 as of July 31, 2013.

Outreach: S’mores and Meteors events at Bald Mountain State Rec area and Port Crescent. Call for AatN volunteers. FAAC club picnic to be 8/10 also at their Island Lake observing site; bring a dish to pass.

Solar: Marty K had the monthly solar observing session at Cranbrook on Sunday 8/4; he reports four small spots and little in the way of prominences.

AL: Suggestion to make open houses a “telescope tutorial” prior to nightfall with additional volunteers and promotion of this extra event at Kensington. Chuck Dezelah has a sign-up sheet for the October Open House telescope tutorial. See Chuck if interested. A spectrum of volunteer abilities is recommended.

Club Logo merchandise-- cups, stickers, patches, pins, glow in the dark tape.

Jim Shedlowsky has his heavyweight uniform jacket for sale. Size Large. See Jim for details.

Also we have a new influx of library books from the library of former member Vince Chrisman who is moving out of state

«A Word On Oppenheimer» by GM Ross--Seaborg’s emphasis on Oppenheimer’s basic humanity and breadth of interest. Those in the arts and sciences should build a path to one another. This is in too short supply and we need more of it.

ITN presented by Ken Bertin.

Bob Trembley presented a short talk on the LADEE mission from 8:15-8:34

Snack break

Jon Blum began main talk, «How I Bought An Orange Telescope», at 9 PM.

-Notes from Diane Hall
WAS General Meeting, Macomb, August 15, 2013

Officer Reports:

Jon Blum brought the meeting to order at 7:30. After introductions, he pointed out some approaching items on the calendar: Our meetings here at Macomb next month (September) and thereafter will be back upstairs in room 221; The Great Lakes Star Gaze in Gladwin is September 5-8 (Thursday-Sunday); Our September Cranbrook meeting will be on the second Monday, September 9, because the first Monday is the Labor Day holiday; The Astronomy At The Beach at Kensington Metropark, September 27 and 28, beginning at 6 PM; Our annual club banquet will be on Thursday December 5. There will be no Macomb meeting in December.

Jon then asked for members to to think of nominees for any WAS awards.

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.

1st Vice President: Diane Hall

9/9/2013 C* Jim Shedlowsky
“Peenemunde: The Birth of Spaceflight”

Jim Shedlowsky
Stellafane (short)

9/19/2013 M Dave Bailey
“Recipe for a Comet”

10/7/2013 C Diane Hall
“Enterprise: the myth of the sixth shuttle”

Mike O›Dowd Short talk

* C-Cranbrook M-Macomb

2nd Vice President: Riyad Matti

Over 300 people attended the September 10th open house and many members brought their own telescopes. The event was advertised by the Metroparks authority to observe the Perseids meteor shower. The sky was clear and many people observed through the Stargate 12.5” Cassegrain as well as the many telescopes set up by the observatory. A few meteors were spotted which pleased the crowds. By 11:30 pm the clouds started moving in and by 1:30 am the observatory was closed. Many of our members attending the open house like Ken Bertin, Bob Trembley, Lee Hartwell, and others, did a great job helping with lectures, presentations and sky tours. Thanks to all the open house was a great success.

Next open house is on September 14th.

Treasurer: Dale Partin

We have 107 members. We have $13,742 of which $7,693 is donations for our new telescope and mount. Full report in the WASP

Secretary: Dale Thieme

Four WAS members, Diane Hall, Jonathan Kade, Brian Klaus and Dale Thieme attended the "Meteors and S'mores" event at the invitation of the Bald Mountain Recreation Area personnel. Members of the Oakland Astronomy Club were there as well. While we waited for the meteors to show up, we showed views of the moon, Saturn and, once they set behind the trees, several deep sky objects. Several actual Perseid meteors were spotted plus an impressive fireball near the zenith.

Outreach: Bob Berta

At Stargate on August 10 we showed the public videos and constellations and views through telescopes, So a great outreach event even though not many meteors.

Publications: Debra Chaffins

Jon pointed out that the WASP for August is online at our website.

Chuck Dezelah passed around a sign-up sheet for the open house following the Kensington event to do telescope tutorials at the October 12 open house at Stargate.

Jon reminded us of the Discussion Group, which meets at Gary Gathen’s house, 4th Thursday of the month.

Bob Berta mentioned that a schooner was going out of Bay City for an Astronomy Dinner Cruise. 8/23 was the tour he was taking, there was another date available: Saturday, September 14 6:30pm – 10:30pm

In The News: August 15 by Ken Bertin

• Bright new Nova - in Delphinus
• NASA’s Juno Spacecraft is Halfway to Jupiter
• Mars chefs ready to emerge from simulated mission
• How Nigeria has been using its satellites
• Space Station poised to launch open-source satellites
• Astronaut twins could reveal genetics of space health
• Mars anniversary: Rock star rover’s five coolest finds
• Zombie rocket lands on its feet
• Milky Way is even lighter than thought
• Giant magnet makes Milky Way black hole a slow eater
• Dark energy could be the offspring of the Higgs boson

Presentations:

“Highlights of the AAS Meeting” by Dale Partin
“Alpha and Omega of Variable Star Observing” by Gary Ross

The meeting ended at 9:40

-Dale Thieme
The WAS Picnic – July 2013

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, I dismantled the 14" in the observatory, and packed it into the car for a trip to Stargate, which is the Warren Astronomical Society’s observatory. Today was the WAS annual picnic, and I looked forward to meeting with friends, having some fine food, and doing some scoping with the crew.

The trip to Stargate takes about 70 minutes from my house out near Fenton, so I also packed a sleeping bag, in case I was too tired to drive home after observing.

Upon arriving around 4:00, there were about a dozen people already there, setting up for the BBQ, and a few setting up solar scopes. I wandered over to take a peek, and the view of the sun through these scopes was quite impressive. Nice sunspots, and some flares off the edge. H-alpha is such a nice way to view the sun.
Later, as more arrived, the grills were fired up, and lots of chatter about the latest gizmos, activities, events and observing reports, could be heard amongst the crowd.

A curiosity appeared out of the back of Tim S.’s van, that took me back about 50 years. It was a hand built reflector that Gerry Alyea put together in the mid 60’s that was given to Tim by Gerry’s wife, after he died. Gerry was one of the founders of the WAS back in ’61, along with Larry Kalinowski, and others. It’s amazing how technology has changed since then. This was a classic Newtonian on a German Equatorial mount, with a standard clock drive.
Now it was time to get some food, so the cooks were busy at the grills, and everyone was gathering to chow down.
After dinner there was time to socialize and rest before twilight fell, and some of us took advantage of this time to do some more solar viewing, playing with a quad-copter, or just taking a nap.

Then it was time to setup for the evening.

We had ½ dozen scopes setup, and shared views with each other of many Globular Clusters (GC), and some Nebula. The sky transparency was average to poor, so it wasn’t as dark as it could have been. However, we enjoyed trying out several eyepieces, on some globular clusters, which showed that the seeing was rather good, and I was able to put about 350x on the 14” and still had pinpoint jewels for stars in several of the GC’s.
At about 11:30, I decided to pack up the 14" while I still could, and said my goodbyes to everyone. I’d like to thank John and Joe for helping out with the packing.

There were over 50 people in attendance for this event, which this year, had good weather, and great friendships renewed. Thanks for all the memories.

Clear Skies to all.
Doug Bock