



Panhandle Astronomy Club

"Amateur Astronomy & Education"



THE SCOPE

Volume 3 Issue 9

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We Need Your Support

Can you help us meet, and even expand, our programs and services to our members and the community?

To begin with we need your participation in the events already being planned by club members.

Then we need your ideas, suggestions and comments (good and bad).

Finally, we need volunteers to assist with community events and school programs.

The sum of knowledge necessary to improve our club does not rely solely with its officers. We need our club members to actively support and participate in the club activities and events.

CLUB OFFICERS

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Club Observation Night

Friday September 26, 2008
Wildcat Hills Campground
Arrive at Dusk

Club members interested in gathering together to observe the night sky are invited to come out to the Wildcat Hills Campground on Friday, September 26, 2008. Bring your telescopes, binoculars and lawn chairs. Be sure to bring extra clothing as the nights are cooling off quickly. All club members are welcome to attend. This is a perfect time to get help with your scope, learn the night sky, or work on an observing challenge. A valid Nebraska park sticker is required on all vehicles entering the park. \$4.00 daily permits are available at the campground for those who haven't already purchased an annual. Questions contact Bruce at 308-641-5874.

The Great World Wide Star Count

October 20 to November 3, 2008

This international citizen-science event encourages everyone, astronomers and non-astronomers alike, to measure their local light pollution and report their observations online. This event, one of the cornerstone projects for the upcoming International Year of Astronomy, is designed to raise awareness about light pollution as well as encourage learning in astronomy. No prior experience is necessary. All information needed to participate is on the Star Count Website, <http://www.starcount.org>, along with a downloadable activity guide available in eight languages. All observations will be available online via Google Earth and as downloadable datasets. Be sure to report all areas where you observe. Join club members on October 24th as they check for light pollution at the Wildcat Hills Campground. See Octobers newsletter for the details.

ASTRONOMY DAY OCTOBER 4, 2008

As an experiment the Astronomical League is trying both a fall and spring Astronomy Day to see which works better. Our May 10th, Astronomy Day was held during the craft show at Monument Mall. Our October 4th Astronomy Day will possibly be held at Frank Park in Scottsbluff from 4 to 8 pm. Club members are encouraged to come help with the Astronomy Day. Bring your telescopes and astronomy literature. For more information on Astronomy Day or to download the latest version of the Astronomy Day Handbook, go to the Astronomy Day homepage at www.astroleague.org/astroday.html.

2009 Events

Here's a look ahead to some of the events we hope to participate in, in 2009.

International Year of Astronomy The vision of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 is to help citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day and night time sky. It is time now to start planning how our club will observe this event. Let your club officers know your ideas at the next PAC AstroNight.

100 Hours of Astronomy From April 2 through April 5, 2009, every amateur astronomy organization is encouraged to offer an observing session for the public. How many people can we bring to the eyepiece during the 100-hour event? We will need all the volunteers we can get to assist with this project. For more discussion on this event and to help cover some of the hours plan on attending the upcoming PAC AstroNight.

Western Nebraska Star Gaze This regional event is sponsored by our club and will once again be held at the Camp Clarke Raiders Black Powder Range near Bridgeport, Nebraska on June 18th through June 23rd. We will start planning this event at the PAC AstroNights. Member input and participation is greatly needed and very much appreciated.

Nebraska Star Party Our state star party will be held on July 18-24, 2009 at Merritt Reservoir, 27 miles South of Valentine, Nebraska. Plan to take the whole family on vacation to Merritt Reservoir.

Weekend Under The Stars Wyoming's state star party will be held on July 31, August 1 & 2, 2008 at Foxpark near Laramie. This may be a great year to attend as it does not conflict with the Nebraska Star Party.

Star Party Tips for you from the Astronomical League

If you haven't ever been to a star party, check out the list on this page and pick one that is close to you. Before you go here is a sampling of what you can do there: Visit vendor booths to see first hand the equipment you want, Look for a new scope - see the full variety surrounding you, Discover something - take in a talk given by those who enjoy the subject. Observe something new - you're surrounded by those who have been there already. Meet like minded people with who you can talk shop and learn about other clubs (or members) and how they do things. Are these reasons enough for you? Well, here's one more: Experience great camaraderie you'll find among people who enjoy what the sky offers. Star parties are made for YOU!

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE BOOK SERVICE

Did you know your membership in the Panhandle Astronomy Club also provides you with membership into the Astronomical League. One of the many benefits of the Astronomical League is their book service. If you are searching for that special astronomy book but don't know where to start? Let the Astronomical League's Book Service fill your request! With its 10% discount and free shipping, how could you not do otherwise? This is the perfect place for members to go when looking for books currently in print about astronomy, cosmology, mathematics and physics. Titles can be ordered from many well known astronomy book publishers such as Sky Publishing, Cambridge, Oxford, Willman-Bell, Springer-Verlag and others. Moreover, items available through the Book Service are not limited only to books. Posters, charts and atlases are also available.

Ordering is simple enough. Just provide the name of the item, author, publisher (if known), the retail price and the shipping address. Be sure to include a check or money order—payable to Astronomical League Book Service—for the retail price minus 10%. Shipping and handling are free. Sorry, credit cards are not accepted.

Mail your request to: Star "N Space Books; 324 W. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 83601. You should receive your order within two or three weeks. For members who are looking to add to their library, the Book Service is definitely the place to go!

This benefit is made possible to club members by the efforts of the Astronomical League volunteer Marilyn Unruh, proprietor of Star "N Space Books. She is also an avid amateur astronomer. Like many of the League's members, she desires to help others enjoy or fascinating avocation. Marilyn notes, "This services allows me to give back to the astronomical community by doing something I love to do—deal in books!"

THE SKY THIS WEEK

To find out what's happening in the sky the coming week, take a look at, "The Sky This Week" a five-minute program that covers the moon, visible planets, comets and interesting stellar features. You can find "The Sky This Week" on Astroleauge.org.

The Perseid's

The Perseid Meteor Shower had to contend with a bright moon this year making viewing a bit more challenging for those who enjoyed the evening at Jon's farm this past month. Here are a few pictures from the event.



Coming this fall The Journey to Palomar

November 10, 2009

Check our local listing for the time in our area

A documentary by Todd & Robin Mason available on DVD from PBS Home Video in November. The Journey to Palomar is one of the greatest adventure stories in astronomy - George Ellery Hale's epic, quest to unravel the secrets of the universe, culminating with the construction of the great telescope on Palomar Mountain. View the trailer and more at: www.journeytopalomar.org.

ASTRONIGHT

Tuesday, October 14

Location TBD

Will be posted to Yahoo Group

7:00 pm

Join us on the second Tuesday of the month for the PAC astroNight. Each astroNight consists of a short business session, planning for upcoming events, and one or two short programs followed by refreshments and conversation.

NIGHT SKY NETWORK TELECONFERENCE

**Cassini tracks the shepherd moon
Prometheus as it orbits Saturn**

A dynamic speaker and expert scientist Dr. Weiss works at the Cassini Imaging Central Laboratory for Operations. His work focuses on generating ring system models of the Solar System and is now concentrating on the structure and possible configurations of Saturn's ring system moonlets.

Dr. Weiss will dazzle us with some fantastic Cassini information and images. For a preview check out some of these images acquired during the most recent August 11th flyby of Cassini to Enceladus, pinpointing the precise area where icy plumes are emanating from: http://ciclops.org/view_event/89/Targeting_the_Jet_Sources?js=1

These high resolution images were taken from Cassini cruising at 64,000 kilometers per hour using a special technique dubbed "skeet shooting" by the imaging team. It was developed to cancel out the high speed of the moon relative to Cassini and obtain these ultra-sharp views.

To join the Teleconference on Thursday, September 25th at 6:00 pm PDT log onto your Night Sky Network account to access the telephone number and passcode.

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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

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.

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