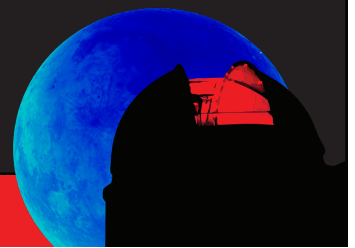


THE BLUE MOON OBSERVER

DECEMBER 2023
Volume 25, Number 12



DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Promoting the science and public education of astronomy, encouraging observational participation in astronomy, and providing outreach at the Leif Everson Observatory.



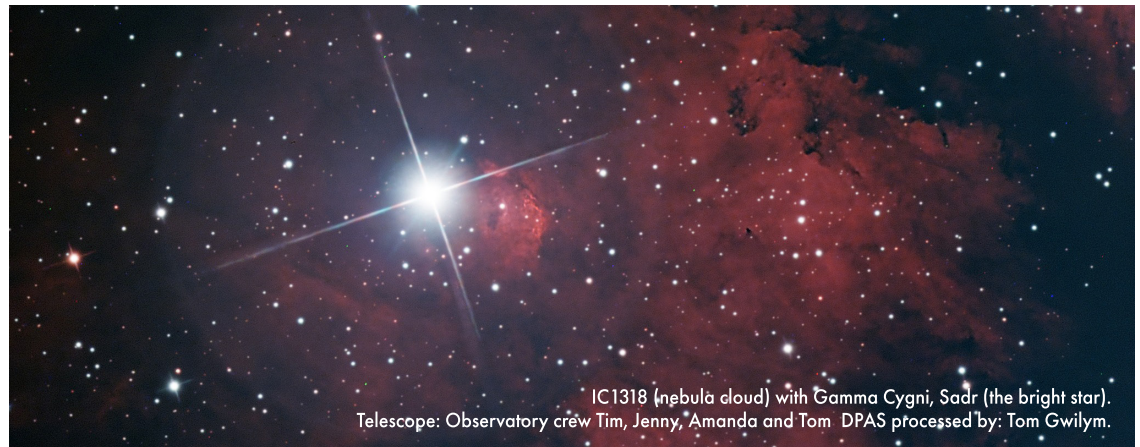
The Door Peninsula Astronomical Society is a local club and a chapter of the Astronomical League.

DPAS operates and maintains the Stonecipher Astronomy Center and the Leif Everson Observatory, which is equipped with a PlaneWave Instruments 17 inch f/6.8 Corrected Dall-Kirkham Astrograph telescope on a L-500 mount for astrophotography and research. On a portable mount is a 102mm refractor with a hydrogen alpha filter for studying details of activity on the sun.

DPAS also owns and operates a portable planetarium with a state-of-the-art computer projection system which is used on cloudy nights, for daytime activities, and for public outreach in local schools and libraries.



Ray and Ruthie Stonecipher Astronomy Center,
Leif Everson Observatory,
and Star Garden
PO Box 331
2022 Utah Street
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



IC1318 (nebula cloud) with Gamma Cygni, Sadr (the bright star).
Telescope: Observatory crew Tim, Jenny, Amanda and Tom DPAS processed by: Tom Gwilym.

MONTHLY MEETING DECEMBER 12, 7:00 PM

PROGRAM: When Will We Return to the Moon?

Since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972, it has been over 51 years since humans last walked on the moon. NASA is now working on returning to the moon, with an Apollo 8-type crewed orbital flyby in late 2024. This will be followed by a lunar landing in late 2025 (very tentative dates).

Tom Minahan will give a presentation on the plans for returning to moon, and what lies ahead for human exploration.

If skies are clear after the meeting, we will power up the telescope for some viewing. We'll show the scope views live on the big screen in the astronomy center, so no need to go out in the cold.

Meetings are open to the public and DPAS membership is not required to attend. So, come and check out DPAS, and meet some friendly and knowledgeable local astronomy hobbyists. Kids are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Free and open to the public.

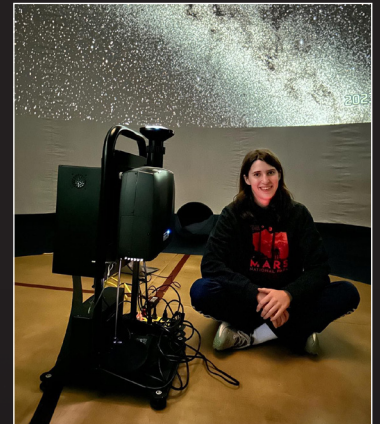
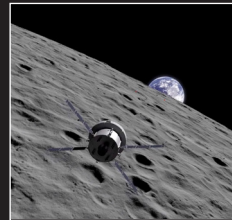
Meet at the Stonecipher Astronomy Center
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay

VIEWING NIGHT DECEMBER 16, 7:00 PM

Weather permitting, the Observatory will be open. Weather-or-not, Planetarium shows will be offered.

Free and open to the public.

Astronomy Campus
2200 Utah St.
Sturgeon Bay



HOLIDAY SPECIAL EVENTS

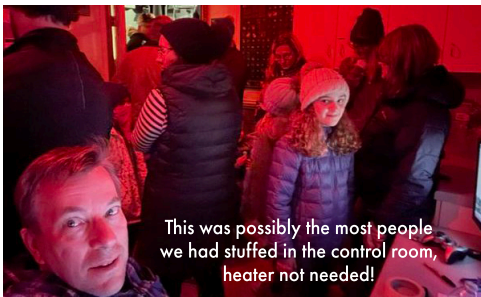
Amanda Austin will extend her internship and will be home for the holidays. Watch the DPAS Facebook page for special programming during the holiday week.



OUTREACH IN NOVEMBER



Jim was up in the dome describing the scope and how it worked while visitors peeked through the door.



This was possibly the most people we had stuffed in the control room, heater not needed!

NOVEMBER 9

Girls Scouts and their families enjoyed a planetarium show and explored the observatory.

NOVEMBER 11

Viewing Night

Monthly viewing night was well attended.

NOVEMBER 14

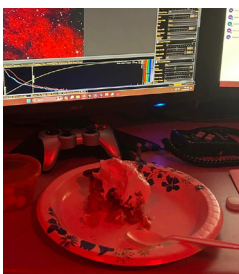
Monthly Meeting

Monthly meeting was well attended.



FOUR OPEN DOME NIGHTS

With repairs completed, our scope pilots have enjoyed fellowship and great imaging!



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Program: The Basics of Astrophotography

Presented by Paul Gruener

The November meeting program focused on one of the most challenging and often frustrating hobbies around—astrophotography. Paul Gruener discussed the basics of digital astrophotography and explained how to get started. It's fairly easy to get started with a smartphone and a telescope on large bright things like the moon, planets or sun (with filter of course), but once you go deep things get really challenging. And Paul clearly has accepted the challenge. His images were simply stunning.

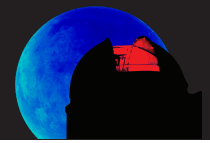
President Dave Lenius also explained the new membership initiative. (We are currently at 93 members, can we reach the goal of 100?)

SAFE ECLIPSE VIEWING

We all know that a pinhole camera provides the safest view of a total eclipse. DPAS member Steve Hellmann made the trip to Arizona last month and viewed the eclipse,



but looking down under a nearby tree, he noticed that the leaves created their own pinholes. He shared these three images with us.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am excited to announce some changes in how we handle our memberships for the upcoming year. It has become apparent to our Board of Directors that with the growth of DPAS offerings over the past year, our current membership structure is not sufficient to fund our amazing growth.

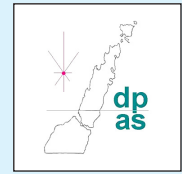
To help address this issue, we are introducing a tiered membership structure. People who wish to be Society members, but are not in a position to make a large financial commitment, will continue to have this option as Lunar level members. However, folks who are able to support the activities of the Society with larger financial contributions will now have the opportunity to do so, and be recognized as Planetary, Asteroid, Comet, Nebula, Galaxy, or Supernova members!

We will continue to welcome members and non-members to all DPAS activities.

In addition, please realize that DPAS is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Consequently, we can accept tax efficient donations from IRA's, stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. If this is something that you would like to explore further, please reach out to me.

It is our hope that this change will allow people to support DPAS programs and initiatives with the financial commitment they are comfortable with, while still enabling the Society to continue our mission of sharing the night skies and continue to expand our community outreach activities.

Clear skies,
Dave Lenius
President, Door Peninsula Astronomical Society



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Lenius
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Tom Gwilym
VICE PRESIDENT

Jacque Axland
SECRETARY/TREASURER

Tom Minahan
GENERAL MEETING SECRETARY
AND OUTREACH CHAIR

Steve Ransom-Jones
PROGRAM CHAIR

Jenny Austin
MEMBER AT LARGE

Jim Gallt
MEMBER AT LARGE

Coggin Heeringa
SCHOOL COORDINATOR, EDITOR

Ray Stonecipher
IN SPIRIT

The business of the DPAS is largely conducted at the Board meetings to leave the general meetings open for programs. Members of DPAS are invited to attend Board meetings.

DPAS RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE WOMEN'S FUND OF DOOR COUNTY



We are pleased to announce that DPAS was awarded a grant of \$4000 to fund a woman intern during the coming year. We are grateful to the following Funds for this generous gift:

Arbor Crowne Diane Taillon Fund
Ed and Adele Douglass Fund
Kirk and Donna Scattergood Family Fund
Morgan and D'Abaccio Fund

Cassidy Family Fund
Emily and Madalyn Burgess Fund
Marion Peterson Memorial Fund
Women's Fund Endowment of Door County

DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please print to complete:

- Lunar Level \$30
- Planetary Level \$50
- Asteroid Level \$100
- Comet Level \$250
- Nebula Level \$500
- Galaxy Level \$750
- Supernova Level \$1000

ADULTS' NAME (S)

CHILDREN'S NAME (S)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

PHONE

EMAIL (REQUIRED TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER)



Mail payment to: DPAS, PO Box 331, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



NGC7331, DPAS Processed by Tom Gwilym

DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

LEIF EVERSON OBSERVATORY & ASTRONOMY CAMPUS 2200 UTAH ST., STURGEON BAY



You're invited BECOME A MEMBER

The Door Peninsula Astronomical Society (DPAS) is a local club and a chapter of the Astronomical League dedicated to promoting science, public education and encouraging observation in astronomy.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

DPAS meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Stonecipher Astronomy Center. Lectures or programs pertaining to astronomy are presented. Visitors, especially students, are encouraged to attend.

VIEWING NIGHTS

Viewing Nights are held each month. If the sky is overcast planetarium shows are offered in the Stonecipher Astronomy Center. Special events will be listed on DPAS Facebook page.

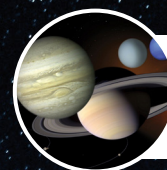
All astronomy outreach activities are offered free of charge.

DPAS is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

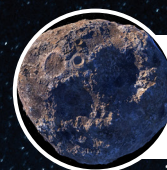
DPAS LAUNCHES NEW GIVING LEVELS



LUNAR Level
\$30



PLANETARY Level
\$50



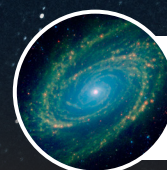
ASTEROID Level
\$100



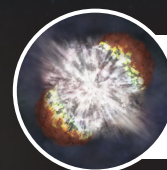
COMET Level
\$250



NEBULA Level
\$500



GALAXY Level
\$750



SUPERNOVA Level
\$1000

ANYONE WHO MAKES A CONTRIBUTION AT ANY LEVEL TO THE DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY IS A MEMBER.



MAIL YOUR GIFT TO :

DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 331, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

WWW.DOORASTRONOMY.ORG