

IO - July 2011

Issue 2011-07
Eugene Astronomical Society

Eugene Astronomical Society
Annual Club Dues \$25
President: Sam Pitts - 688-7330
Secretary: Jerry Oltion - 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



Next Meeting: Thursday, July 28th

What's Up this Summer / Speaking Venusian

by Jerry Oltion / Sir Patrick Moore & His Guest

In a brazen display of overconfidence, Jerry Oltion will present a guide to the summer night sky, highlighting the celestial objects we can theoretically view once the gray lid of winter finally lifts, as it surely will by...late July? Come look at what we should be able to see this summer and get familiar with the night sky so you can start observing once the lid rolls off. Jerry will have slides, so we can at least have a look at what's out there whether or not the sky gives us any breaks this month.

As a bonus, after the "What's Up" discussion we'll have a DVD of Sir Patrick Moore, the host of the BBC's "The Sky At Night," interviewing a man who can speak Venusian, Plutonian, and a host of other languages we can only dream of. This is a must-see video. Bring a hanky; you'll be wiping away tears of laughter by the time it's over.

In addition to Jerry's sky tour and the language lesson, Jacob Strandlien will present the astronomical news of the month. We also encourage people to bring any new gear or projects they would like to show the rest of the club. The meeting is at 7:00 on July 28th at EWEB's Community Room, 500 E. 4th in Eugene.

Next First Quarter Friday: July 8th

Our June star party was cancelled due to bad weather. That's six out of the last seven clouded out. Something fishy is going on here. Perhaps it's time we launched an investigation, say in Arizona.

Here's hoping July will be kinder to us.

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 2011. Bill Murray has calculated the percentage of the Moon's disk that's lit on each night so we can consider in advance what other sights will be visible to show people. Since the star party seldom falls right on the first quarter, some of the phases are over 50% and some under.

July 8 (60% lit)	September 2 (33% lit)	November 4 (74% lit)	December 30 (39.7% lit)
August 5 (47% lit)	October 7 (86% lit)	December 2 (57% lit)	

June Meeting Report

At our June 23rd meeting, Sam Pitts gave us a tour of the workings of the Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. He highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of this telescope design, and discussed how the scope works and how to get the most out of one.

After Sam's talk, Jacob Strandlien gave us the astronomical news for June.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, July 28th, 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 2011: (All meetings are at 7:00 in the Community Room)

July 28

September 22

November 10

August 25

October 27

December 22

Relay for Life Star Party July 29-30 (Early a.m.!)

In the wee hours of the morning on July 30th (2:00 a.m. thru 3:30 a.m.) the EAS will provide a star party during the 24-hour "Relay for Life" event. The relay for life is a fund-raiser and awareness event for cancer research, and its sponsors have asked us to put on a star party to help keep people's interest up in the early morning hours. We currently have only two scopes committed to going, so more volunteers would be very welcome. Contact Jerry Oltion at (541)343-4758 or j.oltion@sff.net if you'd like to join us.

Telescope Lending Library

The EAS has several telescopes available for members to borrow. Check out the telescope lending page on our website to see the many scopes in our lending program, and contact Tony Dandurand, our lending coordinator, to arrange to check out one of these excellent scopes.

Tony can be reached via email at tdandurand@comcast.net or by phone at 541-726-8147.

For ongoing discussion of astronomical topics and impromptu planning of telescope outings, join the EAS mail list at <http://eugeneastro.org/mailman/listinfo/org.eugeneastro.general>



Thank You Castle Storage

For the last four 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.

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Dark-Sky Star Party July 23rd

Our third 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 Saturday, July 23rd 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 100-150 guests and at least 15 telescopes.

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. We tried that last year and it worked much better than the parking lot we used the year before.

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 23, 2011

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

Weather Improving at Pine Mountain

by Rick Kang

If you're in Central Oregon on a Friday or Saturday evening this summer, consider a trip to Pine Mountain Observatory, about an hour east of Bend. View through a 24" Cassegrain reflector plus several smaller portable instruments. When the Moon isn't up, and the sky is clear of moisture and dust, the Observatory still offers some of the darkest clearest skies in Oregon. Programs (orientation and introduction to sky and facility) start at dusk and viewing continues through the night if the weather holds.

Pine Mountain Observatory (PMO) is owned and operated by the University of Oregon and is one of the very few professional observatories open at night for public access to a large telescope on a regular basis. (The 32" and new 15" telescope are currently undergoing repairs.) There is a free primitive (no water) Forest Service campground adjacent, no reservations.

Admission fee to the observatory is \$5. Dress for subfreezing weather as elevation is 6500 feet. Bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages, and a small red light. Last place to purchase fuel and supplies is back at Bend. You're welcome to bring your own telescope (and/or binoculars and lawn chair). If you need to drive to the upper level to set up your scope (before dark only!), and need electrical power (easy to access, bring cord though), contact Kent Fairfield, Visitors Program Chairman, or whoever else is serving as Crew Chief that evening to get permission to open the gate from the parking lot.



Where is PMO? Take Highway 20 east from Bend (Greenwood Avenue in town) skirting south side of Pilot Butte, crossing 27th street at shopping centers, then out into the High Desert to milepost 26, the abandoned town of Millican. Just past Millican you'll turn right (south) onto a dirt road that takes you across the prairie and up the Pine Mountain Range, 8 miles to the Observatory from Millican. There's a big UofO PMO painted sign to right of dirt road about 100 yards in from highway 20 that alerts you that you're on the correct road. Go through 3 cattle guards. You'll come to a small sign 3 miles in, telling you 5 more miles to the Observatory. Most vehicles and small trailers can readily negotiate the road, but watch out for livestock and rocks. Trip is about 30 minutes Bend to Millican and another 30 minutes up the dirt road to PMO!

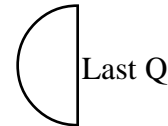
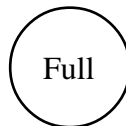
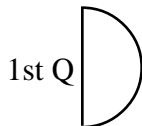
See <http://pmo.uoregon.edu/> for webcam and weather station info. Call 541-382-8331 for more info and to make reservations for groups over 8 people. Kent is always looking for additional volunteer tourguides, so if you'd like to help out and join the staff, or even just provide views to the public through your own scope or run a small Dob or Cassegrain owned by PMO, let Kent know. Leave a phone message or email him at kent.fairfield@gmail.com. PMO isn't open on Sundays as volunteer staff generally isn't available.

This is a unique opportunity to be immersed in a professional facility for an entire night. Hope the weather will continue to improve and that you'll be able to spend a night at PMO this summer.





Observing in July



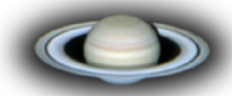
July 1 (& 30)	July 7	July 14	July 22
Mercury Set: 10:18 PM	Mercury Set: 10:19 PM	Mercury Set: 10:11 PM	Mercury Set: 9:51 PM
Venus Rise: 4:40 AM	Venus Rise: 4:47 AM	Venus Rise: 4:58 AM	Venus Rise: 5:14 AM
Mars Rise: 3:23 AM	Mars Rise: 3:16 AM	Mars Rise: 3:06 AM	Mars Rise: 2:55 AM
Jupiter Rise: 1:57 AM	Jupiter Rise: 1:36 AM	Jupiter Rise: 1:11 AM	Jupiter Rise: 00:43 AM
Saturn Set: 1:15 AM	Saturn Set: 00:52 AM	Saturn Set: 00:25 AM	Saturn Set: 11:50 PM
Uranus Rise: 00:47 AM	Uranus Rise: 00:23 AM	Uranus Rise: 11:52 PM	Uranus Rise: 11:20 PM
Neptune Rise: 11:31 PM	Neptune Rise: 11:04 PM	Neptune Rise: 10:36 PM	Neptune Rise: 10:04 PM
Pluto Set: 5:48 AM	Pluto Set: 5:23 AM	Pluto Set: 4:55 AM	Pluto Set: 4:23 AM

All times: Pacific Standard Time (Nov 6, 2011-March 10, 2012) = UT -8 hours or U.S. Pacific Daylight Time (March 13-November 5, 2011) = UT -7 hours.

Date	Moonrise	Moonset	Sunrise	Sunset	Twilight Begin	Twilight End
7/1/2011	05:57	21:18	05:33	20:59	03:09	23:22
7/2/2011	07:06	21:54	05:34	20:59	03:10	23:22
7/3/2011	08:18	22:26	05:34	20:59	03:11	23:21
7/4/2011	09:31	22:55	05:35	20:58	03:13	23:20
7/5/2011	10:45	23:22	05:36	20:58	03:14	23:19
7/6/2011	11:58	23:49	05:36	20:58	03:15	23:18
7/7/2011	13:12		05:37	20:57	03:16	23:17
7/8/2011	14:26	00:18	05:38	20:57	03:18	23:16
7/9/2011	15:41	00:50	05:38	20:57	03:19	23:15
7/10/2011	16:53	01:27	05:39	20:56	03:20	23:14
7/11/2011	18:00	02:11	05:40	20:56	03:22	23:13
7/12/2011	18:59	03:03	05:41	20:55	03:23	23:12
7/13/2011	19:49	04:03	05:42	20:54	03:25	23:10
7/14/2011	20:31	05:08	05:42	20:54	03:26	23:09
7/15/2011	21:05	06:16	05:43	20:53	03:28	23:07
7/16/2011	21:34	07:23	05:44	20:52	03:30	23:06
7/17/2011	21:59	08:28	05:45	20:52	03:31	23:04
7/18/2011	22:22	09:32	05:46	20:51	03:33	23:03
7/19/2011	22:44	10:34	05:47	20:50	03:35	23:01
7/20/2011	23:07	11:35	05:48	20:49	03:37	23:00
7/21/2011	23:30	12:35	05:49	20:48	03:38	22:58
7/22/2011	23:57	13:36	05:50	20:47	03:40	22:56
7/23/2011		14:37	05:51	20:46	03:42	22:55
7/24/2011	00:27	15:39	05:52	20:45	03:44	22:53
7/25/2011	01:04	16:38	05:53	20:44	03:46	22:51
7/26/2011	01:47	17:35	05:54	20:43	03:47	22:49
7/27/2011	02:39	18:27	05:55	20:42	03:49	22:47
7/28/2011	03:40	19:12	05:56	20:41	03:51	22:45
7/29/2011	04:47	19:52	05:57	20:40	03:53	22:44
7/30/2011	05:59	20:26	05:58	20:39	03:55	22:42
7/31/2011	07:14	20:56	05:59	20:38	03:57	22:40

Items of Interest This Month

- 7/1-20+: Mercury visible in west just after sunset
- 7/2 Crescent Moon near Mercury
- 7/3 Saturn at eastern quadrature
- 7/7 Lunar "X" visible near Werner crater
- 7/8 First Quarter Friday Star Party**
- 7/12 Neptune completes its first orbit since discovery in 1846
- 7/27 Moon passes near Mars before sunrise
- 7/29-30 Peak of Delta Aquarid meteor shower



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.

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