



Penobscot Valley Star Gazers

An Astronomical Society of Central Maine

<http://www.gazers.org>

February 2009

Preparing for the IYA

The February 2009 meeting of the PVSG will be on Monday the 9th, a week after Groundhog Day, at 6:30 p.m. in room 310 at John Baptist Memorial High School. The program choices being slim, last month the group chose to use this meeting to organize for the big IYA event coming on April 4th. The plan now includes a telescope-buying talk and clinic at the planetarium, solar observing at the library, Night Sky kit demonstrations, telescope demo, and a talk at the Union, solar and terrestrial observing at the observatory, and an evening star party. All the little details like personnel, posters, membership forms, refreshments, hand outs, etc. now need to be finalized or at least firmed up. So, come to the meeting, pick a role, and help get this thing ready to roll.

Thanks for last month's program go to Alan for recounting his Australian astronomical tour with photos of scopes, flora, and fauna taken from Sydney to Tidbinbilla.

Pink Pigeons?

January 12, 2009



The meeting was brought to order by Wade at 6:35pm with 14 members present. Wade introduced Alan as this evening's speaker. Alan shared with us pictures of his trip visiting some of the Planetariums and Observatories in Australia. What a visit, Sydney, Ayers Rock, Melbourne, Canberra, and

many other fascinating places. Thanks Alan for providing us with a chance to see some of the sights of the "Down Under" (to include a picture of Pink Pigeons). Australia is such a distant and exotic land.

The business meeting started at 7:45pm with the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports being accepted. Alan reported that the Planetarium's program for the 17th of January would not happen due to funding and staffing issues.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the club's participation in an International Year of Astronomy cornerstone project called "100 hours of Astronomy" on the 4th of April (Saturday). The website for this project is <http://www.100hoursofastronomy.org>. Carolyn, Alan, and I presented to the club members a proposed schedule of events for the Saturday event. The event would take place at the University's Planetarium and Observatory with a telescope clinic, tips on purchasing a telescope, and a number of stations presented by member volunteers (using Night Sky toolkits for example). There will be telescopes set up at various places on campus providing daylight observing, some solar observing and,

after dark, a good old star party for those interested. In order to have something additional for the visitors to do there would be a "Galileo Quest List" to complete. The plan also includes committees set up to provide refreshments and a 'grand opening' cake cutting.

Our committee requested that members volunteer to look over the different Night Sky toolkits for some projects that they would be willing to do for the event. The ultimate goal of the "100 Hours of Astronomy" event is to get as many people as possible to look through a telescope around the world during the 100 hours.

Carolyn suggested that members might be interested in participating in some of the many projects in the Astro League website clubs. They involve completing observing lists, once accomplished a certificate is issued from the Astro League organization. A new club in honor of Galileo's first observations was created which allows the participants to view what he did and be awarded a certificate. The link to this club is http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclub/galileo_club/galileo_club.html.

At 9:07pm the meeting was adjourned.

David

On the Schedule

(Items Subject to Change)

PROGRAMS

May: Bill, Hubble Upgrade

STAR PARTIES

April 4(rs): Club IYA big event / telescope clinic, UM

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

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

LogoMoved

Hi all, In response to Wade's comment that he wanted to order a new PVSG baseball cap at LogoMotion.... and that he couldn't find the store.... well.. come to find out.... it moved! LogoMotion has moved to 105 Union Street in Brewer. Union Street is the street next to the Brewer Federal Credit Union on Main Street.

The owner's name is Valerie. She will embroider orders as few as one item. She will even accept a shirt or other cloth object you own and stitch the PVSG logo on it for you. I believe she charges 4 or 5 \$ for this service. Go, Wade, Go! Carolyn

NSN News

Hello Night Sky Network, Mark your calendars for these two exciting upcoming telecons in our Monthly IYA 2009 Series starting with: Thursday, February 19th at 6:00 pm PT (9:00 pm Eastern). Dr. Connie Walker covering Dark Sky Awareness then again on Thursday, March 26th at 6:00 pm PT (9:00 pm Eastern). Kris Koenig introducing 400 Years of the Telescope and Mike Simmons on 100 hours of Astronomy.

GLOBE at Night Telecon Feb. 19th - Special Bonus! Join us for the next upcoming Telecon with Connie Walker of GLOBE at Night through the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) on February 19th at 6pm Pacific Time (9pm Eastern). Hear all about the initiatives for dark skies and what clubs, classrooms, and individuals can do to get the word out about light pollution. You can record your unaided eye observations from anywhere and add to the worldwide Star Count happening from March 16-28, 2009.

NEW for 2009: Interactive NSN club Map Has your club updated its look on the new interactive NSN map? <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-map.cfm> Search for your own club and see how you look! Club Coordinators: You can include your club logo and club locations, such as where you hold club meetings and have public astronomy events. The new map will allow potential visitors to more easily find your club and get step-by-step directions to your event locations.

IYA Package. Your IYA package to help you get ready for this will be on its way soon. As a reminder, the January through June news release templates can be found here: http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club/download-view.cfm?Doc_ID=3D353 Just to let you know: All 2009 events that focus on IYA themes qualify as NSN events.

Winning Clubs for Quarterly Prize Congratulations to each of these dedicated clubs who won a replica Galileo Telescope: * Antelope Valley Astronomy Club * Astronomical Society of Rowan County * Brighton Astronomy Group * Sonoma County Astronomical Society * Westminster

Astronomical Society, Inc.

See you at the Telecon, 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/>

Just like you, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) believes in improving science literacy through the enjoyment of astronomy. To keep up-to-date on activities, events, and resources provided by the ASP, sign up for free monthly notifications here:

<http://www.astrosociety.org/pubs/newsletter.html>

Challenger Center Events

From: Wade Challenger Learning Center Winter After-School program Challenger Learning Center of Maine Afterschool Astronomer 4 week winter series- \$48 possible topics: telescopes stars black holes galaxies

Afterschool Forensics 4 week spring series- \$48 Solve a space crime!

Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 pm

Winter: Feb. 3, 10

Spring: Mar. 24, 31, April 7, 14

Snack provided Grades 3-7 Sibling discount available

WE DO SCIENCE! PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED Reply to this email or call 990.2900 x3 Join our email list or check the [calendar](#) at our website for upcoming events and watch for details on future blocks of after-school programs.

Special Reception to celebrate the INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY and GALILEO'S BIRTHDAY! In recognition of the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's first celestial observations, 2009 has been designated the International Year of Astronomy. To celebrate, NASA's Great Observatories - the Hubble Space Telescope, Spitzer Space Telescope, and Chandra X-Ray Observatory - collaborated to produce spectacular multi-wavelength views of our universe. February marks Galileo's Birthday! Galileo was born on February 15, 1564. Only 100 U.S.-based science centers, museums, planetariums, nature centers and other informal education venues have been selected as sites for the national unveiling and display of a new multi-wavelength image in February 2009. In Maine, the images will be on display at two selected locations: the Challenger Learning Center of Maine in Bangor and the Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium in Orono. Come celebrate our unveiling with us! Tuesday, February 17 CLCofME 30 Venture Way, Bangor 5:00 - 7:00 pm. *View the Great Observatories Images *Astrophysicist, astronomer, professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Maine, Dr. Neil Comins, talks about the Images, Q&A. *Tour the Challenger Learning Center's Mission Control and Space Lab *Enjoy Refreshments and Music