Obs~server

Newsletter of the Racine Astronomical Society

Fall 2011

www.rasastro.org

Fall Star Party ~

Saturday October 22nd is our Fall Star Party. If cloudy everyone is still invited to a cloud party. Pizza will be provided. Members of the Fox Valley Skywatchers have been invited to attend our party. About a half dozen to a dozen members are expected. Lets have a good turn out to welcome fellow stargazers.

General Meeting ~

Saturday October 22nd, 7:30pm at the Observatory is our General Meeting. (Star Party to follow the meeting read above.)

Summer Wrap Up ~

Our public observing season for 2011 was a success. A special thanks goes out to all who lent hand.

We had beautiful weather, good food and a Ha view of the Sun for our late summer picnic. A great time was had by all!

Telescopes to Tanzania: Motivation, Materials, Methods ~

In late July I attended an international astronomy event offered by the Global Hands On Universe organization at Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, WI. During the week I made a presentation about my upcoming trip to Northern Tanzania to teach astronomy in seven communities in very remote locations on Mt.Meru. Here are some portions of the information I shared.

Motivation: *In talking about why I am making this journey I quoted Oscar Wilde who once said, "Ordinary riches can be stolen, real riches cannot. In your soul are infinitely precious things that cannot be taken from you." I went on to add that something magical, mystical, even spiritual occurs the first time the photons in the eyepiece strike your eye. They stay with you throughout your life – residing in your soul. The telescopes to Tanzania project is intended to give young people in Tanzania a gift for their soul – and perhaps motivation to remain in school, study math and science – and help to build their young nation as they become leaders in their communities.*

Materials: By early October there will be about 200 pounds of astronomy gear and teaching resources in Usa River, Tanzania. The materials that will remain with the seven schools includes six 50mm Galileoscope and two 70mm Vixen scopes – plus tripods, eyepieces, diagonals, a Solarscope, spectroscopes, optical equipment, and teaching resources about light and the solar system. Some of the equipment was taken to Tanzania as checked baggage in late June -- another cache of material will be carried in by early October.

Methods: Since early Spring I've been developing and testing a variety of teaching materials in local schools, and with various community groups. My plans include teaching for 2 or 3 days in each of the seven locations. The curriculum will include Astronomy, Optics and Light, plus the Solar System. During the event at Yerkes I was trained in the Galileo Teacher Training Program and will offer the resources and materials of this international group of astronomy educators to teachers and students I work with in Tanzania.
One of the highlights at Yerkes occurred when Observatory Director Kyle Cudworth allowed us to use the historic 1 meter telescope to observe the night sky for two evenings. The photo included here shows me with two colleagues from Kenya and New Hampshire during one of the evening sessions. The Ring Nebula never looked more awesome!

By Chuck Ruehle

Membership Dues ~

Its that time of year again. Dues rates remain the same: regular $45, student $22.50 ,senior $22.50, patron $90, life $1125, associate $11.25. Checks may be sent to:

Racine Astronomical Society
c/o Gary Wiltsey
1602 Wisconsin Avenue
Racine, WI 53403

~ 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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