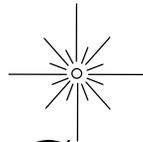




**AAAP 75th Anniversary  
1929 to 2004**



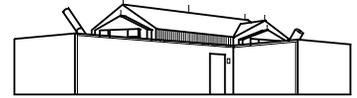
# The Guide Star

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh Inc.

A Section of the Academy of Science & Art of Pittsburgh

April, 2004

Vol. 38, No. 1



Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory

## Dark Energy Lecture At April 2 Meeting **Explaining the Inexplicable**

If you're a fan of good science fiction, you have heard many references to strange cosmic phenomena such as "Anti-Time", "Inverse Dimensions" and "Sub-Space". Improbable as these may seem, modern astrophysics is revealing at least some counterintuitive phenomena are in fact true. Most well known among amateur astronomers are dark matter and, most recently, "dark energy" a seemingly anti-



force that is pushing the universe apart faster than would be expected. **Ryan Scranton**, a post-doctoral researcher at Pitt will try his best to explain dark energy and its implications at the club's **April 2, 2004** meeting at the CSC (starts at **7:30 pm**). Dr. Scranton and his colleagues at Pitt and CMU were recognized by Science Magazine as among the top contributors to astrophysical research in 2003. Don't be left in the dark by missing this meeting!

## **Full Speed Ahead for Star Parties**

Wagman Winterfest was the warm-up (on a cool night) for a full season of public star parties at the *Wagman* and *Mingo* sites. Join us **April 23, 24** at both locales (starting at *sunset*) for an evening of astronomical enrichment for ourselves and our guests. As always, any special services you render (helping park cars, direct crowds, help set up guests' scopes, etc.) is appreciated.

### Minor Planet Surprise, Weather Miracle

## **Wagman Winterfest 2004 A "Minor" Miracle**

If you need to schedule a backyard barbecue, outdoor party or wedding, etc., contact **Pete Zapadka**. He seems to have a knack for picking event dates with good weather. In the case of Wagman Winterfest, one would predict this to be the star party with the least chance of fair weather. But skies and temperatures cooperated on February 28, drawing 61 AAAP members and hundreds of visitors. There was almost too much to see on one night, considering the vast matrix of bright stars and DS objects in the general vicinity of Orion and, of course, the great arch of planets from Venus to Jupiter. And even though the grounds were a tad mushy, we didn't have any major stuck-car events or ankle-twisting ruts. Quoting Director Tom Reiland "*Yinz guys did a great job. The public loved ya!*"

Little did Tom know he was in for a **fantastic surprise** that night (see top right of page 2.)

(continued on page 2, column 1)

## Show 'Em What You Got April 3/4 At CSC

## **Expect Wagman-Size Crowds At "Astronomy Weekend"**

Walking around inside the Carnegie Science Center just before closing is like walking around the Wagman Observatory site on a non-star party night. How so? The place seems so big when empty, and so small when packed end-to-end with visitors. That's what you can expect at "Astronomy Weekend" **April 3 and 4**, at the CSC. How so? With the fantastic success of the Mars rovers, the latest Hubble Deep Field image, the Stardust probe's photos of Comet Wild-2, etc., we're certain to have more than the usual number of guests visiting our displays and tables. Thus, we need your help now more than ever with this popular public event. No matter if you don't have a telescope to set up or an astronomical table-top display. Just answering questions from visitors and "spelling" your fellow AAAP member at his/her table will be a great contribution. Repeating notes from last month's Guide Star:



*Did we mention face painting as a popular attraction at AW? Dave Smith (above) and Diane Yorkshire are accomplished artists.*

- ✓ If you plan to bring a scope or display, please report to the CSC's lower security/employee entrance by about between 9:00 and 10:00 am. That will give you time to set up before the crowds build in the late morning.
- ✓ Feel free to bring old astronomy magazines and books (in reasonably good condition, of course). The public loves to rummage through/take this stuff.
- ✓ If you have any other questions/suggestions for Astronomy Weekend, please contact George Gusik [georgeguzik@aol.com](mailto:georgeguzik@aol.com) or 724-863-8008

## **Mere Months Away from Mingo Construction Start**

by Larry McHenry (from AAAP Listserver)

### Construction News

Observatory Building - With the winter weather finally starting to break, the MCPO Committee is moving forward with the observatory construction plans. The building blueprints have been finalized, and a bid specification document written and revised. We have received final approval from Nottingham Township, Washington County to begin construction. After final

(continued on page 2, column 2)

Nominations Now Being Accepted**Do You have the "Night Stuff" To Be An AAAP Officer? Let Us Know**

Don't let this headline fool you. You do not have to have an in-depth knowledge of astronomy to help run the AAAP. In fact, we are really in the hunt for good administrators (club records, financials, legal details, journals, contracts, etc.) If you wish to help our large and successful club in a non-astronomical way, contact any member of our newly-formed Nominating Committee if you would like to run for office this year:

Bill Roemer (Chair) (412-257-8756)

Terry Trees (724-337-3231)

Jeff Kearns (412-364-0289)      Rose Chavez (412-856-4598)

**WW A Great Start for 2004 SP Season**

*(continued from front page)*

Here are some more notes of thanks and interesting items from this year's Winterfest:

- ◇ From George Guzik: "I give special recognition to **Mark Orsatti** and **Brad Kusman** who attended specifically to help with the visitor parking duties. The moist field conditions made that task challenging. We further increased the challenge when we roped-off a sizeable, and particularly moist, part of the hilltop. Mark and Brad spent hours helping the visitors navigate the observing field and even provided an occasional 'push' when necessary."
- ◇ From Tom Reiland: "Thanks to **Leah Drane** and **Les Johnson** for filling in at the visitors desk and **Mari Jo** for selling shirts, coffee and hot chocolate. And thanks to the person or persons who brought the muffins and cookies for the members."
- ◇ Still more thanks go out to **Flacc Stifel** and his team for delivering/spreading straw (hay?) around the site to minimize mud and rut problems.
- ◇ If you plan to go up to the observatory over the next couple of weeks, we suggest that you stay away from the South end of the field where most of the ruts are located.
- ◇ In the dark, few may have noticed that we had a VIP visitor to the event: Pittsburgh Pirates color commentator (and former pitcher) **Bob Walk**.

*(continued at upper right column)*



This fine Winterfest shot courtesy of Phil Hughes. See page 8 for Pete Zapadka's photos from the event.

**Minor Planet Naming A Major Achievement**

Getting back Mr. Reiland, the surprise event of the night was the announcement by Dr. Truman Kohman (on the observatory P.A. system) that Minor Planet 1991TR will now be known as "**Reiland 10320**" on honor of our esteemed past President and observatory Director. Congratulations, Tom, from all of us on this unique and well-deserved honor. Truman fought bureaucracy and paperwork for three years to achieve this honor for Tom, as he has already done for a other Pittsburgh Area astronomers. See page 4 for much more about Reiland 10320 and its Pittsburgh area companions.

**Mingo Observatory Project Status**

*(continued from front page)*

approval from the AAAP Executive Committee, we will be letting the project out to bid and selecting a builder. We are looking to begin construction of the building structure sometime in the mid to late April timeframe, with the building completed sometime in mid to late June. To help keep costs down, we will do all the painting, and the electrical work (under supervision of a qualified Electrician). Observatory dedication is tentatively planned for late July. If you would like to volunteer to help work on the observatory, please contact MCPO Committee Chair Ed Moss.

Observatory Road - While the main road construction was completed at the end of the fall construction season, the road still needs finishing work. This work, and the creation of the required parking area will be completed after the principle building construction is done. Additionally, the park access road will be rebuilt by the Washington County Parks after the AAAP has finished it's heavy construction.

**Telescope News**

The AAAP purchased a 10" D&G refractor for use at MCPO. Having been authorized by the AAAP Executive Committee, this past weekend MCPO committee members Ed Moss and Mike Meteney paid for and picked up the 10" D&G refractor that AAAP member Nick Martch had offered to sell to the AAAP. The telescope is currently being stored by Mike until the observatory building construction is completed later this spring. As is, the telescope and mount can be used manually, and once a drive system donated by committee member Dan McKeel has been modified and installed on the mount, it will be able to track celestial objects.

Several options are still being explored for the reflector telescope at the observatory. The committee is working on plans to adapt the 16" 'Autoscope' that was purchased last year from the CSC. The mounting and the holder for the secondary optics is being redesigned. The goal is to have the telescope in working condition sometime late this summer or early fall.

Additionally, the committee has applied for a state grant specifically to purchase a Parallax Instruments 24" Ritchey-Chretien GoTo telescope. If we are successful in receiving this grant (a real possibility), this telescope will replace the Autoscope as the observatory's primary instrument. The RC will be our primary visual instrument for public star parties, and used as a first class regional educational tool. It will also give us

*(continued on page 5, column 1)*



## LHSC Amassing An Impressive Roster of Guest Speakers

Dew caps off to **Terry Trees** and his committee as they work their "pitoodies" off to bring us another, even more fabulous LHSC. The big event in northeastern West Virginia will offer at least 24 different presentations by 15 different speakers, June 14 to 20. If you can't find a topic of interest here, shame on you:

Mel Bartels: *"Ultralight Telescopes of the Pacific Northwest With New Mount Designs/Large Thin Mirror Grinding"*

Tom Crowley: *"Amateur Radio Astronomy - Searching for Life Among the Stars"*

Dr. Steele Hill: *"The Sun through the Eyes of SOHO"*

Dr. Noam Izenberg: *"The MESSENGER Mission to Mercury"*

Dr. Karen Jensen: *"Introduction to Amateur Radio Astronomy"*

Mark Kochte: *"The Hubble Space Telescope Universe Tour"*

David Lane: *"Earth Centered Universe: The Trials, Tribulations, and Rewards of Developing Astronomy Software for Amateur Astronomers/Designing, Building, and Using a Backyard Observatory for Amateur Research"*

Ron Ravneberg: *"The Good Old Days - Amateur Astronomy: 1950-1965"*

Kerry Smith: *"Finding a New (or Near New Moon) Using Amateur Radio Astronomy Techniques"*

### Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh Members:

Art Glaser: *"The History of Allegheny Observatory from 1860 – 2004"*

John Holtz: *"Beginning Astronomy Classes"*

Larry McHenry: *"Observing the Sun / Video Astronomy"*

Dr. Robert Novack: *"Should You Think About Building Your Own Telescope"*

Rev. Bill Roemer: *"Revelation vs. Reason: Can Theology & Science Be Partners?"*

Dr. Terry Trees: *"Introduction to Various Types Astronomical Software"*

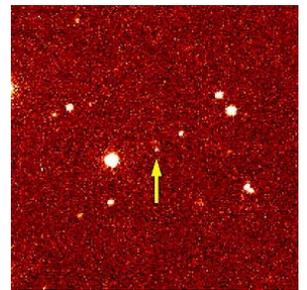
Additional details of all the event activities, caterer, dark skies, vendors, etc. are available at [www.LHStarCruise.org](http://www.LHStarCruise.org)

Note: Extra help with all activities at LHSC is needed and appreciated. Also, registration is now open. Don't wait until the last nanosecond to get onboard.

## A Cluster of News Items

- ❑ We can't express too many thanks to **Dr. John Stein** for his well-crafted presentation at the March meeting on computer-based astronomy. He set up a complete remote-controlled 10" SC on stage and demonstrated a variety of celestial navigating programs on his PC screens. CCD imaging was given a lot of coverage. John was assisted by club member **Lou Coban** (a.k.a. "Loooooo") from Allegheny Observatory. Most remarkable were several time-lapse "movies" asteroid Pallas' proper motion and Jupiter's rotation, all captured by relatively inexperienced undergrad students at Pitt (his proof that today's computer-based astronomy is very user-friendly).
- ❑ The first special group reservation at Wagman Observatory is on **April 19**. If you can help us entertain and educate a visiting Scout Group that night, it will be much appreciated. Contact Tom Reiland r Flacc Stifel if you have any questions.

- ❑ When some big happens in the world of astronomy, "*who ya gonna call?*" The AAAP, of course. In this instance, Terry Trees was interviewed March 19 by KDKA radio about Sedna, the largest and most distant of the ice worlds beyond Pluto. (*Editor's note: If I see one more Sedna story with the oxymoronic headline 'Huge Mini-World', I'm going to scream!!!!*)



- ❑ The LHSC article at the left reminds us that 2004 Star Cruise style shirts, hats, patches, logos and other merchandise are now available. Contact Mari-Jo Meyers (724-339-3447, [wmeyers1@comcast.net](mailto:wmeyers1@comcast.net)) to order your stuff pronto.
- ❑ Long-Range Calendar Item 1 – We're invited to set up scopes at Keystone State Park's "Earth Day" celebration on **May 1**. If interested, please contact Mr. Pam Primas at 724-668-2566 to pre-register (see below for another Keystone event).
- ❑ Long-Range Calendar Item 2 – The Oil Region Astronomical Society's "Astroblast" star party runs from **August 17 to 22** at their observatory site. For more info, go to <http://www.oras.org>, contact John O'Hara at (814) 677-3972, or email [astroblast@oras.org](mailto:astroblast@oras.org), or write ORAS, PO Box 1535, Oil City, PA 16301.
- ❑ Long-Range Calendar Item 3 – Looks like we will be staging public star parties at Keystone State Park on **July 10** and **August 14**. Volunteers are, of course, appreciated. Suggested programs are "Mythology/Constellations" and "Meteors", respectively.
- ❑ Long Range Calendar Item 4 – Our colleagues to the west, the Miami Valley Astronomical Society (Dayton Area) will be hosting the 2004 "Apollo Rendezvous and Star Party" June 11 and 12. Check out their program highlights at [mvas.org](http://mvas.org).
- ❑ Congratulations go to AAAP member **John Radzilowicz** for his promotion to new duties at the Carnegie Science Center as director of all "Immersive" programs at the CSC. In addition to continuing as director of the Buhl Planetarium, he also supervises programs in the Rangos Omnimax Theater. Like the planetarium, the Omnimax theater is designed to "immerse" the audience in sights and sounds.

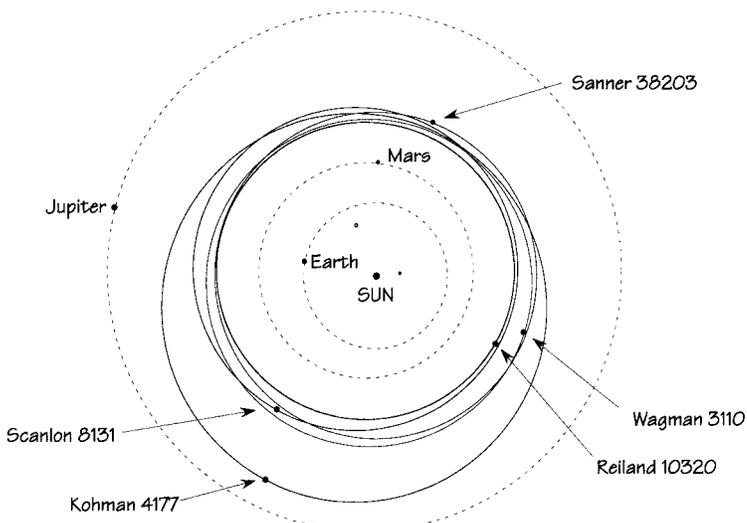
# Minor Planet Reiland 10320 Is Latest In List of Local Honors

## My Great Surprise and Appreciation

by Tom Reiland

What a pleasant surprise I had at Wagman Observatory. My sincere thanks go out to **Truman Kohman** for his effort behind the naming of Asteroid Reiland. I'm having difficulty coming up with the words needed to express my appreciation. The first thought that came to mind when Truman made the announcement was of my father, who passed away last February. I know this would have pleased him immensely to see the family name on a celestial object. Thanks again Truman. I'll respond in greater depth once this settles in. Thanks to all the members for your kind comments.

AAAP ASTEROIDS



Using "Starry Night Pro" software, Flacc Stifel was able to produce this inner Solar System plot map of some locally-named asteroids.

## Formal Minor Planet Citation

by Dr. Truman Kohman

Here is the information about the newly named asteroid "Reiland", which I announced at Winterfest:

### CITATION

(10320) Reiland = 1990 TR1, MPC 50462, 2004 Jan. 7

Discovered 1990 Oct. 14 by E. F. Helin at Palomar.

Charles Thomas Reiland (b. 1946), for many years president of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, initiated the Wagman Observatory, observed in the Allegheny Observatory's astrometry program and tirelessly promoted public interest in astronomy. The name was suggested by T. P. Kohman.

### Orbital Elements:

(10320) Reiland = 1990 TR1  
Epoch 2004 July 14.0 TT = JDT 2453200.5 Williams, MPO 1402

M	51.86200	(2000.0)	P	Q	
n	0.28477501	Peri.	126.90615	+0.65545817	+0.75519071
a	2.2880638	Node	184.07461	-0.72328316	+0.62470675
e	0.1339997	Incl.	6.34005	-0.21733856	+0.19856601
P	3.46	H	14.0	G 0.15	U 1

From 58 observations at 5 oppositions, 1990-2000, mean residual 0".73.

Congratulations for a well deserved honor and recognition!

## Now Pursuing Asteroids Lindbloom and Langley

Tom Reiland is now making inquiries to Brian Marsden into naming additional asteroids for club member **George Lindbloom** and **Samuel Pierpoint Langley**. George was a consummate variable star observer for several decades (thousands of observations reported to the AAVSO), one of the original designers of the Wagman Observatory and a very active/well liked AAAP member. Langley was an accomplished astronomer at Allegheny Observatory before the turn of the last century, before moving on to even greater achievements with the Smithsonian Institution. Of course, we will report success with these latest petitions.

## Locally-Named Asteroids Include Places and Non-Astronomers

With help from Terry Trees, Tom Reiland compiled a hopefully complete list of Minor Planets with locally-derived names. As of Guide Star press time, Tom indicated that several additional names may be added:

- |            |              |         |
|------------|--------------|---------|
| Alleghenia | Hartmann     | Reiland |
| Brashear   | Keeler       | Sanner  |
| Carnegie   | Kohman       | Scanlon |
| Cassidy    | Misterogers  | Wagman  |
| Hapke      | Pittsburghia |         |



## What's In A Name?

Tom Reiland noticed that the discovery designation of his asteroid, 1991 TR, incorporated his initials. This was no coincidence. Brian Marden intentionally selected the object for that reason, as he had done with 19934 FR for the late Mr. Fred Rodgers.

## “Clear Sky Clocks” The Ultimate In Observers’ Weather Prediction Tools



If you're not on the AAAP Listserver, you have missed a lot of banter about the “Clear Sky Clock” web site. This site enables you to check on various types of observing conditions (transparency, seeing, clouds, etc.) for our key observing sites. The program continuously projects two or three days ahead. To learn more about this program and check on the LHSC, Wagman and Mingo site conditions, go to:

L H Star Cruise Clear Sky Clock:

<http://cleardarksky.com/c/LHSCkey.html?1>

Mingo Creek Park Observatory Clear Sky Clock:

<http://cleardarksky.com/c/MngCrkPkOBkey.html?1>

Wagman Observatory Clear Sky Clock:

<http://cleardarksky.com/c/WagmanObskey.html>

## Good Grief! More Occultations!

by John Holtz

Here are this month's favorable occultations. The asteroidal occultation (asteroid covers a star) paths are predicted to be visible from this area; updates on these events could move the occultation path closer or farther away. If the updates are favorable, I will post finder charts on my website (<http://members.aol.com/jwholtz>). The lunar occultations (Moon covers a star) will occur regardless because those calculations are accurate. (See website for occulted star coordinates.)

- 4-8, Asteroid 3232 Brest occult 6.6 mag. double star at 2:55 am EDT (6:55 UT).
- 4-10: Moon occults 4.2 mag. star 3 Sag.. Disappearance on bright limb at 4:11 am EDT (8:11 UT), reappearance at P.A. 344 (near northern cusp) at 4:47 am (8:47 UT).
- 4-24: Ten lunar occultations visible in 10-inch+ scopes, from 8:38 pm until midnight.
- 4-26-27. Eight lunar occultations visible with 10-inch+ scopes, from 9:01 pm through 2:27 am.
- 5-1: Asteroid 75 Eurydike occults 11.5 mag. star at 11:16 pm EDT (3:16 UT on May 2).
- 5-5: Asteroid 559 Nanon occults a 9.7 magnitude star at 4:29 am EDT (8:29 UT). Wagman Observatory is right on the predicted centerline!

## Mingo Observatory Project Status

(continued from page 2, column 2)

research grade instrument capabilities for serious amateur research projects, for which the committee is presently putting together a list of potential candidate projects. The 16" Autoscope will still be utilized by mounting it on wheels, allowing us to roll it out onto the observatory grounds for public star parties.

### Star Party News:

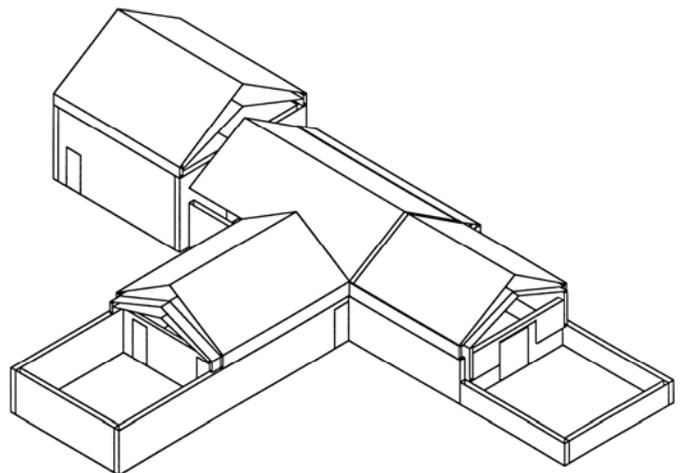
The MCPO Committee is planning another great year of public starparties. The 2004 dates are set (see AAAP Website), and the Mingo 'Pinksheet' starparty pamphlets have been revised. Additionally, Washington County Parks has listed the AAAP starparties in their 2004 activities booklet. Due to observatory and road construction, the observatory grounds and pavilion will be unavailable for the first several months of the star party season. Therefore, the committee has moved the location of the April Star parties to the adjacent ball-field and pavilions located further up the main access road, around the horseshoe bend (directional signs will be posted at the observatory road gate). At this date, the location of the May star parties is undecided (the ball-field is unavailable in May). We'll get back to you at a later date with the new location of the May star parties.

As last year, in addition to our telescopes, we will be setting up astronomy display boards and computer slide shows in the pavilions. New for this year will be short beginner presentations by AAAP staff members. We have purchased a green laser pointer for use by presenters at Mingo star parties, and are looking into getting additional AV equipment for use inside the pavilions (they have electricity).

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If anyone is interested in participating on the Mingo Creek Park Observatory Committee, or helping out at the Mingo star parties, please contact one of the Committee members listed below:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Ed Moss       | <a href="mailto:edward.moss@verizon.net">edward.moss@verizon.net</a> |
| George Guzik  | <a href="mailto:georgeguzik@aol.com">georgeguzik@aol.com</a>         |
| Mike Meteney  | <a href="mailto:mmeteney@comcast.net">mmeteney@comcast.net</a>       |
| Dave Smith    | <a href="mailto:davesmithphoto@aol.com">davesmithphoto@aol.com</a>   |
| Larry McHenry | <a href="mailto:lsmch@comcast.net">lsmch@comcast.net</a>             |
| Dan McKeel    | <a href="mailto:mckeeld@upmc.edu">mckeeld@upmc.edu</a>               |
| Becky Nichols | <a href="mailto:beckster4@earthlink.net">beckster4@earthlink.net</a> |



Here's the final design settled upon for the new Mingo Creek Park Observatory. It borrows heavily from NEWO

# My Observing History

by John Holtz

*(Editor's note: This is a reprise of brief presentation given by John at the February meeting. We felt that too few members would appreciate John's work with a meeting report only, and thus asked him to prepare this article.)*

Shortly after I joined the AAAP in 1986, the legendary observing exploits of Tom Reiland encouraged me to keep my own enumeration. It's nothing earth-shattering, and I don't expect some future astronomer/historian to find some nugget of gold buried in it. But it is fun to compare one year with the other years. So, was last year as bad as we all think it was?

A few comments on the following figures.

**Observing hours:** The "new job" in 1996 is this one: Treasurer of the AAAP. The "new house" is when I moved from a rented apartment in downtown Coraopolis to my first home in a rural setting (where my telescope would feel more at home). Naturally, home ownership implies more duties (cutting grass, etc.). It's too bad that these two changes occurred at about the same time. I'm not sure which — if either — has had an effect on my observing, but it appears that something has had an impact in the last several years. Maybe I'm getting sloppier as I get older!

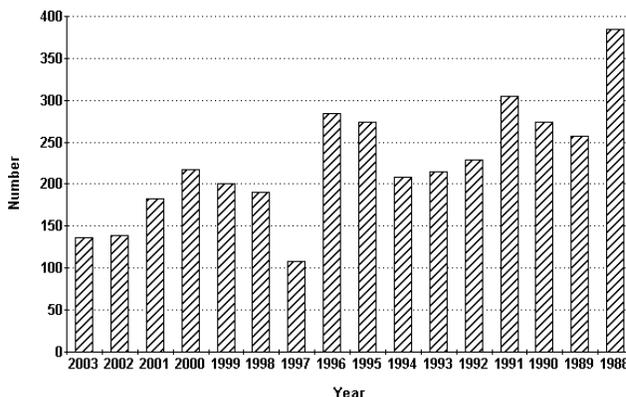
**Satellite Observations:** Not a accurate account, since I always see some that don't get counted while standing around. But assuming that a similar percentage are not tallied each year, this should reflect the overall trend.

**Variable stars:** My number one pursuit. This count is accurate.

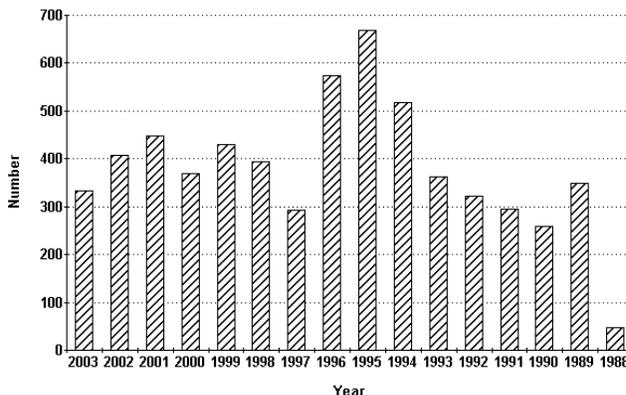
**Aurora:** Not only affected by cloudy conditions, but also affected by the solar cycle and the presence of someone at 3 o'clock in the morning to call and say "hey John, wake up and look at the aurora".

I hope my record keeping will inspire you to track your number of observations. Maybe a future astronomer/historian will find the nugget in your logbooks!

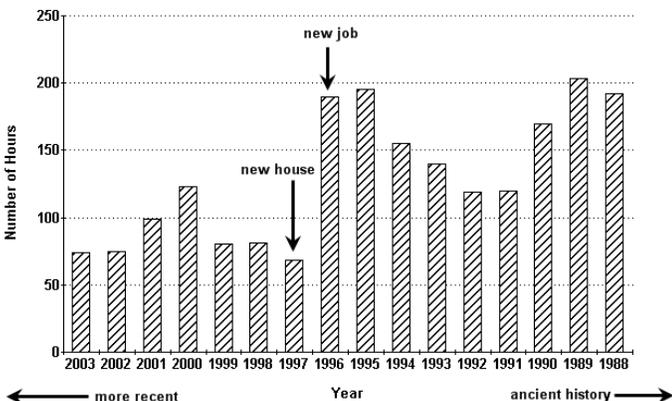
Satellite Observations  
John Holtz' Observing Log



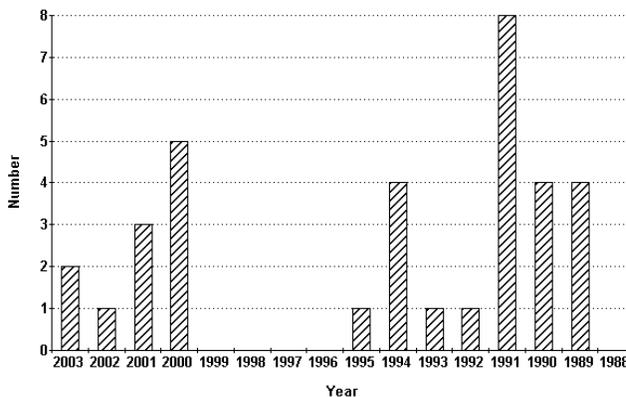
Variable Star Observations  
John Holtz' Observing Log



Observing Hours  
John Holtz' Observing Log



Aurora Observations  
John Holtz' Observing Log



# Celebrating 30 Years with Yinz Guys

by Tom Reiland

*He's a minor planet in the solar system and a major star in the AAAP. At the editors' request, Tom Reiland submitted this autobiography on the occasion of his 30th anniversary with the club!*

My interest in Astronomy began in the mid 1950's watching TV's early efforts at Sci-Fi and Disney's shows on space flight with Werner Von Braun. My brother got a telescope for Christmas about that time. It was a 2.4 inch Gilbert Reflector that clipped on to the back of a chair and rotated on a ball socket. We observed Jupiter, Saturn, the Moon, the Orion Nebula, and Mizar and Alcor. We always kept a close watch

on the space program and I remember watching Sputnik and Echo passing over our backyard in 1957 and 1958. I didn't have anyone to mentor me at that time. I didn't know that there was an astronomy club in our area. I found out later that my cousin, Wilma Cherup, was an active and long-time member of the AAAP.

Many years passed as my interest went into hibernation. I was honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1970, and I entered Pitt the next year. In 1972, I took an astronomy course under Dr. Nicholas E. Wagman. He rekindled my interest and, from there on, my life was changed forever. I found my brother's old reflector and started using it. The next year I purchased a 3-inch Focal Reflector at K-Mart and, to my surprise, it had good optics.

That same year, 1973, I heard about the AAAP and called Wilma for information. I didn't realize that we were cousins until we started talking. (She is my dad's first cousin.) She invited me to the October meeting at Allegheny Observatory, where I met George Lindbloom. There were only about 25 people at the meeting and George was the only one talking about observing. It took me several months before I decided to join because of the lack of interest in observing by many of the members, who seemed content just socializing. I became a member in April of 1974 and by September of that year I was chosen First Vice President when Ray Donley resigned. The membership at that time was 118, down from over 200 in the late '60's.

During the mid '70's we had many new members who wanted to change things and get the club back to it's peak or higher. We started advertising in the paper and holding more public events. In 1975 I was elected President. That same year I came up with the idea to build an observatory and also, the possibility of a Messier Marathon. Two years later I chose Dr. Wagman as the namesake for our observatory.

After many years of hard work, mostly paperwork, we got the Observatory up and running. We were fortunate to have people like Eric Fischer, Wade Barbin, Truman Kohman, the late George Lindbloom and many others working on the project from

*(continued at right)*



*At Wagman Winterfest 2004 – Photo by Pete Zapadka*

the conception until the first section was completed. It is primarily because of Wagman Observatory that the membership has grown to nearly 550. I have been one of the Directors of the observatory since the first committee was formed in 1975.

Observing has always been my main interest. George Lindbloom was my mentor in my early days with the club. Bob Schmidt, Wade Barbin, Jim Mullaney, and our cofounder, Leo Scanlon, gave me many good observing tips. George was the one who encouraged me to keep a logbook of my observations. Since my first notes in November of 1973, I have recorded at least one night's worth of observations for 364 consecutive months. I hope to make it 366 in April for my 30th anniversary in the AAAP. These logbooks include over 5,000 objects and well over 100,000 observations. It is nice to have these records. I can look up the notes of my independent discovery of the nebula/cluster known as Reiland's Object that I found from my backyard in August of 1985 while I was looking at IC 1470. If I had been using a computer-aided scope, I never would have found that object. Twelve years later I made another independent discovery in the galaxy NGC 7541. It was a supernova that had just been discovered by a professional group a few days before I located it. The announcement didn't come out until the weekend I made my observation. I was pleased and discouraged at the same time.

I've given about 35 talks at the AAAP meetings and most of those have been at the last 27 or 28 Christmas meetings. My programs have ranged from Aurora to UFO's and, for the most part, have covered various aspects of observational astronomy. I enjoy doing them and continuing the tradition of passing on astronomical information started my Leo Scanlon, Dr. Wagman, Jim Mullaney and many others before me.

I have served as President of the AAAP for 15 years. (1975-1977, 1979-81, 1983-91, 1995-98). I served two more years as Vice President from 1992 to 1994. I held office for many of these terms because nobody else wanted to run. I hope that we

*(continued on page 8, bottom left)*

## Guide Star Photo Gallery: Winterfest and Other Cool Stuff



*All Wagman Winterfest photos courtesy of Pete Zapadka.*



**Image by Phil Huges**  
Jupiter 2-25-04 1:28 AM with Ganymede. 8" Dob. f/5.9. Toucam Pro with 2x Barlowe. Composite of 133 frames processed with Registax. Image further processed with Gimp.



**Image by Larry McHenry**  
8" f10 SCT UT18:36 (1:36 PM) 02/28/2004 (2x digital zoom). Combo of 6 photos, imaged at prime focus. Used AstroStack software to combine images, apply unsharp mask, adjust brightness/contrast.

### Tom Reiland Looks Back, and Ahead

*(continued from page 7)*

get more people involved in the various offices of the club. It can be very rewarding for both the club and the volunteer. I received a George Lindbloom Award in 1991, the John Brashear Award in 1994, and honorary membership in 1998. Don't do it for awards, do it for the satisfaction of helping to promote the science that encompasses all other sciences; the only science that amateurs contribute to every day.

### My Other Hobby by Tom Reiland

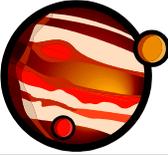
*by Tom Reiland*

Music and astronomy seem to go hand and hand. There are so many songs written about the night sky. "Blue Moon", "Allegheny Moon," "Fly me to the Moon" are just a few that come to mind. There's a group called Magnetic Fields that wrote a song called "Tom the Astronomer." Music, like astronomy, has often been a means of relaxation and comfort to me, a way to smooth over the rough edges of life.

A former club member and drummer for Alvin Lee and Johnny Winter, Tom Compton, introduced me to some of the finer local musicians and helped me rediscover the joys of live music. I started attending many more gigs after I left Allegheny Observatory because of lost grants. Their music and friendship helped me through some difficult times. Two and a half years ago Dave Iglar asked me to help promote his bands the "Igniters" and the "Acoustic Trio" and try to find new venues. Some of you have come out with Pete Zapadka and I to the gigs and witnessed some excellent music. I publicize other groups besides Dave's through my e-mails and word of mouth, but I only work for him. It's something to do between jobs and it gives me a new purpose.

I've made many new friends, just like I have through the club, and friends are as important to me as my family. I'll be happy as long as I have my family, friends, astronomy, and good music. If they were food, I'd never starve.

# April 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Numerous occultations all month (see page 5)			1 April Fools Day	2 AAAP Meeting 7:30 PM Carnegie Science Center	3 Astronomy Weekend April 3 – 4 Carnegie Science Center
4 Astronomy Weekend Palm Sunday Daylight Savings Time begins	5  Passover begins	6 	7	8	9 Good Friday	10
11 Easter 	12	13	14 	15	16 AO Public Lecture Dark Energy's Shadow 7:30 PM Free – Must RSVP at (412) 321-2400	17 
18 	19 	20	21 Lyrid meteor shower (Peak)	22 Earth Day	23 Star Party Wagman & Mingo Creek	24 Star Party Wagman & Mingo Creek
25	26 	27 	28	29 	30 Birthday, AAAP Co-Founder Leo Scanlon 1903	31 Kuiper Belt Rangers defend Sedna in Solar Wars 2587

<p><b>Looking ahead:</b>                  May 21, 22 (Star Party at Wagman &amp; Mingo Creek)                  June 14 – 20 (Star Cruise)                  July 17 (AAAP Annual Summer Picnic)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAAP Long-Range Meeting Schedule</u></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>May 7, 2004</td> <td>Nov. 19, 2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Picnic July 17, 2004</b></td> <td>Dec. 17, 2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep. 24, 2004</td> <td>Jan. 28, 2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct. 29, 2004</td> <td>Feb. 25, 2005</td> </tr> </table>	May 7, 2004	Nov. 19, 2004	<b>Picnic July 17, 2004</b>	Dec. 17, 2004	Sep. 24, 2004	Jan. 28, 2005	Oct. 29, 2004	Feb. 25, 2005
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<b>Picnic July 17, 2004</b>	Dec. 17, 2004								
Sep. 24, 2004	Jan. 28, 2005								
Oct. 29, 2004	Feb. 25, 2005								

## Greetings, Greetings New Members

The following folks were speedily welcomed into the AAAP at the March meeting:

Duane Galensky	Paul A. Noweck
William P. Kaiser	Michael J. Sweeney

## TR's 30 Years Tops Membership Anniversaries

### 30 Years

Tom Reiland 4/74

### 15 Years

David P. Beatty 6/89  
Leroy W. Greathouse 5/89  
Don Shepherd 6/89

### 10 Years

Stephen P. Caldwell 4/94  
Roger J. Kostley 5/94  
Dale Twaddle 5/94  
Sandra L. Twaddle 5/94  
Regis R. Vollmer 4/94  
Robert A. Yajko 6/94

### 5 Years

Joseph Brady 6/99  
James Buhrman 5/99  
Rebecca Byerly 6/99  
John Cheng 6/99  
Harry P. Ehman 6/99  
Kevin Jones 4/99  
Mark E. Komsa 4/99  
Richard P. Ofstun 6/99  
John R. Peak 5/99  
Jesse Powell Jr. 4/99  
Charles J. Rodkey 4/99  
Henry J. Sciuolo 6/99  
Diane Turnshek 5/99  
Kevin M. Van Horn 6/99

## Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.

A section of the Academy of Science and Art of Pittsburgh

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

### 2003-2004 Officers:

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AAAP Homepage: 3ap.org

AAAP Webmaster: Kenn Lippert (lippert@nauticom.net)

### Guide Star Associate Editors

Ann Norman (412-242-6806) Cathy Rivi (412-782-4605)

Guide Star Classified Ads: Cathy Rivi (crivi@mindspring.com)

### AAAP Member Dues\*\*\*:

AAAP Dues:	\$18.00
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\*\*\*Basic Procedure for Paying Dues:

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