



# Obs~server

Newsletter of the Racine Astronomical Society

November 2007

[www.rasastro.org](http://www.rasastro.org)

## ~President's Message~

The Observatory is now ready for winter, thanks to those of you who were able to attend the work party on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. And the dome on Bldg 2 is now in tip top shape. Rich Olson from Ash Dome was out on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and put in new parts and weather stripping. The dome slot now runs smooth and quiet. As Mark remarked today "Now we'll have to look outside to see if anyone has opened Bldg 2, because we won't be able to hear it from inside Bldg 1 anymore". Thank you to everyone who came to help Rich to get the dome back in shape, it's now ready for the special Mars Night, sometime in January.

Carla Chalker

## ~ Vice President's Message~

As another year comes to a close, we have one more club event in 2007 – The Christmas Party on December 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 PM. I look forward to seeing you all there and don't forget to bring a "Dish to Pass". Another annual occurrence is the payment of dues and magazine subscriptions. The checks should be mailed to: Roger Kippenhan at 807 Tall Grass Lane, Mundelein, IL 60060. Regular dues are \$45 and the other rates are available from our web site at: <http://www.rasastro.org/membership.htm>

"Ad astra per alia porci" Dave Finch

## ~2008 Elections~

Any member wishing to run for a position on the board of directors for the Racine Astronomical Society please E-mail me at [tornados@wi.rr.com](mailto:tornados@wi.rr.com) or at the Obs at [rasastro@wi.net](mailto:rasastro@wi.net) Nominations will be closed at the Christmas Party on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Let me know what position you would like to run for:

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**

Mike Zweifel

### **~2008 Observer's Handbooks~**

Due to increased cost and declining interest the club will not be ordering Observer's Handbooks. For those of you who wish to order one we recommend purchasing through Sky and Telescope.

<http://www.shopatsky.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=1252>

### **~Contact Information~**

RAS Email: [rasastro@wi.net](mailto:rasastro@wi.net)

RAS Phone: 878-2774

## **Upcoming Event**

*(Updated or new events will be highlighted)*

### **December**

**Christmas Party – December 8<sup>th</sup> (Observatory 7:30pm)**

**A brief General Meeting will be held to close nominations for the 2008 Elections for Board of Directors.**



# What's Up With the Astronomical League October 2007

Volume 2, Number 5

October 15, 2007

**Compiled by  
Carroll Iorg,  
Vice President**

## **CALL FOR NOMINESS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

The terms of office for the League's President and Vice President will both expire in 2008. If you're interested in running for either one of these positions, please contact John Goss, League Secretary at [ecoacres@rbnet.com](mailto:ecoacres@rbnet.com).

## **LEAGUE NEEDS GRANT WRITERS**

The League is looking for people with experience in writing successful grants to help us with our grant-writing projects. If you would be willing to share your talents in the grant-writing area with the League, please contact President Terry Mann via email at [starsrus@infinet.com](mailto:starsrus@infinet.com)

## **CLUB EXPERIENCES WITH SEPTEMBER ASTRONOMY DAY**

As many of you know, the council of the League voted to offer clubs the opportunity to have some flexibility in scheduling Astronomy Day activities for 2007. In addition to the traditional spring season astronomy day celebration, a second astronomy day celebration in September 2007 was approved as an option for club's wanting to experiment with this fall date.

We are interesting in hearing from clubs that held an astronomy day in September. What was it like to hold the event in the fall? What kind of attendance did you have? What are some of the things that worked well. Did your club think this was a good time to hold astronomy day? Please email Terry Mann with your comments. Your feedback will be invaluable as we plan astronomy day celebration dates for the future.

## **2008 NATIONAL YOUNG ASTRONOMER AWARD (NYAA)**

It's not too early to be thinking about the 2008 National Young Astronomer Award program. If you know a young astronomer who has involved in a special astronomical project, please encourage them to apply. An all-expenses paid trip to the 2008 ALCon convention in Des Moines, a complimentary top of the line telescope, a lifetime pass to McDonald Observatory and a complimentary membership in the International Dark Sky Association are among the benefits awarded to the first place winner.

The special projects NYAA applicants have submitted for the award program in the past have varied from the building of high-quality telescope mounts to extensive research on some meaningful astronomical topic. What this means is that we hope no young astronomer will be discouraged from entering the award program just because the person doesn't think their project is good enough for consideration. To be eligible, candidates must be United States citizens, between 14 and 19 years of age and not enrolled in college on the award deadline. Foreign students are eligible if they are enrolled in a United States secondary school on the application deadline.

To apply, the young astronomer should submit application packages by the January 31, 2008 deadline. The package will consist of a completed application form, a summary of astronomy-related activities, a photo preferably in an astronomical setting and optional exhibits (4 copies of package). See application on page 2.



## 2008 National Young Astronomer Award (NYAA) Application Form

To recognize the outstanding achievements of high school age astronomers, the Astronomical League has established the National Young Astronomer Award.

### Eligibility:

United States citizens 14-19 years of age and not enrolled in college are eligible to apply for this award. Foreign students of the same age are eligible if they are enrolled in a United States secondary school on the date of the application deadline.

### Personal Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

### School Information:

If you are enrolled in high school, provide:

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of School: \_\_\_\_\_

### Media Information:

Name of your local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number and/or webpage address of local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsor Information:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your sponsor should be a teacher, counselor or astronomy club officer. If you have difficulty locating a sponsor, please contact the person listed below. **(The deadline for the 2008 award is January 31, 2008).**

**Send applications in four copies along with a photo of yourself (jpg format sent electronically if possible and preferably in an astronomical-type setting), postmarked by the deadline to:**

Carroll Iorg, A.L. Vice President, 7241 Jarboe, Kansas City MO 64114-1221  
(816) 444-4878, email: [carroll-iorg@kc.rl.com](mailto:carroll-iorg@kc.rl.com)

**More specific information and suggestions regarding content of potential NYAA entries is available at <http://www.astroleague.org/>.**

Revised 10-15-07