

# THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER

The Official Newsletter Of The Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc.

February 2007

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## Internet Addresses

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 OAS: [www.OmahaAstro.com](http://www.OmahaAstro.com)  
 Hyde Observatory [www.hydeobservatory.info](http://www.hydeobservatory.info)  
 NEB-STAR [www.neb-star.org](http://www.neb-star.org)

## Club Events

**PAC Club Meeting**  
 Tuesday, February 27, 2007 7:30pm

**Club Star Party**  
 Friday, March 16, 2007

**PAC Club Meeting**  
 Tuesday, March 27, 2007 7:30pm @ Hyde Obsv.

**Club Star Party**  
 Friday, April 13, 2007

## Program

**February Meeting: "How to Clean Telescope Optics"** Dave Knisely will present a short program on how to clean optics. Jack Dunn will talk about the MirrorDome full-dome projection system, and might also have some JPL video clips to show.

**PAC-LIST:** You may subscribe to the PAC listserv by sending an e-mail message to: [imailsrv@prairieastronomyclub.org](mailto:imailsrv@prairieastronomyclub.org). In the body of the message, write "Subscribe PAC-List your-email-address@your-domain.com"

For example:  
 Subscribe pac-list stargazer@myISP.com

To post messages to the list, send to the address [pac-list@prairieastronomyclub.org](mailto:pac-list@prairieastronomyclub.org)

**Club star parties: March 16, April 13, May 11, June 15, July 6, August 10, Sept 7, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 7.**

**Mahoney star parties: May 18, June 15, July 13, August 10, Sept 14.**

**NSP: July 15-20**

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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 \$30/yr, Family \$35/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: **Mark Dahmke, PO Box 80266, Lincoln, NE 68501 or [mdahmke@4w.com](mailto:mdahmke@4w.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

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Ron Veys called the meeting to order. There were 15 visitors. Ron discussed upcoming club events:

- The next club star party will be held Friday, February 16 at the farm.
- The next club meeting will be Tuesday, February 27.
- Hyde Observatory is open from 7:00 – 10:00 pm on Saturdays. A training session for new volunteers will be held on March 7.

Treasurer's report: Lee Thomas reported the club has total assets of \$36,550.56.

Ron reminded PAC members that the club offers a 10% discount on membership renewals for those who renew prior to their annual renewal date.

Jack Dunn is looking for ideas for PAC programs.

NSP 2007 will be held July 15 – 20.

Ron reviewed upcoming observing highlights for the month of February.

The meeting was adjourned to the program. Brian Sivill presented our annual "Learn to Use Your Telescope" program. Several club members brought telescopes and astronomy accessories to demonstrate to the visitors, and several visitors received individual assistance with their telescopes.

Submitted by,  
Bob Leavitt

## Club Telescopes – Checkout Policy

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To check out one of the club telescopes, contact **Brian Sivill** or [nanoamps@windstream.net](mailto:nanoamps@windstream.net). If you keep a scope for more than a week, please check in with Brian once a week, to verify the location of the telescope and how long you plan to use it. The checkout time limit will be two weeks, but can be extended if no one else has requested use of a club scope.

## Hyde Observatory Volunteer Schedule

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Date	Team Leader	Operators		Supervisor	Events
2/24/2007	Steve Lloyd	Dave Hamilton	Josh Machacek	Dan Delzell	
3/3/2007	Dave Brokofsky	Mitch Paine	Bill Wells	Erik Hubl	
3/10/2007	Delzell, Dan	Dave Churilla	Joey Churilla	Steve Lloyd	
3/17/2007	Dave Hamilton	Bob Kacvinski	Jeff King	Ron Veys	
3/24/2007	Steve Lloyd	Jim Kvasnicka	Bob Leavitt		
3/31/2007	Dave Hamilton	Josh Machacek	Mitch Paine		
<b>Summer Hours: March through September (Sundown to 11:00 PM)</b>					
<b>Winter Hours: October through February (7:00 PM to 10:00 PM)</b>					

## Learn How to Use Your Telescope Program—Bob Leavitt

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On January 30th Pac presented its annual “Learn To Use Your Telescope” program. About 15 visitors attended the program, and 4 of them brought along their own telescopes.

Brian Sivill opened the program with a basic introduction to telescopes and observing tips. This was followed by breakout sessions - individual assistance for those who brought telescopes and small group sessions for visitors to see telescopes up close and learn more about them.

Dave Knisely, Steve Lloyd, Jim Kvasnicka, and Dan Delzell brought telescopes for the visitor demonstrations.. Dave Churilla rounded out the program by providing a couple of tables with star charts, atlases, accessories and handouts for the visitors.

In the breakout sessions, club members worked with visitors to get their scopes set up. Two of our newer club members, Cedric Gibb and Cassie Edmund, brought along their telescopes and received similar assistance. Then everyone went outside to try their luck at some observing. The scopes had to be lined up on the sidewalk due to the snowy grounds. Though the night was cold (around 10 degrees) it was clear and the waxing gibbous moon was in the eastern sky. We helped people find the moon, a few stars, and the Orion Nebula.

In sum, it was an enjoyable evening and a successful public outreach event. Below you will find some pictures from the event, courtesy Lee Taylor and Jack Dunn.



## Lunar Eclipse on March 3rd

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When the Moon rises at sunset on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, a total lunar eclipse will already be underway. As viewed from Lincoln, the Moon will already be eclipsed (in Totality). It will leave totality by 7:11pm and the complete eclipse will be over by 8:25pm. (Thanks to Dave Churilla for looking up the dates and times).

Moon rise: 6:18pm, Azimuth 81.2 degrees, Magnitude 0.773

Moon leaves umbra: 7:11pm, Azimuth: 89.9 degrees, Altitude: 9 degrees.

Moon leaves penumbra: 8:25pm, Azimuth: 102.3 degrees, Altitude 22.3 degrees.

Moon set: 7:14am March 4<sup>th</sup>, Azimuth: 274.7 degrees.

# Events Calendar

March 2007						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2 	3 
				Sun: 07:00 - 18:16	Sun: 06:59 - 18:17	Sun: 06:57 - 18:18 Hyde Observatory Open to the Public
4 	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 
Sun: 06:56 - 18:19	Sun: 06:54 - 18:20	Sun: 06:53 - 18:22	Sun: 06:51 - 18:23	Sun: 06:49 - 18:24	Sun: 06:48 - 18:25	Sun: 06:46 - 18:26 Hyde Observatory Open to the Public
11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 
Sun: 06:45 - 18:27 Moon close to Antares	Sun: 06:43 - 18:28	Sun: 06:41 - 18:29	Sun: 06:40 - 18:30	Sun: 06:38 - 18:31	Sun: 06:37 - 18:33 Club Star Party; Moon close to Mars	Sun: 06:35 - 18:34 Hyde Observatory Open to the Public
18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 
Sun: 18:34 - 06:35	Sun: 18:32 - 06:36	Sun: 18:31 - 06:37	Sun: 18:29 - 06:38	Sun: 18:27 - 06:40	Sun: 18:26 - 06:41	Sun: 18:24 - 06:42 Hyde Observatory Open to the Public
25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	31 
Sun: 18:22 - 06:43	Sun: 18:21 - 06:44	Sun: 18:19 - 06:45 PAC Club Meeting	Sun: 18:17 - 06:46	Sun: 18:16 - 06:47	Sun: 18:14 - 06:48	Sun: 18:12 - 06:49 Hyde Observatory Open to the Public

Moon phase images by: António Cidadão

**Directions to Olive Creek  
Observing Site**

Shorter:

Take Hwy 77 South out of Lincoln until you get to the Crete corner (junction Hwy 77 and Hwy 33). Go West on Hwy 33 (toward Crete) until you get to SW 72 St. Turn Left (South) on SW 72 St. and go about 5 miles until you get to SW Panama Rd. Turn right (West) until you get to SW 100 St. (SW 100 St does NOT go through to Hwy 33). Turn Left (South) on SW 100 St and go about 1 to 1 1/2 miles until you see the sign and entrance to Olive Creek (this is the West side of the Park). It's on your left (East) side of the road.

More Black Top:

Take Hwy 77 South out of Lincoln until you get to the Crete corner (junction Hwy 77 and Hwy 33). Go West on Hwy 33 (toward Crete) until you get to about SW 114 St. - the first intersection after SW 100 St. (forgot to look at this street sign, sorry - you'll see a sign for Olive Creek though at this road- but don't count on anymore signs after that, I didn't see any). Turn Left (South) on SW 114 St and go about 5 miles or so until you get to SW Panama Rd (you'll see a church and small school on your right). Turn Left (East) and go about a mile to SW 100 St, then turn Right (South) and go 1 to 1 1/2 miles until you see the Olive Creek entrance and sign (on your left hand side of the road).

**OFFICERS  
OF THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB**

**PRESIDENT:** Ron Veys  
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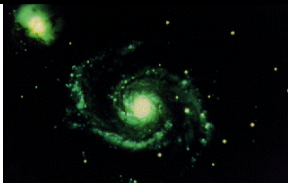
**2nd VICE PRESIDENT** Jack Dunn  
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**The Prairie Astronomer  
c/o The Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc.  
P.O. Box 5585  
Lincoln, NE 68505-0585**

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First Class Mail

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**Next PAC Meeting  
Feb. 27, 2007  
7:30 PM  
Hyde Observatory**

«TITLE» «FIRSTNAME» «MIDDLENAME» «LASTNAME» «RENEWALDATE»  
«CAREOF»  
«ADDRESS1»  
«ADDRESS2»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»