

AAAP Membership Renewal Form – 2008

(1)

Completely fill in the following information on this form:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail _____ or _____

Check if you want your e-mail on the AAAP List Server (____)

How do you want your "Guide Star" Delivered? Online (____) Snail Mail (____)

Which of the following AAAP positions would you volunteer for?

- I would like to help at star parties at: Mingo (____) Wagman (____)
- I would like to serve on observatory committees at: Mingo (____) Wagman (____)
- I would like to serve on other association committees (____)
Specify Committees:

- I would like to run for an association office (____)
Specify Offices:

What areas of astronomy interest you?

What type of Astronomical equipment do you want listed under your name in the membership directory?

(over)

AAAP Membership Renewal Form – 2008

(2)

ITEM	PRICE	ENCLOSED PAYMENT
AAAP Adult Membership (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 2008)	\$24.00	
AAAP Junior Membership (under 18)	\$15.00	
"Sky & Telescope" Subscription (12 issues per year) All subscriptions are sent directly to Sky Publishing's subscription department (1-800-253-0245). Tell them you are a member of the AAAP to get the \$32.95 discount rate. If you are a current subscriber, use the renewal form from Sky Publishing.	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX
"Astronomy" Subscription (12 issues per year) Both new and renewals are processed through the AAAP. Do not renew your subscription directly with Kalmbach Publishing, you won't get your discount.	\$34.00	
Key Fee Only current key holders! Brashear is an added \$15.00.	\$15.00	
Tax Deductible Donation	----	
TOTAL PAYMENT	----	

It is very important that all payments be received by 12/15/2007 so that magazine subscriptions can be processed in a timely manner.

Prices are subject to change without notice. Payments must accompany this application.

Make checks payable to:

AAAP, Inc.

Send this form with payments to:

Mark G. Schomer, Membership Secretary
103 Johnson Lane
Connellsville, PA 15425-9708

Membership questions?

E-mail: MembershipSecretary@3ap.org

Phone: 724-628-3499

Billing questions?

E-mail: Treasurer@3ap.org

Phone: 724-348-9087



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

November 2007

Vol. 41, No. 11

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coordinators of the contest this year are: Dave Conte, Dave Smith and Mark Arelt.

The deadline for entry submission is November 6. (See the 3ap.org website for contest details.)



Photos by Mark Arelt from 2006 contest

From the Treasurer

By Mike Meteney

This is just a reminder regarding your memberships and subscriptions. Please get your membership payments and subscription fees paid as soon as possible (see form in front of Guide Star or online at 3ap.org in the newsletter). All S&T subscriptions are now going to be handled directly through *Sky and Telescope*, new and renewal. If you are a current subscriber to S&T, mail in your payment with your renewal form to S&T. If you are a new subscriber, contact S&T directly and tell them you are an AAAP member. You will get the \$32.95 subscription rate. Their phone number is (1-800-253-0245). If they ask, our club number is 270, and the Association address is: Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.; P.O. Box 314; Glenshaw, PA 15116-0314.

The November AAAP Meeting: And the AWARD for BEST PICTURE GOES to

Friday, November 16, 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Science Center we will be conducting the [2007 Brunelle Astrophotography Contest](#). The November meeting is always a visual feast. We will be viewing the best astrophotos taken by members this year, including photos of astronomical objects and atmospheric phenomenon.

Come and help us select the winning photos. Each member gets a ballot. Prepare to be dazzled and amazed. Co-



Astronomy magazine subscriptions, new and renewed, are handled through the AAAP using the membership form. Please get your subscription fees in to me soon so that I can send them to Kalmbach Publishing in time to prevent a lapse in your subscriptions. They need a three-month lead-time on subscriptions.

NOTES OF INTEREST

From U\$X Federal Credit Union®

All members of the Amateur Astronomers Assoc. of Pittsburgh and members of their families are eligible for membership in U\$X FCU. Here's a look at the great benefits of credit union membership exclusively from **YOUR** Credit Union.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in U\$X FCU is a rewarding benefit and can be established with an initial deposit of \$25 into your Share Savings Account. Once you have established membership, you are an owner and eligible to take advantage of all the products and services offered by the credit union.

Share Savings Account	Holiday Club Accounts
Term Share Certificates (CD)	Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA)
Insured Money Management Account	FREE Checking Account
FREE Visa® Debit/ATM card	Access to 65,000 FREE ATM machines
FREE Online Banking	FREE Online Bill Pay
FREE E-statements	FREE 800 Telephone Account Access
New & Used Vehicle Loans	Personal Loans
Boat Loans	Motor Home Loans
1 st Mortgage Loans	Fixed Home Equity Loans
Home Equity Lines-of-Credit Loans	Visa Credit Card
FREE Direct Deposit	FREE Payroll Deduction

This is just a brief list; visit our website www.usxfc.org to see all the details!

You may also speak with us at 1-888-219-3159 or at one of our western Pennsylvania offices:

Cranberry Twp.	724-779-4800
Saxonburg/Sarver	724-352-9170
New Stanton	724-925-8620
Downtown Pittsburgh	412-433-4727

Continue to watch *The Guide Star* newsletter for information and updates regarding U\$X FCU. As our new affiliation moves forward, the credit union has plans to make credit union access even more convenient for you. I encourage you to support the cooperative movement and join U\$X FCU, I think you'll enjoy the credit union difference!



Old Buhl Planetarium Brick Donation

By Kathy DeSantis

An original brick with the mortar attached and an authenticating brass plate from the old Buhl Planetarium were donated to Mingo Creek Observatory by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sarver (Linda) of Monongahela. Linda and their children presented these at Mingo's final public star party of the 2007 season, Saturday, October 20. Roy has entertained an avid interest in astronomy and the space program since his childhood in the fifties and sixties, although his busy schedule does not allow him many visits to Mingo. Roy and Linda were introduced to Mingo by friend and AAAP member, Kathy DeSantis. Linda and the children have often visited the observatory with Kathy, over the last two years and many Mingoites will recall Linda and the children. In addition to the brick from Buhl Planetarium, the Sarvers contributed a photograph of an early Space Shuttle Launch, and a stack of *Sky and Telescope* magazines from the sixties. One of these had the Air Glow Observatory, pictured in the cover photograph.

REILAND'S OBJECTS

By Tom Reiland

Reiland 3 (Asterism)

Here are the details: It shows on the STSCI page just SSE of 12 Geminorum. A possible asterism or cluster near Cr 89 and the star 12 Geminorum. Its location is 6 hours 19 minutes and 28 seconds, +23 degrees 11 minutes 30 seconds. It's about a dozen to fifteen stars approximately five minutes of arc in diameter. I could not find any listing for it. Discovered at 4:42 AM October 21, 2007 in Gemini after Saturday's star party with the 21" scope. Here's the positions and info on the previous discoveries:

Reiland 2 (Asterism)

Looks like a miniature Cassiopeia. Position: 02 hours 33 minutes, +55 degrees 36 minutes. Near Tr 2 (Trumpler 2), less than a degree south of Tr 2. Discovered September 11, 1993, at Wagman Observatory with my 16" Dob. Near Reiland Patchick 1 in Perseus.

Reiland-Patchick 1 (Asterism)

It contains about ten stars that are close to tenth magnitude or fainter in an area of three minutes of arc. Position: 02 hours 30 minutes 11 seconds, +55 degrees 46 minutes 27 seconds. Discovered September 11, 1993 at Wagman Observatory with my 16" Dob. Near Reiland 2 in Perseus.

Reiland 1 (Cluster, with faint nebula)

Discovered July 17, 1985 from my backyard with my homemade 8" scope. Near the nebula IC 1470. Position: 23 hours 04 minutes 45 seconds, +60 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds in Cepheus near the border of Cassiopeia. Eight stars in a diameter of less than a minute of arc.

KUDOS TO AAAP

By Sherry O'Neill

I had been out, basking in the glow of my beloved street-light until 5:30 this morning (September 25, 2007), "trying" to do some observing. When I came in I just set the telescope in my living room and went to bed. This afternoon I had a gal come to my house with some papers that I had to sign. She kept looking over at my telescope. Finally she said, "What is that?" I said, "It's a telescope". Her face just lit up. She started to relate how she and her family had gone to Mingo for one of the star parties, and what a wonderful time they had. She said that everyone was so informative and that the program was well thought out and presented. Every time we would start talking about the business at hand she would say, "Oh just one more thing about the stars....." She said that her family will definitely be coming back. She said, "Oooh will you tell them all how much we loved our evening there?" So I just wanted to let you all know about that. She told me that they are going to Hawaii later on this week. Her daughter downloaded Google Earth, but that she couldn't make heads or tails out of it as far as the constellations from Hawaii go. So I recommended a couple of sites that she could visit that would be helpful to someone who's astronomy knowledge consists of the Big Dipper (which she indicated was about all she could pick out without some help).

LENS CLEANING TIPS

By Al Paslow

I have a number of pairs of mostly cheap binoculars. The easiest way I clean them is just a few drops of tap water and an old worn out cotton shirt—the smoother the better. Repeat the process until clean. I often create a fog on the glass by breathing on it first before even applying the water drops. Keep in mind you need to be careful because if you use too much water, it can seep down the side of the lens and go in between the elements. This may or may not be a problem because if worst comes to worst, you can often unscrew the housing and remove the elements and then give them a good cleaning. But, of course, if you do separate the main lens this way, you might risk smearing the elements with just plain water. If this happens, a good way to clean the lenses is with lens cleaner and lens tissue often sold at Ritz Camera. The fluid and lens tissue will probably cost about \$ 10.00. Lens tissue does not

leave lint. Don't use regular "runny nose tissue" unless you don't mind a bit of lint. DO NOT USE any perfumed tissues because they may leave a residue. Lastly, I have a trick I've used for a long time to clean achromatic elements without any use of chemicals or solvents. First, I separate the lens from its cell. Of course, an achromat is actually two lenses separated very closely by some method. Most astronomical achromats are separated by tiny strips of foil and older ones are sometimes separated by postage stamps! These lenses are called air-spaced, because they actually do not touch together but are separated by a very small space. Some lenses are glued together and only the outsides can be cleaned. These are "cemented lenses". When cleaning an air spaced achromat or any achromat, you must note how they came out of the cell and they must be returned in the same position. This can be thicker lens out or thicker lens inside, or whatever. Then there is the issue of orientation. A lens is made to line up on element over the other element (that is—one lens over top of another lens) with a certain orientation. Often you will see a line on the side of the top lens that continues onto the bottom lens when inspected on edge. Hence, these lines must "line-up" so they are not rotated away from each other in any way. If your lens does not have a line, use a pencil and scribe one on the edge of each lens. Do not rotate anything while taking the lenses apart or when looking for or scribing a new line.

Anyway, once you've found the pencil or scribe line, take the elements apart. Boil some distilled water (don't use tap water or you'll have contaminates in the tap water actually leave water spots on the lenses). Let the steam build up on the first side of one of the elements and clean with the lint-free cotton rag. The hot steam will melt away years of grime as you hold the lens by its edge above the boiling, distilled water. NO CHEMICALS NEEDED.

Now, as you clean the lens, you will notice that you have a tiny bit of water spots that dry on the surface. To finish the element, hold the dry lens at a good distance from the boiling pot of distilled water so as just to BARELY have moisture accrue on the surface and very lightly wipe it dry. (Watch the spots all disappear using this method).

Do this for each side of the two lenses (4 sides total) and reinstall in your refracting telescope with those edge pencil marks aligned and you are done. Believe me, the surfaces will look like new with no spotting.

Important: DO NOT CLEAN TRIPLET lenses with this method, as water can actually etch the soft fluorite or other elements!! Triplets must be professionally cleaned!! I recently cleaned the 4-inch Edmund refractor that currently resides next to the 10-inch refractor at Mingo Park Observatory in this fashion; cleaning away 40 years of deposits, with nothing more than boiled, distilled water and an old cotton shirt. Ask anyone who has looked through that 4-inch scope how well it performs! Even people who have never looked in a telescope before have remarked during

star parties how sharp and clear the images are. Okay, I know the 10-inch is next on the list for a cleaning job....

WAGMAN 2007 STAR PARTY REPORT

By Tom Reiland

I was just comparing the totals from last to this year and this year trumps 2006 by a landslide. We had about 970 visitors last year to 2,240 for this year. Five of the seventeen public and two of the four private events were not observable or canceled. That's fourteen out of twenty-one that were observable. We have had 13 of 15 public and 3 out of 4 private nights observable this year. All of our events have had at least four people attend this year. The number of members assisting has dropped slightly, but the number of times they volunteered will be close to last year's. Great job my friends! I applaud you and the great weather for one of the best years or the best year at Wagman that didn't have a bright comet to pump up the totals. We can relax and reflect on a wonderful year of astronomical education at Wagman Observatory. My thanks go out to all who made this a successful star party season.

EASY SKY OBJECTS FOR KIDS LIST

By Terry Trees

1. Try to find a copy of Edmund's Mag 5 star atlas. A mag 6 atlas has too many stars and a beginner will get lost too easily. Also, get a cheap pair of 10x50s. For your Beginner's List I submit: The Coat Hanger, all the stuff around the Teapot, Albireo, M42, M31, M11, and the ET Cluster. (I later determined that the ET Cluster is NGC 457).
2. Beginner's Deep Sky Targets Website: <http://members.aol.com/kdaly10475/beginnersdeepsky.html>
3. The Double Cluster (NGC 869, NGC 884) in Perseus looked good last night, and the ET cluster always seems to have the "WOW" factor and, of course, we all know that once they get hooked, they will want to try to find the "Faint Fuzzies".
4. I highly recommend Orion Deep Map 600. This provides mainly showpiece objects with very useful descriptions and tables. Even as a DSO observer of 30 years, I keep one of these maps in my grab-and-go kit at all times. Also, I find it very useful at 2:00 a.m., when my brain is in the process of shutting down from lack of sleep and cold, and I can't think of what to look at next. Another useful guide is "*The Finest Deep-Sky Objects*" by James Mullaney and Wallace McCall. Most AAAP'ers will be keenly aware of this small booklet compiled as an aid to Allegheny Observatory staff on public nights with the 13" refractor. It was published by Sky Publishing Corporation.. Most all of these objects would look decent in a 10" scope from light polluted skies (consider where Allegheny is). I obtained my, now worn, copy on a seventh grade field trip to Carnegie Museum. Of course, everyone

should have a good planisphere. Of course, an Edmund Mag. 5 star atlas or a Cambridge Star Atlas (mag. 6) would be very useful. I also like the pocket sky atlas (mag. 7.75) but this may be too detailed and it has no tables describing the objects. Some objects I can think of off hand are: M-8, M-24 (Star Cloud, use 50x or less), M-17, M-11, M-27, Albireo, M-57, M-2, M-15, Gamma And., Double Cluster, NGC-457 (Owl Cluster), M-45, M-37, M-36, M-38, M-42, M-41, M-35. These objects are well placed at night this time of year, but in general, the objects at the top of the list should be hit first, as they set sooner. The objects toward the end of the list will be late p.m. to early morning objects. All should look good in a 10", even under light pollution and are easy to find.

5. I can think of nothing better than Alan Whitman's "All Splendours, No Fuzzies Observing List": <http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/projects/allsplendours.html>
6. The Halifax Centre developed the "Mini-Messier List" in the 80s which includes 20 objects that should fit your bill. See: <http://halifax.rasc.ca/documents/MiniMessier.pdf>
7. The [RASC] Beginners Observing Guide is a very good book for beginners. It has easy-to-follow chapters and is informative.
8. Don't forget double stars. I still remember the thrill I had the first time I saw the Double Double in Lyra and the contrasting colors of Albireo in Cygnus. Also don't forget clusters like the double cluster in Perseus and the Pleiades. It was through a 10-inch reflector that I first saw the gaseous envelope around the stars of the Pleiades. When it comes to nebulae, don't forget "Turn Left at Orion", but look to the sword of Orion for one of the most spectacular nebulae in the sky. By the way, while you're at Orion, don't forget the Horse Head.
9. I think the Terence Dickinson book "*NightWatch A Practical Guide to Viewing the Universe*" (published by Firefly) is the best guide for anyone starting out with astronomy. It has the perfect mix of pretty pictures, charts, and explanatory text to engage beginners, and yet it has enough "meat" to keep them going. I particularly like the way the pretty pictures are accompanied by illustrations of how the objects will appear in a telescope and/or binoculars.

CAMP KON-O-KWEE STAR PARTY

October 19, 2007

By Dennis Morton

The evening at Camp Kon-O-Kwee with the fifth graders from North Allegheny was a huge success. The students were able to observe the Moon, Jupiter-Io, Europa, Gany-mede, Callisto, M57, Andromeda Galaxy, the Hercules Globular Cluster and a satellite. It was cloudy all day and by 7:00 pm the sky opened up for a beautiful evening. The students also had a workshop during the day where all 150 students tried to find targets in an open field using 3 different types of telescopes. Check the link below for pictures and more information: http://teachers.northallegheny.org/dmorton/students_at_camp_k.htm

ORION Q70 EYEPIECE

By Brandon McGarvey

For anyone that is interested, it appears that Orion actually has the Q70's in stock and not marked as backordered for eternity. I received my 38mm a couple weeks ago and have the 26mm coming to me this week. In case you do not know, the Q70's are a new line of 2" eyepieces from Orion, with a 70° apparent FOV, at a decent price of \$99.95/piece or the set of three for \$249.95. Not too bad for a wide angle 2". I haven't used the 38mm much yet other than to look at the Moon. It is nice to have a wide enough field of view to see the whole Moon (and some) through my 8" f/10 SCT. Once I get the 26mm in, I plan on heading up to Wagonman to break these bad boys out under some real sky.

AL PASLOW'S INVITATION

By Al Paslow

You can always post any images you have on my Smugmug site. The hosting is amazing. I have unlimited storage of images plus a tremendous bandwidth for lots of people to look at the images for only about \$50 per year!!

I encourage members to use the site for image posting. Dave Smith, Paul Campbell, and Dan McKeel are just some of the AAAP people who have sent images to my Smugmug site for others to see. Images can be as large as 12 meg each (although I usually shoot at about 1 meg per image).

Any AAAP members who wish to post astronomical pictures - please let me know. Don't let a great image of a telescope, atmospheric phenomenon or anything you feel may be of interest to individuals of this organization not be shared due to lack of a web presence. Just let me know what you have and let's get it up for all to see! cell: (412) 969-8000. Email: alpaslow@gmail.com

NOTE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

By Mark Schomer

All email changes, all address changes, phone numbers, a change in how you receive the Guide Star (i.e. online, or by U.S. Mail) or any mistakes to the Membership Directory, which is located on the AAAP Web Page at www.3ap.org, should be sent to the Membership Secretary at membershipsecretary@3ap.org I will forward the information to all that need it.



NASA TV BROADCASTS

By Glen Rockhill

This may not be news to most of you, but if you have a radio scanner, or amateur radio, you can tune in to the real-time broadcasts of the current Shuttle Discovery mission on frequency 145.620 MHz.

Also...On an analog television, using the antenna, an amateur television station out of West Homestead is broadcasting the NASA TV stream on channel 57. This is the same station broadcasting the audio as well.

Both of these broadcasts are with permission of NASA. This broadcast is more current than the streaming video you can get out on the NASA TV webpage, <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/>

OBSERVATIONS

John Close: Sent to the list server Friday, October 26, 2007. Just came in from taking out the garbage and viewing Comet Holmes. It was a very easy find here in the Greenfield/Squirrel Hill part of the city especially so considering the brightness of the Moon up so high and a streetlight over my head. If I had not read the descriptions that it was so stellar in appearance, I might have overlooked it, even if that "star" seemed out of place. While looking for it naked eye, I was standing at the entrance to my driveway with my left hand up to block out the streetlight, and my right to block the Moon. Then I became aware that someone was watching me from the sidewalk across the street. I realized I must have been a strange sight, even this close to Halloween, in my pink flannel PJ bottoms, green plaid flannel shirt, opened over a pumpkin-orange golf shirt, with arms in what must have appeared some ritualistic position. So, I hurried back into my house to get a pair of binoculars before whoever was watching me got home and called the police.

I grabbed my 8 x 30 binoculars and rushed back outside. The view in the binoculars confirmed that it was not a previously unnoticed gold-colored star I was seeing. At now age 65, I've seen a number of comets, but this is the most un-comet-like of them all by a long shot—just a great object. If I didn't have an 8:00 class to teach in the morning, I would have brought out my 4" SCT or 4" reflector to get a more detailed look (and changed my "outfit", of course).

I observed it until I got a little chilly, all the while waiting for the police sirens or flashing lights to come. They never came. We have quite a few "characters" in my neighborhood, and I guess the guy who was watching me thought I was just another harmless oddball to add to the mix.

It might be worth a shot to try a line filter. I've never used a Swan Band filter, which is occasionally mentioned as an aid to comet viewing, but an internet poster mentioned that a fan-shaped structure became visible when it was used. I don't know if anyone in the club carries one. An OIII filter,

which some of us do have, isn't normally mentioned in connection with comets, but another observer indicates that the OIII enhanced the halo around Holmes.

Al Paslow: Sent to the list server Thursday, October 25, 2007. Waiting for the clouds to clear and sweeping at an angle about 40 degrees away from a virtually full Moon, you can see it, a marvelous object, one quite different than I've ever seen before, that is Comet Holmes.

A pair of 10 x 50 mm Russian binoculars shows a fuzzy disk, looking almost planetary, but with ill-defined edges and quite yellow. The sky is pushing clouds around at high speeds and certainly a good bit of haze too. The object, however, is unmistakable. You realize instantly that this is something previously unwitnessed.

Bringing out a pair of Bausch & Lomb 11 x 80s, the clouds roll on past, and I try to get a view of this object, but have to wait for a clearing in the sky.

At first, I could not see the comet with the unaided eye but soon a clearing passes and sure enough, it is visible without optical aide! Upon inspection with the larger 11 x 80s, a bright nucleus appears surrounded by a fuzzy coma resembling overall a planetary nebula with a distinct yellowish color. An amazing sight! Large and bright perhaps about 2 3/4 magnitude (?) or so judging the surrounding stars. No where near as bright as Mirfak (alpha Persei) at 1.79 mag but appearing to me only slightly brighter than nearby Delta Persei at about 3.01 magnitude.

Louis Coban: Sent to the list server Thursday, October 25, 2007. This color-combined image was taken through the Allegheny Observatory's 16" Meade RCX-400 telescope using an SBIG ST-2000XM CCD camera. If you zoom in, you can clearly see nucleus and a short tail.



THE MOON

By Al Paslow

Posted to the list server October 23, 2007. A stunning event to see occurs when the moon is just past first quarter. There is a beautiful range of mountains on the edge of the Bay of Rainbows or Sinus Iridum, one of the Moon's most striking features. A few days past first quarter, the terminator is well defined in this area with Sinus Iridum well lit and darkness in the mountain range that surrounds the bay. Afterwards, the sun catches the peaks of the Jura Mountains for illumination as the mountain range gradually appears and the view is truly breathtaking! (The peaks of the mountain tops rise 12,700 feet above the plane).

This phenomenon has been named by some as "Jeweled Handle-effect" also known as the "Golden Handle" on the Moon. I know others have referred to it as the "Tea Cup Handle" too. I can remember first seeing this for the first time many years ago in my 8-inch reflector after looking for it from a description in an old book on the Moon by Patrick Moore from the 50s. Over time, I have pirated these images from the Internet and saved them on my image storage site, as there are very few images I have found that illustrate how beautiful this sight can be. (See photo).

Here they are: Sunrise on the Jura Mountains at the base of Sinus Iridum:

<http://al-paslow.smugmug.com/photos/211922535-L.jpg>

<http://al-paslow.smugmug.com/photos/211922419-L.jpg>

<http://al-paslow.smugmug.com/photos/211923608-L.jpg>

To see the Golden Handle one needs to look two to a bit more than three days after first quarter. While the first quarter occurs once per month, the problem to see the "Handle Effect" in its glory is a bit of a challenge depending on times and altitude.

For example, the most recent event began this past Sunday at just after 4:00 pm while the Sun was still out, of course, and the moon did not rise for us until about 4:09 pm. (From my vantage point in Bethel Park, I could not witness this due to a poor eastern horizon).

I did my homework a while back and came up with these dates and times. The Moon should be visible for us for all of these dates. (Be advised some dates are much better for observation than others).

Tuesday, November 20, 2007 - time 0.7 h EST—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 0.2h - 2.2h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Wednesday, December 19, 2007 14.8 h - EST—Golden Handle visible on the moon from 14.3h -20.3h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Friday, January 18, 2008 time 4.1 h EST—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 3.9h - 4.1h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Saturday, February 16, 2008 17.3 h EST—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 16.8h -22.8h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Tuesday, April 15, 2008 - time 18.1 h EDT—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 17.6h -23.6h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Friday, June 13, 2008 - time 17.3 h - EDT—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 16.8h -22.8h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

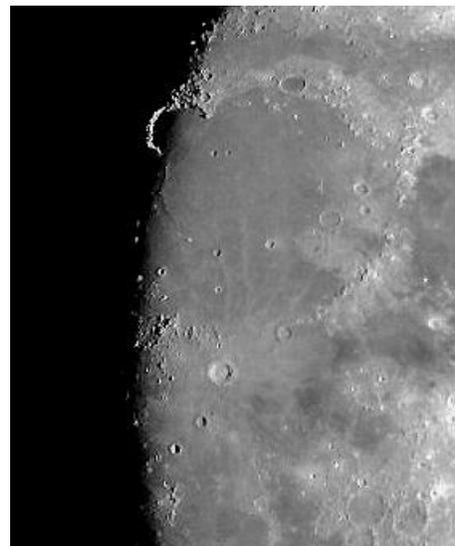
Monday August 11, 2008 - time 17.8 h EDT—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 17.3h -23.3h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Thursday, October 9, 2008 - time 20.3 h EDT—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 19.8h - 1.8h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Saturday, November 8, 2008 - time 14.4 h EST—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 14.4h -14.6h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

Sunday, December 7, 2008 - time 22.7 h EST—Golden Handle visible on the Moon from 22.2h - 2.5h (Sun rises on the Jura mountains, while Sinus Iridum is still in shadow).

I would appreciate if any of you astro-photographers could send me a nice image of one of these events.



BOOK REVIEWS

By John Cheng

October's *Sky & Telescope* contained Leif Robinson's "hearty recommendation" of a "good read", the recently published *The Haunted Observatory: Curiosities from the Astronomer's Cabinet* by Richard Baum. While it's far from a bad book, I doubt it will please a reader who has little interest in the history of planetary astronomy.

Most chapters of the book are strewn with gems of information, but the author can go on in mind-numbing detail about quite minor events - a probably erroneous stellar observation by James Ferguson (the first American to discover an asteroid) a few years after Neptune's discovery is a good example.

Further, interesting things are found tucked away in odd places. For example, a discussion of the "lunar city" - a section of eroded or flooded highland north of crater Schroter, which Bavarian astronomer Gruithuisen thought showed our Moon to be inhabited - is found in a chapter on Venus. (Ewen Whitaker's *Mapping and Naming the Moon* has a photo and multiple drawings of this famous area, by the way).

Robinson's review does mention that the 91 pages of references accompanying the 302 pages of text (!) contain some fine things and he's right. Just a few examples:

- Historian Agnes Clerke's mention that the Pacific Islanders may have been attentive enough to have identified Uranus as a planet naked-eye. The Burmese may have called it Rahu.
- A long note on artist Hermann Goldschmidt, who lived on the busy Left Bank in Paris, yet managed to discover fourteen minor planets in the strips of the sky he could see from his apartment window.
- The thought that Herschel, if he had already been familiar with "planetary nebulae" - a term Herschel actually coined - may not have discovered Uranus. Recall that his attention was drawn to Uranus because of its non-stellar appearance, not its motion. If he had been able to just chalk it up as a "planetary", he may have catalogued it, moved on and missed the motion which showed it to be a planet. After all, he wasn't initially on a planet hunt.

Two "curiosities" that will stay with me as an observer - the author's discussion of rarely observed Venus pillars and his long discussion of irregularities in the crescent shape of Venus noted by visual observers using modest equipment over the years. I'll be sure to throw a bit more magnification at Venus from now on and give its shape the same attention I might give to Mars's poles or Jupiter's belts.

So, I'm taking issue with the S&T review - be warned, Baum's book is not for everyone. It's a little eclectic but it also has its charms.

By Barbra Lafon

I've just been re-reading an old favorite book and thought I would share my thoughts. The book is *Seeing and Believing: How the telescope Opened our Eyes and Minds to the Heavens* by Richard Panek. It is a fun and quick read, and has many interesting stories and insights into our predecessors who have loved the sky and the stars so intently and to remind us that amateur astronomy used to encompass most educated folk!

By Mark Schomer

I just finished reading *EINSTEIN His Life and Universe* by Walter Isaacson, ISBN: 978-0-7432-6473-0. This is probably one of the best written biographies I have ever read. I actually feel like I've met Albert Einstein.

It begins, like most biographies, in his early childhood, at which time a young Einstein shows no signs of genius, he was more like Tom Sawyer. He actually struggled in school. Of course, there was a point when he started to wonder why things happen the way they do. He was able to attend university, where he was a better-than-average student. Upon graduation, he was unable to find a research or teaching position, so he ended up working in a patent office. It was while working at the patent office that he devised his Special Theory of Relativity, the General Theory came later.

The one thing that surprised me most from the book was for all of Einstein's genius, he was very naive about the world around him. He was a pacifist most all of his life, and thought that the world could somehow live in peace and never have another war. Hitler and World War II made him realize that would never be possible. He finally understood that there are always going to be bad people in the world, and that we can only do the best we can to avoid confrontations. Winter is coming, and if you want to warm up next to a fire and curl up with a good book, I highly recommend this book. It is a good read.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Sherry O'Neill for receiving the Scanlon Award. Nice work especially since becoming a member in April 2007!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wallace S Watson
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IMPORTANT DATES

November 4—Return to standard time

November 3—50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik 2 carrying the dog, Laika, the first living thing to orbit the earth.

November 5—South Taurids Maximum

November 6—South Taurids Maximum

November 8—Mercury at greatest western elongation (morning sky 19° from the Sun)

November 9—New Moon

November 10—40th anniversary of the soft landing on the moon of NASA's Surveyor 6, which took pictures and analyzed the composition of the lunar soil.

November 11—North Taurids Maximum

November 12—North Taurids Maximum

November 13—North Taurids Maximum

November 14—Leonid Meteors

November 15—Leonid Meteors

November 16—Leonid Meteors
Membership Meeting CSC

November 17—Leonid Meteors
First Quarter Moon

Southpointe afternoon star party

November 18—Leonid Meteors

November 22—Thanksgiving Day

November 24—Full Moon

Mercury becomes visible low in the eastern dawn sky in the first week of November, rising an hour and a half before the Sun. At greatest elongation on the mornings of November 8 and 9 it should be visible from sites with clear horizons at magnitude -0.5 . It then moves back towards the Sun, brightening but becoming swallowed in twilight during the third week of November.

Venus remains dazzling in the eastern morning sky at magnitude -4.5 , rising around 3:30 a.m. throughout the month. It passes to the right of fainter Saturn around mid month.

Mars is visible in the late evening and morning sky among the stars of Gemini, brightening from magnitude -0.1 to -0.6 . It rises around 11:00 p.m. at the start of the month and 9:45 p.m. at the end.

COOL WEBSITES

<http://www.exploradome.us/>

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/>

http://pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/search/s_533900.html

<http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/071008-cassini-iaetus.html>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134276>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/eaglerockobservatory/ConstructionPhotos>

<http://picasaweb.google.com/eaglerockobservatory/Interior>

ARCHIVE AAAP LIST SERVE

By Joe Armata

The list does have an archive. Here's the link:

<http://list.pitt.edu/mailman/private/aaap/>

You need to enter your email address and list password. Your password was included in the email that was sent to you when you were subscribed to the list. If you don't still have that email, go to this page:
<http://list.pitt.edu/mailman/listinfo/aaap>

At the very bottom, you will see "To unsubscribe from aaap, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options enter your subscription email address". Enter your email address there and click on the button "Unsubscribe or edit options", and on the next page at the bottom, there is a Remind button you can click to have the system send you your password. Once you have it, you can return to that page, put in your password, and on the next page is an option to change your password to one of your own, as well as other options for the list.

FOR SALE

I am considering selling my Canon 20D camera. If interested, please contact me directly for more information. John Pane, email: john+aaap@pane.net

Anthony Lapiana has a very good friend, Ed Mc Donough, who is offering for sale his Celestron Ultima 2000 8" fully computerized telescope with carrying case, dew shield and a couple of eyepieces for \$500. I think this scope is about 5 years old. Ed can be contacted at 724-327-3027 or edmcsky@aol.com.

Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.

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

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