



March 20, 2010

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### Report of Recent Club Speakers

Bob Allen, a writer for the Daily Non-Pareil, spoke at the Optimist Club about astronomy. Bob is retired, but has worked for the ski patrol at Crescent since 1975 and as a Red Cross volunteer for 35 years. He is a member of the Astronomical Society, which meets the first Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Durham Science Center at UNO.

Bob Allen started looking at the stars at age 14. He is now 75. There is always something new to see. He writes about things you can see in the sky without a telescope. He has a 6" reflecting telescope. It has a clock drive to follow objects in the sky. The other type of telescope is a refracting one. Bob recommends buying a telescope based on the optics, not on the magnification power. A good telescope will not deteriorate over time.

Bob has a wealth of knowledge about the stars. The sun is a star. A curious phenomena this year is the absence of sun spots, even though we are in a solar maximum where they should be most prevalent. In Council Bluffs you can see 1500-2000 stars. Away from the city lights you can see 50,000 stars. With his telescope he can see one million stars.

There are 88 constellations recognized by the Astronomical Association. 54 of them can be seen in this part of the country. Only five constellations can be seen here throughout the entire year.

The brightest star in the Northern hemisphere is Sirius. It is directly overhead in September. Sirius resides in the constellation Canis Major, the Big Dog, and is commonly called the Dog Star. In ancient Greek times the dawn rising of Sirius marked the hottest part of summer. This is the origin of the phrase "dog days of summer."

The Space Station travels across the sky at 17,000 miles/hour. The Hubble telescope is 385 miles from the earth. Earth is 33 light years from the center of the Milky Way.

### Meeting Minutes

Gary Gutttau opened the meeting with the pledge and gave the prayer. Gary Funkhouser, Kirk

Vorthmann, Jeff Jacobsen, Bob Allen, and Gary Gutttau provided jokes. There were 13 members and one guest in attendance.

Kirk Vorthmann contributed to the Youth Fund for his oldest son turning 33 and his son Wade passing a day long electrical test. Richard Vorthmann contributed for his grandson's participation in the SW Iowa Choir at Treynor.

Gary Funkhouser won the 50-50 drawing. Gene Seran won the attendance drawing, but did not collect it.

Several members helped with the Quiz bowl and with can kennel sorting this week. The Oratorical Contest will be Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. at the High School.

### CALENDAR

March proceeds for the Can Kennel will be for the Jr. Optimist Club

Mar 31 – Can sorting – 5:30 p.m.

Apr 9-10 SPY garage sale

Apr 24 – Jr. Treynor Women city wide garage sale

### Birthdays

Mar 2 – Ward Chambers

Mar 11 – Kenneth Graham (recognized)

Mar 20 – Jon Jacobsen

### Anniversaries

Mar 4 – Gene & Erika Seran

Mar 8 – Keith & Georgia Denton (recognized)

Mar 15 – Dick & Betty Baber (recognized)

Mar 15 – Jeff & Carrie Nelson

### Speakers

Mar 27 - Lou Jensen: Asst: Professor at Creighton Univ. Clinical Education on Strokes and rehabilitation

### Programs

Mar – Dick Baber

Apr – Chad Gutttau

May – Dale Willenborg

June – Linnea White

July – Jeff Jorgensen

Aug – Charlie Johnson

Sept – Eric Allen

Oct – Steve Irvin

Nov – Arlyn Norris

Dec – Chuck Nielsen/Keith Denton

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner and a bottle of wine, they retire for the night, and go to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

"I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes," replies Watson.

"And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson ponders for a minute.

"Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. What does it tell you, Holmes?"

Holmes is silent for a moment. "Watson, you idiot!" he says. "Someone has stolen our tent!"