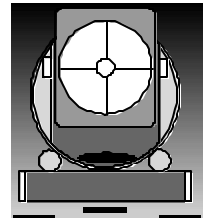


STARLITE



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March 2002

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John Dobson to Visit Peoria Area

by Michael Frasca

Amateur astronomy icon John Dobson, under the sponsorship of the Peoria Astronomical Society, will visit the Peoria area from April 3rd through the 5th, 2002.

Tentatively, Dobson plans to visit Naperville, Illinois, on April 2nd. He will speak at our monthly PAS members meeting at Lakeview Museum on the 3rd, and will be the keynote speaker at the Peoria Academy of Science's Annual Banquet at Barrack's Cater Inn on the evening of the 4th. He will then visit the University of Illinois in Urbana on the 6th and 7th before heading for St. Louis on April 12th. Please be sure to check for updated information on all these appearances.

The 86-year-old Dobson

has spent over half his life bringing the skies to the people. After receiving a degree in chemistry in 1943, he joined the Vedanta monastery in northern California. Pondering the relationship between



John Dobson

Photo courtesy of
Sidewalk Astronomers

science and religion, he decided he needed a closer look at the heavens. He built a two-inch refractor out of junk store optical parts and was promptly entranced by the rings of Saturn. After acquiring a 12-inch chunk of porthole glass, he ground a mirror for his next telescope. Impressed and

awed by the view of a third-quarter Moon, Dobson knew he had to share the experience with others.

Over the course of his 23 years at the monastery, he built bigger and better tele-

(Continued on page 3)

Detweiler to Speak at March 6th PAS Meeting

by Rich Tennis

Professor Lew Detweiler, a member of the physics faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University, will be giving talk at the March 6, 2002, PAS members meeting. His talk is entitled, "Some of my Research Experiences at a Small Liberal Arts College."

Professor Detweiler will speak from his 34 years at IWU and his experiences at Kitt Peak National Observatory and Steward Observatory in Arizona, Mount Laguna Observatory in California, and Dominion Astrophysical Observatory in British Columbia.

He has worked with both single-channel and CCD photometry, spectroscopy with photographic plates, and CCD detectors. His areas of interest include observational astronomy and electronics; he is especially interested in determining the chemical abundances and motions of stars in our galaxy. Professor Detweiler has also taught every physics course offered at

(Continued on page 5)

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Wrigley's Wramblings

by Steve Wrigley



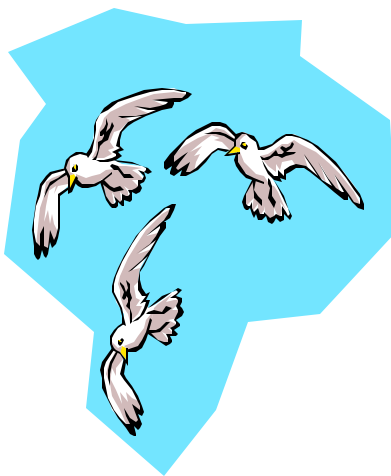
We have some exciting meetings coming up.

On March 6th, Professor Lew Detweiler, of Illinois Wesleyan University, located in Bloomington, Illinois, will speak to us about "Some of my Research Experiences at a Small Liberal Arts College." His talk will explore the role of a working astronomer and researcher, what goes on "behind the scenes," and how amateur astronomers like ourselves can contribute to the science of astronomy. PAS member Rich Tennis tells us that Professor Detweiler "is an accomplished astronomer," and that the "oblique" and "understated" title of his talk fits well with Professor Detweiler's "dry sense of humor." We're all looking forward to an entertaining

and informative evening.

On April 3rd, John Dobson, the inventor of the Dobsonian telescope mount, will speak at our members meeting in the Planetarium. We are extremely fortunate to have this unique individual here in Peoria, willing to help satisfy our own thirsts for knowledge and understanding. His talk should prove to be an illuminating experience for all.

For those of you who missed the February meeting, I can only say you missed a very good opportunity to test your knowledge of the universe. Gene Hodel surpassed



himself again with an Astro Bowl evening. Three teams were chosen to compete against each other. Russell's Refractors came through in the end with a victory. In what has become a tradition in the Society, Gene made everyone take note of how little they know.

Same time, same place next year, Gene?

I close on a somber note, for once again we have lost a dear friend of the Society. Carl Horst passed away on December 2, 2001. He and his son Gerry made quite a team for NorthMoor observing on public evenings. In asking around, I could not find a single person who could remember when Carl had joined the Society, for he had always been there before them. If anyone could remember or finds out otherwise could you let me know, was he one of those rare people to be a charter member? We miss you, Carl. y

*...Carl Horst...
and his son
Gerry made
quite a team
for NorthMoor
observing...*

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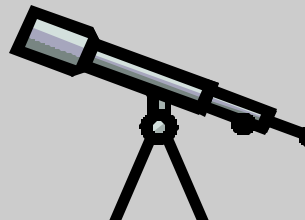
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Minutes of the Board of Directors

by Dan Son, PAS Secretary

Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Hardee's of Willow Knolls Court in Peoria. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

=====
The Board meeting scheduled for November 21, 2001, was cancelled.
 =====

December 18, 2001

Treasurer's Report: (Mike Shelton)
 Mike presented the Treasurer's report for the month of October. Mike will be sending dues notices out soon.

Academy of Science: (Scott Hay) The Interplanetary Bike ride will be August 10th.

CCD: (Stephen Russell & Tim McGrath) Both cables are in.

Light Pollution: (Rich Tennis) The grant was turned down. We are waiting to hear from Neal Johnson of CILCO.

NorthMoor Observatory: (Steve Wrigley) Steve Wrigley is looking to step down as chairman and is asking for a replacement.

Program: (Dan Son) Rich Tennis will be talking to Lew Detweiler as a guest speaker.

<www.astronomical.org>: (Tim McGrath) Tim has made a members only area on the web site. Future additions are coming.

Old Business:

Steve Wrigley will look into the sponsoring of John Dobson as a guest speaker.

New Business:

Rich Tennis talked about forming a PAS satellite group in Woodford County. He will do some research to see how much interest there may be.

Dan suggested getting a to do list for Jubilee and NorthMoor sites and find out what needs to be done and its priority.

J C Kline suggested that PAS might want to sponsor "Star Date" on WCBU radio station. Rich Tennis will look further into this as J C will be going to Colorado.

Eric made a motion to make Loretta Horst a Friend of the Society. Seconded by Dan Son. Motion passed.

January 16, 2002

=====
Treasurer's Report: (Mike Shelton)
 Mike presented the Treasurer's report for the month of December.

Academy of Science: (Scott Hay) The Academy is now accepting applications from seniors for \$100 scholarships. The votes were counted after 26 students turned in their Science Treasury Hunt books. We received five first place votes.

Light Pollution: (Rich Tennis) We are always looking for people to join us in giving talks to area groups.

Observing Club: (John Barra) Messier Marathon will be March 16th.

Program: (Dan Son) February will be Astro Bowl. Prof. Lew Detweiler will speak at our March meeting. April will possibly be John Dobson.

Starlite: (Mike & Jessica Frasca) Deadline for *Starlite* will be the February

Board meeting.

Messier Club: (John Barra) Messier Club will be meeting on Friday.

Membership: (Scott Swords) We have four new members join the PAS this month.

Old Business:

Will try to get John Dobson as a guest speaker for our April 3rd meeting.

Dan Son made a motion to spend up to \$500 for expenses with getting John Dobson. Seconded by Eric Clifton. Motion passed.

New Business:

On March 19th, David Levy will be speaking at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake near Chicago.

Dobson visit...

(Continued from page 1)

scopes on a non-existent budget using cast-off parts — thus the birth of the "Dobsonian Mount." He would wheel his telescopes around the neighborhood to treat enthralled crowds to views and, most importantly, explanations of the heavens. Inevitably, others asked for his help and instruction on how to make their own telescopes.

In 1967, his increasing astronomical activities caught the negative attention of the monastery powers-that-were. He was dismissed from the monastery, but continued his quest to share the skies with others. With the help and assistance of his many friends, Dobson took his telescopes to the streets. The San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers was born.

Over the years, members of the San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers have spread Dobson's message of showing, sharing, and teaching well outside the bounds of the city. With chapters across the country, the organization dropped the "San Francisco" from its name, and is now known simply as the Sidewalk Astronomers.

Be sure to attend the April 3, 2002, PAS members meeting and receive Dobson's message.

For more information on John Dobson and the Sidewalk Astronomers, point your Web browser at: <www.sidewalkastronomers.com>.

y



Monthly Program Schedule

Meetings will be held in the Lakeview Museum Planetarium. Unless otherwise noted, all programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

March 6, 2002

Some of my Research Experiences at a Small Liberal Arts College

Professor Lew Detweiler

April 3, 2002

John Dobson, inventor of the Dobsonian Telescope Mount

May 1, 2002

Astrophotography for the Beginner

Eric Clifton

June 5, 2002

CCD Photography
 Stephen Russell

Of Starlites Past

by John Barra

ABCDEFABCDEFA

40 YEARS AGO Spring Newsletter 1962

“Construction of the planetarium should start by April first and be completed in the fall. Dick Johnson, who already does the work of two with his double classes, is cheerfully looking forward to the time when he will take his place as director.”

I, like most of you, read in the Peoria Journal Star recently that they are considering building a new Lakeview Museum, planetarium and all, downtown. It could be good, or just wishful thinking. I guess we will all have to just wait and see what happens.

“Kenneth Rhoads, chairman of the popular observing nights, has revised his list of members who take an active part and added new ones who would like to participate. Enclosed is the new schedule. Please note that beginning in February, they will be held on the second and fourth Friday evenings....”

Has the climate changed that much in 40 years? Were people really able to conduct viewing sessions the second Friday in February back then? We are lucky now if we get good weather by mid-March for the Messier Marathon. y

25 YEARS AGO March Starlite 1977

“The Academy of Science Banquet will be held March 19th, at Lakeview Center. Doctor Frank Drake from the Astronomy Department of Cornell University will be the evening’s main attraction.”

Hopefully, John Dobson of the San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers will be visiting us this April. See other parts of the newsletter for details. While I am not sure he is a doctor, I sure know that he has been a pioneer who has paved the way for us Dobsonian starhoppers.

“Things to look for in April, May, and June, 1977.... According to the Astronomical Calendar 1977, there are ‘April fireballs’ from the 15th to the 30th, a sparse and irregular shower with undetermined radiant.”

I must have missed that shower in the past, or else it no longer exists. However, if early predictions hold up, we should be able to see a magnitude 5 new comet [Comet Ikeya-Zhang, C/2002 C1—Ed.] just above and to the right of M74 in the western sky the night of the Messier Marathon. y

Astronomical Calendar

March 2002						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 2002						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2002						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March 5

Last-quarter Moon

March 6

PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Lakeview Planetarium
Some of my Research Experiences at a Small Liberal Arts College
Professor Lew Detweiler

March 9

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

March 13

New Moon
Most distant Moon of the year

March 16

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

March 20

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Willow Knolls Court Hardee’s
Spring Equinox at 1:16 p.m. CST

March 21

First-quarter Moon

March 28

Full Moon

April 3

PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Lakeview Planetarium
John Dobson, inventor of the Dobsonian Telescope Mount

April 4

Last-quarter Moon
Peoria Academy of Science banquet with John Dobson

April 6

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

April 7

Changeover to Daylight Savings Time; move clocks forward by one hour at 2:00 a.m.

April 12

New Moon

April 13

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

April 17

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Willow Knolls Court Hardee’s
Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, and Moon within 60°

April 20

First-quarter Moon
National Astronomy Day

April 26

Full Moon
Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter span 45° and closing

May 1

PAS Members Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Lakeview Planetarium
Astrophotography for the Beginner
Eric Clifton

May 4

Last-quarter Moon
Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

May 7

Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Saturn within 9.1°

May 11

Star Party at Jubilee Observatory

May 12

New Moon
Mercury, Venus, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter within 33.3°, but Mercury is at 2nd magnitude and fading

May 15

PAS Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Willow Knolls Court Hardee’s
Starlite Deadline

May 19

First-quarter Moon

May 26

Full Moon



The Bulletin Board

New Members

Welcome to:
 Wilmer Jones
 Paul McCarron
 Andrew McClintick



Jubilee Mowing Schedule

April 6: B Hakes, T Lester, S Thomas
 April 13: M Hay, T McGrath, B Weston

April 20: S Hay, J McElyea, P White
 April 27: J Barra, B Herbst, G Mettlach
 May 4: B Bechtold, G Horst, G Neaveill
 May 11: B Bill, C Jeske, S Russell
 May 18: G Bussman, D Kasel, M Shelton
 May 25: E Clifton, J Kline, D Son
 June 1: C Fleming, C Lamb, S Swords
 June 8: M Frasca, T Lester, D Tee-ter
 June 15: D Grebner, T McGrath, R Tennis

June 22: B Hakes, J McElyea, S Thomas
 June 29: M Hay, G Mettlach, B Weston



NorthMoor Viewing Schedule

May 4: S Wrigley, W Jaquet
 May 11: G Horst
 May 18: T Beachler, C Fleming
 May 25: E Clifton, S Swords
 June 1: B Weston, C Lamb
 June 8: L Bodell, J Wrigley
 June 15: D Son, S Hay
 June 22: M Hay, V Broquard
 June 29: J Barra, T Lester

In Memoriam: Carl Horst

Long-time Peoria Astronomical Society member Carl Horst passed away at the age of 86 on December 2, 2001.

He is survived by his wife Loretta; son and fellow PAS member Gerry, daughter Kathy Louis, and their spouses; five grandchildren; and one sister.

A World War II Army veteran, Horst earned master's degrees in both mathematics (Bradley University) and physics (Purdue University). He taught at Washington Junior High School in Pekin and at Calvin Coolidge School before spending 24 years as a physics teacher at Peoria High School.

PAS member Eric Clifton remembers the elder Horst as a quiet, genuinely nice guy. "He had a sense of humor that I really

liked," Clifton said. He believes that Horst had been a PAS member since at least the 1960s.

A very active Society member even into his later years, Horst helped build the Decker-Grebner-Van Zant Observatory at the Jubilee dark sky site. He was a Jubilee keyholder and spent many a night with his son running the public viewing sessions at NorthMoor Observatory.

Though he knew Carl Horst for over 20 years, Clifton still wishes that he had gotten to know him better. He remembers that Horst would

most often be accompanied by his son Gerry while stargazing.

Memorials may be made to the Arcadia Avenue Presbyterian Church or the American Cancer Society.



Carl Horst, in a 2000 photograph

Mark Your Calendars! April 20, 2002 is National Astronomy Day!

Detweiler...

(Continued from page 1)

IWU at one time or another.

He has published in the *Astronomical Journal* and the Cambridge University Press on astronomical research subjects.

PeoriaAstro...

(Continued from page 7)

@ @ @

From: Michael Frasca <frasca@uic.edu>

Date: Tue, 19 Feb 2002

Subject: e-mail address changes

>>>Well, the PAS group rejected my email because the names have not been changed yet so don't be surprised if you send an email to our PAS group and it is sent back as undeliverable. Until the Mike has time to change things it will be hard for some to post messages.<<<

I don't have the authority to change the e-mail address you are registered under. You must go to Yahoogroups and make the change yourself:

1. Click on the <<http://www.yahoogroups.com/group/PeoriaAstro>> link found at the bottom of all messages sent by PeoriaAstro. You can click on the above link as well.

2. Click on "Edit My Membership"

3. Under Email Address, click on "you can add an e-mail address"

4. After signing in with your password, you can add and delete email addresses and desig-

Can You Spot This?

NGC 2903

by John Barra

Can You Spot This? *premiered in Starlite Issue #144, December 2000.*

There are five Messier galaxies in the constellation Leo. All have about the same brightness, magnitude 9. There is another galaxy in Leo that I find more interesting—NGC 2903. It is also magnitude 9. But this spiral galaxy is larger than the other five. And probably easier to locate.

Start by finding the famous sickle asterism in Leo that begins with Regulus and ends with Epsilon. See Chart 1 for reference. Epsilon is a magnitude 3 star. To its right is our target star, Lambda. At magnitude 4, it is easy to see with the naked eye.

With a low-power eyepiece in your telescope, aim your Telrad or other finder at Lambda. Once it is centered, change to a high-power eyepiece. Look for the pattern of stars shown in Chart 2. If you are

unable to see this pattern, you might want to switch back to lower power.

Notice the two patterns of sixth and seventh magnitude stars: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Starhop from Lambda to star 4 to NGC 2903. You should be able to make that starhop in one easy sweep. Increase your power to view more of this spiral galaxy. Remember the star patterns shown are for a reflector. You may have a reverse image for other types of scopes.

NGC 2903 has a very large and bright central core that accounts for about half of its total visible area. Because it is so bright and easy to locate, it is usually included in most observers' "top ten objects that they wonder why Messier failed to include in his famous list" lists.

OBJECT STATISTICS:

Name: NGC 2903
 Type: Spiral Galaxy
 Magnitude: 9.0
 Size: 12.0' x 5.6'
 Coordinates: 9 hr. 32 min. 12 sec.; +21 deg. 30 min. y

...this spiral galaxy is larger than the other five....

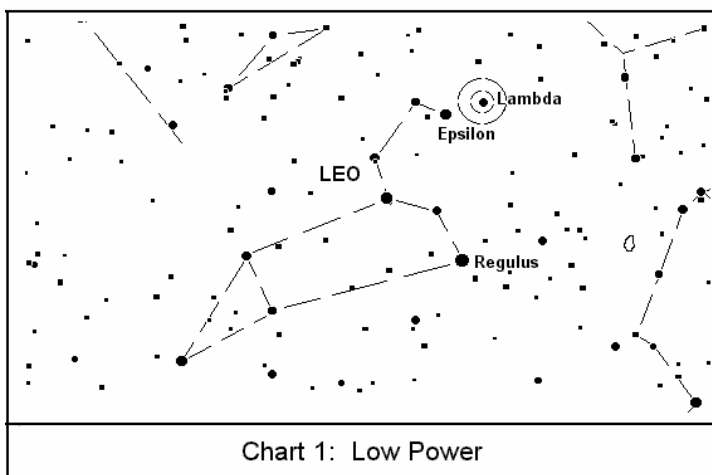


Chart 1: Low Power

Spirals...all I can see are spirals....

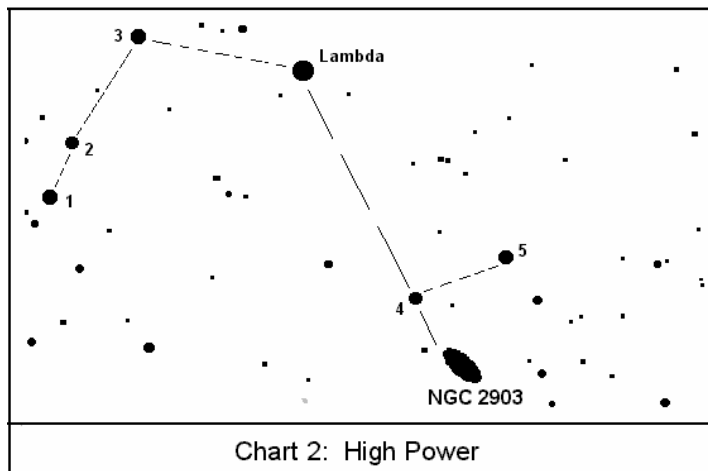


Chart 2: High Power

PeoriaAstro@yahoogroups.com

compiled by Michael Frasca

Here are some highlights from the Peoria Astronomical Society's e-mail group. If you are an active member of the PAS and would like to subscribe to PeoriaAstro, send an e-mail message to Michael Frasca <frasca@uic.edu> with the following information: name, snail-mail address, and e-mail address. You will be added to the group.

From: Rich Tennis <mtennis@mtco.com>
Date: Fri, 30 Nov 2001
Subject: CILCO grant status on full cut-off street lighting

I got word back from CILCO, Kathy Lockenitz, on the PAS request for grant money, \$4,000, to conduct the street lighting study with full cut-off and standard (full-glare) lights. They turned the request down. :-)

The Corporate Contributions Committee (CCC) had problems with the lion's-share of the money going back to CILCO to put up the light fixtures, etc., for the study. Not exactly a hungry family to give charity to, I guess.

I have a call in to Neal Johnson on what the next approach may be. Kathy did talk to Neal about the CCC's decision to turn our request down. Since it was Mr. Johnson's suggestion to get the study funded through the CCC, he would be best to discuss the options.

Kathy suggested that we work with a developer that is putting street lights into the development. What is the contractor's name that is working on the new shopping center west of Peoria? Maybe they would be willing to go that way. Does anyone have any contact with Diane Cullinan? That certainly would have a large impact on Jubilee if full-glare lighting was used. Anyway, need a "non-shining" example to point to.

Rich Tennis
Light Control Committee

From: Steve Wrigley <BigWrig42@aol.com>
Date: Sun, 2 Dec 2001

Subject: A long time member has passed away
Carl Horst passed away about 4:30 this afternoon. Gerry called me about 9:15 p.m.

Memorials can be made to his church or the American Cancer Society.

For many years, Carl and his son Gerry made a team for Saturday evening viewing at NorthMoor. Please look at the Peoria Journal Star for more information about his life.

Steve Wrigley

From: Tim & Kerri McGrath <tkmcgrath@home.com>

Date: Sat, 15 Dec 2001
Subject: PAS Virtual Library

Dear PAS members,
I am in the process of creating a "virtual library" of sorts for the Society. What is a virtual library, you ask? Well, it works like a traditional library (where you can borrow books and stuff), but it does not have a central location or building to store the materials. The way I envision this working is that the "virtual librarian" (me) will

compile a list of books, magazines, or other astronomy related materials owned by the Society and the members. The list will contain the book title, author, brief description, and who to contact to borrow it. Once the list is compiled, I will post it online on our website, so everyone can view it. Don Ware has set up a private area on the website so only members will be allowed to see the list.

The reason for doing this is, I have luckily been able to borrow books from members who already owned them and had them sitting around, rather than spending a lot of money buying my own. It is also a way to share materials that you know are good, and could benefit someone in the Society. However, the only way this will succeed is if everyone participates.

So, what I need from you is a list of "library" materials that you would be willing to share with other members. Materials could be books, magazines, charts, other reading materials, even equipment. Send me an e-mail with your contact information (name, phone number, and e-mail address) and the material you wish to share (title, author, description, any other relevant information). Once I receive it, I will add it to the "library" and post it online.

In the next several weeks, I will also try to catalog all the Society-owned material that is housed at Northmoor, Jubilee, Lakeview, and Eric's garage. :) This may turn out to be daunting task, so if you would like to volunteer help, I would appreciate it!

Once again, participation is the key for this to succeed. I hope you will consider sharing your materials. I have included a list of books in my own meager collection, but hopefully with your participation, this can grow to be a vast source of wealth and knowledge!

Sincerely,

Tim McGrath

P.S. Please email your lists to me privately, and not to the group.

From: Stephen Russell <sjruss55@dpc.net>

Date: Mon, 07 Jan 2002

Subject: Clear Sky Clock Homepage Link

Check out this website at <http://www.cleardarksky.com/csk/>

It is a weather website for amateur astronomers for forecasting clear and transparent skies.

I requested a "Clock" for our club's location today. Then we will be able to add a link to our club's homepage once a "clock" has been established for us.

Stephen Russell

From: Rich Tennis <mtennis@mtco.com>

Date: Sat, 12 Jan 2002

Subject: Sky transparency predictions

Ever wonder what the sky will be like for viewing in the near future? I found this link to the Peoria area sky transparency which looks good. They mention Peoria Astronomical Society and link to our web site.

<http://www.cleardarksky.com/cgi-bin/find_clock.py?disp=auto&title=Map+search+results&type=map&coverage_map.x=396&coverage_map.y=382>
Try it out and see if you get good predictability as well.

Rich Tennis

From: Rich Tennis <mtennis@mtco.com>

Date: Fri, 25 Jan 2002

Subject: Stardate program on WCBU and PAS support

We, the PAS Board, have discussed having WCBU air the Stardate program. (Stardate is presently on WGLT in Bloomington at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.) I have contacted Nathan Irwin, Program Director, at WCBU. They are reviewing the possibility of adding Stardate to the programming. It might do some good if members that would support WCBU's having Stardate would contact WCBU to reinforce our request.

WCBU's phone number is 677-2342—development, or 677-3333—comment line.

Thanks for your efforts to get Stardate on WCBU.

Rich Tennis

From: Eric & Becky Clifton <ericclifton@home.com>

Date: Sat, 16 Feb 2002

Subject: Eric's and Becky's New E-mail Address

Please change our e-mail address in your address books from: <ericclifton@home.com> or <ericclifton@mtco.com> to: <ericclifton@insightbb.com>

From: Dan & Barb Son <sunshine92@home.com>

This will be Barb's and my new email address.

<sunshine92@insightbb.com>

From: Greenberg Family <greenbergfamily1@home.com>

Ours will change also to the insightbb.com:

<greenbergfamily1@insightbb.com>

From: Tim McGrath <tkmcgrath@home.com>

Mine too: <tkmcgrath@insightbb.com>

From: Scott Swords <sswords3@home.com>

Mine too: <sswords3@insightbb.com>

From: Mark Koonce <mak805@home.com>

Another e-mail change: <mak805@insightbb.com>

From: Michael J. Carroll <mjcmkc@home.com>

Would whoever maintains the email list also update mine to:

<mjcmkc@insightbb.com>

From: John Barra <Jbarra31@cs.com>

Here's my new address:

<Jbarra39@hubbletelescope.com>

I took advantage of the special offer to connect directly to the Hubble Telescope.

From: John Barra <Jbarra31@cs.com>

Subject: Just kidding

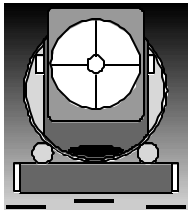
Really, I was just kidding.

From: Dan Son <sunshine92@home.com>

Subject: Re: Just kidding

Hey, I just changed your address!!!!!! Stop that!

(Continued on page 5)



Astronomy Section Newsletter
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In This Issue...

John Dobson, Lew Detweiler, Carl Horst Obituary, Can You Spot This?, and more....

Observing Club Notes

by John Barra

Messier Marathon Set for March 16th

The Peoria Astronomical Society's Messier Marathon this year will be on Saturday, March 16th, at the Jubilee Observatory.

This date is just a couple of days past new Moon, so there will be little interference from moonlight.

Because the new Moon is near the middle of March, all Messier objects will be viewable from our area except M30, which will not rise in the morning until it is too light to locate. There are several others that are challenging, both just after sunset and before sunrise.

Participants should arrive at

Jubilee before sunset, in time to be fully set up and ready to locate those objects setting near the western horizon. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Everyone is asked to bring his or her own liquid refreshments and to bring snacks to share with others.

The greatest fun of the marathon is enjoying the company of others staying up and observing all night. Of course, there will be friendly competition for those hoping to observe as many Messier objects as possible. Check-off sheets will be available in the warm-up room.

The only rule for the marathon is to observe the objects, in any manner you choose. You can use any type of telescope or binoculars. Use of go-to devices are therefore allowed. However, objects ob-

served during a marathon cannot be counted toward other club or Astronomical League certificates.

To see what PAS awards are available for the marathon, please visit our homepage at <www.astronomical.org>. For those who do not wish to stay up all night, you can attempt to view all the objects in one or more of the four PAS seasonal mini-marathons, depending on which part of the night you participate. Those awards are explained on our homepage, and mini-marathon sheets will also be in the warm-up room.

If you participate in the PAS e-mail group, you will receive updates as to weather forecasts. In case the forecasts are bad for Saturday, you might want to go out and do the marathon on Friday, if the skies are clear then.y

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