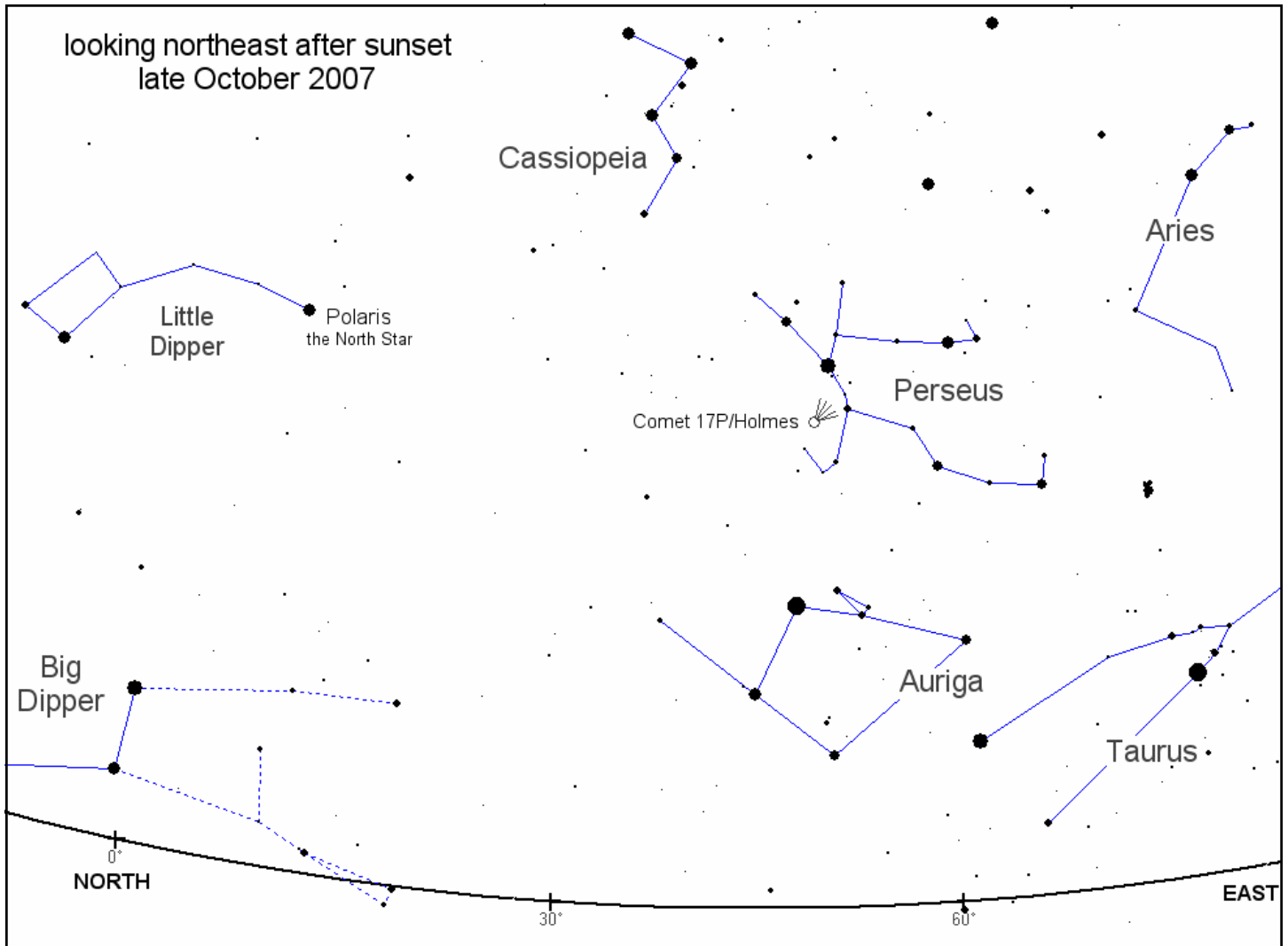




General Meeting of the Omaha Astronomical Society  
Friday, November 2nd at 7:30 PM  
Durham Science Center, Room 169, UNO Campus  
Program: See Page 3

Check out Comet 17P/Holmes in the evening skies near Perseus, easy binocular and in most areas naked eye object.



**November Club Star Party,  
November 10th, 2007  
OAS Club Site, Weeping Water**

**Omaha Astronomical Society is a  
member of the NASA Night Sky Network**

# Events and Stuff Section

## November Meeting Presentation

TBD

## New Members

None

## Good November Observing Dates to Observe at the Club Site or other good dark sky location

Friday 5 September 07, last quarter moon  
Saturday 6 September 07, last quarter moon  
Friday 11 September 07, new moon  
Saturday 12 September 07, new moon

## Mahoney Public Star Parties

All Friday evenings from Twilight On the Golf Driving Range of the Mahoney State Park Ashland, NE

Done for 2007

## Recent Observing Awards

None

## November Sky Calendar

1st Last Quarter Moon  
9th New Moon  
17th First Quarter Moon  
24th Full Moon

## OAS Meeting Minutes

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The **meeting** came to order at 7:31 PM. No rooftop observing tonight. The Secretary read the **September minutes**. Al Dorn motioned to accept and Gary Grimes seconded. We had 1 guest and 42 people total in attendance.

John Macy gave the **Treasurer's report**, with September income including \$180 in donations from outreach events, and expenses including \$567.44 for upkeep of our observing site, Astropark.

## Old Business

**Outreach and Events** Thanks to all who helped in the outreach events in the past month! About ½ had good skies and ½ were indoor "show and tell." Some events coming up:

Monday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> Ralston Elem. 7-10 PM

Tuesday, **Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>** Ralston Elem. 7-10 PM

Thursday, **Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>** Camp Calvin Crest 7-10 PM

**Club Telescopes**—If you would like to check out a telescope see Bob Dunn or any OAS officer for more information.

6" Dobsonian, AVAILABLE

6" Newtonian, AVAILABLE

8" SCT, Alec Anderson

13 " Dobsonian, Keith Jones

Binoculars, 11x80, Bill Bond

**Observing**—Look for a "new" comet in the skies. Just before sunrise or after sunset, near Scorpius and Jupiter. The comet C2007F1 LONEOS is currently about 5<sup>th</sup> magnitude and in Libra. It should look like a fuzzy ball, similar to a planetary nebula, and may get brighter in the next few weeks as it approaches the sun. Jupiter is still a good target in the evening, with Mars, Saturn and Venus good viewing in the early morning before sunrise. **Astropark use=(at least 2).**

**Awards**---Two are in the works.

**Report from Vice President**—Astropark's road work is finished! The road is in excellent shape all the way

to the site including the curve that had been threatened to be washed out by all the rain. In great condition for your cool weather observing!!

**Calendars** ---Beautiful full color astronomy calendars available from John Macy at \$10 each.

**Banquet**---After some discussion it was decided that it would be better to move the Banquet to a less crowded time of year and try it in February, not near the holidays. And also to have Lincoln and Omaha groups share the location by swapping the Banquet back and forth between the two areas.

### **New Business**

**Quicken**---John Macy requested a new, updated version of the program Quicken to track the Club's membership and expenses. Motion was made by Nina Baker to allow John to purchase the current version, seconded by Clete Baker and passed by the membership.

**Lecture opportunity**--- Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM Dr. Peter Schultz will speak on: **Our Moon—Geologically Active or Inactive?** Dr. Schultz is a (founding) member of PAC, currently working for NASA and is one of the researchers for the Deep Impact mission. The Lecture is at the Hyde Observatory, admission is free, Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

**Astronomy tools**---2008 Calendars and 2008 Canadian Observing Guides are available at \$15 and \$26 respectively from the Treasurer, John Macy.

**Elections**---*Gary Grimes* was nominated for President by Al Dorn, seconded by John Johnson. *Kim Moss-Allen* was nominated as Secretary by Bill Bond, seconded by Eric Balcom. *John Macy* was nominated for Treasurer by Sharon Weiss and seconded by Howard Bohm. *Eric Balcom* was nominated for Program Chair by himself and seconded by Bill Bond. *Bill Bond* was nominated for Vice President by Gary Grimes and seconded by Al Dorn. *John Johnson* was nominated by Sharon Weiss as Outreach Coordinator and seconded by Eric Balcom. There were no objections to voting on all the nominees as a group and so the membership voted. The results were 35 yes and 2 no. it passed.

**Next meeting** will be same location, **November 2nd**, 2007, 7:30. Motion to adjourn Ed Sikorski, seconded by Gary Grimes and passed.

Tonight's program:

### **The Outer Solar System: Comets and Other Objects**

By Eric Balcom

Minutes by OAS Secretary  
Kim Moss-Allen

### **November Astronomy Quiz**

1. This hypothetical planet was said to exist in an extremely hot orbit between the sun and Mercury, according to 19<sup>th</sup> century astronomers. What was its name?
2. What is periastron?
3. Over the past few weeks Comet 17P/Holmes increased in magnitude from approximately 17 to a) 0, b) 1.1, c) 2.9 or d) 5.4.
4. Where is Pickering's Triangle?
5. Uranus is coming up on it's spring solstice and it's rings happen to be in a good position to be viewed from Earth (with the largest telescopes). It's rings are best described as a)"black as tar", b) "snow white" c) "pale yellow and orange" or d) "dusty gray".
6. Most comets are about 50% water. True or False?
7. Where is Almach?
8. This deep sky object is about 4600 light years distant, has several dark dust lanes, is mag. 5.6, and is a great (for viewing) winter open cluster.
9. This constellation is sometimes depicted as a hero holding the head of the Gorgon (the snake-haired woman) in his hand. It also contains a famous variable star.
10. Who discovered Sirius B, the white dwarf companion to the bright star Sirius?
11. The first *telescopic* discovery of a comet was made when and by whom?
12. Escape velocity for Earth is 11.2 km/sec and 10.2 for Venus, what about Mars?



## OAS Club Officers

<b>President:</b>	Gary Grimes	(712)-527-3495	
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bill Bond		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John Macy	991-5587	ptmacy@doctor.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kim Moss-Allen	291-7887	dallen@novia.net
<b>Program Chair:</b>	Eric Balcom	491-3502	ecbalcom@msn.com
<b>Outreach Coordinator:</b>	John Johnson	333-5460	jwjohnson@oppd.com
<b>Stella Editor:</b>	Mark Weiss	291-5322	mweiss4@cox.net

### Answers to the October Quiz

1. Uranus
2. 300 miles
3. With the right atmospheric conditions and a clear horizon sometimes sunlight is refracted (bent) just as the last sliver of sun is going down behind the horizon at sunset or coming up at sunrise, (going through the most atmosphere) resulting in a brief flash of green light.
4. Writer is Ernest K. Emurian, and it's the last verse of the hymn, "Bless Thou the Astronauts Who Face," (the vast immensities of space) in the Book of Worship for United States Forces.
5. Aquarius, the Water Bearer; Capricornus, the Sea Goat, Cygnus the Swan and Delphinus the Dolphin. Closer to the horizon would be Pisces, the Fish and Cetus, the Sea Monster, and Pisces Austrinus, the Southern Fish.
6. Mars at opposition.
7. Venus and Saturn
8. This is Canopus, the alpha star in Carina, the Keel. It's second in brightness only to Sirius. Also, because of its perpendicular alignment to our solar system's orbital plane it is one of the principal stars used by spacecraft celestial for navigation.
9. This is Tucana, the Toucan. The globular cluster is NGC 104 also called 47 Tucanae, visible at 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude.
10. Well, they are both moons, but not around the same planet, and they both have atmosphere. Titan is a satellite of Saturn and is 5,150 km in diameter, with a smoggy atmosphere. While Triton is a moon around Neptune, is 2,700 km in diameter, and has a thin nitrogen atmosphere and is still geologically active.
11. October 21<sup>st</sup>.
12. P2007 R5 SOHO is a comet classified just this September as "periodic." In order to be called that a comet must have been seen to follow its orbit around the sun more than twice and has an orbital period of less than 200 years. This comet's period is 3.99 years. It's the first "proven" periodic comet for the SOHO program.

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Regular/Family  
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Junior/Student  
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Newsletter Only  
\$10.00

Send your check to:  
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c/o John Macy  
P.O. 6257  
Omaha, NE 68106

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ Members receive the STELLA, our monthly newsletter.
- ◆ Each member is automatically a member of the Astronomical League, the only nation-wide organization for amateur astronomers.
- ◆ Use of the observing site at Weeping Water, NE
- ◆ The opportunity to borrow one of several club-owned telescopes.
- ◆ Organized trips to local observatories, planetariums and museums.
- ◆ Significant savings on subscriptions to **Sky & Telescope** and **Astronomy** magazines.
- ◆ Savings on astronomy books and printed materials.

Visit the club web site at:  
[www.OmahaAstro.com](http://www.OmahaAstro.com)

Save the club money... and get your newsletter in full color by signing up for the email edition of the Stella. Signing up is easy... just send an e-mail to:

[oas.mkw@cox.net](mailto:oas.mkw@cox.net)