

# The Kiski Astronomers



... is a small club that enjoys sharing the wonders of the night sky. Many members who have observatories of their own share them with members and visitors by sponsoring "Star Parties".

We have a friendly and personal touch to our astronomy club that makes newcomers feel welcome. It doesn't matter what background you have in astronomy. You can be someone who just wonders what it's all about or an avid observer.

Our club membership is eager to help and guide you as you begin or continue exploring the hobby of astronomy!

We are a 'virtual' club, and do not have formal officers or meetings, nor charge annual club dues. Instead we utilize our Yahoo group, Facebook, and website to communicate, plan activities, library outreach programs, member starparties, or convention trips.

The club holds two bi-annual social events: December Holiday Dinner, and a Summer Picnic in either June or July.

Additional benefits of membership include reduced-rate magazine subscriptions and Astronomical League memberships.

You are welcome to join in on any of our activities!

## Interested in joining?

For more information, please contact one of our members listed below:



### Dave Koren

dkoren@consolidated.net  
724-352-1003

### Denny Hill

dhill955@windstream.net  
724-845-7567

### John Labrecque

strgzr@zoominternet.net  
724-272-4548

### Larry McHenry

lsmch@comcast.net  
412-884-4924

## Membership Application

Please copy and paste the following information into an email to one of the contacts listed:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

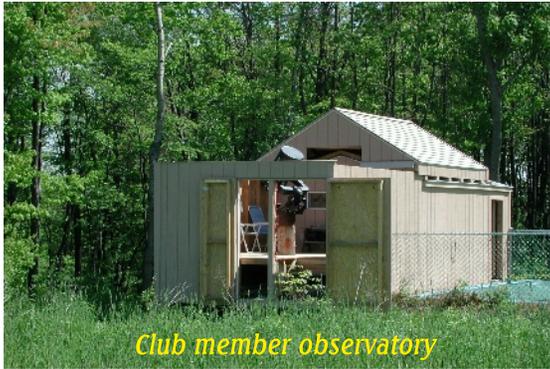
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Discount subscriptions to both Sky and Telescope and Astronomy magazines are available to members.

Also, a membership in the Astronomical League at a substantial discount is also available. They are an association of over 240 astronomy clubs across the US, promoting astronomy education and providing incentive certificate programs for observing.



*Star Parties during the summer*



*Club member observatory*

*Photo of Mars  
courtesy of  
John Labrecque*



*Club member observatory*

**C**an you see through the street light's bright glare ?

*With light pollution still on the rise, viewing the stars and the constellations is becoming more difficult. Many city dwellers have never seen a starry, night sky. As the population spreads into the*



*This image of the continental United States at night is a composite assembled from data acquired by the Suomi NPP satellite in April and October 2012. Credit: NASA Earth Observatory/NOAA NGDC*

*Cities and companies are using harsh and wasteful lighting for decorating and advertising purposes, not taking into consideration the effects on the environment.*

*Light pollution can be reduced if we work to educate the public to make informed choices about outdoor lighting. On the local front, guidelines for local lighting ordinances are being submitted throughout Pennsylvania.*

*For more information check out The International Dark Sky Association at their website: <http://www.darksky.org>.*

## LOOKING FOR A SCOPE ?

**H**ave you thought about getting a telescope? Here are a few tips that may help you in your search.

*Decide what you may be interested in observing through a telescope. Some telescopes are better suited for looking at planets while others are better for looking at deep sky objects. Some make a good all around scope.*

*Binoculars are an excellent choice for beginners.*

*Seek out the help from a local astronomy club such as ours. We will be glad to offer information on selecting a telescope. Chances are, most members own more than one, so a variety of models and styles might be available to see and try.*

*Try to attend star parties. Look through as many telescopes as possible and ask lots of questions! To familiarize yourself with different types of telescopes, pick up an issue of Sky and Telescope or Astronomy Magazine and review the ads or do an Internet search on telescopes and educate yourself on the different types and makes available. Popular discount and department store telescopes are usually of lesser quality and craftsmanship. Look for a reputable dealer with knowledgeable sales people. HAPPY OBSERVING!*