

AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ASSOCIATION

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The Guide Star

Journal of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc.
 AAAP founded June 9, 1929 by Chester B. Roe and Leo J. Scanlon

August, 2020 Volume 52, No. 7.0

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Thomas E. Wagman Observatory

Mingo Creek Observatory

Comet NEOWISE: Beautiful Sight During A Gloomy Year

Except for several planetary groupings (e.g. Jupiter and Saturn), 2020 looked like it would be bad year for notable astronomical events. Then along comes Comet NEOWISE, named for NASA's re-purposed "Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer" spacecraft. The comet is considered the best to appear since Hale-Bopp in the mid-1990s, loitering in the north circumpolar sky for over a month. Scores of AAAP members have logged observations and taken images of the comet, perhaps in part from everyone having to stay at home so much. In fact, NEOWISE may be the best-imaged comet in AAAP history. Many members also went to our observatory sites (primarily Wagman) to image and simply drink in this beautiful object.

IMPORTANT NOTE FROM EDITOR: Normally I would insert all member's observations and images in the Guide Star, but I have been swamped with more than 50 fine images and even more observing accounts. There is simply no way to insert all these in one newsletter, (which could result in a 25MB pdf file!) Starting on page 10, I'm showing one image each from multiple members, many of whom have submitted multiple images throughout July. Included are each member's e-mail address so that you can correspond directly to learn about and see more images. The image below was submitted by **Ed Potosky**. Thank you for your understanding.





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