



Panhandle Astronomy Club

"Amateur Astronomy & Education"



THE SCOPE

Volume 3 Issue 4

April 2008

MEET & GREET

to be held
March 13
7:00 pm
Gering

We will be discussing the upcoming Western Nebraska Star Gaze and finalizing all the plans for this event. We are in need of volunteers to assist with this event if you are interested in helping during the event or have ideas plan on attending this meeting.

MAY PRESENTATION

None



CLUB TELESCOPE RAFFLE

The club is raffling off a Meade ETX-125PE 5" go-to Astro-Tube Premier Edition Maksutov—with UHTC optics, tripod, AutoStar Computer, and AutoStar Software Suite.

The tickets are \$1.00 each. The drawing will be held on June 1, 2008, 11:00 am at the Western Nebraska Star Gaze III; Camp Clarke Raiders Range in Bridgeport, Nebraska. Need not be present to win.

Club members are asked to help sell tickets for this club fundraiser. If you have not already done so, you can pick up your tickets from Bruce by calling 308-641-5874 or Jon at Webber's Furniture. If you are unable to assist the club by selling tickets please consider purchasing some.

For additional information on the telescope being raffled off visit:
<http://tiny.cc/MSkPn> or
<http://www.optcorp.com/product.aspx?pid=4259>



CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

Club Observation Night

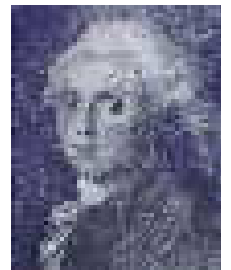
(Weather Permitting)

MESSIER MARATHON

April 11, 2008

Wildcat Hills Campground

Host: Bruce & Virginia Mues



Join us for an evening of star clusters and nebulae! Many of the Messier objects can be seen with binoculars and some with the naked eye. If you have a three-inch reflector or better you'll be able to find them all.

Bruce Mues will be sharing information about the marathon at the meet and greet on April 8th, 7:00 pm held at the Gering Public Library Community Room (basement), so if you are new to the Messier Marathon or planning to attend the event, please plan to attend the meet and greet.

Your observing will not go unnoticed. There will be awards in recognition of effort. The guidelines are pretty simple: It's the honor system, no one is going to be looking over your shoulder to verify your observations, you'll be given an observing list to assist you in keeping track of your observations, fill out the headings, find the objects, observe it with your eye, mark off the entry and go to the next object. When you are finished turn in your list to Bruce or Virginia Mues before you leave the site. Awards will be issued in a timely manner following the event.

If you are not interested in the marathon, come anyway! Enjoy a night of observing, astrophotography or just plain old socializing. A Park Entry Permit is need on all vehicles entering the Wildcat Hills Area.

Panhandle Astronomy Club Minutes of Meeting

Meeting: The March Meeting was held on March 11, 2008 at the Gering Public Library. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by president, Bruce Mues. Members present were Chris Smith, Amanda Mues, Bruce Mues, Virginia Mues, Jon Smith, Manuel Strauch, Johnny Escamilla and friend.

Minutes: A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Chris Olsen and seconded by Amanda Mues.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report was given by Jon Smith. It was reported that we have a balance of 1520.57 + one new membership. The motion to accept the annual financial report was made by Amanda Mues and seconded by Virginia Mues.

Presentation: Virginia Mues gave a short presentation on the new Night Sky Network Toolkit.

Outreach: The Western Nebraska Home Educators Network Astronomy Class will continue through March 31. The Scottsbluff National Monument Outreach will be held on Tuesday August 5th. Astronomy Day is scheduled for May 10.

New Members: Please join us in welcoming Steve Thompson from Alliance to the Panhandle Astronomy Club

Observing:

Club Observation Nights: The Club Observation Night scheduled for March 7 was hosted by Bruce and Virginia Mues and held at the Oregon Trail Park in Gering. There were four homeschool youth and five adults present. The evening was cloudy. We did not have any volunteers for the Club Observation Night to be held on April 4th, so this event was cancelled.

Public Star Parties: The Homeschool Star Party was cancelled. The weather did not cooperate that evening anyway. The April 11th Public Star Party will be the Messier Marathon and will be hosted by Bruce and Virginia Mues. This event will be held at the Wildcat Hills Campground.

Western Nebraska Star Gaze III: Jon Smith gave a couple of updates on items he's been working on. No other reports were given.

Nebraska Star Party: is planned for July 27-August 1, 2008. Brochures were distributed to club members present.

Old Business: The Telescope for the raffle has arrived and Jon printed up tickets and distributed them at the meeting. An email was sent to club members about picking up their raffle tickets from Bruce or Jon. Johnny had invited a guest to speak about the Renaissance Festival but they were unable to attend this month, possibly next month.

New Business: Astronomy Day to be held on May 10th was discussed. Bruce will call the mall and set up this event from 10-2 that day. Virginia will ask members of the homeschool astronomy class to bring their displays to the next club meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm through a motion made by Bruce and seconded by Chris.

ASTRONOMY DAY

May 10, 2008
10am to 2pm
Monument Mall

Astronomy Day is a grass roots movement designed to share the joy of astronomy with the general population.

Join us at the Mall
as we promote
astronomy and
Astronomy Day

The Panhandle Astronomy Club
is a member of the following organizations:



CLUB OFFICERS

President

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Secretary

Virginia Mues
641-1201

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April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>New Moon</i>	7	8 ASTRONOMY MEET & GREET Gering Public Library 7:00 pm	9	10	11 MESSIER MARATHON	12 <i>First Quarter Moon</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Full Moon</i>	21	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24	25	26
27	28 <i>Last Quarter Moon</i>	29	30			

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Panhandle Astronomy Club
The Scope

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PANHANDLE ASTRONOMY CLUB

The Panhandle Astronomy Club was founded in the Fall of 2005. Anyone with an interest in astronomy is welcome. Members are not required to own any equipment or have prior knowledge of astronomy. For more information on the Panhandle Astronomy Club log on to any of the following:

PAC Email: info@panhandleastronomyclub.com

PAC Website: www.panhandleastronomyclub.com

PAC Photo's: panhandleastronomyclub.myphotoalbum.com/albums.php

PAC Yahoo Group: tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PanhandleAstronomyClub

2008 Western Nebraska Star Gaze: tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Western_Nebraska_Star_Gaze/

The Scope

Virginia Mues, Newsletter Editor

The Scope is an official monthly publication of the Panhandle Astronomy Club.

Submissions to *The Scope* are due by the Fourth Tuesday of the month. Guest columns are welcome.

Subscriptions for *The Scope* are \$20.00 per year for Individual Membership, \$15.00 per year for Student Membership and \$30.00 per year for Family Membership. *The Scope* is printed year round, January 1 through December 31.

Contact the Panhandle Astronomy Club c/o Virginia Mues, Newsletter Editor at P.O. Box 987, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69363-0987; 308-641-1201.

The views and opinions expressed in *The Scope* do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of any of the members of the Panhandle Astronomy Club. All mistakes are included for your entertainment!

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