

The W.A.S.P. newsletter

March 2006



The Warren Astronomical Society Paper

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2006 WAS OFFICERS

// March, 2006

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The WASP (Warren Astronomical Society Paper) is the official monthly publication of the Society. Each new issue of the WASP is e-mailed to each member and/or available online www.warrenastronomicalsociety.org. Requests by other Astronomy clubs to receive the WASP, and all other correspondence should be addressed to the editor, Cliff Jones, email: cliffordj@ameritech.net

Articles for inclusion in the WASP are strongly encouraged and should be submitted to the editor on or before the first of each month. Any format of submission is accepted, however the easiest forms for this editor to use are plain text files. Most popular graphics formats are acceptable. Materials can be submitted either in printed form in person or via US Mail, or preferably, electronically via direct modem connection or email to the editor.

Disclaimer: The articles presented herein represent the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of the WAS or the editor. The WASP reserves the right to deny publication of any submission.

Astro Chatter

by Larry Kalinowski



A cosmic outburst that has yet to be explained has appeared in the constellation Taurus. The Space probe (Swift) that's designed to detect Gamma Ray Outbursts saw it on February 18 and can be seen by amateur telescopes at RA: 03:21:39.71 and Dec.:+16:52:02.6. It's quite possible that it could become a supernova in the not to distant future.

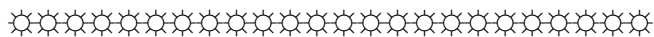


One of our fellow telescope makers passed away on Thursday, February ninth. Don Lemons, the guy who always had the perfect brush haircut, went to visit the great telescope maker in the sky. I'll always remember him as the guy who wouldn't take anything I told him about telescope mirror making for granted. Whenever he didn't quite want to accept my explanation, he told me he needed additional verification

from another source. He always double checked my math and a few times he helped make my understanding of mirror making better. His curiosity about double stars and making physical measurements of position angles and separations got me to appreciate the universe even more. I hope I get to meet him again when I take my last trip. He was wonderful company for our kind with inquisitive minds. Our club needs more like him.

Occasionally, light patterns appear in the sky, caused by unfamiliar sources. The picture below is a series of light pillars but not the



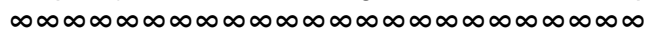


Presentations for 2006

Date	Day	Presenter	Subject
3/06/06	Mon	Planetarium	Demonstration
3/16/06	Thurs	Dr. Gary Ross-Astrophotos	
4/03/06	Mon	Dave Workun	TBD
4/20/06	Thurs	OPEN	
5/01/06	Mon	Bob Berta	I'm Only Human
5/18/06	Thurs	Jim Shedslosky	TBD
6/05/06	Mon	Alan Rothenberg	Mars
6/15/06	Thurs	Riyad Matti	TBD
7/03/06	Mon	Marty Kunz	TBD
7/20/06	Thurs	Larry Phipps	TBD
8/07/06	Mon	Norm Dillard	Satellite Galaxies
8/17/06	Thurs	Steve Uitti	TBD
9/11/06	Mon	OPEN	TBD
9/21/06	Thurs	Larry Kalinowski	TBD
10/02/06	Mon	Dale Partin	TBD
10/19/06	Thurs	Dave Bailey	TBD
11/06/06	Mon	Ken Bertin	TBD
11/16/06	Thurs	Dave D'onofrio	TBD
12/04/06	Mon	OPEN	TBD
12/21/06	Thurs	Banquet	TBD

March 2006 Calendar

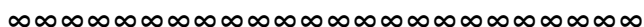
Monday, Mar 6 • 3:16 pm: First Quarter Moon; Mars 3° South of the Moon
Wednesday, Mar 8 • pm: Mars passes 7° North of Aldebaran
Friday, Mar 10 • pm: Saturn 4° south of the Moon; Mars 7° north of Aldebaran
Saturday, Mar 11 • Mercury at inferior conjunction
Wednesday, Mar 14 • 6:35 pm: Full Moon
Friday, Mar 17 • pm: Spica 0.3° south of the Moon
Sunday, Mar 19 • pm: Jupiter is 5° north of the Moon.
Monday, Mar 20 • 1:26 pm: Vernal Equinox
Wednesday, Mar 22 • 2:10 pm: Last Quarter Moon; 4:00 pm: The Moon passes 0.2° south of Antares
Friday, Mar 24 • Mercury is stationary
Saturday, Mar 25 • Venus reaches greatest elongation at 47°, Ceres is 0.8° south of the Moon; Venus is 6° north of the Moon; Neptune is 4° north of the Moon
Sunday, Mar 26 • Venus is 1.9° north of Neptune
Tuesday, Mar 28 • 2:00 am: Moon is at perigee (223,177 miles from earth)
Wednesday, Mar 29 • 5:15 am: New Moon; Solar Eclipse (not visible in Michigan – Partial for Europe)



Includes the following: Meade 26mm Super Plossl eyepiece, Scoptronics 40mm Plossl eyepiece, Scoptronics 15mm Plossl, 2X Barlow lens, 12mm standard eyepiece, Orion Stargazers 4 filter set, Orion accessory case, Orion red dot EZ finder II, Meade AC adaptor and battery pack, Meade camera adaptor and 2 inch eyepiece adaptor, new declination motor drive replaced 5-25-05. Telescope is in good condition with excellent optics. \$850, pick up only. Jdbuhl@aol.com. (4-06).

FOR SALE. Celestron G-5 with motor drive, Bushnell 80mm refractor with "you-go-to" feature, Swift 114mm Newtonian, many binoculars, all at cost or below! Contact Bob Johnson at 248-541-0914. (4-06).

FOR SALE. Pool cover for in-ground pool. 20X35 ft. for 15X30 pool or smaller. Never Used. \$30. 586-776-9720. [Cometman@mybluelight.com](http://mybluelight.com). (4-06).



WAS SUB-GROUPS

Want to delve more deeply into a specific field of interest in astronomy? Joining a sub-group just may be the answer Please contact the chairperson listed by the subgroup of interest for more information, meeting times and location. Current sub-groups are:

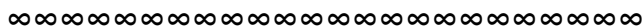
Discussion/Computer Group - Larry Kalinowski

Lunar/Planetary/Double Stars - Alan Rothenberg

Deep Sky Group - Phil Martin

Solar Group - Marty Kunz

Hands on Group - Riyad Matti



WAS Meetings scheduled for 2006

Cranbrook Meetings – Every 1st Monday

Jan 2	Feb 6	Mar 6	Apr 3
May 1	Jun 5	July 3	Aug 7
Sep 4	Oct 2	Nov 6	Dec 4

Macomb Meetings – Every 3rd Thursday

Jan 19	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 20
May 18	Jun 15	Jul 20	Aug 17
Sep 21	Oct 19	Nov 16	Dec ★

★ Banquet date to be determined.



From Nancy Leon of NASA/JPL:

We now have a wonderful new kid-accessible explanation of why the sky is blue -- on our SciJinks web site at <http://scijinks.gov/weather/howwhy/bluesky/>

Why is the sky blue? Why does the sky sometimes turn red at sunset? Every curious child will ask these question at some point. Are you ready to give scientifically correct and simple answers? Visit SciJinks to refresh your memory. The SciJinks Web site targets young people of middle school age. It is a joint effort of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The new "Why is the sky blue?" page can be found in the How & Why menu on the SciJinks Weather Laboratory home page, scijinks.gov



Horse Head Nebula by Dr. Phil Martin