

IO - July 2010

Eugene Astronomical Society
Annual Club Dues \$25
President: Sam Pitts - 688-7330
Secretary: Jerry Olton - 343-4758
Additional Board members:
Jacob Strandlien, Tony Dandurand,
John Loper.

www.eugeneastro.org

EAS is a proud member of:

The Astronomical League
The World's Largest Federation of Amateur Astronomers

Issue 2010-07
Eugene Astronomical Society



Next Meeting: Thursday, July 22nd

What's Up This Summer

by Sam Pitts and Everyone Else

At our July 22nd meeting, Sam Pitts will present an overview of interesting objects for the summer sky. This will be an open forum with audience input of your favorite objects, too. Come learn what's up there now that the clouds have rolled away, and tell us what you like to look at in the summer sky.

We will also have a report on the Dexter star party, assuming we don't get clouded out.

In addition, Jacob Strandlein will present the astronomy news of the month, and as always there will also be time for any of us to bring items for show & tell. If you've got a new scope or piece of equipment you'd like to show off, bring it! The meeting is at 7:00 in EWEB's Community Room, 500 E. 4th in Eugene.



Next First Quarter Friday: July 16th

Our June First Quarter Friday was clouded out again, with the exception of a few sucker holes that allowed us to see the Moon and (briefly) Saturn. We had about 10 people even so, and most of them at least got a look at the Moon. We told them to come back in July (and go to our July 10 dark-sky star party). Here's hoping the weather cooperates better then.

First Quarter Fridays are laid-back opportunities to do some observing and promote astronomy at the same time. Mark your calendar and bring your scope to the College Hill Reservoir (24th and Lawrence in Eugene) and share the view with whoever shows up.

Here are the dates for First Quarter Fridays through December of 2010:

July 16
August 13

September 17
October 15

November 12
December 10

May Meeting Report

At our June 24th meeting, Jerry Olton gave a short slide show about the launch of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, which he and his wife, Kathy, witnessed in person last May. He also showed a few slides of the rest of their vacation to Florida, including the view of the giant globular cluster, Omega Centauri.

Then Jerry talked about the myriad selection of catalogs, lists, and charts available to amateur astronomers. He delved into the history of astronomical catalogs, from Stonehenge through Ptolemy's *Almagest* to Bayer's *Uranometria* and on to the present. He concluded with an array of current-day star charts and planetarium programs that can be very useful for modern amateur astronomers.

After Jerry's presentations, Jacob Strandlien reported the astronomical news of the month.



Remember EAS Campout August 6-8

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the second annual EAS Dark Sky Campout, held this year on August 6-8 at Sacandaga Campground, 26 miles southeast of Oakridge on the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. This was an excellent campout last year, missing only one thing: you! Join us in making this year's campout even better. There are plenty of campsites, a great open meadow for telescopes, and some of the darkest sky you're likely to see anywhere. Tony and Louise Dandurand will be there from the 4th onward. Contact Tony at <tdandurand@comcast.net> for more information.



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 24th, at 7:00 PM in the EWEB north building's Community Room. This is the first room in the semicircular building to the north of the fountain at EWEB's main campus on the east end of 4th Avenue.

Meeting dates for 2010: (All meetings are at 7:00 in the Community Room)

July 22

September 23

November 24 (Wednesday)

August 26

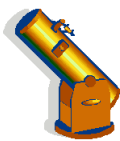
October 28

December 23



Thank You Castle Storage

For the last two years, Castle Storage has generously provided EAS a place to store its telescopes and equipment. EAS would like to thank Castle Storage for their generosity and support for our group. Please give them a call if you need a storage space, and tell your friends. They are great people and offer secure and quality storage units.



Observing in July



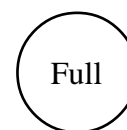
Last Q



New



1st Q



Full

July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
Mercury Set: 9:36 PM	Mercury Set: 9:53 PM	Mercury Set: 9:56 PM	Mercury Set: 9:51 PM
Venus Set: 11:11 PM	Venus Set: 11:01 PM	Venus Set 10:49 PM	Venus Set: 10:36 PM
Mars Set: 11:56 PM	Mars Set: 11:37 PM	Mars Set: 11:17 PM	Mars Set: 10:58 PM
Jupiter Rise: 12:33 AM	Jupiter Rise: 12:06 AM	Jupiter Rise: 11:36 PM	Jupiter Rise: 11:08 PM
Saturn Set: 12:36 AM	Saturn Set: 11:43 PM	Saturn Set: 11:18 PM	Saturn Set: 10:53 PM
Uranus Rise: 12:26 AM	Uranus Rise: 11:54 PM	Uranus Rise: 11:26 PM	Uranus Rise: 10:59 PM
Neptune Rise: 11:09 PM	Neptune Rise: 10:41 PM	Neptune Rise: 10:13 PM	Neptune Rise: 9:45 PM
Pluto Set: 5:28 AM	Pluto Set: 5:00 AM	Pluto Set: 4:31 AM	Pluto Set: 4:03 PM

All times: Pacific Standard Time (Nov 1, 2009-March 13, 2010) = UT -8 hours or U.S. Pacific Daylight Time (March 14-November 7, 2010) = UT -7 hours.

Date	Moonrise	Moonset	Sunrise	Sunset	Twilight Begin	Twilight End
7/1/2010	23:35	10:49	05:33	20:59	03:10	23:22
7/2/2010	23:55	11:50	05:34	20:59	03:11	23:22
7/3/2010		12:51	05:34	20:59	03:12	23:21
7/4/2010	00:15	13:54	05:35	20:58	03:13	23:20
7/5/2010	00:39	14:59	05:36	20:58	03:14	23:19
7/6/2010	01:05	16:06	05:36	20:58	03:15	23:18
7/7/2010	01:38	17:14	05:37	20:57	03:16	23:17
7/8/2010	02:19	18:21	05:38	20:57	03:18	23:16
7/9/2010	03:11	19:22	05:39	20:56	03:19	23:15
7/10/2010	04:14	20:15	05:39	20:56	03:21	23:14
7/11/2010	05:28	20:59	05:40	20:55	03:22	23:13
7/12/2010	06:46	21:36	05:41	20:55	03:24	23:11
7/13/2010	08:07	22:06	05:42	20:54	03:25	23:10
7/14/2010	09:26	22:33	05:43	20:54	03:27	23:09
7/15/2010	10:44	22:59	05:43	20:53	03:28	23:07
7/16/2010	12:00	23:25	05:44	20:52	03:30	23:06
7/17/2010	13:14	23:52	05:45	20:51	03:32	23:04
7/18/2010	14:28		05:46	20:51	03:33	23:03
7/19/2010	15:39	00:23	05:47	20:50	03:35	23:01
7/20/2010	16:47	00:59	05:48	20:49	03:37	22:59
7/21/2010	17:48	01:41	05:49	20:48	03:39	22:58
7/22/2010	18:41	02:31	05:50	20:47	03:41	22:56
7/23/2010	19:25	03:27	05:51	20:46	03:42	22:54
7/24/2010	20:01	04:28	05:52	20:45	03:44	22:52
7/25/2010	20:32	05:32	05:53	20:44	03:46	22:51
7/26/2010	20:57	06:35	05:54	20:43	03:48	22:49
7/27/2010	21:20	07:38	05:55	20:42	03:50	22:47
7/28/2010	21:40	08:39	05:56	20:41	03:51	22:45
7/29/2010	22:00	09:40	05:57	20:40	03:53	22:43
7/30/2010	22:20	10:41	05:58	20:39	03:55	22:41
7/31/2010	22:42	11:43	05:59	20:37	03:57	22:39

All times are for Eugene, Oregon, Latitude 44° 3' Longitude 123° 06' for listed date

Items of Interest This Month

All month: Good time to observe Pluto

All month: Comet 10P/Tempel visible in Cetus

All month: Good time to observe Ceres

7/6 Earth at aphelion (94.5 million miles from Sun)

7/8 near dawn: crescent Moon near Pleiades

7/9 & 7/10 Regulus and Venus 1° apart

7/16 First Quarter Friday Star Party

7/27 Regulus 1/2° from Mercury at dusk

7/29 & 7/30 Mars and Saturn within 2°



For Current Occultation Information

Visit Derek C. Breit's web site

"BREIT IDEAS Observatory"

<http://www.poyntsource.com/New/Regions/EAS.htm>

Go to Regional Events and click on the Eugene, Oregon section. This will take you to a current list of Lunar & asteroid events for the Eugene area. Breit continues to update and add to his site weekly if not daily. This is a site to place in your favorites list and visit often.

Dark-Sky Star Party July 10th

Our second annual Dark Sky Star Party, sponsored by the State Park Service with scopes and expertise provided by the Eugene Astronomical Society, will be held on July 10th at Dexter State Park, about 15 miles southeast of Eugene on Highway 58. The site is right at the lower end of Dexter Reservoir, and just across the highway from the town of Dexter itself. It has wonderful wide-open views in all directions, and sky dark enough to reveal the Milky Way.

Using a state park provides several advantages: easy access, parking for over a hundred cars, a bathroom, and enthusiastic sponsors in the State Park Service. Last year's party had nearly 100 guests. This year with a little more promotion we could easily double that number.

The next page is a flyer that you can — and should! — print out and photocopy and post at work and wherever else you can think of that's appropriate. Always ask permission before posting flyers, but do get out there and post them. The farther we spread the word, the more people will come to the party, and the more people who will understand the value of dark sky.

The party will start at dusk, which should be around 9:15 - 9:30. Get there early to set up and learn where everything is. We'll be setting up in the grass to the east of the first parking lot. Last year we set up in the parking lot and got hit by headlights all night long as people came and went, so this year we're going to try going down the slope into the grass to see if that will work better.

To get there, head up Hwy 58 from Goshen. Go past the Rattlesnake Road turnoff where we normally turn to go to Eagle's Rest, and go another 3 miles. Just as you reach the town of Dexter, you'll see signs for Dexter State Park on the left (north). Park in the first parking lot you come to and set up toward the reservoir from there.

We need volunteers to direct parking, run the information table, help put red filter material on flashlights, and so on. We'll coordinate things via the email list, and hopefully between us all we'll anticipate everything we need and have a smooth party.

The main thing is to have lots of club members there with telescopes! Bring yours, and help show people how beautiful the deep, dark sky can be.



Dark Sky Star Party July 10, 2010 Dexter State Park

15 miles S.E. of Eugene on HWY 58

Come see the wonders of the
night sky far from city lights

We bring the telescopes,
You bring curiosity and enthusiasm!

Starts at dusk (9:30) - Admission: FREE

Dress warmly. Please cover flashlights with red filter material
to preserve night vision. We will have filters on hand if you need one.

Sponsored by Oregon State Parks and the Eugene Astronomical Society
For more information, visit www.eugeneastro.org

The June New Moon on Mt. June

by Tony Dandurand

The spring of 2010 will be remembered as cooler and wetter than average. Then along came May. It featured lousy weather of almost biblical proportions, forty days and forty nights of rain, mist, clouds, drizzle, downpours, overcast skies, showers, and nippy winds. With occasional weather predictions of improving conditions. Hah!

Stargazing opportunities? Hah! A couple, for a few minutes, under fast closing sucker holes and unsteady skies. So as the new moon weekend in early June approached, EAS members tried to stay hopeful. On Friday night Jerry and Dan, armed with optimism and a good Clear Sky Charts forecast, braved partly cloudy skies and headed for the Ridge. Jerry reports the sky kept looking worse through the deepening dust, but on they went. On top — the cloud nebula had won, it was socked in.

Too stubborn to give up, they stood their ground. Gradually, then suddenly, the clouds dispersed! A few stars were seen, then many, then uncountable numbers. Stars, clusters, nebulae, yeh — even galaxies. They stayed till the first light of dawn. Then, like doves to the ark, they returned, and reported dry land on the shoulder of Mt. June, with the whole of the heavens drifting above.

I read Jerry's email to the list on Saturday. Yes! Finally. Saturday was clear and beautiful all day, the night promising. Rested and ready, Louise and I headed out for the Ridge. I'd talked to Jerry and Jim, hoping to finally have a chance to compare the Club's 18" to their similar size scopes. Almost nine weeks had come and gone since its "First Light." On the straights of Highway 58, we passed Frank Szcz, but once in the hills he put the hammer down and stayed on our tail to the top.

On top, there were happy folk. Scopes were being assembled, talk of other nights under the skies remembered, and plans for the night discussed. In the west, Venus blazed in the twilight. Aaron Weiss was there with friends, his last trip to the Ridge before a move to an opportunity in California. Eleven people and seven scopes if I remember right (before guests).

I'd forgotten how long it takes to get dark dark after mostly dark near the summer solstice. But Saturn, the bright globulars M13 and 92, and many other objects kept everyone happy till galaxy time. Gradually the Milky Way emerged; the twilight shrank and faded (amazingly close to North). It was "Game On" time. Many fine objects were found and seen. Stephen's Quintet, Markarian's Chain, Owl Nebula, Sombrero



Galaxy, Wild Duck. I showed Caldwell 35 again, a new favorite because of its distance (~300 million light years), but relative ease of seeing.

Sometime around midnight, a car drives up the road and shuts off. The older couple gets out and walks hand in hand down the spur road for a smoke and look at the city lights. The teenage couple proceeds to — um — hang out in the back seat. Eventually they take a break from that, step out to use the cell phone, go to get back in the car and set off the alarm. The older couple comes hustling back. Once that quiets down, I ask if they'd all like a look through a telescope. "That's a telescope?!" In quick order I show them the Whirlpool galaxy, M13, and Saturn through the club 18". That was fun; they were appropriately awestruck, and expressed much thanks. Guess they were in the right time and place for their first look through a telescope.

We never did do any real comparing of the big scopes. Everyone was going from object to object, drinking it all in after the long drought. We all looked through and shared views in all the scopes there. Jim was working on a planetary nebula program; both big and bright, and small and distant nebulae were seen through his Starmaster. Frank's binocular 8" telescope always makes me smile; an 8" aperture for each eye seems to add up to more than you think it would. In the wee hours, Bill used his go-to to find a couple of comets in the horizon muck; we watched them get better as they rose higher.

Jupiter was clearing the eastern horizon when Louise and I decided to call it a night. Once the George Towe Scope was packed, we walked around for last views through the remaining scopes. Someone had pointed Jerry & Kathy's twenty at the Double Cluster. Sweet. It was that kind of night.

Final Details on Club 18"

by Tony Dandurand

In June — besides getting used for the second time — a couple of final details were finished on the club's George Towe Memorial Telescope. Jerry Olton had made and donated to the club a nice little plaque for the scope. He also made and wired up a switched, speed-adjustable battery pack (uses 6 AA batteries) to power a mirror cooling fan.

Tony Dandurand contributed half the cost for a nice shroud for the truss poles. It definitely seems to add to the contrast at the eyepiece, as well as protect the mirror from dropped eyepieces or drools of amazement from the star party public.



