



Observer

Newsletter of the Racine Astronomical Society

www.rasastro.org

Spring 2011

Spring Star Party ~

Saturday March 26th is our first Star Party of the 2011 season. Dress warm and bring your scope! If cloudy everyone is still invited to a cloud party. Pizza will be provided.

Work Party ~

Saturday April 2nd (rain date April 9th), 9:00am is our Spring Work Party. Come join the gang in getting the Observatory ready our 2011 open house season.

General Meeting ~

Saturday April 23rd, 7:30pm at the Observatory is our first General Meeting of the year.

Public Events ~

Our first Public Night is April 15th (8-11pm). This leads our Main Event for the Spring - Astronomy Day.

Astronomy Day takes place on May 7th with solar viewing from 2-5pm and evening viewing from 8-11pm. Dinner is provided during the break.

Telescopes to Tanzania ~ By Chuck Ruehle ~

As some of you may recall, I took three telescopes to Tanzania last summer when I visited Northern Tanzania as part of a mission delegation to Mt. Meru. (see my article in the December 2010 Reflector magazine for more details). The photos included here show the students learning to use the equipment.

Now, as I've continued to be in contact with the secondary schools that received the telescopes, they are requesting that I return to help them build their viewing skills, and share more information about astronomy, optics, color and light.



I plan on returning to Mt. Meru this coming October for three weeks to do some teaching and sharing of additional resources at Songoro, Ngarenanyuki, and Mulala. I also hope to take additional telescopes to at least two new schools. I've received lot's of print and poster resources from NASA, and I'm working with an international organization – Astronomers Without Borders – to plan ways of linking up with the growing astronomy community in Tanzania.

To help me prepare for this trip, I need your help.

I've already had donations of Galileoscopes and eyepieces from Racine Astronomical Society members – but I still need three 25 or 30mm eyepieces, lightweight camera tripods, moon filters, 45 degree diagonals, and other optical lenses and teaching materials. If you can contribute any of these supplies, or make a donation for me to purchase them, it will help me prepare for working with the students. (Donations can be given to any of our club officers)

Thanks for your support – and clear skies.
Chuck Ruehle



~ 2011 Event Calendar ~

March

26 - Spring Star Party

April

2 - Work Party (9 AM))

9 - Work Party (Rain Date)

15 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

23 - General Meeting (7:30 PM)

May

7 - Astronomy Day

2-5PM (Solar) & 8-11 PM

June

3 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

July

8 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

23 - Summer Star Party

23 - General Meeting (7:30 PM)

August

19 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

September

10 - Picnic (4 PM)

23 - Public Night (8-11 PM)

October

1 - Astronomy Day

1-4PM (Solar) & 7-10 PM

22 - Fall Star Party

22 - General Meeting (7 PM)

November

5 - Work Party (9 AM)

12 - Work Party (Rain Date)

December

17 - 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 you're 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. Club updates and reminders are sent out on regular basis via e-mail. If you would like to change you're delivery method 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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