

IO - July 2002

Eugene Astronomical Society, Annual Club Dues \$19. President and IO editor, Barb Shaw 344-9956, barbshaw@earthlink.net, VP/Program Chair: Rick Kang 683-1381 rkang@efn.org Treasurer: Paul Swadener, 953-0876. School Star Party Coordinator, Sue Moe suemoe@worldnet.att.net. Telescope lending program, Jean Grendler 683-9382, jmgrendler@qwest.net* Website: eugeneastro.com

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

JULY MEETING

Our July 1 meeting will be outdoors, on the field behind North Eugene High School, where John Dobson will speak. See story below. From River Road, turn west on Silver Lane. Park at the eastern end of the building near the rear.

In case of bad weather we will be in Room 319, a double classroom at the rear of NEHS, adjacent to the south lawn which is perfect for sky viewing.

EAS meetings usually start with space videos and socializing at 6:30, with the official meetings at 7:00 pm. We gather the first Monday of each month, at North Eugene High School. For the August meeting we will be again in Room 319.

JOHN DOBSON SPEAKS

John Dobson, the dynamic 87-year-old inventor of the Dobsonian telescope, and founder of **Sidewalk Astronomers** will speak on astronomy and cosmology at our club meeting July 1.

Dobson is highly creative, full of energy and ideas and always extremely interesting. He loves to toss out controversial theories and to challenge conventional thinking about the cosmos. With his snow-white hair, quick mind and animated persona he's one not to miss.

Since he's coming from the Bay Area, and is well known enough to command a nice fee, we have to charge for this special event. His talk will be \$2 for members, \$5 for non-members.

We'll open the gates at six for solar viewing. Bring your picnic. The Dobson talk begins at seven. Bring family and friends

We have done lots of PR and may get a big crowd. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help out, please contact Anny Cole, 484-9000. You may also show up early ready to help.

EAS ECLIPSE VIEWING

We estimate around 400 viewers atop the reservoir on College Hill for the partial solar eclipse on Monday, June 10. We sold out early on the 200 pair of safe glasses that Jean Grendler ordered. Great public enthusiasm was fanned by radio, newspaper and TV coverage mostly arranged by Jean. EWEB generously provided portable toilets and security for the event.

The club did a fabulous job. The event ran without a hitch and the sky cooperated once again. So many folks were there that we apologize if we left out any names. Sincere thanks to all including...Mel Bartels, Clyde and Candi Brown, Mike Bilan, Keith Bondy, Ed Boock, Tom Cleveland, Dave Cole, Rick Collins, Fred Domineack, Larry Dunn, Jean Grendler, Rick Kang, Shelli Kelley, Sue Moe, Anne O'Connell, Chris Selnes, Barb Shaw, Frank Szczepanski, Tracy Stephensen, Paul Swadener, George Towe, Linda Vie, Dale Waggoner, Mikkie Woods.

Rick did a nice job with the talk and projection scope projects. Jean set up a shade tent and tables and big EAS banner for all to see.

Great work, everyone. The John Dobson talk should be just as much fun, with solar viewing starting at six. Picnickers welcome.

ITEMS FOR SALE

BEGINNERS' SCOPE Celestron First Scope 114 Premium Telescope, 114 mm aperture, 910 mm FL, f8 1 1/4 eyepieces. Equatorial mount with setting circles and slow motion controls. Contact Ray Kaser 503.873.8106.

Meade DS - 70 Tracking \$150. Contact Ryan McNamara, going to Hawaii July 3. 554-7806

SCIENCE FAIR

EAS, along with other organizations, participated in a Science Fair at Hillside Alternative School on May 23. Astronomy was the most asked-for elective that grades K-5, signed up for.

Paul Swadener did five presentations, for groups of 12-16 children. The announced purpose was to instill inquisitiveness and scientific inquiry in the students' minds. Paul's theme was "The answer's around here somewhere, let's find it!" He focused on questions and experiments dealing with the Moon and the Sun and their real and apparent shapes, sizes, distances, and movements.

The sessions were filled with energy, the children were all very interested and active. It was a fulfilling challenge for Paul.

NEW SCOPE RESOURCE

Mark Wagner, an avid amateur astronomer in the San Francisco bay area, runs Astronomy-Mall.com, and created "TAC" (The Astronomy Connection) at <http://observers.org>

He's come up with a design for a very transportable telescope -- practical, innovative and pleasing in appearance. The 10" Newtonian telescope can "collapse" to under 29.5" so it fits easily in any vehicle and "telescopes" open to a length of nearly 55". It can be used both as an equatorially mounted Newtonian, or as a Dob.

They also have produced an 18" design (CPT18) that is now in use for CCD imaging on an AstroPhysics 1200 GoTo mount.

His company is called Compact Precision Telescopes. If all this is intriguing, call Mark at 408 356-1125. Or check out their web-page <http://www201.pair.com/resource/astro.html/regular/products/cpt/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11, 12, 13, near Ellensburg, Washington. **Table Mountain Star Party** is another of the Northwest's major summertime observing events. It's too late to pre-register, but they'll accept your money when you arrive. All the details at <http://www.tmspa.com/>

July 18, 19, 20, 21 at OSU in Corvallis - **Da Vinci Days**. This year's theme is Motion, Music, and Magic. At LaSells-Stewart Auditorium, just

east of Reser Stadium. Contact Rick rkang@efn.org. Details at <http://www.davincidays.org/schedule/highlights.htm>.

August 5, 7:00 pm, North Eugene High School, Harvard Center for Astrophysics (CfA) researcher, **Dr. Tom Calderwood**, speaks at EAS meeting. More in August IO.

August 8 at PMO, **Friends of Pine Mountain Observatory board meeting**.

August 8-11, Ochoco Mountains, east of Prineville. **Oregon Star Party**. This is the Big One! Many large scopes. You need to preregister. All the details at <http://www.oregonstarparty.org/>.

PINE MOUNTAIN SEASON

The Pine Mountain Observatory summer program continues each weekend evening through September. Weather has been cloudy or hazy so far, with a few windows of very clear seeing. June 22 saw heavy rain and lightning.

Thanks to repairs, the 24" telescope has been behaving reasonably well. We welcome anyone bringing their own telescope to set up at the upper level to share views with the public visitors. If you'd like to get involved as Crew Member or can help out with your scope, contact Greg Hogue, ghogue@bendcable.com, 541-312-8780. Details and virtual tour at <http://pmo-sun.uoregon.edu/~pmo/>

SEEKING NEW TREASURER

Current EAS treasurer Paul Swadener is working full time again and would like to be free of his duties. Any member with basic bookkeeping abilities and e-mail access is invited to apply for this job. The work includes keeping tabs on our mailing list, membership payment and discounted subscriptions to astronomy magazines. Call Paul at 953-0876 to learn details. To offer services call Barb Shaw, 344-9956.