



Penobscot Valley Star Gazers

An Astronomical Society of Central Maine

<http://www.gazers.org>

November 2008

Okie-Tex Encore

The next meeting of the PVSG will be at 6:30 p.m. in room 310 at John Bapst Memorial High School on Monday, November 10, 2008. This month Bill will tell us about his second trip to the Okie-Tex star party where, among other things, he heard talks by Vatican Observatory scientist and *Turn Left at Orion* author Br. Guy J. Consolmagno.

David, who was to show us the Night Sky Network's outreach toolkit "Telescopes: Eyes on the Universe" last month, was unable to attend the meeting. So, this time thanks go to Wade for entertaining us with a few astro-photos and magnetic rocks.

Astrosnapshots

October 13, 2008



October 2008

The meeting was called to order by Wade at 6:35 p.m. with 14 members in attendance. Since the Secretary/speaker was not in attendance, Wade shared photos on his camera. There was a star in the dark part of the sky next to the moon. He put the camera up to the eyepiece of the scope and also took pictures

with binoculars. He also found several magnetic rocks in his lawn while looking, with a magnet, for a pin to his lawn mower. He also had 2 pieces of magnetite.

We then rolled into the meeting. Wade went through the e-mails for the past month. Donna Coin wants to interview an amateur astronomer. Dick and Dave were interviewed by the same person but were misquoted.

Last Call for Dues



Regular \$15.00
Family \$22.50
Junior \$7.50

Pay at the meeting or send to Bill

On Friday, Nov. 7 we have been asked for a star party for Girl Scout Science Day from 6:00 to 7:30 at the Hampden Town Office. This will be a rain or shine event, as the girls can look at the scopes inside if there is bad weather.

You can see power point images of Saturn from the Cassini mission at www.astro.society.org/nsntelecon.

www.astro.society.org/nsntelecon.

There is a new novel by James Lake "The Big Bang".

Bill read letters from Peter and Audrey.

Deep Sky Printing will print astronomical photos.

Alan mentioned that the following website has nice pictures, www.Boston.com/biopicpicture/2008/10/the_sun.html. He also stated that there were 2 tiny sunspots today; presumably

the Sun is coming out of its quiet cycle.

On Fri. Oct 24, the Challenger Learning Center is having a Halloween party from 6:00 to 7:30 with a costume party.

Dick said that in the magazine from the Antique Telescope Society, someone stated that the scope was invented in Spain and then it went to Holland. He also mentioned that Kodak will be manufacturing Kodachrome film once a year and keeping it cold.

OLD BUSINESS: Bill pushed the Hubble talk off to March so he has the latest data available. But he will talk next month on talks from the Okie Star Party. Alan will give his Australian talk in Jan. 2009.

On Oct. 18 there will be a Bog walk hosted by Neil Comins giving a night sky guided tour.

As seen by the attachment to the October minutes,

On the Schedule

(Items Subject to Change)

PROGRAMS

January: Alan, Australian Odyssey
May: Bill, Hubble Upgrade

STAR PARTIES

November 7(rs): Girl Scout Science Day, Hampden, 6 to 7:30 pm, Shirley
December 13(rs): PVSG Christmas/Holiday Party, 5:30 pm

First date is primary, second is rain date; ? Tentative; (rs) rain or shine; (co) clear only

the Christmas party will be at Carolyn's on Dec. 13 starting at 5:30 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The secretary's minutes were approved as e-mailed.

NEW BUSINESS: The web server DOES NOT WORK. There are various problems with it and therefore Alan will put the mailing list on his website.

A telescope clinic was discussed. Perhaps to be included at a kick-off for the IYA with talks and events.

Carolyn is using PVSG as a project to get teacher re-certification credits. She will do research for the club as requested. She also said that there is a nice website for T shirts, www.infinitees.com.

The University has a cloud detector and this will be on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. for our usual trip to Governor's.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley
Secretary Pro-Temp
Member at Large

9662-X FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Fully revised pocket-size astronomy field guide features all known deep-sky objects to magnitude 10 for telescopes and binoculars. Galaxies, clusters and nebulae of all types were culled from 33 observatory catalogs. Object-oriented maps includes stars, double stars, carbon stars and asterisms, each object is defined by a unique map symbol. Compact, informative, at-the-scope reference for all stargazers.....**For More Information:** and autographed copies, contact the author: Peter Birren 502 Shadywood Lane Elk Grove IL 60007 847-640-0171 peter@birrendesign.com www.birrendesign.com/astro.html

Yes, The Server Is Broken

Hello everyone, How is everyone doing? Any observing going on? Between the 20th of October and the 3rd of Nov "The Great World Wide Star Count" will be going on. Are there any members planning on participating in this? Here is the website for the necessary information about it - http://www.windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/starcount/. Happy Gazing, David PS - It seems like the mailserv mail server isn't working. Can anyone confirm that

It's Been Replaced

This is your passport to a new mailing list for the PVSG membership. The password information and the address of this email are your access to the list and you can use them to modify some of the options that control how your mailings are handled.

This list was built using the last roster list Alan has dated 2007. If anyone has a more recent database or text list of all the emails, please send them to Alan. Keep an eye on the sky!

Welcome to the mailing list! If you ever want to unsubscribe or change your options (switch to or from digest mode, change your password, etc.), visit your subscription page.

You can also make such adjustments via email with the word 'help' in the subject or body (don't include the quotes), and you will get back a message with instructions. You must know your password to change your options (including changing the password, itself) or to unsubscribe.

Normally, Mailman will remind you of your mailing list passwords once every month, although you can disable this if you prefer. This reminder will also include instructions on how to unsubscribe or change your account options. There is also a button on your options page that will email your current password to

E-mail Excerpts

Club notes sent by e-mail since the last meeting
Simply for the record and for those for whom we have no e-mail addresses

Publicity for ALCON

Hi PVSGers, Here is a request from a nearby club (New York) to members of the Astronomical League. I'm would guess that this needs to be discussed at our November meeting. DC

Subject: ALCON EXPO 2009 - Club Request
Dear Astronomy Club Secretary: Please open the attached letter, and ad, which pertains to a request to help our Astronomy Club with advertising for next years' ALCON Expo. I hope you can take a few minutes to read it and respond so we can do our best to get the word out. Sincerely, George Saar, ALCON Expo 2009 Committee Member

Observing Guide

I am not familiar with the earlier editions. Is anyone out there familiar with the book? Any comments? Clear skies, Dave

Objects in the Heavens, 4th edition by Peter Birren 22 photos by Naoyuki Kurita 118 pages, digest size, black coil bound, \$29.95 ISBN: 15536

you.

And It Works

Hi all, As a first use of our new email system, here is a notice I received this morning about US satellite observations of the bolide. Enjoy, Dave

Date: October 16, 2008 7:04:09 AM EDT **Subject:** [astro-l] Fwd: Asteroid Update

**From Spaceweather.com: ASTEROID UPDATE: Last week when asteroid 2008 TC3 entered Earth's atmosphere over Sudan, "classified assets" were watching. Without naming names, the US government has released a summary of what they saw: "Sensors aboard US satellites detected the impact of a bolide over Africa on 7 October 2008 at 02:45:40 UT. Initial observations put the object at 65.4 km altitude at 20.9° N, 31.4° E. The object detonated at an altitude of approximately 37 km at 20.8° N, 32.2° E. The total radiated energy was approximately 4.0X10¹¹ joules, equivalent to ~0.1 kilotons of TNT."

Bog Walk Talk

Hi all, Talked with Neil Comins yesterday, and the Bogwalk activity has been moved from this weekend, 18 Oct to next weekend, 25 Oct, 2008. Any who can attend with a scope or knowledge or questions, it would be appreciated. Thanks, Wade

Hi, This coming Saturday Neil Comins is hosting the Bog Walk in the Bangor Forest. (It was originally scheduled for last weekend.) He is looking for a few people to set up telescopes through which the public can view the night sky. Weatherwise, it does look a little questionable at this point, but this is Maine and if you wait a minute,Although I had kept last weekend opened, I have plans for this weekend and I can not attend. Is anyone planning to attend? Wade? If anyone plans to help out, please contact me ASAP. Dave

Prize Winners!

To: Penobscot Valley Star Gazers Dear Carolyn, Doug, Wade and David, Wow, you guys are great! As a direct result of logging your outreach events on the Night Sky Network, your Club has won a very timely Mars Globe and accompanied Phoenix Mars Lander Special Edition DVD, the gifts of our fall quarterly prize drawing. Winners were selected at random from among over 515 events logged on the Network website that took place from events held between July 1 and September 30, 2008.

NASA and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific

admire your commitment to astronomy outreach. By logging outreach events for the Network we capture valuable information about the materials developed for the Network members: how they are being used, whom they are reaching, and how we can improve future materials. In short, they help us prove that the Night Sky Network is having a positive impact.

Thanks for helping us succeed and again congratulations on having your event selected from the drawing as one of our winners. We hope your organization enjoys these prizes donated by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Clear Skies! Marni Berendsen, Kenneth Frank and Vivian White Night Sky Network Administrators Astronomical Society of the Pacific (415) 337-1100 Night Sky Network: <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/>

IYA Resources

Night Sky Network members: Join the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) celebration and make your 2009 events extra special with IYA Discovery Guides and other unique treats! The Night Sky Network (NSN), ASP, NSF, NASA, and the IYA USA committee have teamed up to provide you with:

1. Monthly IYA Discovery Guides. Join amateur astronomers worldwide and plan your 2009 events to include the featured observing object and activity. Download your free IYA Discovery Guides here: <http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html>

2. A fully searchable online database of Night Sky Network activities. Go to Night Sky Network and click on "Access NSN Activities" or go here: <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-search.cfm> And those are just the publicly accessible resources. Log into the NSN and access more by selecting "Download Astronomy Outreach Resources."

3. Free NASA handouts for Active NSN clubs. Club Coordinators of Active NSN clubs may request free handouts directly from NASA and others. Log into NSN and select "Request Outreach Handouts/Giveaways." To ensure your items arrive in time, place your request at least six to eight weeks before your event. If yours is an Associate Club, instructions for re-gaining "Active" status will be displayed when you log in.

4. How to get your club involved. WEBMASTERS: Share IYA with all your club members and website visitors. Place a link on your website to the IYA Discovery Guides and NSN Activities. Download icons here:

http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-view.cfm?Doc_ID=338

Let us know when you add these to your website!
NEWSLETTER EDITORS: You are welcome to use the article in the Guide in your monthly newsletter.

Download the official IYA 5-minute video and show it to your club members. IYA Introduction video: http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-view.cfm?Doc_ID=316

Play this special IYA song by AstroCappella about Galileo and telescopes. Shoulders of Giants: http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-view.cfm?Doc_ID=314

To get your club members started, send them an email with a link to the IYA Discovery Guides: <http://www.astrosociety.org/iya/guides.html>

5. Monthly telecons for NSN members. Mark your calendars for the first two: Tuesday, November 18th, 6 pm Pacific: "How to make an Itty Bitty (sidewalk) Radio Telescope" with Sue Ann Heatherly of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO). Thursday, December 11th, 6 pm Pacific: "IYA 2009 Night Sky Network Kick-off" with Dr. Stephen Pompea, Project Director for the US IYA Committee and Dr. Andrea Schweitzer, Project Manager of the USA IYA Committee.

Details on how to participate will be sent the first week of November. We'll be announcing more IYA 2009 treats exclusively for NSN members in the

coming months.

Feel free to share this email with all your club members. Join amateur astronomers around the globe as together we connect millions with the universe. One Earth. One Sky. Share the discovery! Marni Berendsen, Vivian White, and Kenneth Frank Night Sky Network Administrators Astronomical Society of the Pacific

Star Counts

Hello fellow PMSG'ers, Did the Great Star Count on Oct 23rd from my front yard. It was a 6.5 night early on and got progressively high cirrus after 9pm. I hated to call it 7 (which is what I reported) but I did. Peter

Hi all, I completed my count last night at 8:15pm. Easily saw mag 6 and a few more dimmer stars (with averted vision). Not quite mag 7 though. What a great night early in the evening! I plan to check out Cygnus as a means to determine the lowest observing magnitude. The V of stars off Deneb and the S of stars around the third star in the long axis of the Cross seem to be a pretty good guide to the mag limit. I have been using the visibility of the Little Dipper's seven stars, but they can sometimes be located in the light cloud in my northern skies. Clear skies, Dave
