



Panhandle Astronomy Club

"Amateur Astronomy & Education"



THE SCOPE

Volume 3 Issue 1

January 2008

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

& ELECTIONS

to be held

January 8

7:00 pm

Gering Public Library

The annual board meeting and election of officers is scheduled for January 8th.

We will be voting on President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Night Sky Coordinators, ALCor & Standing Committee Chairpersons.

CLUB PHOTOGRAPH

We will be taking a club photograph at the January Meeting. Orders will be taken at the meeting. Estimated cost will be around 4 dollars for an 8X10 photo.



Roger Leafgreen

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership by the January 8th meeting. Forms can be found in this newsletter. New member dues paid after October 1 are good through December 31 of the following year. Check your address for your expiration date.

New Membership Forms

We have new membership forms! If you've already paid for 2008 you do not need to fill out the new form, but are welcome to. We will use the updated information in the directory that will come out at the February Meeting.

January 2008 Events

Mars starts out the year in spectacular fashion, rising in the east in twilight and as bright as the brightest stars. Earth passed Mars on the "inside track" in late December and is now pulling ahead of the Red Planet. Throughout January use the unaided eye, binoculars, or a telescope to see Mars changing its position as it and Earth orbit the sun. Most telescopes will reveal an ice cap on Mars, and larger telescopes will show lots of detail. With Earth pulling ahead of Mars every day, by the end of the month Mars will be noticeably dimmer, but still as bright as a bright star. And just in case that goofy e-mail makes its return - no, Mars is *not* going to look as big as the moon!

Earth will be closest to the sun for the year on January 2nd. The Quadrantid meteor shower will peak on January 3rd. The thin crescent moon should not brighten the sky enough to cut down on the numbers of visible meteors. Observers far from lights can reasonably expect to see a dozen or so meteors per hour, but city observers will see almost none at all.

January 8-31 will be a good time to see Mercury. Watch for it low in the west-southwest during evening twilight, appearing as a somewhat pink, medium-bright star-like object.

The nearly full moon will appear right beside bright Mars in the eastern sky, both visible together in the same binocular view. This is a great opportunity to see the moon's motion. Use binoculars to observe the moon and Mars every hour, and you'll easily see the apparent gap between them grow as the moon orbits Earth.

Venus and Jupiter will be in the same binocular view pre-dawn from January 27-February 6.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Western Nebraska Home Educators Network

Astronomy Class
January 21 & 28, 2008
Gering Baptist Church
10:00 to 11:00 am

The Spring Astronomy Class begins on January 21 and will run through March 17th. A homeschool star party is planned for March 14th and will be open to the public. Students in the class have been assigned a planet and a constellation to research and will have displays and presentations ready to present to the public on that day.

This month the class will be learning about and discussing Earth on January 21 and the moon on January 28.

CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

Club Observation Night
 (Weather Permitting)
January 4, 2008
Gering Swimming Pool Parking Lot
6:00 pm

Have questions about your scope, still learning the night sky, or working on an observing challenge? Come to the Club Observation Night and seek the help you need from your fellow amateur astronomers. Bring your binoculars, scopes, accessories, and lawn chair, if you have them. All club members are welcome with or without a telescope. Remember to bring extra clothing to change into as the nights are darn right cold this time of year. Red flashlights are encouraged for this event. If you don't have one ask one of the club officers how you can make your white light red.

This event will be held, unless the weather does not allow it. General rule of thumb, if it is 75%-100% overcast, raining or snowing, in other words, you can not see any stars do not come. If there are high, thin clouds, but stars are visible plan on attending.

PUBLIC STAR PARTIES

Panhandle Astronomy Club
PUBLIC STAR PARTY
 (Weather Permitting)
January 11, 2008
Gering Swimming Pool Parking Lot
Arrive 5:30 pm starts at 6:00 pm

Here's an opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. out to enjoy the night sky with club members. Walk through the constellations during a constellation tour and look through telescopes and binoculars at deep sky objects, planets and more! Don't forget to remind your guests to bundle up, winter nights are cold, cold, cold!

This event will be held, unless the weather does not allow it. General rule of thumb, if it is 75%-100% overcast, raining or snowing, in other words, you can not see any stars do not come. If there are high, thin clouds, but stars are visible plan on attending.

2008 Meteor Showers

Quadrantids January 4, morning Crescent
Lyrids night of April 21/22 almost Full
Eta Aquarids May 5, morning/evening New Moon
Perseids August 12, morning Sets around 2 a.m.
Orionids October 21, morning Rises around 1 a.m.
Leonids November 17, morning Rises late evening
Geminids December 13, evening Full Moon

ASTRONOMY LINKS

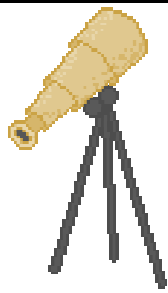
COMET CHASING

Interested in chasing comets? Want to keep up on Comet Holmes? Interested in finding other comets? Check out Comet Chasing on the internet at www.cometchasing.skyhound.com/index.html

NIGHT SKY INFO.

Want to know what is in the sky this week. Check out Night Sky Info. at www.nightskyinfo.com/

Western Nebraska Star Gaze III
May 29, 30, 31 & June 1, 2008
Camp Clarke Raiders Black Powder Range
 (near Bridgeport, Nebraska)



Panhandle Astronomy Club

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THE SCOPE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 8th** Annual PAC Board Meeting & Elections
- March 14** Homeschool Star Party
- May 10** Astronomy Day
- May 29-June 1** Western Nebraska Star Gaze III
- June 20 & 21** Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League Conference
- July 2-6** Rocky Mountain Star Stare
- July 17-19** Astronomical League Convention and Exposition (ALCON)
- July 27-August 1** Nebraska Star Party
- July 31-August 2** Wyoming Star Party
- August ??** National Night Out
- October ??** Kidz Explore

Meet & Greet Dates

(Second Tuesday unless otherwise noted *)

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| February 12 | July 8 |
| March 11 | August 12 |
| April 8 | September 9 |
| May 13 | October 14 |
| June 17* | November 11 |

Newsletter Submissions Dates

(Fourth Tuesday unless otherwise noted *)

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| January 22 | July 22 |
| February 26 | August 26 |
| March 25 | September 23 |
| April 29 | October 28 |
| May 27 | November 25 |
| June 24 | December 30* |

Moon Phases

New	1st Qtr	Full	Last Qtr
01/08	01/15	01/22	01/30
02/07	02/14	02/21	02/29
03/07	03/14	03/21	09/29
04/06	04/12	04/20	04/28
05/05	05/12	05/20	05/28
06/03	06/10	06/18	06/26
07/03	07/10	07/18	07/25
08/01	08/08	08/16	08/23
08/30	09/07	09/15	09/22
09/29	10/07	10/14	10/21
10/28	11/06	11/13	11/19
11/27	12/05	12/12	12/19
12/27			

Club Observation Nights

weather permitting

- January 4**
- February 8**
- March 7**
- April 4**
- May 2**
- June 6**
- July**
- August 29**
- September 26**
- October 24**
- November 28**
- December**

Public Outreach Dates

weather permitting

- January 11**
- February 1**
- March 14**
- April 11**
- May 10**
- June 27**
- July 11**
- August 22**
- September 5**
- October 3**
- November 21**
- December**



VISIT US ONLINE

Visit the Panhandle Astronomy Club web site at:

www.panhandleastronomyclub.com

or join our yahoo group at:

tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PanhandleAstronomyClub

or see the latest club photo's at:

panhandleastronomyclub.myphotoalbum.com/albums.php

Updates on the 2008 Western Nebraska Star Gaze can be found:

tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Western_Nebraska_Star_Gaze/

Night Sky Network

Astronomy Clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public



Mid States Region



NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Cathy Eastman Family, Donald & Shirley Edwards,
Dottie Graham, Patty & Bill Heitz, Gary Himes,
Bruce Mues Family and Tami Reichert

Recent Observing Awards

None

As members of the Panhandle Astronomy Club you can earn a variety of observing awards through the Astronomical League. For more information on the awards log on to: www.astroleague.org/observing.html

When you have reached the requisite number of objects, your observing logs need to be turned into Bruce Mues and you will receive a certificate and pin to proclaim to all that you have reached your goal.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Bruce Mues 641-5874

bmues@charter.net

Vice President: Chris Olsen 436-5797

colsen_65@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jon Smith 635-0969

windwalker11@earthlink.net

Secretary: Virginia Mues 641-1201

astromues@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Virginia Mues 641-1201

astromues@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Bruce Mues 641-5874

bmues@charter.net

Night Sky Coordinator: Roger Leafgreen

637-0067

rleafgreenj@charter.net

ALCor: Bruce Mues 641-5874

bmues@charter.net

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Members receive the SCOPE, our monthly newsletter.
- Participation in monthly club observation nights and annual star parties.
- Each member is automatically a member of the Astronomical League, the only nation-wide organization for amateur astronomers.
- Free subscription to the Astronomical League's quarterly publication "The Reflector".
- 10% discount on astronomy books when purchased through the Astronomical League.
- Participation in both regional and national conventions through the Astronomical League.
- Membership in the Night Sky Network.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Individual	\$ 20.00
Student	\$ 15.00
Family	\$ 30.00

Send your check to:

Panhandle Astronomy Club
PO Box 987
Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

Article III - Membership

Section I: **Criteria**

1. Membership shall be open to anyone with an interest in astronomy.
2. Membership shall not be denied based on race, creed, ethnic background, or for any other reason.
3. To retain membership within the club the individual, student or family must have current dues paid. If dues are not paid, membership will be temporarily revoked until dues are renewed.
4. Any member may be dropped from membership by a 2/3 vote of members present after a show of due cause.

Section II: **Categories**

1. Membership shall consist of individuals and families whose dues are current.
2. Members shall consist of the following classes:
 - A. Individual Membership:
An individual whose regular dues are paid to the current date.
 - B. Student Membership:
An individual enrolled as a full time student in any elementary, high school, college or university, who presents evidence of that status to the Treasurer upon payment of annual dues to the club.
 - C. Family Membership
All family members who reside at the same address.

Section III: **Dues**

1. Dues will be assessed to cover the costs of operation, maintenance and improvement of club assets.
2. Dues shall cover a twelve-month period starting January 1st and ending December 31st.
3. Dues are due by the January Club Meeting.
4. Dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the board and may be changed with a majority vote of the board.
5. Dues for each category of member shall be as follows:
 - A. Individual Membership: \$20.00 per year
 - B. Student Membership: \$15.00 per year
 - C. Family Membership: \$30.00 per year
6. New member dues paid after October 1 are good through December 31 of the following year.
7. Dues may be changed only through amendment of these By-Laws.
8. Scholarships based on Financial Need are available to those who can not afford dues but would like to be involved in the club.

Section VII: **Duties of Officers**

1. **President:** The president shall be the chief executive office of the Panhandle Astronomy Club and shall preside over all business meetings. The president shall be responsible for the execution of policies and programs of the board and for the administration of the affairs of the club. He/she shall have the authority to execute instruments necessary to carry out these duties.
2. **Vice President:** The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board or the President. In the event that illness or other disability prohibits the President from performance, the Vice President shall have the powers and perform the duties ordinarily the responsibility of the President. The Vice President shall chair the Program Committee also.
3. **Secretary:** The Secretary of the Panhandle Astronomy Club shall keep accurate and complete minutes of meetings of the Board and of the members and provide notices of all meetings to the members. He/she shall maintain the membership list and club records and aid in preparation of any formal documents of the club. The Secretary shall record nominations for elected offices as well as results.
4. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall receive all monies and keep an accurate account of all financial transactions of the club, showing the receipts of dues from members and bank receipts. He/she shall keep the books in order and pay bills justly accrued by the club. He/she will send renewal and new subscription monies and be jointly responsible with the president for filing necessary tax and other legal documents.
 - a. Two officers must sign all checks.
 - b. New signature cards must be filed when new officers take place.
5. **Newsletter Editor:** The Newsletter Editor publishes, prints and distributes the monthly newsletter.
6. **Webmaster:** The Webmaster maintains the club website, email, yahoo group and photo album.
7. **Night Sky Coordinator:** The Night Sky Coordinator receives and manages any new Outreach Tool Kits and introduces the Outreach Tool Kits to club members. He/she maintains the list of club members who are participants in the Night Sky Network and confirms outreach events logged by club members. The Night Sky Coordinator shall train Children's Program Committee members on the use of the Night Sky Toolkits available for use by club members.
8. **Astronomical League Correspondent (ALCor):** The Astronomical League Correspondent is the contact between our club and the Astronomical League. The ALCor is responsible for sending in roster updates, serving as representative on the Regional Council, updating and distributing information to club members about League activities and advises the League of changes in officers.

Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69363-0987
P.O. Box 987
Panhandle Astronomy Club
The Scope

Panhandle Astronomy Club

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 Discussion Forum: groups.yahoo.com/group/PanhandleAstronomyClub

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!

The information printed and distributed by the Panhandle Astronomy Club is not intended as legal advice and should not take the place of legal counsel from a qualified, informed attorney.