



Member of the Astronomical League

A Newsletter of the Kiski Astronomers



Last Local Star Party of the Year!

Richland Astronomical Society hosted the Hidden Hollow Star Party the weekend of October 12-13. Hidden Hollow is located just a few miles from Mansfield, Ohio. Three members of the Kiski Astronomers were in attendance: Denny Hill, Bob Kalan and Bob Novak plus AAAP member and friend Larry McHenry.



The weather cooperated late Friday evening letting myself, Bob & Bob to get some observing in through the large 31" telescope they have mounted in their domed observatory. If you don't mind heights, it was a great ride up the lift some 20 feet to the eyepiece to get some great heavenly views! When not looking through a telescope, our eyes were on the sky and were treated to many meteors flashing across the sky!

Saturday, Larry showed up and joined us. That day was full of events including a workshop on making solar filters and some great speakers including Brent Archinal, professional astronomer for the USGS, who gave an update on NASA's return to the Moon plans, Terry Mann, President of the Astronomical League and keynote speaker, Phil Harrington, renowned amateur astronomer and author, who gave a lighthearted presentation on his search for the right home observatory for himself!



Phil Harrington during his talk.

Then the RAS handed out awards and the Kiski gang walked away with the "Astronomy Club with the Most Members Attending!"

Bob Novak won first place in the Amateur Telescope Making contest for his 15" Dobsonian telescope. Way to go Bob!

The evening events concluded with the raffling off of a large assortment of prizes of which Larry and Bob Novak each walked away with something.

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The next meeting Kiski Astronomers will be on Thursday, November 1st, at 7pm at Kiski High School. We will meet in the LGI room but if there is a conflict in scheduling we will be in the library.



Lou Vergari will present the program for the evening.

Main topic for the evening will be elections of officers so I think you want to be there!

Refreshments will be provided by:

Food: Dave Koren

Drinks: Denny Hill



Hope to see you there!

Holiday Banquet

Attention Kiski Astronomers! We are holding our Christmas Banquet at the Garden Gate Restaurant on December 8th, 2007. We will have their banquet room from 4 pm to 8 pm. It is located along Rt. 422 west of Butler.

Dinner will be their buffet and it's all you can eat. The meal will run around \$10 plus your drink and tip. You can also BYOB if you care for something with a little kick to it.



Again we will be drawing for door prizes so start cleaning out your observatory and closets for items that you would like to donate!

So if you haven't done so yet, please call or email me and let me know if you are attending or not. I would like to know either way so I know you have been getting the emails.



Hope you are planning to attend!

Hidden Hollow

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Bob Novak standing with his homemade Dobsonian telescope with fellow club member Bob Kalan standing on the right. The blank was donated to him by Bob Yajko. As Mr. Novak stated, "... the mirror kept calling to me until I finally built a scope

Then it was time to get ready for round two of observing. Bob Kalan was set up piggy backing his DSLR to take astronomy pics and Bob Novak was using his new 15" Dob. Larry set up his "Black Hole" telescope mount with a rich field scope. And me, Heck, with a 31" telescope a 100 feet away, why take a scope!

Later, the dew hit hard and heavy with no warning. So Larry and I took a walk up to the observatory to see what was going on. As luck had it, no one was waiting to look through the 31". Larry had never looked through this scope before and as he described it, riding the lift to the eyepiece was like riding at Kennywood! Well, it wasn't quite that exciting but the views through the eyepiece were! For the second night in a row I was treated to the view of Stephen's Quintet and this night it was just outstanding!!! Not only could I see the 5 galaxies but I could see a sixth and you could begin to see some structure in a few! That made the trip all worth while!



Later, we all walked around checking out views through other scope there. Tom Whiting from Erie, Pa brought his 30" home made Dob and was giving star hopping lessons to the small group waiting around to get a look thru his scope. The views through it were quite astounding!



RAS is in a rebuilding stage right now after several years of absence in the star party circuit. Although the 80 plus turnout was was small compared to other star parties during the year it's slowly building back. My hat goes off to the great job the RAS did this year! I'll be looking forward to returning in 2008!

Denny

PS. Just a note on the "Black Hole" scope of Larry's. He purchased a 4" Meade Newtonian with a goto mount at the swap meet in Cherry Springs last May. When we started playing around with the data base of objects, believe it or not, there was a listing for "Black Holes"! ... ie ... The Black Hole Scope! Now how funny is that! Someone at Meade was in a humorous mood when they programmed that!

Dues Increase for 2008



This past September, the membership voted to raise the club dues starting in 2008.

The increase will be from \$10 to \$15 for adult and family memberships and \$10 for students.

The increase will help cover the costs of the clubs membership to the Astronomical League.

This is the first increase in dues since the beginning of the club. Not to bad for holding down costs!

Magazine Subscriptions



Astronomy Magazine

\$34 for 1 year (12 issues) or \$60 for 2 years (24 issues) when ordered through the club.

Sky and Telescope

\$32.95 for 1 year (12 issues) through the club for first time subscribers. After that, members should renew their S&T subscriptions themselves.



The Galactic Gazette

is
published & edited



by
Denny Hill

Contributions to the newsletter would be greatly appreciated!

Please consider sharing your knowledge and experiences along with any expertise to me for future issues!

This is your newsletter! Make it the best it can be!

Email your articles to me at dhill955@alltel.net

Thanks!

Kiski Astronomers Information Sheet

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Dues for 2007: \$10 adult & family
\$5 Students

Magazine Subscriptions:

Astronomy Magazine: \$34 for 1 year,
\$60 for 2 years.
Sky & Telescope: \$32.95 per year.

Send payments to:

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Club Email List server: Open forum messages.
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Nocturnal Notables



November 2007



November 3, Regulus 0.03° north of Moon, occultation
November 3, Saturn 1.8° north of Moon
November 4, Daylight Saving Time ends
November 4, Taurid meteors
November 5, Venus 3° north of Moon
November 8, Mercury 7° north of Moon
November 8, Mercury at greatest western elongation (19°)
November 9, ● New Moon 6:03 P.M.
November 9, Moon at apogee
November 9, Ceres at opposition
November 11, Antares 0.4° north of Moon, occultation
November 12, Jupiter 5° north of Moon
November 14, Juno in conjunction with Sun
November 15, Mars stationary
November 17, ◐ First Quarter Moon 5:33 P.M.
November 17, Neptune 1.0° north of Moon, occultation
November 17, Leonid meteors
November 19, Uranus 2° south of Moon
November 23, Moon at perigee
November 24, ○ Full Moon 9:30 A.M.
November 24, Uranus stationary
November 27, Mars 1.7° south of Moon
November 28, Venus 4° north of Spica
November 30, Regulus 0.3° north of Moon, occultation
December 1, ◑ Last Quarter Moon 7:44 A.M.
December 1, Saturn 2° north of Moon

Minutes from October 4, 2007 meeting

Terry Trees provided a program on the 50 year anniversary of Sputnik and also a video on Cherry Springs.

The business meeting was called to order by President Kuzemchak at 8:17 pm.

Minutes: Minutes were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's report: opening balance of \$1048.54. Closing balance was \$831.37.

Old Business: Ed talked about the Black Forest Star Party from September.

Observations: Sun is quiet! There is a conjunction of Venus and the moon Saturday morning, Oct. 6th.

New Equipment: Ed K. saw an ad for "Mars filters" in the Orion catalog. Bob Kalan received an auto guider camera from CCD Labs

New Business: Christmas banquet update.

***Dates** preferred, Dec 8th - 1st choice, Dec 15th - 2nd choice.

Restaurants: Garden Gate in Butler - 1st choice, Field House on Rt. 356 - 2nd choice, J Barn - 3rd choice.

*Hidden Hollow is next weekend ... October 12-13. Three members are planning to attend.

*Ed is trying to have a star party at Sky Meadow Girl Scout Camp for October 12th. Last weekend the camp will be open. He is looking for volunteers.

Next meeting will be November 1st, 2007.

Program for next month, Lou Vergari will show a video, Seeing in the Dark.

Refreshments for the evening: Snacks, Dave Koren
Drinks, Denny Hill