



The *Prairie* Astronomer

The Official Newsletter Of The Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc.

August 1999

Volume 40 Issue #8

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

PAC MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1999, 7:30 PM
at Hyde Memorial Observatory

MAHONEY STAR PARTY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1999
Mahoney State Park

CLUB STAR PARTY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1999
Olive Creek Recreation Area

HYDE OBSERVATORY VOLUNTEER NIGHT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1999, SUNSET-10 P.M.
At Hyde Memorial Observatory

PAC MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1999, 7:30 PM
at Hyde Memorial Observatory

BEHLEN OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1999, 7 P.M.-10P.M.
Details in the next newsletter

AUGUST'S PROGRAM:

Mark Dahmke/NSP 6 Presentation

Mark Dahmke will give a multimedia presentation on the 1999 Nebraska Star Party, held earlier in the month.

AAVSO ALERT: The astronomers at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics are currently observing the prototype mira variable, omicron Ceti (Mira), with the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). They have requested that our observers keep a close eye on this star throughout the month of August to ensure that we have very thorough coverage in the visual light curve for correlation of their HST data. Mira is just coming out of its observing gap and rising from its minimum of last month. For more information, please check out the AAVSO website at:

www.aavso.org

PAC-LIST: Mark Dahmke maintains an e-mail list server for PAC. If you have an e-mail address and are not on the PAC List, you may subscribe by submitting an e-mail to list@4w.com. Write "Subscribe PAC-List" in the body of the e-mail.

ASTEROID "BRACE": The name "Brace" has been approved and accepted by the Harvard-Smithsonian Minor Planet Center for Minor Planet (10392), discovered at Lime Creek 721 Sep 1997. The announcement was made on Circular # 35495, MPC. This is named after DeWitt Brace the pioneer Nebraska physicist after whom Brace Lab at UNL is named. Information via Martin Gaskell.

WEATHER AND ASTRONOMY: The Weather Underground has added an astronomy section on their forecast pages. Take a look at the Lincoln page:
<http://www.wunderground.com/US/NE/LINCOLN>

HYDE VOLUNTEER PRACTICE NIGHT: All volunteers (and people who want to know more about volunteering) are invited. Sunday, September 12, from sunset -10:00 P.M.

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The Prairie Astronomer is published monthly by the Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc. Membership expiration date is listed on the mailing label. Membership dues are: Regular \$20/yr, Family \$22/yr. Address all new memberships and renewals to: The Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc., PO Box 5585, Lincoln, NE 68505-0585. For other club information, please contact one of the club officers listed on the last page of this newsletter. Newsletter comments and articles should be submitted to: Jeff King, 4018 South 83rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68506-5973 or jeffrey892@aol.com, no less than ten days prior to the club meeting. The Prairie Astronomy Club meets the last Tuesday of each month at Hyde Memorial Observatory in Lincoln, NE.

Secretary's Report

By: Willa Penney

President Dave Knisely opened the meeting; we had a number of guests, including many children and youth. Dave reported that Comet Lee will be visible in the early morning in August and September. Jupiter and Saturn will be visible in the west in the evening sky.

NASA will crash the Lunar Prospector on the moon on July 31, 4:51 a.m. our time, at the lunar south pole.

This Thursday, July 29 will be the final NSP planning meeting. Tom Miller reported that registrations are about the same as last year, with 300 people registered so far. If the weather is good, attendance is predicted at 350-400. Mark Dahmke reported that there is a new hotel in the area; information is on the club website (www.4w.com/pac/). The Nebraska Star Party is August 7-14.

There will be no club star party in August, due to NSP. Dave and Larry Hancock gave a report on the OAS club site. They said the views are very good and that the Omaha club members are "real friendly". PAC has a nice rapport with the Omaha Astronomical Society and we hope to keep it that way. Larry and Dave encouraged our members to go out to the site; call Larry for instructions on how to get there. He reported that it is 29.5 miles from Gateway.

If you have any material to put on the club website, send your copy to Mark Dahmke. The Hyde website now has an announcement section. Please let Mark Fairchild, Hyde volunteer coordinator, know if you are interested in volunteering at Hyde. Hyde has ordered a new video projector; hopefully, it will be installed by our next meeting.

Larry Hancock reminded everyone to sign up for the PAC/OAS banquet at Mahoney State Park on Friday, October 8. Money must be in by August 30. We have the lodge reserved for the entire day. The buffet is "all you can eat" and there will be a program and door prizes. Send your money and registration form to Liz Bergstrom, Treasurer.

Doug Bell reported that he, Erik Hubl, Bill Wells and Don Gasparetti recently met to continue to work to combat light pollution. Their previous work led to the passage of current regulations for outdoor lighting in Lincoln. If you are interested in working with the group, please talk to Doug. This will be an outreach program; they are interested in giving presentations to civic organizations about continuing and improving regulations.

Bob Leavitt reported that Brent Kasl's company can make a 6' x 2' vinyl club banner for less than \$50.00.

The club voted to serve lemonade instead of coffee at our monthly meetings for the summer months. Dave invited everyone to the Village Inn at 66th & O after the meeting. The meeting was adjourned. Martin Gaskell presented a very interesting program on making telescopes.

New Astronomy Club for Central Nebraska

The **Platte River Observers** is the most recent astronomy club in Nebraska; *it is still in the process of being formed!* It will serve the Grand Island/Hastings area of central Nebraska.

For further information (or if you want to join!) contact **Dan Glomski** at the J.M. McDonald Planetarium (at the Hastings Museum):

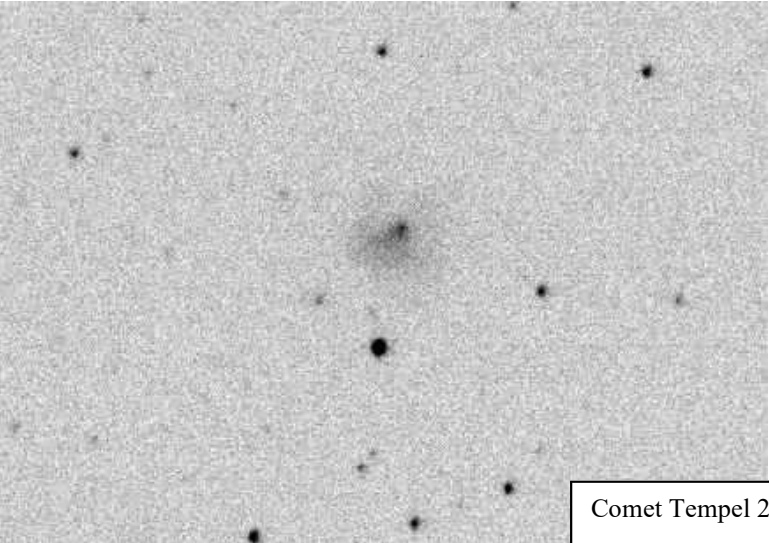
- Email: Dan Glomski, museum@tcgcs.com
- Telephone: 1-402-461-2399.

Thanks to Mark Fairchild for providing the above information

Pronouncing the Constellations

<i>Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>
Andromeda	An-DR0M-eh-dah	Lacerta	lah-SUR-tah
Antlia	ANT-lee-ah	Leo	LEE-oh
Apus	AY-puss	Leo Minor	LEE-oh My-ner
Aquarius	Ah-KWARE-ee-us	Lepus	LEE-pus
Aquila	AK-weh-lah	Libra	LIE-brah
Ara	AY-rah	Lupus	LOO-puss
Aries	AIR-ee-eez	Lynx	LINKS
Auriga	Oh-RYE-gah	Lyra	LIE-rah
Boötes	boh-OH-teez	Mensa	MEN-sah
Caelum	SEE-lum	Microscopium	MY-kroh-SKOH-pee-em
Camelopardalis	Kah-MEL-oh-PAR-dal-iss	Monoceros	Moh-NOSS-er-us
Cancer	KAN-sir	Musca	MUSS-kah
Canes Venatici	KAY-nee-z veh-NAT-ih-sigh	Norma	MOR-mah
Canis Major	KAY-niss MAY-ger	Octans	OCK-tanz
Canis Minor	KAY-niss My-ner	Ophiuchus	OFF-ee-YOO-kuss
Capricornus	KAP-rih-KOR-nus	Orion	Oh-RYE-un
Carina	kah-RYE-nah	Pavo	PAY-voh
Cassiopeia	KASS-ee-oh-PEE-uh	Pegasus	PEG-ah-suss
Centaurus	Sen-TAUR-us	Perseus	PURR-see-us
Cepheus	SEE-fee-us	Phoenix	FEE-nix
Cetus	SEE-tes	Pictor	PICK-ter
Chamaeleon	Kah-MEE-lee-un	Pisces	PIE-seez
Circinus	SUR-sih-nuss	Piscus Austrinus	PIE-siss-ass-TRI-nuss
Columba	Kah-LUM-bah	Puppis	PUP-iss
Coma Berenices	KOH-mah BARE-ah-NYE-seez	Pyxis	PICK-sis
Corona Australis	kah-ROH-nah ass-TRAY-liss	Reticulum	reh-TICK-yah-lum
Corona Borealis	Koh-ROH-nah BOH-ree-AL-liss	Sagitta	sa-JIT-tah
Corvus	KOR-vuss	Sagittarius	SAJ-eh-TARE-ee-us
Crater	KRAY-ter	Scorpius	SKOR-pee-us
Crux	KRUX	Sculptor	SKULP-ter
Cygnus	SIG-nuss	Scutum	SKOO-tem
Delphinus	Del-FIE-nes	Serpens	SUR-penz
Dorado	Doh-RAH-doh	Sextans	SEX-tanz
Draco	DRAY-koh	Taurus	TOR-ess
Equuleus	Eh-KWOO-lee-us	Telescopium	TEL-ah-SKOH-pee-em
Eridanus	Ih-RID'n-us	Triangulum	Tri-ANG-gyah-lum
Fornax	FOR-naks	Triangulum Australe	Tri-ANG-gyah-lum OSS-tray-lee
Gemini	JEM'n-eye	Tucana	Too-KAY-nah
Grus	GRUSS	Ursa Major	UR-sah MAY-ger
Hercules	HUR-kyuh-leez	Ursa Minor	UR-sah My-ner
Horologium	HOR-uh-LOW-jee-em	Vela	VEE-lah
Hydra	HY-drah	Virgo	VUR-go
Hydrus	HY-druss	Volans	VOH-lanz
Indus	INN-duss	Vulpecula	Vul-PECK-yoo-lah

NSP 6 Photos



Comet Tempel 2, 8"



NSP 6, A Wonderful Time for All

By Dave Knisely

This year's Nebraska Star Party was a wonderful combination of daytime family fun and nighttime observing under the pristine skies of the Nebraska Sandhills near Merritt Reservoir. NSP-6 provided over 300 people from as far away as Puerto Rico, Beijing, China and the United Arab Emirates with dark sky conditions and pleasant summer weather during most of the week.

Merritt Reservoir is an 11-mile long lake with miles of white sand beaches about 26 miles southwest of Valentine, Nebr. (Pop. 2890). Other than Valentine, there are no towns or cities of significant size within 75 miles of the observing site. That, coupled with the high rolling terrain (altitude 3100 ft.), make for skies which are very dark and ideal for Deep-Sky viewing. A number of observers at NSP have seen stars as faint as magnitude 7.5 to 8.0 with the unaided eye. The NSP observing fields are just south of the Snake Campground about 7.5 road miles from Merritt Resort near the south side of the lake, and cover an area of nearly 19 acres. Merritt Resort, located near the dam on the lake's northeast end, now boasts of a brand new restaurant known as "the Water's Edge", which gives customers a fine view of the wide white-sand beaches and the lake. NSP Registration was held downstairs in the new lounge/bar, where people could sip some liquid refreshment, play some pool, or watch the Weather Channel on the big screen TV while waiting to register. Many attendees camped at either the Snake Campground or Cedar Bay, while others stayed in the cabins at Merritt Resort or in motels in Valentine.

A few early birds arrived on Friday August 6th, and got in some observing before a few storms blew in. Saturday the 7th marked the official start of the star party, and was beautifully clear with pleasant temperatures in the mid 80's and low humidity. That evening brought out about 20 telescopes, including two 30 inch Obsessions and a number of other large Dobsonians. Most people started with the big "showpieces", and then switched to more difficult and distant targets. Two new additions to the NSP "repertoire" were a Televue Binoviewer on Tom Miller's 30 inch Obsession, and the new Type 4 Naglers. The binoviewer was the big hit, with M27 showing an almost three-dimensional effect. Indeed, the Dumbell showed virtually every detail shown in most photographs. The "Cat's Eye" nebula, NGC 6543 in Draco, gained considerably from the use of the binoviewer, with delicate arc-like detail spiraling into the middle of the brilliant greenish oval. Even the faint patchy outer shell was not terribly difficult to see. Globulars were astounding with the binoviewer, and the view of M11 seemed to give the observer a position sitting just beyond the outside edge of the cluster. The Type 4 Naglers also pleased the attendees, showing almost no astigmatism, field curvature, or distortion even when used at relatively short f/ratios.

Sunday was mostly devoted to registration and some water fun, as some braver souls went out on the lake to try their hand at wake-boarding behind Tom Miller's boat. Sunday evening brought the NSP public star party held north of the resort, where local residents could view some

of the brighter celestial wonders through four and six inch refractors, a 10 inch home-brew Newtonian, a Portaball 12.5 inch Newtonian, a 15 inch Obsession, and an LX-200 SCT. NSP-regular Lorri May of South Dakota did her visual star talk, pointing out the constellations and singing, "I'm a Little Teapot", as she explained the form of Sagittarius to the local residents.

As the public event was winding down, a short auroral display began on the northern horizon, with a low greenish band and a number of vertical rays. Back on the main observing fields, some observers were busy going after distant objects, but others were playing with binoculars after the wind began to kick up a bit. A huge pair of 20x125 inoculars gave glorious views of the Milky Way, and easily revealed the diffuse fuzzy bar of Barnard's Galaxy. M31 easily showed both of its spiral arms in the big binoculars, and the Double Cluster was spectacular in its rich Milky-Way field. Around 4 a.m., the Aurora started up again, this time with more ghostly spires and curtains which lasted into twilight.

Monday was again clear and sunny, with the start of the NSP Beginner's Field School, taught by NSP veteran Dave Hamilton of Lincoln, Nebr. with a little assistance from myself. The first session gave over 30 people on the observing fields an introduction into the basics of observing and amateur astronomy. Lorri May laid out the "Thousand Yard Solar System" along the twists and turns of the main road through the observing fields to give those present a taste of just how big the solar system really is. At around 7 p.m., attendees gathered on the observing field for the NSP Ice Cream social, where people struck up new friendships or renewed old ones. The first of the many door prizes were also given out. As darkness fell, the giants of Dob Row again went into action, swinging from object to object as if there weren't enough hours of darkness to use. A 24 inch and two 30 inch Obsessions, a couple of 20 inch scopes, several 18 and 16 inch Dobsonians, a pair of C14's, and a host of other smaller scopes from refractors to SCT's to home-brew Newtonians dotted the observing fields. A 22mm Type-4 Nagler and an OIII filter proved to be a killing combination when used on one of the 30 inch Obsessions. The Veil Nebula showed clear signs of faint orangish and bluish colors, with incredible structure which is only hinted at in photographs. Other people worked up and down the Milky Way, hunting some of the smaller planetary nebulae that hide among the stars. Seeing was also excellent, with eight and ten inch apertures easily showing the bluish companion of Antares during twilight. Once Jupiter and Saturn rose high above the eastern horizon well after midnight, the binoviewer once again went to work, rewarding those who stayed up late with nearly 3-D razor-sharp images of both planets. The Perseid meteor shower surprisingly put on a display of 15 to 30 per hour after midnight, with some being quite bright.

Tuesday afternoon began Day-2 of the Beginner's Field School, covering telescopes and accessories for the novice. The vendors began to set up at Merritt Resort, with a lot of people looking on.

Continued on page 7

The new Celestron NexStar 5 inch computer-slewed SCT was put through its paces by those who stopped by. Tuesday evening, a catered hamburger barbecue was held on the observing fields, although some clouds and winds from nearby thunderstorms prevented much viewing until the pre-dawn hours.

Wednesday dawned bright and clear again, with Day-3 of the Field School. In the afternoon, the emphasis turned to family fun, with the Great NSP Beach Party, held on the shores of the lake below Merritt Resort. Lots of people entered the water for swimming or water battles with huge squirt guns, while others sunned themselves on the beach or played sand volleyball. The NSP Sand Wedge contest brought out a number of would-be golfers to try their luck at hitting the flag. The two-legged races were fun to watch, as a few rather unequal combinations turned out to be the real winners! As for losers, NSP "Clear Skies Coordinator", Doug Bell became the "sitting duck" for a large sling-shot and a bunch of kids with water balloons. When no one could seem to come very close to hitting him, the kids grabbed the remaining balloons and charged Doug, thoroughly drenching him! After some of the fun died down, the big gas grille was fired up for the family barbecue. During the beach party, a mysterious stranger arrived who looked a bit like a "Thinner" version of Steven King! Some time later he reappeared on the observing fields and was quickly identified as none other than the NSP Keynote speaker Brian Skiff of Lowell Observatory. Brian moved among the groups of observers, although I had the treat of having him in my little group of observers for nearly two hours where we almost talked the night away. The skies were fairly good, with the Perseid meteor shower rate now past 40 per hour. More deep-sky observing through at least 35 telescopes went on until the wee hours of the morning, when some people cut things short to get a little sleep prior to the canoe/tubing trip. Thursday morning was bright and sunny, setting the stage for the Great NSP Canoe/tubing trip down the Niobrara Canyon. About 130 attendees either canoed a gentle 15 miles of this scenic river, or floated down on large inner tubes for about 8 miles. Those who went tubing often saw or got involved with some vicious water gun battles between rival groups of tubers. Both groups paused at Smith Falls State Park for lunch before continuing down the river, and some even stood beneath the icy waters which roared down the falls into the the Niobrara Canyon. All who took the trip had a great deal of fun. However, after the tubing trip, the skies clouded over and a cold wind blew fiercely, forcing an end to any thoughts of observing much that night.

Friday saw a shift in activities to the main auditorium and lobby of the Valentine High School for the formal

presentations. The Telescope Making contest was moved to the school due to the previous day's bad weather. In the Craftsmanship division, Robert Custer won for his home-brew wedge for his Meade ETX. The Technical Innovation award went to James Holloway for his Image Intensifier on a Celestron Comet Catcher, while the Useful Accessory award went to Ron Martin for his unique counterweight balancing system for his Dobsonian. The vendors were out in force in the lobby, doing a brisk business, while other attendees got involved in judging the displayed entries for the Astrophotography Contest. Pizza Hut provided attendees with the chance to buy lunch at the school without having to leave the lobby. In the Astrophotography Contest, the two pictures which got the greatest interest were the winners of the Wide Field category (Bill Bond of Omaha with a shot of the Sagittarius Milky Way), and the NSP category (a picture taken at sunset of the observing fields with telescopes on the hills by Leon Lewis of Sioux Falls South Dakota).

The formal presentations included Kathy Machin, the Astronomical League Award coordinator on "Your First Year As an Amateur Astronomer, Richard Wild on Observing the Moon, and Bill O'Donnel of the Omaha Astronomical Society on "Getting the Most from Your Astronomy Club". Bill's talk provided the basis for a brief forum on solutions to the problems associated with forming a club and keeping it active. The keynote address was by Brian Skiff of Lowell Observatory, entitled, "Where is the 'Edge' in Deep-Sky Observing Now?". Brian showed us what is possible with observing, and posed a number of challenging areas for amateurs to delve into.

Friday evening proved to be another good NSP night, with mostly clear skies and cool temperatures which virtually extinguished the few mosquitoes that had been present during the week. Brian Skiff again made the rounds of the observing fields, and helped a number of observers find two adjacent planetary nebulae he had talked about in his presentation: IC 1295 in Scutum, and its tiny nearly stellar neighbor PK 25-4.1, only 5.7 arc minutes to its southwest. The Perseids really put on a fine display, with a number of bright meteors leaving short trails, and rates which hit 60 per hour.

Saturday was partly cloudy, and found most attendees packing up for the long trip home. Many people commented that this year's Nebraska Star Party was the best of the six NSP's which have so far been put on, and most are looking forward to next year's event.

David Knisely

Not Quite the NSP Star Party Report

We had a fun time at the "not-quite-the-NSP" star party this evening. I counted 15 people out in Earl's pasture.

Unfortunately the clouds came in much sooner than had been forecast, but we got some observing in anyhow. In the small-aperture category we had Ron Veys 5-mm (or was it 10-mm?) refractor.

Next we had a lot of 60-mm refractors, (including Bill Wells one on a rock steady bowling-ball mount). Margaret Fairchild had their family 3-inch Newtonian. The second biggest telescope was Jack Dunn's 3.5-inch ETX (superb views).

And in the large-aperture class we had Kelly Crowley's mighty 6-inch (Kelly's mom got to see that this strange thing we had helped her daughter make really worked!).

Despite the poor transparency the seeing was rock steady. Kelly's telescope revealed the gibbous phase of Mars easily and I could see some of the surface features. Deep sky objects observed included M7 (or was it M6? - whatever it was they were pretty excited by it!), Alcor and Mizar (looked just perfect in Liz Klimek's 60-mm), and Alberio. While trying to find then Ring Nebula almost exactly in the zenith with Kelly's 6-inch I was reminded why I strongly prefer equatorials to Dobsonians!

Jack helped our dark adaption by taking some digital flash pictures so you might see documentation of this event.

Article by Martin - Photos and captions by Jack Dunn aided by Liz

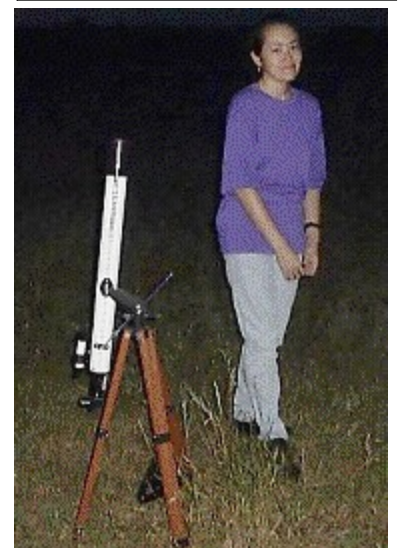


Ron demonstrates the behemoth Veyscope.

Martin adjusts Kelly's scope



Liz has found the zenith



Note the all axis guiding.



NSPS (Nebraska Star Party South)

While many of you were away to NSP 6, some of us left behind tried to duplicate your fun and friendship, and managed to do pretty good with help from the weather. Below are some posts from the pac-list on some of the things you missed back home:

"There have been some excellent observing sessions at Nebraska Star Party South at Wagon Train Lake. Wednesday night has already been mentioned by Jeff King. Thursday night (8/12/99) we went again, and there was a pretty nice group, Don Gasperetti and his daughter Angela, Jeff King and family, new faces Thane and Carolyn, and myself. Thane has a fine home-brew 8" equatorial, complete with clock drive, and Carolyn (I hope I remembered the right name) has an Orion 80 mm. short tube refractor.

The skies were very good again, with visibility down to 5th magnitude or better, but a cold wind came up, and Don had to take down his 18" and I couldn't take follow up shots of Comet Temple2, though I did see it again in my 10". I identified M9 to show that I wasn't looking at it instead of the comet.

There were some nice Perseid meteors, and others too, but not as many as I had hoped for, probably only 20 or so in about 2 hours. Everyone but me saw what sounded like a head on Perseid (by description and location). I suggested that if it started getting hot it might be time to duck! We all froze out after Jupiter came up.

Friday night my wife Nanci and I went out again. It was cool and calm and the skies were fantastic again. Nanci saw a Perseid that she says was the best meteor she has ever seen, and I got to take the follow up shots of comet Temple2. Unfortunately no body else was at the regular site to share it with."

Bill Wells



Photo of the southern Milky Way from Wagon Train Lake, courtesy Jeff King

Photo of the Milky Way taken from Wagon Train Lake
Courtesy of Bill Wells



"Bill Wells and I made it out to Wagon Train Lake last night (8/11/99), just after the weather front moved through. We had beautiful, clear skies with wonderful seeing conditions (and a great lightning show to the Northeast). Bill had brought his 10" telescope in case the Perseids didn't put on a show for us, and we took a look at M8, M31, M33, M51, comet Tempel 2, M8, M22, M27, and a few others I can't remember right now. We also took a look at Jupiter and Saturn low in the East. As for the Perseids, we probably saw between 15-30 as we didn't keep count (between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m.). Some left some bright trails, one lasting quite a long time. There seemed to be a lot of sporadics, too. After that a cloud bank moved in from the West and I gave up and went home." Jeff King

Powell Hosts A Very Active Astronomy Group

By Bill Wells

On July 28, 1999, on a visit to Overland Park, Ks., I met with Tom Martinez of the Astronomical Society of Kansas City. He invited me to visit him at the Powell Observatory near Lynchburg, Kansas. Powell Observatory is less than 1/2 hour south of Overland Park, but pretty well removed from the light pollution of the Kansas City area, probably similar to our Wagon Train Lake observing site. The road is paved and marked all the way to the site, which has a large building with several meeting rooms, and a dome for their 30 inch F5 Newtonian telescope. They also have some nice mounts for large binoculars (like 20 X 80) that we used to look at Venus and try to find comet Lynn.

The big news at ASKC is a very serious project they have undertaken to find and observe asteroids and supernova. The night I was there, there were at least half a dozen amateur astronomers there in a little room with about as many computers hooked to the internet and a 12" Meade LX-200 with a SBIG ST7E CCD camera checking out a certain asteroid! One person is deciding which asteroid or area of the sky to check, one is running the telescope and CCD camera (all by remote control), another is 'reducing' the data on a computer, and others are checking the internet for other stuff to check or look for. It is a real impressive operation. One real nice thing about the operation was

the air-conditioning,(it was close to 100 deg. F. that day) or heating in the winter.

The 12" LX-200 is operating at F6.95 with a focal reducer, and the 30" Newtonian is currently being refurbished, and with the addition of a focal reducer it will be F2.5! The plan is to install a SBIG ST7E CCD camera on it also. It is a really big telescope, for those that have been to Behlen Observatory, that telescope is a 30" also. If anyone is interested in trying their luck with CCD Cameras for astrophotography, there are some folks down there that know what works and what doesn't, that would be glad to pass along what information they can. The website for the ASKC asteroid group is:

<http://216.71.129.148/askcasteroids/index.html>. There are some really neat images and information there. The website for the Astronomical Society of Kansas City is: <http://www.sound.net/~askc/> . It was really great to see such an active group in operation.

Pictures of the Telescope Making Marathon



The complete story in a future "The Prairie Astronomer"
Photo's courtesy of Mark Fairchild





THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB CALENDAR

For September 1999

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

September Volunteer Schedule for Hyde Observatory: 09/04: Joe Babcock, Ron Debus, Jason Busch, Dan Schearf 09/11: Don Gasparetti, Angela Gasparetti, Mark Fairchild, Rekha Rajagopal 09/18: Jerry Williams, Tom Miller, Luke Breinig, Bev Hetzl 09/25: Mike Kritikos, Mark & Margaret Fairchild, Mike Benes, Sid Doher			1	2 3 RD QUARTER 	3	4 Hyde Observatory open to the public sunset-11 PM
5	6	7	8	9 NEW MOON 	10 Club Star Party Mahoney Star Party	11 Hyde Observatory open to the public sunset-11 PM
12 Volunteer Practice Night; sundown to 10 p.m.	13	14	15	16	17 1 ST QUARTER 	18 Hyde Observatory open to the public sunset-11 PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Hyde Observatory open to the public sunset-11 PM FULL MOON 
26	27	28 PAC Meeting 7:30 PM Hyde Observatory	29	30	Mahoney Star Party Dates September 10, 1999 October 8, 1999	

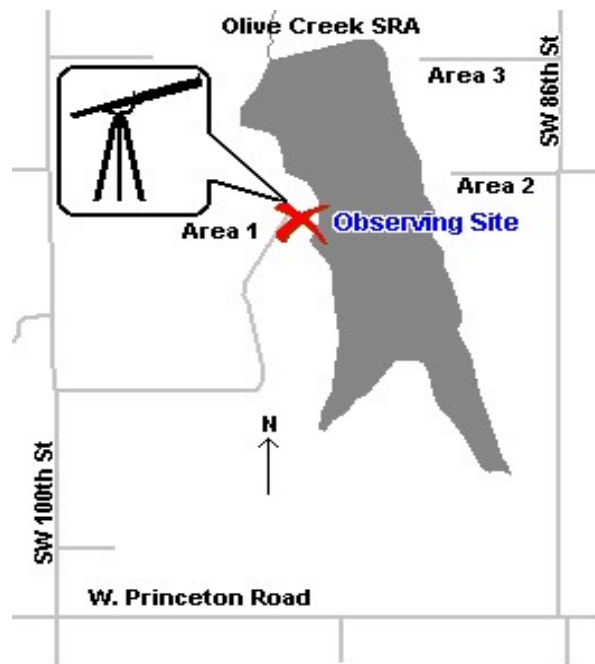
Great Plains Star Party

October 7-10

Scopeville, south of Osawatomie, Kansas. Contact Walt Robinson, 515 West Kump, Bonner Springs, KS 66012 (913) 422-1262

Directions to Olive Creek SRA Observing Site

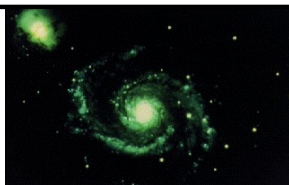
From Lincoln, take Hwy 77 south to Hwy 33. Take Hwy 33 west (toward Crete) for 9 miles to SW 114th St. Take SW 114th Street south 4 miles (almost to Kramer). Go east 1 mile on W. Panama Rd, then south 1.5 miles on SW 100th. We set up in area 1 on the west side of the lake.



OFFICERS OF THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB

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First Class Mail

Next PAC Meeting
August 31, 1999
7:30 PM
Hyde Observatory