

The

Rosette Gazette

Volume 20, Issue 5

Newsletter of the Rose City Astronomers

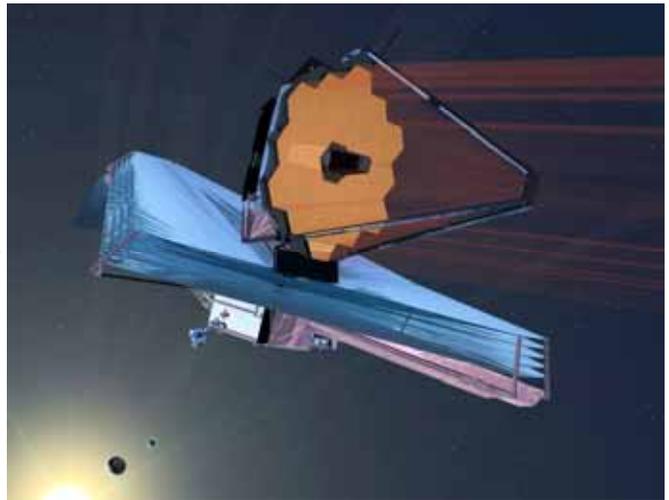
May, 2008



RCA MAY 19 GENERAL MEETING

Greg Cermak, a NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador will present an overview of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is a large, infrared-optimized space telescope, scheduled for launch in 2013. JWST will find the first galaxies that formed in the early Universe, connecting the Big Bang to our own Milky Way Galaxy. JWST will peer through dusty clouds to see stars forming planetary systems, connecting the Milky Way to our own Solar System. JWST's instruments will be designed to work primarily in the infrared range of the electromagnetic spectrum, with some capability in the visible range.



Artist's conception of the JWST deployed, courtesy NASA

JWST will have a large mirror, 6.5 meters (21.3 feet) in diameter and a sunshade the size of a tennis court. Both the mirror and sunshade won't fit onto the rocket fully open, so both will fold up and open only once JWST is in outer space. JWST will reside in an orbit about 1.5 million km (1 million miles) from the Earth.

The James Webb Space Telescope was named after a former NASA Administrator.

Greg Cermak is a software engineer and technical trainer. He is a Solar System Ambassador for the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and teaches Astrobiology at Washington State University - Vancouver. His interests include technology, reading, history, and bicycling. He is a frequent speaker at school programs, public, and industry events.

All are Welcome! Monday May 19

Social Gathering: 7 pm. Meeting Begins: 7:30 pm.

Location: OMSI Auditorium

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RCA is a member of the Astronomical League.
<http://www.astroleague.org>

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Hubble Deep Field above courtesy R. Williams (STScI), the Hubble Deep Field Team and NASA.

Moon photos below courtesy David Haworth

New Moon
May 5

First Quarter Moon
May 11

Full Moon
May 19

Last Quarter Moon
May 27



Club Officers				
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OMSI Liaison	Jan	Keiski	(503) 539-4566	jikeiski@comcast.net
Youth Programs Director	open			



RCA MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

One of the benefits of RCA Membership is a reduced rate subscription to Sky & Telescope and Astronomy magazines. The RCA member rate for Sky & Telescope Magazine is \$32.95 for one year or \$65.95 for two years. The RCA member rate for Astronomy magazine is \$34 for one year or \$60 for two years. For more information go to the RCA web site index and click on any of the links for magazines. Larry Godsey, Treasurer, 503-675-5217, will be taking renewals and new subscriptions at the Magazine Table before General Meetings. Please make checks out to "RCA" and allow two months for your subscription to be renewed.

STREET LIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Final Open House

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

4:30 PM to 6:30 PM

"1900 BUILDING"- ROOM 2500 B
(2nd Floor)

1900 SW Fourth Avenue

The community has provided ideas on how best to replace the aging street lighting in your area. Please join us on June 10, 2008, for an opportunity to review the draft street light replacement plan, talk with project staff and let us know what you think.

WHERE IS THIS PROJECT? The street light project area is generally bounded by SW Clay Street, SW Naito Parkway, SW Arthur Street and SW Fourth Avenue.

To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-5218 with such requests.



Image courtesy NASA

CLASSIC TELESCOPES

Exploring the deep-sky treasures of Virgo with an Optica b/c 6-inch reflector.

by John W. Siple

SPRINGTIME NIGHT SKIES are graced by the starry representation of the Greco-Roman goddess of antiquity Virgo, who ruled Earth during the Golden Age, a time of perfect peace and happiness. As described in mythology, the beautiful winged goddess of Justice has a palm branch in her right hand and is holding an ear of wheat in her left (marked by the brilliant 1st magnitude blue-white star Spica).

The constellation's deep-sky claim to fame is an overabundance of galaxies. Since the observer is peering into space away from the Milky Way's dusty center, galaxies of all sizes and types present themselves. The greatest concentration of island universes, members of the Virgo Galaxy Cluster, is found within the Diamond of Virgo (formed by the stars Spica, Denebola, Cor Caroli, and Arcturus).

Optica b/c's 6-inch f/9 pedestal-mounted Newtonian reflector, made in the 1960s and '70s, was selected for exploring the deep-sky treasures of Virgo. This premium grade reflector (Figures 1 and 2) was manufactured by Royal Astro Optical Industries Co., Ltd. of Tokyo, Japan as #LN-6E and then distributed throughout the world. Optica b/c of Oakland, California displayed it in their catalogs as #6DTC (Deluxe Telescope Complete), where in 1968 it was priced at a relatively expensive \$479. The price escalated to \$554 with an extra clock drive mechanism.

The "realm of the galaxies" has some members that truly stand out. The Sombrero Hat Galaxy (Figure 3), an outlying member of the Coma-Virgo Supercluster, is found just inside Virgo's southern border with Corvus. This nearly edge-wise spiral aptly deserves its namesake; at 33x in the 6-inch Optica b/c telescope with a Tele Vue 40mm Plössl eyepiece, the 8.0 magnitude object looks like a miniature glowing compass needle.

The strong lane of dark obscuring matter that marks the position of the brim of the hat becomes very obvious in a TV-24mm Wide Field ocular/2.5x Barlow lens combination. The core of the 7.1' X 4.4' spiral galaxy containing the stellar nucleus, which is displaced just north of the dark equatorial dust lane, is dominated by a big bulbous haze.

Adding to the glory of the scene is the multiple star Struve 1664. Astronomer James Mullaney describes this unforgettable sight: "This striking asterism has been dubbed 'Little Sagitta' from its arrow shape, and it conveniently points to M104 some 20' E! It in turn, lies just NE of another asterism just over the border in Corvus known as the 'Stargate'."¹

Situated near the crystal heart of the Diamond of Virgo is the giant elliptical galaxy M87 (NGC 4486). At magnitude 8.6, this is one of the brightest galaxies in Virgo. Long exposure photographs of this galaxy show thousands of globular star clusters orbiting on the periphery. Messier 87 is also a well-known radio source; a jet of ejected material from the nucleus is the source of the intense radio emission (Figure 4).

A low power sweep in the 6-inch telescope easily picks up M87's 7.1' X 7.1' almost featureless, concentrated glow. An increase in power to 80x with a Galoc 16.3mm eyepiece shows not much more. However, the increased magnification does reveal two much smaller and fainter companion galaxies in the immediate vicinity: NGC 4478 located 8' to the SW of M87, and NGC 4476 slightly farther 12' to the WSW.

While in the area, amateur astronomers cannot ignore the beautiful double star Porrima, or Gamma (γ) Virginis. Now widening in apparent separation since a minimum in 2005, the pair is now a healthy test for a 6-inch instrument. At



Figure 1. The classic 6-inch pedestal-mounted Newtonian as shown in the Optica b/c 1968 telescope catalog.



Figure 2. The author's deluxe 6-inch f/9 (1,300mm focal length) equatorial reflector telescope.

(Continued on page 4)



Figure 3. The Sombrero Hat Galaxy, M104, a grandiose, nearly edge-on type Sb Spiral with a diameter spanning 135,000 light years. The distance is 65 million light years.

325x using a 4mm Orthoscopic ocular, the two lovely yellow-white diffraction disks, both of magnitude 3.5, are nearly in contact.

NGC 5746, a magnificent slender edge-on spiral galaxy (Figure 5), is found only 20' west and slightly north of the 4th-magnitude star 109 Virginis. This object "all but fades from view with a direct glance, but just like other edge-on galaxies, NGC 5746 swells into a fine sliver of light with averted vision."²

Commonly called the "Blade and Pearl" galaxy, this 6.8' X 1.0' deep-sky denizen is relatively hard to find because of its low surface brightness. However, the 6-inch reflector, operating at 135x with the TV-24mm Wide Field/Barlow combo, easily picks up the patchy central halo of the ghostly spindle along with a tiny nucleus. Once its exact position against the sky background has been firmly established, the rest of the magnitude

10.3 galaxy soon pops into view. Careful scrutiny in the 6-inch then shows the narrow dust lane, which bisects the needle-like object into two equal halves.

Pointing the Optica b/c 6-inch reflector midway between the stars Iota (ι) and Mu (μ) Virginis, the constellation's lone globular star cluster, NGC 5634, floats into the telescope's eyepiece field. At low power it forms a tight double with a magnitude 8.5 star 1.25' to the ESE. In a Clavé 8mm Plössl eyepiece (163x), NGC 5634 resembles a "little cloud," mindful of the famous Praesepe in Cancer.

This fine globular star cluster, shining at magnitude 9.4 and with a size of 4.9', is rated IV on the Shapley-Sawyer scale. This category is reserved for globular clusters that are closely compacted and can be a challenge to resolve. The technique of astrophotography is necessary to resolve the tight ball of light into its component suns (Figure 6).

REFERENCES

1. James Mullaney, *Celestial Harvest: 300-Plus Showpieces of the Heavens for Telescope Viewing & Contemplation*, Self Published, 1998, p. 91.
2. Stephen James O'Meara, *Hidden Treasures*, Cambridge University Press and Sky Publishing Corporation, 1st printing, 2007, p. 368, No. 74 in his listing of hidden treasures.

IMAGE CREDITS: NASA and The Hubble Heritage Team - STScI/AURA (M104/M87); Dave Jurasevich, Superintendent of the Mount Wilson Observatory (NGC 5746); and Daniel Verschatse - Observatorio Antihue - Chile (NGC 5634).



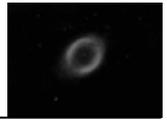
Figure 4. Messier 87 and its jet.



Figure 5. The Blade and Pearl Galaxy NGC 5746.



Figure 6. Virgo's lone globular star cluster NGC 5634.



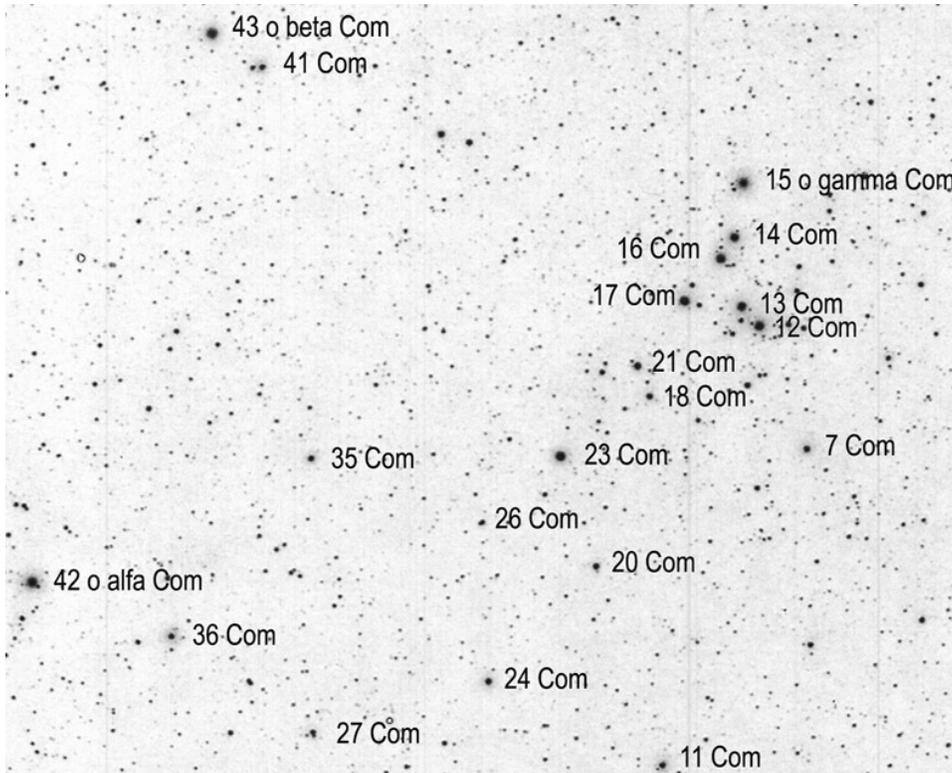
NGC 4565

There are a bunch of deep sky objects that today seem like they belong on the Messier List because of their brightness and size, and NGC 4565 leads the way in this regard. But the sky is too vast for one person (or two, as Pierre Méchain collaborated with Messier) to possibly find all there is to see, and it was inevitable they would miss some objects that their telescopes could have detected.

So 4565 waited for William Herschel to discover it on April 6, 1785 and today this classic example of an edge on galaxy is a spring sky favorite. Located approximately 31 million light years away in Coma Berenices and high in the spring sky, finding 4565 is a relatively easy star hop. This is especially true if the sky is dark enough to see the mostly north-south trail of stars of the original Coma Berenices, which is also designated as the sprawling open cluster Melotte 111. 4565 makes a short equilateral triangle with the stars 17 and 21 Com, with the galaxy at the eastern vertex.



NGC 4565 by Johannes Schedler, http://panther-observatory.com/gallery/deepsky/doc/NGC4565_cass.htm - the galaxy in the upper left is NGC 4562 and the dwarf galaxy at bottom center is IC 3571.



Coma Berenices Melotte 111 region, negative image. NGC 4565 is the faint smudge off the top of the number 1 in the 17 Com label. [es:Imagen:Coma3.jpg](http://www.imagen.coma3.jpg)

This image of the Melotte 111 shows the location of 4565 within the nearby cluster. Have a look with binoculars and see if you can pick up 4565. This may be difficult because holding binoculars steady enough to see a magnitude 10.4 object is not easy, but at least you'll have a great view of an open cluster only 288 light years away.

My first observation of 4565 was on June 4, 1983 with my old 12.5 f/8 Dobsonian under a suburban Eugene sky. I wrote "Bright edge-on galaxy – great sight at all powers – 240x best. Dark lane vaguely seen. I'll come back here – no doubt awesome in real dark skies." I certainly have come back, many times, as 4565 is one of my favorite galaxies and I make sure to have a look every time I can. Like all deep sky objects, changing sky conditions have a big impact

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The Observer's Corner (Continued from page 5)

on its appearance but it almost always shows its basic structure of a long spindle bisected by a thin dark lane. And it is awesome in a dark sky.

Similar to many edge on galaxies, 4565 has a high surface brightness with distinct edges and takes magnification well, so try several eyepieces to see which gives you the best view. Observers with telescopes varying in size from the 72 inch of Lord Rosse to a modern 10 inch have all made rewarding observations:

“A lucid ray 20’ long or more 3’ or 4’ broad from north preceding to south following (from northwest to southeast). Very bright in the middle, a beautiful appearance.” William Herschel, 1785.

“A beautiful object, very well seen in the finding eyepiece; the whole nebula is much broader at the nucleus than elsewhere, narrowing off suddenly, and the nucleus projects forward into the dark space.” Lord Rosse, 1855.

“This edge on galaxy is absolutely phenomenal! The halo is moderately faint, but extremely large and highly elongated 12’x1.5’ NW–SE with a bulging core at its center. a 13.5 magnitude star lies 1.5’ NE of the center. A faint dust lane is just visible without averted vision passing off-center on the NE side of the core.” The Night Sky Observer’s Guide, Volume 2, 1998

So it barely matters what size scope you have, NGC 4565 can be a tremendous sight, especially in dark sky. Using Google Sky (<http://www.google.com/sky/>) to explore 4565 and its surroundings is also interesting as you’ll find hundreds of tiny background galaxies lurking all around, some of which may be visible in larger amateur scopes.

Edge on galaxies in general and 4565 in particular are fascinating because they show what our Milky Way galaxy would look like if we could see it edge on from several million light years away. However, we can approximate this view from our inside location when the summer Milky Way is visible in a dark sky – the dark areas of obscuring dust that line the Milky Way are exactly the same phenomenon that creates the dark lanes in edge on galaxies. Essentially, we have an ideal view of an edge on galaxy from the inside.



Milky Way all-sky image in a dust penetrating near infrared image. COBE satellite DIRBE (Diffuse Infrared Background Experiment) - Infrared wavelengths 1.25 to 240 microns. http://lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov/product/cobe/dirbe_overview.cfm



Detail of the NGC 4565 image at the beginning of this article, enlarged, rotated and cropped for this comparison.

NGC 4565 also give us the chance to ponder our home galaxy in the context of all the other galaxies we see with our telescopes, and the two images above illustrate how similar the Milky Way and 4565 are even from our perspective inside our home galaxy. This insight also gives us the opportunity to ponder the naked eye Milky Way for what it is – the closest, brightest and most detailed edge on galaxy in our sky.



All-sky mosaic of the entire visible wavelength Milky Way, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milky_Way

TELESCOPES OF THE ROSE CITY ASTRONOMERS



Left: **NEAL OLSON'S 14.5-INCH STARMASTER**

Since acquiring his "Dob" in mid-2004, Neal has frequented several club-hosted star parties. Most of Neal's outdoor astronomy activity has been lunar/planetary observing and imaging from his backyard.

Center right: **RON PAOLA'S 20-INCH OBSESSION**

This Obsession-brand telescope, serial number 038, once belonged to renowned deep-sky hunter Howard Banich. Ron is continuing the tradition of finding remote objects by working on the Caldwell List.



Members of the RCA club view distant spiral galaxies, star-filled globular clusters, and hunt for challenging deep-sky objects with a bevy of Dobsonian telescopes.



Above: **JOSEPH ROTTMANN AND HIS 18-INCH "GRAB-AND-GO" SCOPE**

Joseph is using his homemade telescope, a design by Greg Babcock and Dan Gray, to track down objects in the Herschel II Program. More ambitious is his goal of locating and drawing objects in the NGC catalog with a companion 16-inch telescope.

Right: **JOHN STEFAN AND HIS 25-INCH OBSESSION**

John is a self-described "globular star cluster person." He loves to see those sugary balls of light through his telescope and has completed observations for 24 out of the 50 clusters needed to earn the Astronomical League's Globular Star Cluster Certificate and Pin.



Telescope photographs and related text supplied by John W. Siple. Images are from the popular Oregon Star Party, located at Indian Trail Spring in the scenic Ochoco National Forest.

Observing Site Committee

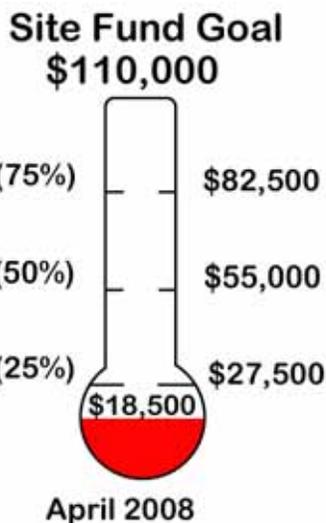
To lead and coordinate efforts of the Rose City Astronomers (RCA) in securing and managing a variety of observing sites for private use by members, and for community outreach and special events organized by the RCA.

Please Check

<http://nemoworld.com/RCA/sitehome.htm>

for more information.

Or Contact: David Nemo <david@nemoworld.com>



Telescope Workshop

When: Saturday, May 17, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Place: Technical Marine Service, Inc.

6040 N. Cutter Circle on Swan Island

For more information contact:

Director: John DeLacy johndelacy@comcast.net

Assistant: Don Peckham don@dbpeckham.com

The Rose City Astronomers, **Science Special Interest Group (SCI-SIG)** will be meeting May 17 at 3pm. Following the Telescope Workshop at Technical Marine Services.

Information about SCI-SIG

This group is for people who would like to advance their skills in astronomy beyond casual observing. Various projects that some group members are involved in include; variable and double star observing, occultations, photometry and astrometry. A science background is not required, however a curious mind does help.

Location of TMS -

<http://www.rca-oms.org/clubprojects.htm#telescope>

Tom Nathe <tmnathe@verizon.net> RCA SIG coordinator

ASTROPHYSICS / COSMOLOGY SIG

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 21, 7 PM.

Topic: "Portland Astronomical History"

Presented by: Chris Lee & David Tevr

Place: Linus Pauling Complex,
3945 S.E. Hawthorne St., Portland.

Contact: Bob McGown (503-244-0078)
or Dareth Murray, (503-957-4499).

<http://www.rca-oms.org/cosmologysig.htm>

RCA LIBRARY

The Rose City Astronomers maintains a comprehensive club library of astronomy related articles, books, CDs and videos. These items can be borrowed by members through check-out at the general meetings for a period of one month with renewals available by phone or e-mail to the club library director, Jan Keiski.

The RCA library is constantly growing through many donations and the purchase of new materials. A listing of library materials (PDF format) can be found at the library web page: <http://www.rca-oms.org/library.htm>

Jan Keiski (jikeiski@comcast.net) 503-539-4566



RCA 'Downtowner's' Lunch

Join us on the first Friday of each month for lunch at a great downtown restaurant (Holidays and such may push us to the second Friday of some months, check the calendar at <http://www.rca-oms.org>).

The location is announced on the RCA general email discussion list. Information on how to join this list is at <http://www.rca-oms.org/emaillists.htm>

Always great conversation and food.

For more information contact: Margaret Campbell at mmcrea@nwlinc.com



Photo by Jan Keiski



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2008

OMSI Classroom 1

Margaret Campbell

Attending: Dale Fenske, Jan Keiski, Jim Reilly, Doug Huston, Carol Huston, Ken Hose, Larry Godsey, Dave Nemo, Greg Rohde, Margaret Campbell-McCrea.

A quorum was met. The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

Officer Reports

- Secretary: Margaret Campbell brought another draft of the February minutes and there was discussion on how to rewrite the section on the discussion regarding our website. The consensus was to omit most of it, which she agreed to do and submit a final draft as soon as possible to Larry Deal.
- Treasurer: Larry Godsey reported that the RCA Operations fund has \$17,718.18 and the RCA Site fund has \$18,469.84. Larry asked that all officers keep him apprised of our club activities and public service, because we have to report that at the end of our financial year as a non-profit organization.
- Programs: No report. Richard Berry will speak at the March meeting.
- Observing: Doug finished the star party list and passed it out at the meeting. Doug will add this list as a pdf to the website and will print out copies to hand out at the next meeting. We discussed a few changes in driving directions, which Doug will make, and we agreed to add the word OMSI to OMSI events.
- Membership: Ken Hose. Three new members in January and five renewals. Total of 285 family memberships, and \$232 in dues.
- New Members: Jim Reilly reported sending out an email to both new members and the membership in general that he will be wearing green and meeting new members at the planetarium at the March meeting. He asked to have an announcement regarding this in the March gazette.
- Sales: Margaret Campbell-McCrea was officially voted in as Sales Director. She reported \$194.00 in sales at the February meeting.
- Library: Jan Keiski shared the book on Patagonia that GAMA donated to RCA. Jan will be working with Graziano to help GAMA build up a club library.
- Scope Library: Greg Rhode reported that he is taking scopes #18 (an 8" SC w/accessories, no wedge) and #19 (10" Coulter dob) off the list and will put them out to bid. He will conduct a sealed bid auction as he did last time we auctioned off some scopes. Dave Danske will rebuild the #10 scope, making it like a 12.5" truss tube. This will reduce the weight and make it easier to handle.

Cost to RCA will be "parts only, at cost" from Aurora Precision.

- Website: Dareth reported that she is working on a new site design at rosecityastronomers.org, and that she and Larry Godsey are working together on testing it. She will bring a demonstration for the next board meeting.
- Site Search: David Nemo reported that he won't be at the March meeting, so Dareth volunteered to sell tickets for the Sky Scout at that meeting.
- SIGs: No report.
- ALCOR: Dale Fenske reported that the Reflector has updated RCA's certificate awards list, and the Gazette has printed a record of the awards for 2007. Dareth reported that she has updated the website too.
- OMSI: Jan Keiski reported that Jim Todd is okay with the star party schedule for 2008.

Old Business

- Forum/E-mail Committee: Dave Nemo reported that he will try to install the new forum tonight and will start testing it tomorrow. He is trying different programs and has not decided which one we are going to use yet.
- Larry asked for \$90 to change from EasyStreet to GoDaddy because it is more flexible and allows for more space. Doug Huston made a motion to increase the website budget by \$90, Jan Keiski seconded it. Motion carried.
- Dave Nemo suggested that we use email addresses that say pres@rca and treas@rca, in order to avoid putting out personal emails on the Internet.
- Sister Clubs: Margaret reported that she, Carol Huston, Jan Keiski and Dareth Murray had a productive meeting on this issue, and that we agreed on a number of ideas, but had one unresolved issue: if we allow sister club members to access our email list and have other privileges of membership, then does that change our membership count for purposes of AL dues? Carol had contacted AL and accessed their by-laws, but she hadn't had a return message yet. Our group's suggestion was to have a "Sister Club Membership" for one person, probably the president of the club. In the alternative, we might be willing to pay, for example, \$1 to AL instead of \$5 for our sister club members. Dale Fenske suggested that we find out from A.L. whether they have international member club or sister club designations.
- SIGs: The rewrite is complete. Tom Nathe wasn't there for voting on the rewrite of the SIG rules.
- Awards Committee: No action. Dareth has a complete list of A.L. awards, their criteria and deadlines, but reports that she still has some work to do.

(Continued on page 10)

March Board Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 9)

- Youth Program: Carol Huston tried to contact the person who had been suggested earlier but did not have a reply yet.
- Astronomy Day: Dareth and Doug presented a plan as they see it so far: on Saturday the 10th during the day, set up a table in Pioneer Place or other shopping center, inside; have solar scopes and members available, as well as information on RCA, astronomy, and the Rooster Rock Star Party. In the evening, tentatively, set up a public star party at Pioneer Square. At the moment there is no permit for an evening event, and we may not get it.
- Yuri's Night: Dareth reported that management has changed at Evergreen Museum, so there will be no Yuri's Night out there, but there will be at the Linus Pauling House.
- Starlight Parade: Margaret reported that there is a \$250 entry fee to apply for the Starlight Parade, which is refundable if our application is rejected. She reported on the rest of the technical requirements, among them to have lots of lights, and interact with the crowd.
- Andy Phelps attended the meeting because he is interested in the Starlight Parade and had talked to someone who gave him good advice about how to increase our chances of being accepted: have a purpose; if kids are involved, our chances increase considerably; give the parade host lots to talk about: 20th anniversary, youth programs, public star parties, work with OMSI, our meeting dates, etc.
- We agreed that we could meet these requirements. Larry moved and Dareth seconded that we spend the \$250 to apply. Doug suggested that this could be part of our Community Affairs budget. We selected the Starlight Parade Committee: Greg Rohde, Andy Phelps, Patton Echols (ask him to do advance publicity), and Margaret Campbell-McCrea. The committee is to report next time on the true cost of the project.

New Business

- 20th Anniversary. Dale Fenske volunteered to be the committee head for this project, and reported that Jim Todd has some good ideas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m



Courtesy of the Lake County (Illinois) Astronomical Society



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2008

OMSI Classroom 1

Margaret Campbell

Attending: Greg Rohde, Tom Nathe, Carol Huston, Doug Huston, Sameer Ruiwale, Jan Keiski, Ken Hose, Dareth Murray, Matt Brewster, Margaret Campbell-McCrea, Larry Godsey, Bob McGown.

A quorum was met. The meeting began at 7:08 p.m.

Officer Reports

- Secretary's report: Because the secretary occupies two board positions, the quorum is now nine. March minutes approved.
- Treasurer's report: Operations - - \$17,520.36 and site fund \$18,501.32. Next month we will talk about budget for next year. Larry will have preliminary budget at the next meeting.
- Program Report: April's meeting will be the Oregon Episcopal School science fair. Eight topics will be presented by students, two of them about astronomy. May's program is currently inchoate.
- Observing: Kah-Nee-Ta started not great but got better late at night, some observing did get done. Camp Hancock's report was about the same. This weekend we have the OMSI Planet Parade star party at Rooster Rock State Park.
- Membership: Six new and three renewals in March, brought in \$282. Now 294 member families (2 more than last year at this time).
- New Member Support: There were six or eight new members at the orientation at the planetarium. They asked for a practice star party in the OMSI parking lot - - hands on.
- Sales: \$403.50 in sales for March.
- Library: Nominal.
- Telescope library: Nominal.
- IDA: Bob is meeting with city lighting officials tomorrow at a day-long conference having to do with a new project for downtown.
- Magazines: Nominal
- Webmaster: Gazette not on the website yet. Larry Deal is waiting for programming information.
- Observing site: Made \$65 in raffle ticket sales in March.
- SIGs: One request for someone to talk about meteorology; several good names were suggested.
- ALCOR: no report
- OMSI: In May, we sign our annual agreement with

(Continued on page 11)

April Board Meeting Minutes (Continued from page 10)

OMSI. We expect no change in the contract.

- Youth program: Carol connected with Jeannie, the woman Ken had connected with. She's great, but new to astronomy and a bit unsure about taking on the youth program.

Old Business:

- Forum/eList update: The forum has been tested successfully for a few weeks, but so far it has not been possible to incorporate an email option into the choices. Sameer will contact Dave Nemo for status on where we are on getting the email incorporated into the forum choices. The Board members were encouraged to go to the forum to try it out as part of the testing process.
- SIG guidelines: Carol made motion to accept guidelines as written by Tom Nathe and reviewed by the Board. Dareth Murray seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Awards Committee: Update next month
- Sister city report: Discussion on guidelines. Margaret will post rewrite of #4 on Board elist and we will finalize them by next month. After we approve it, we will write an article for the newsletter.
- Bylaws: In May we begin to review, so during this month, Board members should review current bylaws.
- Astronomy Day: Dareth and Doug continue to make arrangements as described in last month's minutes. It may be possible to set up at the Portland Willamette Esplanade which is free. Doug will look for RCA signs and/or banner. They plan to have something simple for the kids. They will put publicity in the newsletter tonight.
- Starlight Parade: Margaret presented the plans so far. The feeling of the board was that there was not enough time to complete a float design and complete construction before this year's Starlight Parade. Doug Huston made motion that we get our money back from the Starlight Parade and begin planning for next year. Carol Huston seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- New website design. Not quite done yet. Dareth described the new graphics and will do a demo of it next month.
- 20th anniversary of RCA: Sameer will work with Dale to assign the various tasks. Doug will get the info from Dale and write the article; Dareth and Larry will work on logo to put on the website. Carol will research some early club history and members. Larry can refer us to someone who can make pins for 20-year members.

Meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.

Action Items:

- Prelim budget at next meeting (Larry)

- Contact Dave Nemo about getting the email incorporated into the forum choices (Sameer)
- Update next month (Dareth and Bob?)
- Post rewrite of #4 of Sister Club policy on Board elist (Margaret)
- Begin to review bylaws (everyone)
- Do a demo of new website (Dareth)
- Get money back from Starlight Parade (Margaret)
- Work with Dale on digging up club history (Sameer, Doug, Carol, maybe Jim Reilly)

COME CELEBRATE ASTRONOMY DAY WITH OMSI AND THE RCA!



Astronomy Day is an annual worldwide event designed to promote public awareness and interest in astronomy and space science.

Festivities begin at OMSI in the Planetarium lobby from 10AM to 4PM on Saturday, May 10. RCA members will be on hand with information and brochures on astronomy related topics. If weather permits there will be solar telescopes set up in the parking lot as well.

Join us on the evening of Saturday, May 10 as we gaze at the spring night sky at Rooster Rock State Park, starting at 8:30 pm. Visitors to the star party will be star-struck as they view the stars and other objects through a variety of telescopes. In addition to seeing the planets Mercury, Mars and Saturn, star clusters, waxing crescent moon, and other celestial bodies will be visible.

Located 22 miles east of Portland on I-84 (east of Sandy River) at exit 25, Rooster Rock State Park is a wonderful place to view the spring night sky. Parking is \$3 per vehicle. Members of Rose City Astronomers and Vancouver Sidewalk Astronomers will make their telescopes available to anyone who attends, and OMSI Planetarium Manager Jim Todd will present informal talks on the occurrence.

For possible weather cancellation, call (503) 797-4610 on May 10 after 3:00 PM to get the latest information.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
 Rose City Astronomers
 1945 SE Water Avenue
 Portland, Oregon 97214-3354



April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2008

May 2/3	Fri/Sat	Dark Sky Star Party	Camp Hancock	
May 5	Mon	RCA Board Meeting	OMSI Classroom 1	7pm
May 9	Fri	Downtowner's Luncheon	Kell's	Noon
May 10	Sat	Astronomy Day Exhibition	OMSI Planetarium	10am-4pm
May 10	Sat	OMSI Star Party	Rooster Rock S.P.	
May 17	Sat	Telescope Workshop	Swan Island	10am-3pm
May 17	Sat	Science SIG	Swan Island	3pm
May 19	Mon	General Meeting	OMSI Auditorium	7pm
May 21	Thurs	Astrophysics/Cosmology SIG	Linus Pauling Complex	7pm
May 30/31	Fri/Sat	Dark Sky Star Party	Maupin Site	

June 2008

Jun 2	Mon	RCA Board Meeting	OMSI Classroom 1	7pm
Jun 5-7	Thu-Sat	NWRAL Star Party	Goldendale, WA	
Jun 6	Fri	Downtowner's Luncheon	TBA	Noon
Jun 14	Sat	Telescope Workshop	Swan Island	10am-3pm
Jun 14	Sat	Science SIG	Swan Island	3pm
Jun 14	Sat	OMSI Star Party	Rooster Rock S.P.	
Jun 16	Mon	General Meeting	OMSI Auditorium	7pm
Jun 18	Thurs	Astrophysics/Cosmology SIG	Linus Pauling Complex	7pm

The RCA General Meeting falls on the third Monday of each month. We usually meet in the Auditorium at OMSI, next to the Murdock Planetarium. Occasionally the meeting is held in Murdock Planetarium. Check here each month for details, or look us up at the RCA web site (<http://www.rca-oms.org>).

RCA CLUB INFORMATION
 Message Line: (503) 255-2016
 Web Site: <http://www.rca-oms.org>