



# Observer

Newsletter of the Racine Astronomical Society

Spring 2010

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

## Astronomy Day and General Meeting ~

We will be kicking off the 2010 open house season with Astronomy Day April 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm for solar observing and 8-11pm for night sky viewing.

Our General Meeting will be held the same day at 7pm. As special thanks for all those helping out with Astronomy Day activities the club will provide pizza and chili for dinner prior to the meeting.

## Saturn in 2010~

As our open house season starts, Saturn's rings are tilted at roughly 2.4 degrees from edge-on. By the end of May the rings will narrow to 1.7 degrees and then they will begin widening again in mid-June until Saturn is lost in the evening twilight by late July. The rings will put on a much nicer show in 2011. Saturn is well placed for our April Astronomy Day as well as our May and June open houses. It will be 36 degrees high and climbing in the NE at 8 PM on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 50 degrees high and near transit at 9 PM on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 41 degrees high and descending in the SW at 9 PM on June 18<sup>th</sup>. On July 16<sup>th</sup> Saturn will still be high enough to look at early in the evening, but will drop below 30 degrees by 8:30 PM.

For more info on observing Saturn see:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets/3304811.html>

~Dave Finch~

## Work Party~

The Spring Work Party was held April 10<sup>th</sup>. The facilities were cleaned, gravel was raked, the bent mailbox was removed, grass seed was planted and the lawn mower was made ready for mowing. A thank you for Dave Mogensen, Dave Finch, Mark Schmidt, Gary Wiltsey, Tim Tadsack, John Francis and Chris Tobias for pitching in.

The RAS also extends its appreciation to John Francis for donating a TV for the lobby. Thanks John!

## Welcome New Members ~

Lets all welcome our new members to the RAS: Hugh Altenbach, Erik Hokanson, Mark Christiansen, Nick Pauley, Geoff Tweedale and Richard Wise

## RAS Flyer ~

You will find attached to your newsletter email the 2010 Open House flyer. Please feel free to print and distribute. Let's thank Brian Jensen for doing a beautiful job on it.

## 2010 Event Calendar

### March

13 - Spring Star Party

### April

10 - Work Party (9 AM)

17 - Work Party (Rain Date)

24 - Astronomy Day  
2-5PM (Solar) & 8-11 PM

24 - General Meeting (7 PM)

### May

14 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

### June

18 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

### July

10 - Summer Star Party

10 - General Meeting (7:30 PM)

16 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

### August

6 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

14 - Picnic

### September

10 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

### October

9 - Fall Star Party

16 - Astronomy Day  
1-4PM (Solar) & 7-10 PM

16 - General Meeting (6 PM)

### November

6 - Work Party (9 AM)

13 - Work Party (Rain Date)

### December

18 - Christmas Party (7:30 PM)

### ~ From the Editor~

If you have submissions for the newsletter, questions, comments, or ideas, please send me an e-mail.

Also, if you are still receiving your newsletters via postal mail and have access to e-mail you can opt to receive them in a PDF format via e-mail instead. You'll get them a little faster and save the RAS a few bucks. If you would like to change your delivery method or receive a sample PDF newsletter, please let me know.

Chris Tobias

The free Adobe Acrobat reader can be downloaded here:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

### ~Contact Information~

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