



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



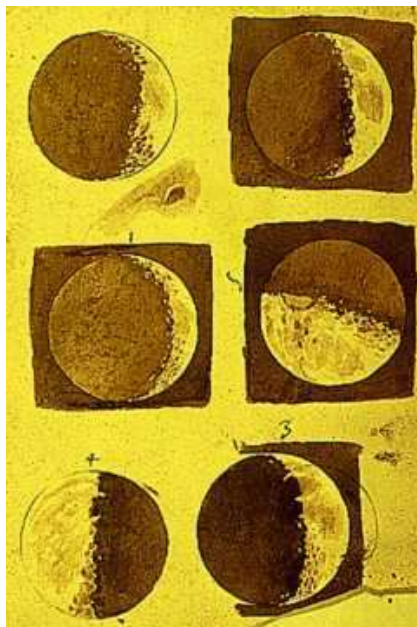
Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory

May 2009

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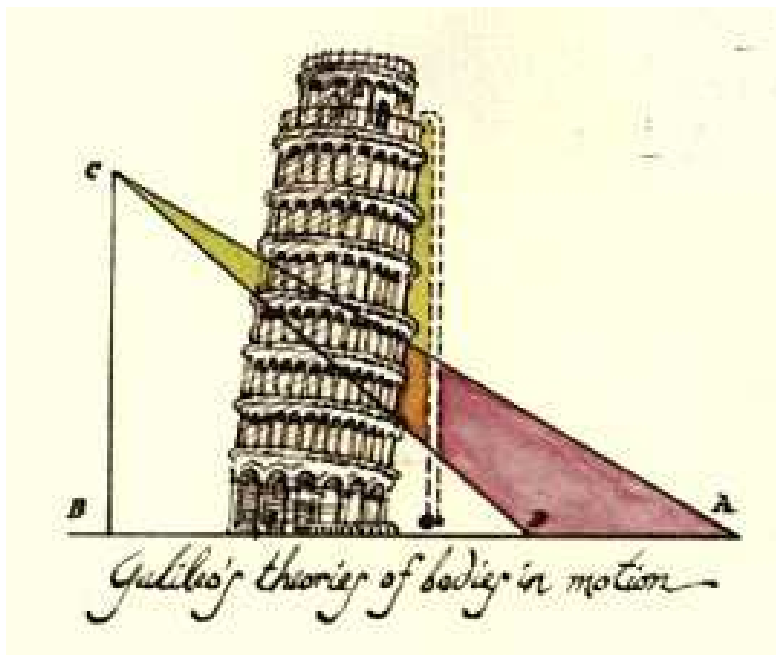
Below is a review of Professor Palmieri's book, *"Reinacting Galileo's Experiments"*, written with William R. Shea:

"No one has examined in such detail and with such patience how Galileo arrived at his results. Palmieri extends our understanding of what Galileo wanted to achieve and how he went about getting his pioneering results, and his book will be welcomed by everyone interested in the genesis of the Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century". - Prof. William R. Shea, Galileo Professor of History of Science University of Padua, Padova, Italy.

Hope to see you all there Friday, May 8th at 7:30 in the Carnegie Science Center Main Auditorium!

TOPIC OF NEXT MEETING: Reenacting Galileo's Experiments

In our continuing celebration of 400 years of astronomy and Galileo's first use of a telescope, Professor Paolo Palmieri of Pitt's Department of History and Philosophy of Science will describe his reenactment of the experiments of Galileo! Professor Palmieri recreated these experiments to get inside the mind of the seventeenth-century natural philosopher and better understand the dawn of science.



ED MOSS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT



I'm Ed Moss and I am running for president of the AAAP. I don't really believe in campaigning for this or any other elected office in our club, but I believe I should share with my fellow club members my contributions to the AAAP, as these relate to why I'm running for president. When I took over the chairmanship of the Mingo Construction Committee, I had a vague idea of what it was that I wanted to accomplish with this

observatory. Richard Haddad had his vision for the observatory, and I made that vision my own and added a few things I thought would help in accomplishing his vision. As president I worked to see that vision completed.

CRAIG LANG RUNNING FOR VICE PRESIDENT



Craig with John Dobson

My name is Craig Lang and I am running for the position of Vice President of the AAAP. I have been a member since 2004 and served as the IT Chairperson in 2005 & 2006, which included attendance at several Executive Committee meetings. I have been active at Mingo Observatory and Ryerson Station star parties presenting Night Sky Network presentations, planisphere

demos, and planetarium shows, and was also awarded the George Lindbloom Memorial Award in 2006. Professionally, as a software developer and electrical engineer, I am experienced with problem solving and project management.

I am looking forward to serving the club following in the footsteps of past Vice Presidents and will continue the tradition of bringing interesting and inspiring speakers to the general club meetings as well as the general duties of the Vice President.

KATHY DESANTIS RUNNING FOR VICE PRESIDENT



I am Kathy DeSantis. I would like to serve the AAAP as Vice President. It is the Vice President's job to get speakers for the monthly meetings and arrange the Christmas Party. I have helped the retiring Vice President with these duties. I would continue the fine tradition. I attend public star

parties, all Mingo's, since first season. I have attended Wagman Winterfest the last three years. I joined AAAP in 2005. I have an 8-inch Dob and 20 x 80 binoculars.

At Mingo star parties, I am more likely to be found at the desk, than planetarium, and planetarium, more than at one of the fixed telescopes. Most of what is displayed at Mingo, came from me, from the four American flags, sunflowers, and tri-color banners, to tri-fold display boards on dark skies, and astronomy, along with some furniture and fixtures. I attend Mingo work parties, too, and did some of finishing in the Mingo construction.

Outreach comes natural to me as a former science teacher. I have been active in many organizations including Vectors Pittsburgh, Mon Valley Initiative Board, Monongahela Area Historical Society, Allegheny County Penn State Master Gardeners, etc. I worked on, and/or organized: the Mingo Dedication, 24-Inch First Light, John Dobson Mingo Reception, Summerfest, Radio Field Day, Lewis and Clark in Elizabeth, Governor's Institute for the Environment at Seven Springs, Morel Madness Campers, etc. Yes, and overnight Mingo campouts. I also worked on many, Mingo Boy and Girl Scout, private star parties, and, off-observatory events, such as sidewalk astronomies in various places. I have been to Carnegie Science Center Weekend for the last three years and organized the WQED Night and On Q, ventures this spring. I contribute to the Guide Star and club list (Yahoo User Group), and serve as Night Sky Network Coordinator. I have been on the AAAP Development, Mingo and IT Committees. I believe in the efforts of this club to share astronomy and science with each other, and the public, and I cannot think of a better bunch of people with whom to do this. Thank you.



SEE ELECTION BALLOT ON PAGE 9

JOHN MOZER RUNNING FOR CORRESPONDING SECRETARY



John Mozer was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado. After completing his graduate studies in civil engineering at the University of Colorado in 1967, John and his wife, Sheila, moved to Pittsburgh, PA, where they have lived for the past 42 years.

During the first six of those years, John taught in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Carnegie Mellon University. He then left the academic world to work for GAI Consultants, Inc., a civil engineering consulting firm located in Homestead. At GAI, John worked on projects in Argentina, Canada, Chile, Honduras, Indonesia and the United States. He will retire in May 2009, after 36 years of employment at GAI.

John has been a member of AAAP since 2003 and currently serves as the AAAP Corresponding Secretary, a position he has held for the past three years. He owns two telescopes, an 8-inch Dobsonian and a 102-mm EQ mounted Mak-Cassegrain. His favorite deep-sky objects are open star clusters.

John enjoys volunteering at star parties, traveling, reading, visiting with his children and grandchildren and becoming involved in politics and environmental issues.

DENNIS DERDA RUNNING FOR RECORDING SECRETARY



Dennis Derda remains uncontested in his office of Recording Secretary. For you folks who sit at the back of the auditorium at meetings, he is the owner of the voice reading the minutes. He is also Chair of the Optics and Telescope Making Special Interest Group.

BILL AND MAUREEN MOUTZ RUNNING FOR GUIDE STAR EDITOR



Maureen and Bill Moutz have been members of the astronomy club since 2002. We have been the Guide Star editors since 2006. They especially enjoy the away star parties for private groups and organizations.

KUDOS TO MIKE FISHER

Taken from Yahoo Groups: There was quite a good turn out tonight at Mingo on Friday, April 17. There were lots of scopes in the field and plenty of young, eager eyes wanting a look. A few of the kids around me were very attentive and excited to be there. The guardian of some of the kids asked me if I knew of a place that held classes for kids interested in astronomy. I told her she came to the right place and the class will start now.

The sky conditions at Mingo were average but the weather was perfect for April. I spent most of the night looking at all those M-galaxies available this time of the year. Later on I tested the collimation on my SCT and tweaked it a bit. I visited the usual suspects in and around Scorpius-- how good to see them! It tells me summer is coming. I pulled out of Mingo at 3:17 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 AT WAGMAN

By Tom Reiland

Taken from Yahoo Groups: We had a nice show of members at Wagman Observatory on Friday, April 17. I counted 11 cars and 13 or 14 people on the hilltop during part of the night. Frank, Bill, Patrick, Jack, Nathan and one other member were there when I arrived. Chris, Jeff, Matt and Jim arrived later. I watched an excellent sunset, but there was no green flash. I spotted Mercury less than one half hour after sunset. I finished my Herschel II project (the second 400) at Midnight with NGC 5078 in Hydra. I spent the rest of the night checking out Messier objects, especially galaxies, while I searched for supernovae. Everyone except Nathan left by 3:30 AM. I started to pack up at that time and left by 4 AM. Nathan was still taking photos when I drove off.

A THANK YOU FROM OUR FRIENDS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



March 24 2009.

Mr. Ed Moss
President
Amateur Astronomer Association of Pittsburgh.
P.O. Box 314
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Dear Mr. Moss:


We have no way of expressing the gratitude that we feel in our hearts, you have been instrumental in making a long time dream come true. We wish to sincerely thank you for the immensely generous offer that you have given us; of bestowing such a wonderful instrument, the excellent sixteen inch Ritchey-Chrétien Professional Telescope.

For this reason our local panorama has received a new promise of ever reaching heights. Your sole action will surely heighten our senses of many new grand projects to come, both through learning and sharing this wonderful astronomical science with a new sense of pride and achievement.

Through this acquisition we will also undertake new commitments with your wonderful group, helping us to bind our both institutions closer together where our members can mutually benefit with ever more interaction, communication and interchange among our peers.

With strong desires to start a long lasting and fruitful relationship with you,

Sincerely,



Robert Guerrero Mieses
President
Sociedad Astronómica Dominicana
www.astrodom.org
presidente@astrodom.org
rguerrermieses100@hotmail.com



A THANK YOU FROM TEACHER, ZANA AEBI, FROM HUTCHINSON ELEMENTARY IN GREENSBURG

I really appreciate all you (AAAP member Jim Klueber) have done to help me get this program off the ground with appropriate activities and information. Your support and the AAAP made all the difference.

I had several different people come up to me today to let me know how much they enjoyed the event. One of the mothers said that she thought it was great that we had such an opportunity for the students. They had a great time and learned so much about the stars. One mother, who is also an aide in the classroom, said that the kids had a great time and that it was wonderful that we had this program for them. Another teacher said that her class was just buzzing about how much fun they had. She was surprised at how many of her students went as well. I had asked the assistant principal to stay for the event and help out if she was available and when I thanked her today for helping out, she said that she was glad she stayed and that she had a great time too! The kids in my class were talking about Saturn, the globular clusters, Orion's belt, Betelgeuse, and the twin stars. They were very excited and said they can't wait until our next one. One of the parents sent in doughnuts for the "Staff" because she was so proud of the way they worked and kept things going.

My sister and I talked and we decided that next year we will have glow stick necklaces for the kids when they go out to the ball field instead of star necklaces so we can monitor them better. We also decided that we will have the story teller first while the people are checking in, that way we can get to the stars faster. We also talked about having them come into the one-room schoolhouse for their snack as soon as they were done with their crafts, watch the scrolling PowerPoint, then straggle out to the field to the astronomers. That way it wouldn't be such a crush of people at once. We will also have a sign up next time so we can be aware of how many people will really be coming instead of being surprised with such a great turnout.

All in all it was a good time. I have had several of the teachers offer to help out next year and those that helped this year said they will do so again! The kids are still excited and would like to have more of the same, but I think at this time, we will stick to once a year...but, who knows!

PHOTOS FROM HUTCHINSON ELEMENTARY STAR PARTY APRIL 16TH



PHOTOS OF NORTH ALLEGHENY STAR PARTY ON APRIL 1

By Bill Hayslip



PHOTOS FROM SPACE OUT WEEKEND AT CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER MARCH 27-29



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Katrin Bovbjerg
David Rapp
David Torhan Jr.

Her address and phone number are listed below:
Ann Naar Riverside Primary Center
302 Country Club Drive
Ellwood City, PA 16117
724-758-7512, ext. 1024

PRIVATE STAR PARTY REQUEST

By Tom Reiland

We have a large group of girl scouts scheduled to visit Wagman Observatory on Thursday, August 6. Those members who wish to assist with this event should mark it on their calendars. There might be 100 or more scouts and parents that night.

REQUEST FOR STAR PARTY RIVERSIDE SCHOOL IN ELLWOOD CITY

Ellwood City school teacher, Ann Narr, is requesting help with her Star Party on May 1. In case of inclement weather Friday, it will be held April 30. Ann is the librarian for the whole school. She is having a representative from NASA come and give a talk. He will speak that day to the third and fourth graders and then to the high school. He will be bringing his telescope and will set it up that evening. Ann is hoping a few of us will bring scopes to help out. The address is 300 Country Club Road, Ellwood City, PA 16117.

Please contact Ann if you wish to hear the lecture, her phone is listed below. Dr. Nolan Walborn will be visiting the school on May 1st, as he is the sponsor of our Signatures in Space program through Lockheed Martin and NASA. He works on the Hubble telescope and also is on the committee that selects who gets to use the Hubble. He works at the Space Telescope Science Institute or STScI, an affiliate of NASA. He offered to come and speak to our students and we gladly took him up on his offer. If anyone would like to come to the morning assembly in the high school to hear his presentation, you are welcome to do that. I just need to know ahead of time to clear this with administration and alert security that you will be here.

Dr. Walborn will be bringing his telescope and also offered a stargazing party either on the April 30 or May 1 depending upon visibility conditions. I prefer May 1 because it is a Friday night and parents would be more apt to bring their kids because it would be a night they could stay up a little later (I'm speaking as an elementary instructor but there most probably will be middle and high school students there also). But I also realize how uncooperative the weather can be so I will take what I can get. Any assistance you could give would be profoundly appreciated. I know I am excited about offering this to our community and to students who would not ever get a chance to experience space in this unique way. Thanks ahead of time for your help.

IMPORTANT DATES

**May 1—Mingo & Wagman Public Star Parties
Ellwood City Riverside School Star Party**

First quarter Moon 4:44 p.m.

May 2—Mingo & Wagman star parties

May 4—Saturn 6° north of Moon

May 5—Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower

May 6—Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower

May 8—7:30 p.m. Membership Meeting

May 9—Full Moon 12:01 a.m.

May 10—Antares 0.6° south of Moon

May 13—Moon at apogee

May 15—Mingo Public Star Party

May 16—Mingo Public Star Party

May 17—Last quarter Moon 3:26 a.m.

May 17—Jupiter and Neptune 3° south of Moon

May 19—Uranus 5° south of Moon

May 21—Venus 7° south Moon

Mars 7° south of Moon

May 24—New Moon 8:11 a.m.

May 25—Jupiter 0.4° south of Neptune

May 27—Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower

May 28—Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower

May 30—First quarter Moon 11:22 p.m.

May 31—Saturn 6° north of Moon

June 5—Twin Lakes Star Party

June 7—Full Moon 2:12 p.m.

Antares 0.6° south of Moon

June 12—Mingo Public Star Party

June 13—Mingo Public Star Party

Jupiter & Neptune 3° south of Moon

June 15—Last quarter Moon 6:15 p.m.

Juno 0.4° north of Moon

June 16—Uranus 6° south of Moon

June 19—Venus 2° south of Mars

Mars 6° south of Moon

June 20—Keystone Star Party

June 21—Summer Solstice 1:46 a.m.

Mercury 7° south of Moon

June 22—New Moon 3:35 p.m.

Mercury 3° north of Aldebaran

June 26—Wagman Public Star Party

June 27—Wagman & Mingo Public Star Parties

Saturn 7° north of Moon

June 29—First quarter Moon 7:28 a.m.

2009 AAAP EARTH DAY PROGRAMS

By Kathy DeSantis



The 2009 Earth Day programs were varied and successful. The highpoint was captured by Katie Holtz at Frick Park when she talked to Mayor Ravenstahl and handed him light pollution information! George trained teachers at Carnegie Science Center.

Kathleen DeSantis, George Guzik and Joyce Osbourne-Fischer assisted Jane Konrad, Pittsburgh Regional Center for Science Teachers, with the Sun-Earth Day Teacher Workshop at Carnegie Science Center on April 18, 2009. George gave a 45-minute presentation. Joyce handled questions and answers, about George's talk, astronomy and AAAP. Kathy made arrangements and helped with teaching materials as well as arranging the other two AAAP Earth Day endeavors. The teacher participants who attended the five-hour program PTCST/CSC Sun-Earth Day Workshop received Act. 48 continuing education credit, and also took home NASA educational materials to share with their students. AAAP is proud to participate in teacher trainings.

Charlotte Tunney, Jim Tunney, Glenn Smith and Steve Allinger represented AAAP, astronomy, and dark sky awareness at The Westmoreland County Earth Day at the Winnie Palmer Nature Preserve, St. Vincent College in Latrobe. Charlotte and Jim were set up in the Barn where they shared a constellation learning activity, information about astronomy and AAAP, and AAAP 2009 star party schedules. Glenn and Steve set up an 11-inch with a solar filter on the patio sharing views of the Sun. They used Sun posters from SOHO (NASA's Solar Heliospheric Observatory) to set the stage. There were lots of "Wows"!

Hundreds of people attended Frick Park Earth Day because of the nice weather. AAAP was on the south side of the path so the trees blocked any astronomical objects that would have been visible (Venus and Moon). Next year if we can locate in more of an opening, we could look beyond

buildings or trees and anything other than the Sun. John was there the entire time. Katie arrived around noon and was a big help talking with people and promoting the star parties. Katie also caught Mayor Ravenstahl as he passed by. John and Katie handed him some light pollution flyers. Way to go John and Katie! AAAP hopes to advance light pollution awareness especially in the City of Pittsburgh. Erik Bauer was a welcome addition as the afternoon progressed. He got to talk to people and to help break down.

I want to thank those who gave up so much of their time on a sunny springtime Saturday to further AAAP's goals and outreach. Special thanks to Glenn Smith who put in a triple header attending not only Westmoreland County Earth Day but both the Friday and Saturday night Mingo Public Star Parties. Thanks to all, named and unnamed, who helped make these Earth Day Outreach Events successful.

NIGHT SKY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

How does my club maintain its membership in the Night Sky Network?

To receive continued support for this program, NASA must document the success of the Night Sky Network.

To remain a member in good standing of the Night Sky Network, continue regularly logging events using the Outreach ToolKits and other Night Sky Network resources, including IYA 2009 resources. We suggest a goal of logging a minimum of five outreach events a year. Timely and accurate logging of outreach activities and events into the Night Sky Network (NSN) is essential. Only post events after you have actually held them.

Your club will receive the Night Sky Network banner after logging at least five events in a year using the Outreach ToolKits. We check at the end of every calendar quarter to get the list of clubs eligible for the banner. You will receive your banner after the end of the quarter in which you log your fifth event.

An NSN Club may receive any new Outreach ToolKits that are released by logging at least two events during the previous calendar quarter. Regularly logging events will allow your club members to continue to participate in all activities provided by the Night Sky Network.

Log your events on the Club Participant Home Page under "Log an Event". A Club Coordinator needs to approve any logged events before they show on the list of events. To remain eligible for awards and ToolKits, be sure to log events where you used the materials or activities provided in the Outreach ToolKits or other NSN resources.

AAAP 2009 ELECTION BALLOT

(CHECK THE LINE NEXT TO CANDIDATE OR WRITE-IN)

PRESIDENT:

Ed Moss
 Write-In: _____

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

John Mozer
 Write-In: _____

VICE PRESIDENT:

Craig Lang
 Kathy DeSantis
 Write-In: _____

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Don Hoecker
 Write-In: _____

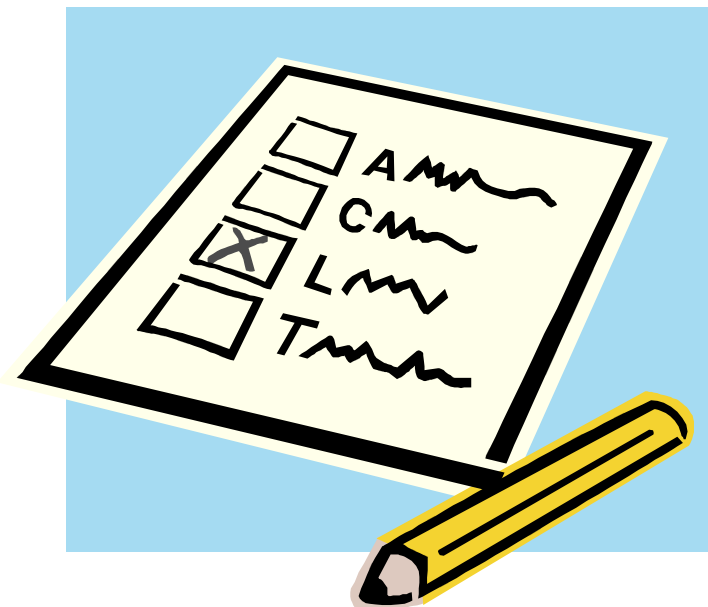
RECORDING SECRETARY:

Dennis Derda
 Write-In: _____

GUIDE STAR EDITOR:

Bill & Maureen Moutz
 Write-In: _____

**Bring ballot to the May 8th AAAP meeting or mail in to:
AAAP Treasurer, 1070 Sugar Run Road, Venetia, PA 15367-1514**



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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