



Summer 2010

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

### **Summer Star Party and General Meeting ~**

Our Summer Star Party will be held on Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup>. Before the Star Party we will hold our Summer General Meeting starting at 7:30.

### **Planets this summer ~**

As Saturn sinks low in the west, the rings are only 2 degrees from edge on. They are widening now and will put on a much nicer show in 2011. It will still be high enough to view early in the evening during our July 16th open house, but will be very low in the west for our August open house.

Jupiter is rising in the east around midnight and has a very interesting feature on it right now.... or actually a very interesting feature is missing! The southern equatorial belt has vanished. I saw it in the 14" the other night and it's a very unique view of the planet! Jupiter will be high enough for a late night view during our September 10th open house and will be well placed for viewing during our Fall Astronomy Day on October 16th. For more information on the disappearance of the southern equatorial belt, see:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/highlights/94107139.html>

Thanks,  
Dave

### **Welcome New Member ~**

Let us all welcome the newest member to the RAS: Gregory Waldron.

## 16" maintenance completed ~

The 16" mirrors have been re-coated and general maintenance has been performed on the telescope. The scope was disassembled to remove the mirrors on May 1st by a crew of dedicated RAS members. Ron Jones took the mirrors to Clausing for re-coating and they were re-installed on June 5th. While the scope was disassembled, general painting was done on many of the scope parts as well as some re-engineering and machining work by Ron and his guys at Styberg. After the scope was re-assembled the 6" scope was removed and painted. The counterweights have been painted white to make them more visible in the dark. Ron and Brian Jensen have worked together to collimate the telescope and to get the secondary working correctly. Based on the view I had of M13 the other night, this was well worth the great amount of effort that went into it. A big thanks to everyone who helped make this happen!

Dave



## 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 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. If you would like to change you're 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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