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Nicholas E. Wagman
Observatory



Mingo Creek Park
Observatory

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July 1-14-15-28-29 @ MCPO and NEWO

One Cassini Visible, One Invisible at July Star Parties



Beautiful Saturn begins to take center stage in July and August and is a 100% guaranteed crowd pleaser at public star parties. When you're showing Saturn during this month's Wagman and Mingo public star parties, there are two items to point out. First, the ring system is heavily tilted, best revealing the major ring segments visible from Earth, most notably Cassini's Division (discovered by Giovanni Cassini in 1675). Second, NASA's Cassini probe is nearing the end of its 20-year mission as it completes a series of close-in orbits, taking it between the rings and the planet. On September 15 the probe plunges into Saturn's atmosphere to prevent any collision with (and subsequent contamination of) the planet's moons. Remember to tell your star party guests to check NASA.gov/cassini for the fantastic images taken by the craft during its mission, which will be around long after mission's end.

Planets and space probes as well as stars, galaxies don't mean a thing at AAAP star parties without your help. Please bring your scope(s), binoculars or just yourself to as many of the star parties as possible. Your contributions can be as simple as answering questions, parking cars, directing crowds in and out of the observatory buildings, or just providing relief for another member who needs to take a break. Like last month, we have scheduled no less than five star parties:

- July 1 (Wagman)
- July 14 (Mingo)
- July 15 (Mingo)
- July 28 (Wagman)
- July 29 (Wagman)

Let's honor Giovanni Cassini and the Cassini Space Probe with a strong showing at these star parties.

Photo Shoot, Picnic, Observing and Movie

June 17: All-Around Grand Day As Wagman Observatory Marks 30th Anniversary



Drone photo by Mike and Michael Lincoln (more photos on page 11)

When Wagman Observatory was dedicated (June 13, 1987), there was no such thing as computer-controlled aerial drones, let alone drones with high-resolution cameras with still image and video capabilities. Thanks to the time and technical contributions of AAAP members **Michael** and **Mike Lincoln**, we now have a wonderful series of high-angle photos of the observatory with several dozen members standing tall for this historic occasion. As members gathered around the building, Director **Tom Reiland** deployed the 11-inch Brashear and 21-inch Manka telescopes in their Sunday-best poses. The Lincolns then launched their camera drone from the concrete parking space on the west side of the building, circling about the observatory for 20 or so minutes, at times flying high over the observatory. At one point a large hawk sailed by the drone as it came around the east side of the building, but no dogfight ensued ☺. AAAP members and guests in attendance for the photos included:

June Spencer
Dave Spencer
Patrick Rieger
Gayle Rieger
Vaughn Rieger
John Diller
Bill Conner
Steve Yount
Bill Hayeslip

Sally Swieck
Lori Seitz
George Guzik
Mary DeVaughn
Johnny Julian
Becky Valentine
Mike Christeson
Michael Christeson
Carol Christeson

Amanda Myers
Diane Turnshek
Cynthia Cano (CMU)
Leonardo Cenates (CMU)
John Holtz*
Tom Reiland*
Eric Fischer**
Joyce Osborne-Fischer**
Flacc Stifel**

*These members were in the Scanlon Room for the photos. **These members were in the Brashear Room for the photos.

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