



Mingo Creek Park Observatory

The Guide Star

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.

Founded June 9, 1929 by Chester B. Roe and Leo J. Scanlon

Website: 3ap.org



Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory

January 2009

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"We go back to ancient times to discover the people and ideas that contributed to mankind's knowledge of the size and structure of the Universe. We continue on to Galileo and Cassini and others in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Knowledge is added in a cumulative manner until we have an understanding of the Solar system and the relationship between its parts and the distant stars. We do not, as of the seventeenth century, have a complete

understanding of the Universe, but the foundation has been laid to put mankind on the right path to knowledge.

We will look at the events and people who built this foundation for those who would follow. We will see how Aristotle, Eratosthenes, Aristarchus, Hipparchus, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, Cassini, Flamsteed and Newton each increased our knowledge by building on what went before. We will look at all these individuals and their contribution to mankind's knowledge of the size and distances of our universe".

Contemporary knowledge seekers are encouraged to come out Friday the 9th to climb on the shoulders of giants and chart the horizons of space and time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AAAP 2008 AWARD WINNERS:

GEORGE LINDBLOOM AWARD

Fred Klein

LOIS HARRISON AWARD

Mary Devaughn

NOVA AWARD

Mike Fisher
Wallace Watson
James Klueber

Topic of the January Meeting: "Measuring the Universe"

At the next AAAP meeting, Friday, January 9, 2009, at 7:30 pm, in the main auditorium of the Carnegie Science Center, our AAAP President, Ed Moss, will discuss, "Measuring the Universe: Man's Quest to Chart the Horizons of Space and Time". This is an appropriate topic for our first meeting of 2009, which is the 400th anniversary of the telescope and the dawn of science!

Ed Moss has provided us with this summary:

MINGO CREEK PARK OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER LIST

VOLUNTEER NAME	STAR PARTY	OTHER STAR PARTY	WORK PARTY	OTHER EVENT	TOTAL EVENTS
Allinger, Stephen	4		1		5
Bishop, Melody	7				7
Borghesi, Douglas	2				2
Carnall, Alyssa	1				1
Caseman, Shirley		1			1
DeSantis, Kathy	17	4	3	2	26
DeVaughn, Mary	3				3
Diller, John	6		1	2	9
Evans, Linda	2				2
Fisher, Mike	2				2
Godlewski, David	5				5
Godlewski, Joseph				1	1
Godlewski, Herb	5				5
Griffith, Patrick				1	1
Haddad, Dick	1			1	2
Herring, Jason	1				1
Jeffers, Frank	2				2
Johnson, Jon	1			1	2
Kelly, Todd	3		1		4
Klein, Fred	9		1	1	11
Kline, Joe			1		1
Kobus, Ken	1				1
Krznaric, Charles	1				1
Krznaric, Lisa	1				1
Kulakowski, Gene	15	4	5	1	25
Lang, Craig	1				1
Lara, Altagracia	2				2
Lombardo, Rosaline	2		2		4
McHenry, Larry			2		2
McKeel, Dan	2				2
Meteney, Mike	7	1	4		12
Morrow, Gary	1				1
Moss, Ed	14	3	5	2	24
Norman, Ann	3			1	4
Munne, Rosalia	1				1
Orzechowski, Tony	3		2		5
Paslow, Al	5				5
Phillips, Sara	1				1
Ritchie, Clark	2				2
Roemer, Bill	1				1
Roemer, Jean	1				1
Romanus, Jeanne	1				1
Romanus, Jim	1				1
Rusch, Florence	5	1			6
Saut, Rob	1				1
Schuster, Jerry	13	1	4	2	20
Sewchok, Michael	1				1

MINGO CREEK PARK OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER LIST (continued)

VOLUNTEER NAME	STAR PARTY	OTHER STAR PARTY	WORK PARTY	OTHER EVENT	TOTAL EVENTS
Shepherd, Don	1				1
Shephard, Greg	2				2
Skowvron, Mike			2		2
Smith, Dave	1				1
Smith, Glenn	4		1	1	6
Snyder, Bill	2				2
Stifel, Flaccus			2		2
Terry, Sam	2				2
Watson, Wallace	1				1
	170	15	37	16	238

Total number of
members
participating in
Total star party
member count: 56
170

2008 STAR PARTY VOLUNTEERS AT WAGMAN OBSERVATORY

Here are the names of the AAAP members eligible for either a hat or patch for their contributions to the 2008 star party season at Wagman Observatory. Thanks to all 66 members who assisted with this year's events.

HAT OR PATCH

Tom Reiland
Larry Sneider
Flac Stifel
Bill Hayeslip
Eric Fischer
Bill Yorkshire
Joyce Osborne-Fischer
Don Hoecker
Frank Pastin

PATCHES

Mary DeVaughn
Mike Nizinski
Fred Klein
Bill Moutz
Pete Zapadka
Lori Seitz
Diane Yorkshire
Tim Manka
Sherry O'Neill
Rowen Poole

WAGMAN OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEERS FOR 2008

Vince Aluise	1	Frank Pastin	10
Wade Barbin	2	Ernest Petrich Jr	1
Erik Bauer	1	Cindy Pollack	1
Debra Borkovich	1	Ron Pollack	1
Phil Briedenbach	1	Rowen Poole	4
Shirley Ann Caseman	1	Tom Reiland	17
John Cheng	2	Jean Reiland	1
Rick Clare	1	George Renaldi	1
John Close	1	Bill Roemer	3
Tim Colbert	1	Brent Samay	1
Dan Cousineau	1	James Schultheis	1
Kathy DeSantis	1	Sue Schultheis	1
Mary De Vaughn	9	Lori Seitz	7
John Diller	1	Andrew Smith	1
Eric Fischer	13	Dave Smith	3
Joyce Osborne-Fischer	11	Larry Sneider	17
Dan Golembiewski	1	Flacc Stifel	16
Jon Grimme	2	Adam Tedeschi	1
Peter Guercio	1	Bruce Tepke	1
Martina Guercio	1	Dave Walters	1
Bill Hayeslip	15	Wallace Watson	3
Don Hoecker	11	Frank Wielgus	1
John Holtz	1	John Wilson	2
Phil Hughes	1	Bill Yorkshire	13
Jeff Kearns	1	Diane Yorkshire	6
Fred Klein	8	Devon Yorkshire	1
James Klueber	1	Julie Yorkshire	1
Gene Kulakowski	1	Pete Zapadka	8
Roy Lahet	1		
Tim Manka	4		
Mathew Maskas	1		
Ed Moss	1		
Bill Moutz	8		
Maureen Moutz	3		
Mike Nizinski	9		
Ann Norman	3		
Richard Ofstun	1		
Sherry O'Neill	4		



NEWS FROM CHERRY SPRINGS

By Gary Shannon
(from Yahoo Groups)

The 2009 Galaxy Pass is now available through the Lyman Run State Park office. And why should you consider buying a Galaxy Pass, you ask? This year's pass will cost \$55.00 - the same price for residents of PA and non-residents. The pass gives you unlimited access to the Astronomy Observation Field for THE ENTIRE YEAR—that's right—2009—the International Year of Astronomy, and you can enjoy GOLD LEVEL skies right at Cherry Springs! A few exclusions apply, such as Star Parties, and the Woodsman's Show.

But even more importantly, the nightly user fee is jumping up to \$10.00 in 2009. So, for the cost of less than 6 nights, you can come up whenever and for as long as you wish after that. WHAT AN ASTRONOMICAL DEAL!! WHAT A SUPER NOVA OF A DEAL!! Even cooler, sometime in April the park will have wireless internet access available! Thanks to all of you Dark Sky Fund donators, and hopefully a matching grant from the Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation, you will now be able to get on line to find out what the weather is going to be later at night. So, all you boys and girls if you would like to purchase a Galaxy Pass, please call Alison at the Lyman Run State Park office at (814) 435-5010 and she will take care of it for you. They do accept credit cards—Alison will let you know which ones. Sorry, but these are not available as on-line purchases. They are only available through the Lyman Run office.

By the way, they did get the PPF grant for the printing of 50 Outdoor Lighting Guides to be distributed to area public libraries and elected officials—a Dark Sky Fund Education Outreach Program in conjunction with the workshop they sponsored last June with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Outdoor Lighting Council (IDA). Education will be the key to preserving the night sky that surrounds the Cherry Springs area and it is hoped that through the use of these Guides, people will realize that good lighting practices help the sky and the economy and shielded lighting is now attractive and affordable.

LIGHT POLLUTION MEETING JANUARY 14, 2009

Submitted by Wallace Watson

This just came to me via weekly email of Sustainable Pittsburgh (an organization I highly recommend; easily googled). Perhaps AAAP would like to have someone there to raise the more general issue of light pollution (greatly lessened ability in our area to experience the celestial beauty enjoyed by our ancestors since time immemorial, etc.).

LED

ADVERTISING SIGNS

Public Meeting of 14 January 2009
5:30 PM

CPC Conference Room (First Floor)
200 Ross Street

1. This past summer considerable controversy arose when Lamar attempted to place a LED advertising sign (billboard) on the new Grant Street Transportation Center. As a result of that controversy, City Councilman Burgess, working with the City Law Department, crafted legislation that defines regulations for LED advertising signs. Basically, it permits such signs so long as they conform to all advertising sign regulations.
2. The regulations define the districts where such signs may be located (GI, UI, LNC, UNC), the permitted height of such signs (45 feet in the GI and UI and 35 feet in the LNC and UNC), the permitted size of such signs (750 square feet in GI and UI and 378 square feet in LNC and UNC). They also specify the spacing between such signs (500 feet in most cases and 1500 feet along restricted access highways), and specify 350 foot setbacks from certain features or districts when the sign is visible from those features or districts. These districts include residential or EMI zones, bridges across the rivers, major tunnels, the riverfront, parks, recreation areas (greater than .25 acres) and cultural services. The signs must receive approval from the Historic Review Commission if it is located within or within 100 feet of a City Historic District.
3. Most of the existing billboards are nonconforming, primarily because of spacing. There are over 900 billboards in the City.
4. LEDS could replace existing billboards if the resultant LED is conforming in all aspects. Thus removing some billboards to address the spacing issue could result in a permitted LED sign site.
5. While the regulation revision effort was designed to provide a legal means for the industry to employ LEDs, it was not intended to facilitate more billboards or to permit the conversion of nonconforming signs to LEDs.
6. The industry suggested changes both in the definition of conforming/nonconforming signs and to allow for the conversion of nonconforming signs to LEDs.
7. The City Planning Commission was concerned with the impacts of LEDs compared to static billboards, the number of billboards in the City, and the application of the proposed regulations. They also wanted public input to assist them in making decisions related to the proposed regulations.
8. Consequently, the Planning Department has done mapping and case studies (of chosen areas) to convey the impact of the new regulations. This information will be presented at the January 14, 2009 public meeting.

OBSERVATIONS

James Schultheis: Sent to the listserver December 23, 2008. 12-22-08 from Scottdale, PA

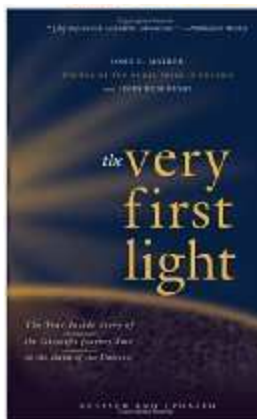
Conditions were fair transparency, fair seeing and 0% clouds last night with a temperature of 7 degrees. I took the 120mm f/5 Orion ST120 Acro out for some rich field observing and star testing. Everyone in the neighborhood had their Christmas lights a blazing and my one neighbor's mercury yard light started working again after the big windstorm, but I did not let any of that bother my observing desires. I started off observing M42, The Great Orion Nebula, with the 26 mm Nagler with 3*AFOV and 23x mag. and was delighted to observe all the bright nebula in M42 fading into the dark nebula surroundings. I was just able to split up the Trapezium into 3 or 4 stars at this low power; and above M42, there was the beautiful blue-white splattering of stars in the large open cluster NGC 1981. I started to realize that this wonderful area of the sky is definitely great to observe in a RFT. Moving over to Gemini, I observed M35 with NGC 2158 as a hazy mist embedded within. If I put M35 half in my field of view, I could see N2158 and IC 2157 (hazy spot) as a trio of clusters! Jumping up to Cassiopeia, I actually started to get overwhelmed with open clusters and was having a hard time identifying them. Andromeda was great with M31, M32 and M110 all in one FOV and was thinking how this view would look under good dark skies. I did star test the ST120 and found the optics to be fair, not an APO but good enough for excellent low-power observing of deep-sky objects for which I intended the use of this scope.

Tom Reiland: Sent to the listserver December 03, 2008 . From Wagman Observatory.

I kept watching for the clearing that the forecasters were predicting before midnight, but it didn't start clearing out until just after midnight. I loaded my car with my charts, catalogues and other observing accessories and headed up to our hilltop observatory. I arrived a few minutes after 1 AM, opened up the Manka roof, and prepared the scope for observing. I had a good first hour, but scattered cirrus clouds started moving through the sky. Andy Smith came up about half an hour after me and he left just before I did. I started off with the Crab Nebula. The Orion Nebula was stunning, as usual, especially with the NPB filter. I picked up one open cluster, a variable star and three doubles in Monoceros that I hadn't observed before. I checked out some galaxies before I closed up. By that time, most but not all of the clouds were moving out. I was wiped out by the wind and temps in the low twenties. I left just after 4 AM and had to dodge deer on the way home. I had a minus five mag Iridium pass tonight at 5:35:23 PM at an altitude of 27 degrees and 199 azimuth.

BOOK REVIEWS

Posted to Yahoo Group December 5, 2008 by Dan Peden: This book by John Mather (who spoke at the CSC Wednesday December 10th) is available in the library system.



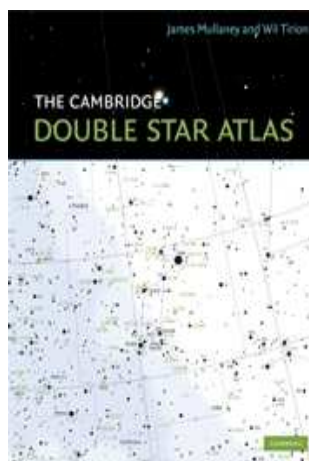
Author: Mather, John C.
Title: *The Very First Light: The True Inside Story of the Scientific Journey Back to the Dawn of the Universe*/John C. Mather and John Boslough.
Publisher: New York: Basic Books, 1996. Edition 1st ed.
Description: xxi, 328 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

LOCATION CALL # STATUS:
McKeesport Nonfiction 523.12 M42
Checked Out Sewickley Nonfiction 523.1 MAT 1996. AVAILABLE Shaler Non-Fiction 523.12 M. AVAILABLE

Upper St. Clair Non-fiction 629.43 MAT AVAILABLE.
Bibliography Includes bibliographical references and index.
Subject: Cosmic background radiation. Additional Author: Boslough, John. ISBN0465015751.

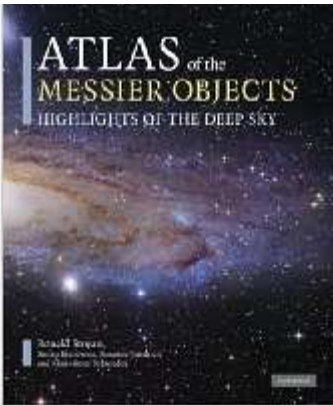
Posted to Listserver December 1, 2008 by John Cheng: A star atlas geared to double star observers will be released in March. Two-thousand pairs are said to be plotted.

<http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521493437>



The illustrator is Wil Tirion, the stellar cartographer best known for *Sky Atlas 2000* and *Uranometria*, two of today's standard star atlases. The author is James Mullaney, previously associated with Buhl Planetarium, Allegheny Observatory and the AAAP. Mullaney is the author of "*Celestial Harvest*", an excellent guide to showpieces in the Northern sky and "*Double and Multiple Stars and How to Observe Them*", an informative introduction to the topic. (I own both and would recommend them to any observer).

BOOK REVIEWS (continued)



John Cheng posted to listserver December 1, 2008. I just got my hands on a fabulous book, the English edition of a book originally published in Germany by Ronald Stoyan and others: "*Atlas of the Messier Objects, Highlights of the Deep Sky*".

Perhaps some will recall the thoroughly documented book by Kenneth Glyn Jones, "*Messier's Nebulae & Star Clusters*" which was written in the sixties.

Well, this new book is just about as "scholarly" but it's so much more. First, it's a beautiful book—a coffee-table sized hardback with a glossy, protected cover. Second, it's loaded with beautiful pictures of the objects themselves, historical drawings, portraits and thumbnail bios of people involved in the history of observing the Messiers.

Two notes—this is not a review—it's a heads up. Please do yourself a favor and check out this book. It's a bit overwhelming. It's an album, a history, an updated astrophysical summary and a synopsis of what an observer can expect to see. Also, while its size says "coffee table", it's definitely NOT a decorative throwaway. There's real info between its covers.

Small but Mighty: KPD 0005+5106, the 200,000K White Dwarf

By Ian O'Neil, Astroengine



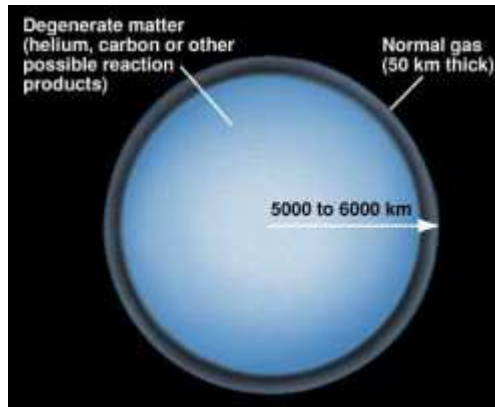
A white dwarf called KPD 0005+5106 has been identified as the hottest star observed, ever. KPD 0005+5106 lives in the globular cluster M4, 7,200 light years away, and astronomers have always been intrigued by this stellar lightweight as its

emissions have previously hinted it was quite toasty. Now, astronomers using data from the defunct NASA Far-Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE), have studied the white dwarf in more detail. KPD 0005+5106 emits radiation in the far-ultraviolet, indicating that its surface has a temperature of 200,000K. This is an unprecedented discovery, far-ultraviolet emissions are usually reserved for superheated stellar coronae. It may be small, but it's a record-breaker...

Our Sun has a surface temperature of around 6000K. As you track the temperature of solar plasma as it exits the Sun, coronal heating processes will heat the tenuous gas very rapidly to over 1 million Kelvin. Our Sun only starts to emit strong ultraviolet emissions in the solar corona, just above a point called the "transition region"; ultraviolet emissions simply are not attainable at the surface as the solar plasma is too cool.

So it may be a surprise that another stellar object, a white dwarf, is generating temperatures on its surface capable of producing emissions usually associated with the temperatures of stellar atmospheres.

[White dwarfs are known as being very hot](#), and temperatures



Composition of a white dwarf

of around 100,000K are not uncommon, but this dwarf star is outshining all the competition. KPD 0005+5106 is the hottest white dwarf, and the hottest star observed to date with this degree of precision. Perhaps even

more interesting is the fact that white dwarfs are very small, of Earth-sized proportions, after evolving from a larger star of 1-8 solar masses.

The white dwarf is what remains of a star after fusion has ceased in the parent star's core, and in the case of our Sun, a white dwarf will be left over after the Sun has puffed up into a red giant and blown apart into a [planetary nebula](#). It is like the pearl left behind after breaking an oyster shell apart; a tiny, shiny sphere. White dwarfs are not maintained by nuclear fusion either; all the fuel has been spent, it is maintained by a balance between degenerate matter and gravity. Gravitational pressure compresses the stellar matter to such an extent, the quantum Pauli Exclusion Principle takes over, disallowing electrons to occupy the same energy levels. The matter therefore becomes degenerate, preventing the matter from being compressed any further.

For a short time after formation, white dwarfs are expected to be very hot. Although the white dwarf phase of stellar evolution is very stable (it can last for billions of years), astronomers will be very lucky to observe this hot period as, statistically speaking, young white dwarfs are rare. In the case of KPD 0005+5106, it would appear that it is a very young white dwarf with a very hot surface.

Fortunately for the astronomers who made this discovery, the [FUSE observatory](#) had a lot of data on KPD 0005+5106 as the object was used as a calibration target to track the telescope's performance. This is archived spectroscopic data

as FUSE was decommissioned in 2007 after eight years in space. However, the data was put to good use.

Spectroscopic data of the far-ultraviolet wavelength range, in particularly the emissions from a calcium ion, revealed just how extreme the white dwarf's temperature was. CaX, or nine-times ionized calcium (nine electrons stripped from the calcium nuclei), was detected, indicative of the 200,000K stellar environment.

My love for spectroscopic observatories just got stronger...

<http://aavsowritersbureau.blogspot.com/2008/12/small-but-mighty-kpd-00055106-200000k.html>

This content was distributed by the AAVSO Writer's Bureau.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

David N. Ferraro Jr.
Jeff Pastorek

COOL WEBSITES

Buy a movie about John Dobson:

<http://splicedwire.com/05reviews/sidewalkastro.html>

Galactic Halfway House Discovered:

<http://www.space.com/aol/081222-mm-transition-galaxies.html>

Nice Image of Ganymede Occultation:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28300186/>

Remember that great meteor that flashed across the skies of the northern US and in Canada last month on November 20th? This is the one that was caught by web cams and with a burst as bright as daylight! Well, some of the remains have been found. Read the story:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20081129/ap_on_re_ca/na_canada_meteor

A nice web site showing the stars orbiting the black hole at the center of our galaxy and a recent flare:

<http://www.mpe.mpg.de/ir/GC/index.php>

If you missed the 1966 Leonid Shower and the more recent ones in 1999 & 2001, perhaps the Nov 17, 2009 might be very worth watching! Story at:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/04dec_leonids2009.htm?list15622

Nikola Tesla and the Electric Universe:

http://www.thunderbolts.info/featured_media.htm#ntateu

A girl, 14, is an astronomy star: discovers a supernova in outer space:

<http://www.tinyurl.dk/4579>

Here's another live tracking site of the tool bag lost from the ISS:

<http://www.n2yo.com/?s=33442>

FRED KLEIN'S FULL MOON DECEMBER 13, 2008

I was awakened early this morning (December 13, 2008) when the full Moon shown onto my face. What else could I do but get up and take its picture? Also, I got a new scope and wanted to try it out. I didn't like the Stellarvue Nighthawk, so got a Celestron 80mm Onyx, which has been on sale for only \$399. It is really nice. I set it up inside on a portable mount and used the Canon 20Da. Then when all was adjusted, carried it out on the front porch and snapped away.

<http://fredkleinastro.com:80/images/FullMoon12-13-08.png>



RETURN TO THE MOON NIGHT IN 2009

By Kathy DeSantis

A "Return to the Moon Night," to be scheduled sometime between May and August 2009 holds a certain fascination. That night, we could share the excitement about:

1. LCROSS Mission
2. 40th Anniversary of Manned Moon Landing (July 21, 1969)
3. 50 Years of NASA
4. 400 years since Galileo aimed his telescope

(By the way, the Moon is not conveniently disposed for viewing on the actual July 21st anniversary in 2009). As the time of LCROSS Launch nears, there will be greater certainty of when Centaur Impact will occur. I think we should think about something special in 2009 related to the Moon. There is already a wealth of videos and activities at our disposal from NSN. If you can, try to watch the LCROSS Webcast for inspiration:

<http://quest.nasa.gov/lunar/ASP>

IMPORTANT DATES

January 2—Uranus 5° south of Moon
January 3—Quadrantid Meteor Shower
January 4—1st quarter Moon 6:56 a.m.
 Mercury 19° east of Sun
January 9—**Membership Meeting at Carnegie Science Center 7:30 p.m.**
January 10—Full Moon 10:27 p.m.
January 14—Venus at greatest elongation (47° east)
January 15—Saturn 6° north of Moon
January 17—Last quarter Moon 9:46 p.m.
January 21—Antares 0.02° south of Moon
January 23—Venus 1.4° north of Uranus
January 26—New Moon 2:55 a.m.
January 27—Neptune 1.8° south of Moon
January 29—Uranus 5° south of Moon
January 30—Venus 3° south of Moon

February 2—1st quarter Moon 6:13 p.m.
February 9—Full Moon 9:49 a.m.
February 11—Saturn 6° north of Moon
 Maureen & Bill's 20th anniversary
February 13—**Membership Meeting at Carnegie Science Center at 7:30 p.m.**
February 16—Last quarter Moon 4:37 p.m.
February 17—Mars 0.6° south of Jupiter
 Antares 0.04° south of Moon
February 22—Mercury 1.1° south of Moon
 Jupiter 0.7° south of Moon
February 23—Mars 1.7° south of Moon
 Mercury 0.6° south of Jupiter
February 24—New Moon 8:35 p.m.
February 27—Venus 1.3° north of Moon
February 28—**Winterfest at Wagman**

2009 WAGMAN PUBLIC STAR PARTY DATES

By Tom Reiland

February 28—Winterfest
 April 3 and 4
 May 1 and 2 (Saturday will probably be National Astronomy Day)
 May 29 and 30
 June 26 and 27
 July 24 and 25
 August 28 and 29
 September 12 Dark Sky Special
 September 26
 October 10 Dark Sky Special
 October 24 Final Star Party for 2009

2009 MINGO PUBLIC STAR PARTY DATES

Taken from Web Calendar

April 17 and 18
 May 1 and 2
 May 15 and 16
 June 12 and 13
 June 27
 July 24-25
 August 21-22
 September 12 and 26
 October 10 and 24

2009 AAAP PICNIC

By Tom Reiland

Anglers Grove will be reserved for the 2009 AAAP picnic on Saturday, June 13. This will also be a celebration of the 22nd anniversary of the dedication of Wagman Observatory. The history of the AAAP picnic goes back long before I joined the club. It would be the second Friday in June and served as an informal meeting to introduce the new officers to the club, socialize and observe if it were clear.

It was held in several different locations before we moved it to Deer Lakes Park in the mid 1980's. According to Bob Schmidt, one club member reserved the Bear Pit Shelter in Riverview Park for the event. He got up at the May meeting to announce it and accidentally reversed the first letters of Pit and Shelter. Needless to say, he was slightly embarrassed and there was much laughter. It has been held in North and South Parks, as well as Moraine State Park once.

The first ones that I attended were at La Tادمي (not certain of the spelling), which might be called the Rose Barn at this time. We would have a quick five-minute meeting and then go onto the activities. The meeting was eventually dropped and if the office of the president was changed, we would have a passing of the gavel. I'll be covering the cost of the grove.



Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.

Founded June 9, 1929 by

Chester B. Roe and Leo J. Scanlon

2008-2009 Executive Officers:

- President: **Edward Moss**
president@3ap.org
- Vice President: **Ann Norman**
vicepresident@3ap.org
- Treasurer: **Michael Meteney**
treasurer@3ap.org
- Corresponding Sec: **John Mozer**
correspondingsecretary@3ap.org
- Recording Sec: **Dennis Derda**
recordingsecretary@3ap.org
- Membership Sec: **Mark Schomer**
membershipsecretary@3ap.org
- Guide Star Editors: **Bill & Maureen Moutz**
gseditor@3ap.org

AAAP Member Dues*:

AAAP Dues:	\$24.00
Junior Member (under 18):	\$15.00

***Basic Procedure for Paying Dues:**

1. Make check payable to "AAAP Inc."
2. Send check to Michael Meteney, Treasurer, 1070 Sugar Run Road; Venetia, PA 15367-1514

Please submit any articles for the Guide Star to the Guide Star Editors at gseditor@3ap.org by the 20th of each month.

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