

IO - December 2002

Eugene Astronomical Society, Annual Club Dues \$25. IO editor, Barb Shaw 344-9956, barbshaw@earthlink.net, VP/Program Chair: Rick Kang 683-1381 rkang@efn.org Treasurer and School Star Party Coordinator, Sue Moe suemoe@worldnet.att.net. Telescope lending program, Jean Grendler 683-9382, jmgrendler@qwest.net* Website: <http://www.eugeneastro.org>

**Io (EYE-oh) is nearest to Jupiter and fastest orbiting of the four "Galilean" moons.*

DECEMBER MEETING & TELESCOPE FAIR

Our next meeting is the second of two telescope events, this one Monday evening, December 2. Any member or vendor who would like to show off and share astronomy tools is welcome to come set up as early as 5:30 pm. The official public event runs 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Got things to swap? This is the place. Contact Alan Gillespie to get a table, 689-5462.

This time, we have no scheduled speakers. The open schedule allows all of us to circulate, talk at length and learn at our leisure from people who own and understand various kinds of telescopes and other "big toys" for exploring the universe from local sites. Anyone who's considered purchasing a telescope would be wise to consult with experienced club members to discover pros and cons of the many options available.

Since this is our holiday meeting we will also serve store-bought cookies and treats. School rules say no to offering home made goodies to the public. Members may turn in ballots being made by Sam Pitts, for our final election of new officers.

TO FIND US: Meetings are the first Monday of the month, at North Eugene High School, Room 319 at the rear of the campus. From River Road, one block south of Beltline, turn west on Silver Lane. Go one long block and turn left into the high school's east parking lot. Park near the back of the lot.

VISIT THE CLUB WEB SITE AT
www.eugeneastro.org

EQUIPMENT SITES

Look for equipment reviews submitted by astronomers who try to be objective at <http://www.cloudynights.com/>

Astromart claims it carries "everything for the astronomer, including telescopes, mounts, eyepieces, filters, telescope-making." Visit them at <http://www.astromart.com>

Find others with search words "Astronomy" and "Telescopes."

NORTHWEST'S BEST DEALERS

We have three truly superb telescope dealers, staffed with impressive expertise, within a day's drive of Eugene. Any of these shops warrant a visit just for fun if you travel near them for other reasons.

Sean's Astronomy Shop is located in Battleground, Washington, a few miles up I-5 north of Portland. They focus on "your observing needs, budget and age of user to match you with a qualified selection of Celestron telescopes." They are on the web at http://astronomylinks.com/retailers/telescopes_and_accessories/more2.htm

Hardin Optical, the Astronomy Company in scenic Bandon on the Oregon coast, (877-447-4847) offers a huge selection of brands and items including telescopes, spotting scopes, binoculars, microscopes, eyepieces, laser range finders, tripods and mounts. See <http://www.hardin-optical.com/telescope.html>

Anacortes Telescope and Wild Bird, north of Seattle, serves the beginner to advanced amateur with state-of-the-art telescopes, binoculars and accessories by Takahashi, TeleVue, SBIG, DayStar, Celestron, Meade, Leica, Zeiss, Optec. On the web at <http://www.buytelescopes.com/>

LEARN SCOPE BASICS

New to astronomy or old timer, you can learn on line about what telescopes do, the various kinds and how they work. Telescope primers, facts about the types and uses of various instruments are found at two good sites.

The one developed by Astronomy Today Magazine has links to lots of relevant astronomy sites. See it at <http://www.astronomytoday.com/astronomy/telescopes.html>

A similar site created by Cornell University is at <http://curious.astro.cornell.edu/telescopes.php>

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 6, Friday 6:00 –8:00 pm Star Party at Thurston Elementary School, east on Thurston Road, in Springfield.

December 13, Friday 6:00-9:00 pm Star Party at Oaklea Middle School (or possibly in back field of the Elementary School that faces Oaklea), in Junction City.

May 1-4, 2003, Desert Sunset Star Party at Kartchner Caverns State Park in Benson, Arizona. Site is near Kitt Peak, with very dark skies. Event features speakers, swap meet, gadget contest, meals, prizes and more. Information and registration at <http://chartmarker.tripod.com/sunset.htm>.

YOUNG ASTRONOMERS

By Jean Grendler

Young people share their time and talents in EAS. You might see them moving tables or staffing the club table. Some set up their own scopes for demonstrations in classrooms, club events and star parties. Other volunteer activities youth have been involved in include preparing materials for astronomy day, selling club shirts, decoration at events, meeter/greeters, and distribution of club flyers.

Nine year old Keith B. is demonstrating Starry Night Pro for guests at our December 2nd Telescope Fair. Keith' s earliest and favorite "observing" memory is when he was about 4 years old and had gone to the observatory for the weekend with family members who were running the gift shop and the 24 inch telescope that night.

It was cold by early morning, but Keith was waiting to view Saturn. He made many trips up the

ladder that night, and was getting a little sleepy, but when Saturn came into view he remembers being too amazed to speak. "The rings were beautiful! There was color on the planet, orangish, reddish, pinkish," he says. "I kept going back for more looks!"

Keith was equally amazed at an even younger age when viewing the moon through his Grams telescope. "Popcorn!," he said. That' s what all the cratering looked like to him at such a young age.

Keith has owned his own scope two years, a 60mm Refractor on a shakey alt/az mount. But he enjoys trying to locate objects in the night sky, and the sense of satisfaction when he gets that object in the eyepiece. Since he was able to hold them, Keith has also been given binoculars to use. A few pairs got dropped, but it was a small price to pay for how much he learned about his world and the worlds beyond.

Someday, Keith says, he' d like to have a big 8-inch Dob like his sister owns. Keith says he really liked going to the observatory and would like it if his family would purchase land where the skies are dark and "build their own observatory, with a big dome!"

SEEKING WRITERS

IO can use your input. We plan to expand and upgrade this newsletter, creating room for more material. The best way to enrich this vehicle is for you to contribute your ideas and experience to share with others.

Some good topics might be... Special times sky observing, humorous episodes, astronomy topics that excite you, people in astronomy. Let' s also include some interviews with members and profiles of people we all know, or think we know.

Look for a president' s column in future issues too. Suggestions, ideas and links to great web sites are always welcome, even if you don' t want to write a piece yourself.

CLUB WEB SITE

Former club president Dave Cole has put a lot of effort into creating and maintaining our new web site over the past few months. It' s pretty impressive.

If you' ve not visited lately, check it out now at

www.eugeneastro.org

The site offers lot' s of links to other pages of great interest to club members. Also sign-up for the chat list and learn when enthusiastic members are heading out with their telescopes for some deep space discovery, outings often planned at the last minute when great viewing conditions develop.