



A.S.E.M. Newsletter

January 2015

*By Mike Pusatera
Celestron NexStar 8SE
Nikon D3200
Focal Reducer to f/6.7
ISO 400 1/30s*



MOON – MIKE PUSATERA

JANUARY CALENDARS

Social

January 15 – 7pm Beginner Meeting @ Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 HWY 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304

January 10 – 6pm Social hour, dinner followed by monthly meeting

January 20 - 7pm DigitalSIG Astrophoto group meeting Weldon Spring, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304.

January 28 - 7PM DIY-ATMSIG Weldon Spring, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 7 pm start times Broemmelsiek Park Public Viewing, weather permitting.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER

DAN CROWSON

AMY WHITE

GREGG RUPPEL

GEORGE AND JODEE ALLEN

BILL NUEBERT

MIKE PUSATERA

Would you like intergalactic recognition in our newsletter? Send a note to your friendly editor on any astronomy related subject at newsletter@aseonline.org I'll get it posted in the monthly newsletter.

Your editor at large (not large editor),

Jim Curry

DECEMBER DIGITAL SIG MEETING NOTES

BY DAN CROWSON

The theme of December's Digital SIG meeting was processing user data. It was nice to see some new (to the Digital SIG) people show up. I demonstrated some basic processing techniques that most people use with DSLR and CCD images.

The next Digital SIG meeting is Tuesday, January 20th, 2014. This is also a new moon night. The topic is currently open. Please post suggestions on the Yahoo Group. I have a feeling that people will receive a lot of new equipment for Christmas and a show and tell might be good. Maybe we'll head to the park if clear?

Show up. Bring your images and questions. We can help.

The latest Digital SIG news can always be found in the [ASEM Digital SIG Yahoo Group](#)

VOLUNTEER HOURS AT BROEMMELSIEK PARK SUBMITTED BY AMY WHITE

2014 ASEM volunteers at Broemmelsiek Park

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	total 2014
Adrion	Neil	2	3								2		7
Boerner	Steve	3	3	3	6	3	9	9	6	3	9	2	56
Breeden	Bill and Rita						4						4
Busiek	Joe					3							3
Campbell	Larry				3			3	3				9
Farigna	Rodney					3							3
Furlong	John				5	9	4						18
G	Ken		3					1					4
Martin	Grant								6				6
Heinz	Greg and Mary Ann				2	1							3
Marcella	Al				3								3
Pastor	Joe									3	3		6
Payeur	Tom				3	3							6
Pusatara	Mike and Amy						4			3	6		13
Reed	Dave and Donna					2			2				4
Richards	Tom					3	4						7
Scallion	Mike				3								3
Schmied	Ken					3							3
Sheehy	Bill and Flory				3				3				6
Simms	Chuck			3	6	4	11	6	6	3	6		45
Stewart	Marv				3	6	4	6	3		3		25
Taylor	Bill and Nyla	2											2
Thater	Stacey	2		3				3			5	3	16
Trull	Jim						4				3		7
Turek	Carl			3	3	6	6	6	6	3	9	2	44
Twelman	Jim		3	3	3		4			3	6		22
White	Amy	4		3	7	8	5	8	3	6	10	2	56
White	Ed	4			7	6		5		6	8		36
Winningham	Ben and Bill					6	2	6	3		3		20
													437
total visitors 2014	973												

BEGINNER'S MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015

BY AMY WHITE

- Thursday, January 15, 2015, from 7pm to around 9pm.
- Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304.
- Completely FREE! All are welcome!
- No, you do not need a telescope to participate.

Did you get a telescope for the holidays? Are you borrowing a scope? Want help using it? The friendly and experienced folk at the ASEM Beginner Meeting are ready to help you.

Here is a list of suggestions for those of you who may be new to astronomy.

- * Visit the website www.skymaps.com for a monthly star chart. In addition to a map, you get information about what to see, and observing tips.
- * During the daytime, take a trip to the Broemmelsiek Park Astronomy Viewing site.



Look for the street sign that says “Galileo Drive” to find the parking lot. It is so much easier to find this place during the day. There are restrooms and concrete pads with electrical power. Even if your telescope does not need to be plugged in, you will have power for necessities like an electric blanket, coffee maker, or laptop computer.

- * Go through the assembly of your telescope and read all instructions indoors in a warm lit room. Make sure you know what you’re doing before taking your equipment outdoors in the cold and dark.
- * You might find that after reading the owner’s manual, and following the instructions, you still can’t get the thing to work. Don’t be afraid to ask for help! Some tips and advice will go a long way to helping you succeed at observing.
- * Align your finder scope, or laser dot finder, to the main telescope. You won’t locate anything in the sky if the finder is not aligned well. Expect to align the finder every time you use the telescope. If you are not sure how to do alignment, ask for help!
- * Use the lowest magnification first, then work your way up to higher magnification. The calculation for magnification is easy. Divide the focal length of the main telescope by the focal length written on the eyepiece. A consequence of this makes your 20 mm focal length eyepiece give a lower magnification than your 9mm eyepiece.

- * Start with the Moon, Jupiter, the Pleiades star cluster M45, and the Orion Nebula M42. With the planets and deep sky objects, do not expect your eyepiece views to look like Hubble Space Telescope images.
- * Don't forget the basics. Know where North, South, East, and West are on the horizon.
- * Remember that the sky appears to move, due to Earth's rotation. Whatever you get in the eyepiece may be gone in a few minutes. You might not have a telescope that tracks celestial motion. Then you will need to learn how to move your telescope gently to follow sky objects as they move in big arcs across the sky.
- * Even if you have a computerized telescope, learn the names and locations of a few bright stars and constellations.
- * Consider downloading a program like Sky Safari or Starry Night to your tablet, laptop, or phone. They will take you farther than the beginner's app on your smartphone.
- * Dress for the weather! After the Sun goes down, the temperatures drop drastically in the winter. Assume the temp. to be 10 degrees colder than a forecast predicts.



This picture was taken in 1990, and it included here to remind you of summer. Our daughter and two neighborhood girls really enjoyed looking at the Moon, planets, and bright deep sky objects with this little homemade instrument.

Julia White is holding the Cabbage Patch doll.

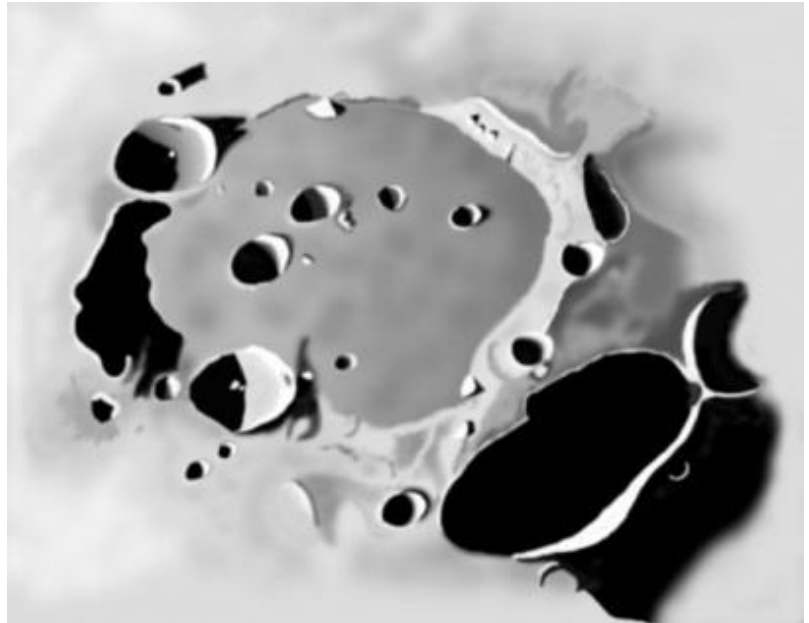
The telescope is a 4" f-12 Dobsonian. Thank you, John Dobson, for bringing the joy of observing to our home!

Here is a preview for the February 5th, 2015 ASEM Beginner Meeting: The topic will be Astronomical Sketching, Part II.

At the December 2014 ASEM Beginner Meeting, Grant Martin gave a great presentation on sketching objects. I have made drawings of galaxies, nebulae, and comets, but had never attempted the Moon. It

seemed too complicated. Grant had lots of advice and helpful hints on how to draw features of the Moon, sunspots, open clusters, and globular clusters.

At the February 2015 ASEM Beginner Meeting, Grant will take sketching instruction a bit further. Come prepared to make your own sketch. Materials will be provided, or you can visit the Dick Blick store in University City, or Art Mart in Brentwood to get your own. Supplies include pencils of various hardnesses and a blending stump. If you missed the meeting last December, no worries, you will be brought up to speed.



Sketching is a necessary part of some of the Astronomical League Programs. So if you are going after those AL awards, you might want to check out the February class. Sketching can be a partner activity to astrophotography. You can do both to enhance your enjoyment of sky objects.

The Moon picture here is from a website www.asod.info. That is the Astronomy Sketch of the Day website url.

SNIPPETS OVERHEARD AT OUTREACH EVENTS

Submitted by Bill Bierman:

- 1) (Lady, around 40) "I had no idea that the Universe was so big. This has been life changing (and the lady actually sobbed a little bit). I've been so worried about such little things."
- 2) (Boy, around 10-11) "Mom, can I take a look at Saturn again? This is my most favorite birthday ever...I mean it, this is the neatest thing you ever did for me on my birthday"
- 3) (Man, around 40, and he is serious). Q "Where is the real Saturn ? " A: "Right there in the eyepiece, sir" Q "No , not a picture, I wanted to see the real thing firsthand" A "That is the real thing ,sir" So I threw a piece of cardboard in front, blocking all of the light. He laughed, and felt silly, he just didn't think that a little spec of light could really be a planet.
- 4) I was showing the transit of Venus in Forest Park, and a lady asked if her dog could view it. So her little dog was lifted up and he actually did take a peak.

Submitted by George & JoDee Allen

A 2nd grade boy, after seeing moon craters and Saturn said, "now I'd like to see God."

Submitted by Bill Nuebert

- 1.) (Mother of a young boy at the eyepiece) "Will it hurt his eyes to look through there?"
- 2.) (A high school exchange student from a small farming village Lebanon (the country) was staying in Eolia, MO on a one-year state department scholarship, and posted a picture of himself looking through my telescope) "Dreams do come true." was the response from his friends in Lebanon.
- 3.) Three high school Venture Crew youth group participants looked through my telescope at M57, explained the life cycle of stars, explained the physics of black holes, how my goto telescope worked and why light pollution was a problem. Easiest outreach ever.

BUY/SELL - SWAP/TRADE - WANTED

WANTED:

More For Sale Ads.

ASEM'S TINKERER'S AKA THE DIY (DO-IT-YOURSELF CROWD)

These guys will find solutions to problems you didn't know you had

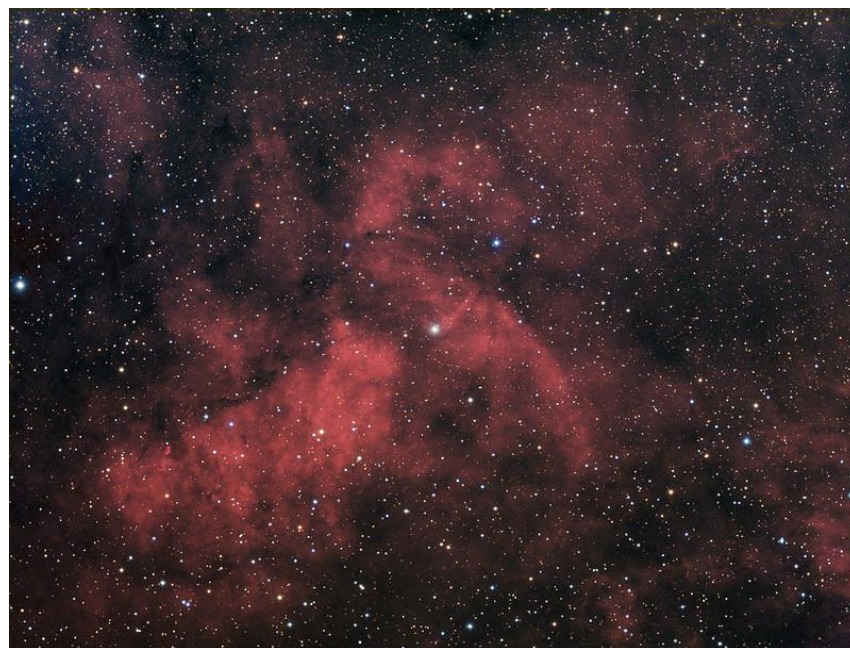
No meeting in November or December.

ASEM MEMBERS PHOTOGRAPHY

A section for ASEM members to distribute their photographs within the Society. Whether you're shooting digital, film or working in charcoal (hand sketching), this page(s) is for members to show us what you've seen and how you recorded it. Sunsets, supernovas, sundials, Stonehenge. Crepuscular rays, planetary alignments, or Markarian's Chain. If it's something we have to look up to see it will probably interest this crowd of inquisitive folks.



NGC 7789 Open Cluster in Cassiopeia
Gregg Ruppel



Lynds Bright Nebula 315
Dan Crowson

An excellent compilation of photographs by Gregg Ruppel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNJ7Y9RNII4&feature=player_detailpage

CLUB CONTACTS

Membership

Membership issues can be addressed through our executive director Stacey Thater (pronounced “totter”) at these addresses:

Email: stthater@stchas.edu

Snail mail:

Alliance for Astronomy (ASEM)
PO Box 141
New Melle MO 63365

Committees

Comments, questions, suggestions and money (just kidding) may be sent to the following addresses:

program@asemonline.org

Use this address to communicate with the program committee. If you have something to present at a meeting or wish to contribute and let someone else perform, send it here. Questions and/or suggestions about programming etc. Remember, they are here to help you. This is a user friendly society and we like to see members get up and share.

equipment@asemonline.org

This address is used to find out about ASEM loaner equipment. If you find something amiss at BPark by all means report it here. If you are curious about borrowing an item, put in a request via this address.

hospitality@asemonline.org

Got a main dish you’d like to bring to the potluck? We sure could use it AND you will be reimbursed for your expenses.

newsletter@asemonline.org

Primary contact for the newsletter. Got an article or notice you’d like to see published? Send it here and be famous!

Outreach@asemonline.org

Special requests for groups at Broemmelsiek Park including:

- Notice of large party (more than groups of twenty)
- Request for specific requirements needed (school assignment, merit badge requirements, etc.)
- Requests for Star Party / Telescope event at another location

webmaster@asemonline.org

Kirk Steinbruegge is now our webmaster. Shoot him anything you want posted on our Web page

ENTERTAINMENT

Late breaking news and member adventures (or shenanigans as the case may be) can usually be found at STLAstronomy in yahoo groups. If you aren’t a member, you should join. Go to

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/STLAstronomy/>

and click “Join”

Think Clear, dark skies