

# “Venture Outdoors” Goes Well

by Larry McHenry (from AAAP Listserver)

For those interested, the AAAP's participation today in the Venture Outdoors Festival on the North Side was successful. Despite the clouds, we set up telescopes to show festival goers Mt Washington and city skyscrapers. Thanks to the efforts of club volunteers, we had a well organized booth, full of club information, handouts, and merchandise for sale. MariJo and Wayne brought club shirts and books/calendars to sell, John and Joyce had club information (Charlotte dropped more off), George tried his best to solar observe, but the clouds were relentless.

Dave Smith's idea of showing what appeared to be people dining (upside down) in the fine establishments on Mt Washington drew a crowd and was a big hit. Too bad Dave couldn't get the Audobon Society's representative who had a live owl with them, to look through his telescope. Guess they didn't give a hoot! ☺. Thanks goes to the following AAAP volunteers for the 9 to 5 shift:

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| MariJo Meyers | John Holtz           |
| Wayne Meyers  | Dave Smith           |
| George Guzik  | Joyce Osborn-Fischer |

Thanks also to Tim Manka & Shawn van Mastrig, and Charlotte & Jim Tunney who dropped in for a little while.



“Venture Outdoors” photos by Larry McHenry

## Two Fascinating Occultations This Month and Next

by John Holtz (from AAAP Listserver)

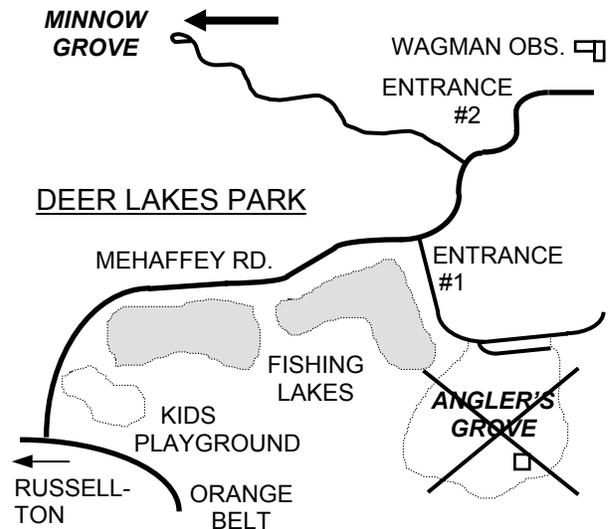
The end of June (and extending into July) presents several good occultations if the predictions hold true and the weather give us favorable conditions. The asteroidal occultations listed below are predicted to be very close to our region. Updates on this could move it closer or farther away. If the conditions are very favorable, I will post finder charts on my website (<http://members.aol.com/jwholtz>). And now, the upcoming occultations are

- ☛ Thurs, June 26, asteroid 976 Benjamina will occult the 9.4 magnitude star SAO 161454 (R.A. 18h 25m 15.49s Dec -17° 31' 7.1") at 0:42 am EDT (4:42 UT). The current prediction has this event occurring just north of Pittsburgh, but that can easily shift in our direction once updates are available a few weeks in advance of the event.
- ☛ Sun, July 6, asteroid 469 Argentina will occult the 8.7 magnitude star SAO 182362 (RA 14h 14m 30.48s Dec -29° 14' 21.2") at 22:15 pm EDT (2:15 UT on July 7). The current prediction has this event occurring within 70 miles of Pittsburgh, so the updates can easily move this event closer to the center of our membership population.



## OOPS! Wrong Grove Listed for AAAP June 21 Picnic

The recently issued news section of the June *Guide Star* has us going to Angler's Grove in Deer Lakes Park for the annual picnic on June 21, which we have been using for many years now. Let's try that again. It's *Minnow* Grove, which is on the other side of the park through Entrance #2. Simply go into this entrance and stay on the park road until you reach the turn-around (can't drive any further). Just look for the "Minnow" sign.



## AAAP Astro Equipment Loaner Program Offers Wide Selection

by Joe McCafferty (from AAAP Listserver)

(Editors note: Joe originally posted this article last Fall, but we were unable to run it in the *Guide Star* for space/printing cost reasons. You're best bet is to check with Joe on any new additions to the club inventory since then.)

Late last year, I was introduced to the members who attended the as the club's Loan Officer, Joe McCafferty. I told the group that we have telescopes, binoculars, and eyepieces. Well I thought that it would be best to present the members with a list of the equipment that is available for loan, provided that member meets the criteria of the Loan Procedure. Those not familiar with the Loan Procedure can obtain a copy by E-mailing me at: [jamccaf4u@aol.com](mailto:jamccaf4u@aol.com)

### List Of Equipment Presently Available

#### Telescopes

**T-1** - 8" f4.5 Coultter dobsonian, red cardboard tube, 1.25" draw tube focuser, 3" aperture mask, "pressed-chip" wood rocker box and mount (black). No finderscope. (O-1 50mm Finder has been added).

**T-3** - 8" classic cassagrain telescope (104" E.F.L.); 4.25" Dall Kirkum guide scope; 2 Home made finders; aluminum tube cut out to reduce weight. 3" dia x 4ft pipe pedestal with Edmund Scientific Co. equatorial mount; clock drive with electronic controller; miscellaneous cables, manual/electric focuser. Accessory/carrying box for eye pieces, cables, assorted books.

**T-4** - 6" f4 Newtonian reflector by Optical Craftman, white fiberglass tube, Criterion rack and pinion focuser. On Alt-azimuth pipe mount with a wooden base of three legs. 6x30 finderscope

**T-7** - 4.5" Celestron with a German Equatorial Mount. Also there are three eyepieces all 1.25 Dia.-HM25mm, H8mm, and SR4mm, a 2X Barlow lens.

#### Eye Pieces

**E-3** - 0.965" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 4 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 40· F.O.V.

**E-4** - 0.965" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 5 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 40· F.O.V.

**E-5** - 0.965" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 6 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 40· F.O.V.

**E-6** - 0.965" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 7 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 40· F.O.V.

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## Loaned Astro Equipment Listed

*(continued from page 8)*

**E-7** - 1.25" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 9 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 40· F.O.V.

**E-8** - 1.25" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 12.5 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 40· F.O.V.

**E-9** - 0.965" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 18 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 50· F.O.V.

**E-10** - 1.25" diameter orthoscopic eye piece, 25 mm focal length, not threaded for filter, 45· F.O.V.

**E-12** - 2x barlow by Meade, 1.25" diameter.

**E-14** - Adjustable 8.4mm-21mm X 1.25 Dia., with box marked Edscorp, Barrington,N.J.

**E-15** - K 20mm X 1.25 Dia., With case

**E-16** - HM 9mm X .965 Dia., With case added

**E-17** - Sr 4mm X .965 Dia., With case added

**E-18** - Lafayette, 2 X Barlow Lens X .965 Dia., With box added

**E-19** - Meade MA 25mm X 1.25 Dia.

### Binoculars

**B-1** - Bushnell 7x35 "SportView", 9.5· field of view, Insta-Focus design; 4 caps for lenses, vinyl carrying case and straps, lens cleaning cloth.

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**B-2** - Orion ultra view, wide angle 8.2 Degree, 8X 42, with nylon case

**B-3** - AMC 7 X 35- 3 lens covers and leather case.

### Other Equipment

**O-2** - Eye piece adapter, 0.965" to 1.25" diameter

**O-3** - A. Becvar's "Skalnate Pleso Atlas of the Heavens", small scale (50· = 10.32 inch), field edition (white stars on black background). 16 charts plus introduction chart. Charts bound with spiral wire and covered with clear Contact (front & back chart).

**O-4** - Wil Tirion's "Sky Atlas 2000.0", field edition (white stars on black background). 26 charts plus introduction. Charts bound with spiral wire and covered with clear Contact (front & back chart).

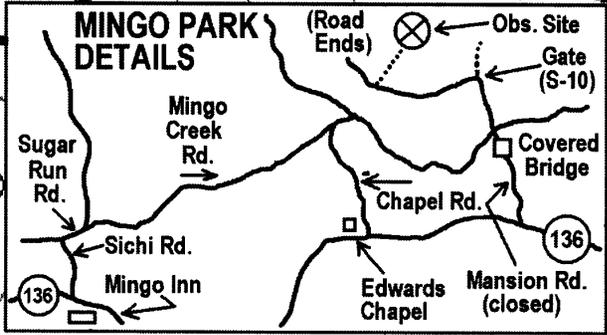
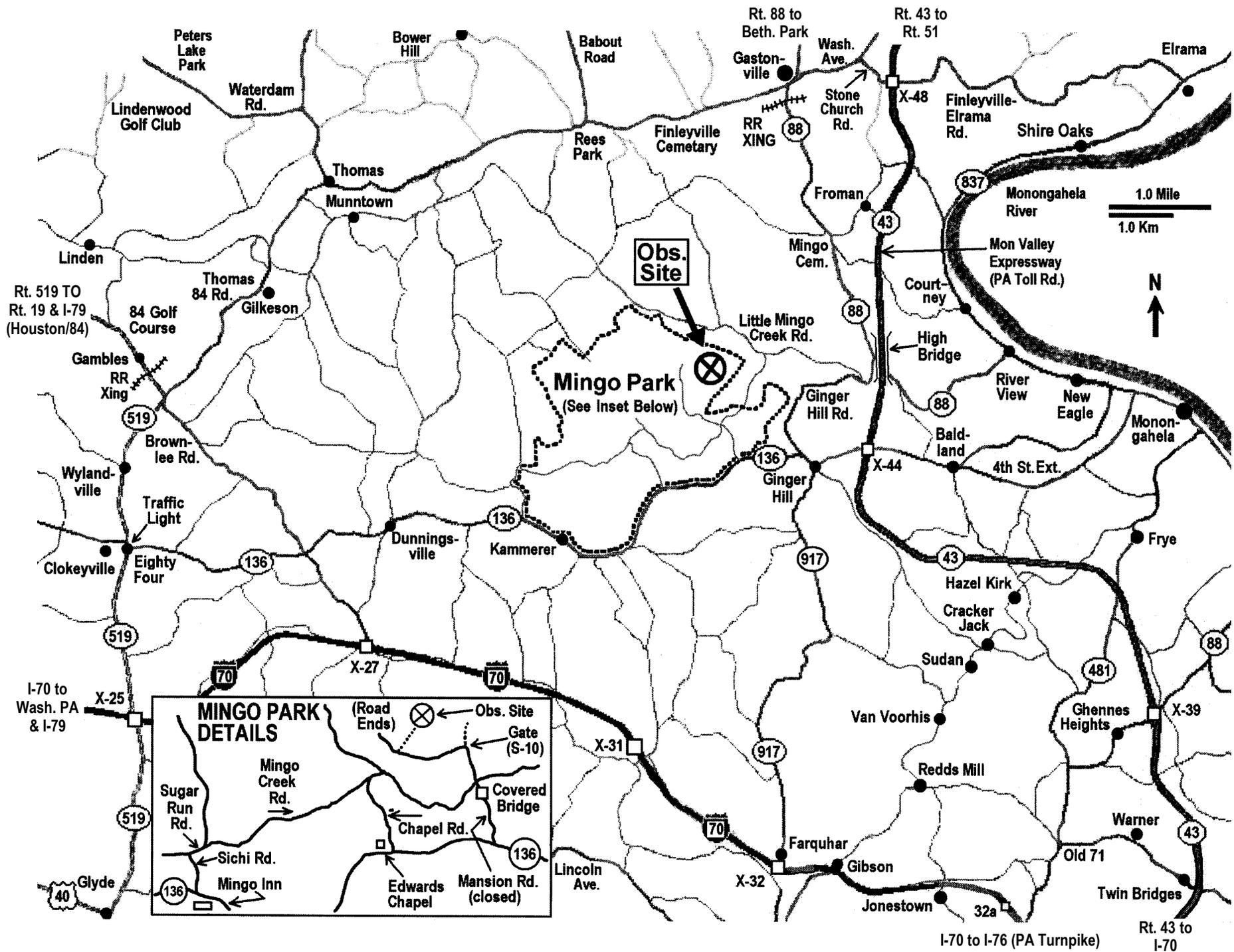
**O-5** - A. Becvar's "Skalnate Pleso Atlas of the Heavens", large scale (40· = 11.80 inch), desk edition (black stars on white background). 16 charts plus two introduction charts. Charts bound with spiral wire and covered with clear Contact (front & back chart).

**O-6** - .965 X 1.25 eyepiece adapter, with thumbscrew ADDED

### Miscellaneous Items

**M-1** - Three vibration pads, Berry Controls.

**MAP TO THE NEW MINGO OBSERVING SITE – KEEP THE NEXT SHEET!**



I-70 to I-76 (PA Turnpike)

Rt. 43 to I-70