

THE OBSERVER

BATTLE POINT ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

WWW.BPASTRO.ORG BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA



DID YOU KNOW?

Polaris, our "North Star", is the most recognized star in the northern hemisphere. But it isn't well understood. In fact, it isn't even one star! "It" is three - a triple star system, with Polaris Aa, a yellow super giant circling Polaris B, which can be seen with a modest back-yard telescope, and Polaris Ab, a very close main sequence star that does not circle the others, but is associated. More about this in a future edition.

2020 Officers

Frank Petrie, President
president@bpastro.org

Nels Johansen, Chief Astronomer
astronomer@bpastro.org

Steve Ruhl, Chief Scientist
science@bpastro.org

Erica Saint Clair, PhD, Education Director
teach@bpastro.org

Frank Schroer, Treasurer
treasurer@bpastro.org

Rex Olsen, Secretary and Publicity Dir.
secretary@bpastro.org

Ken Warman, Special Projects

Peter Moseley, Special Projects

A big *THANK YOU* to Denise, Lance, David, Nels, and Frank who pressure washed the Ritchie Dome, inside and out. The telescope was protected in a plastic cocoon. The brilliant white dome is ready for summer observing. Stay tuned for details. Nels will coordinate.

WHAT WAS GRAY



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IS NOW BRIGHT WHITE !



A Virtual Planetarium Show & Star Party

This Month's guest speaker, Casey Blacker, is a noted astronomer and research scientist. He will present a planetarium show entitled *Modeling the Solar System*, where he will touch on historical as well as current concepts, the role of astrology in the 1500's, Newton's groundbreaking discoveries, Kepler's work, and continuing advances in the fields of physics and math that we use today. to attend email: president@bpastro.org for an invite. If the sky is clear there will be a virtual star party with a remote private telescope and host.

What's Up With The Ritchie?

Chief Astronomer Nels Johansen will be teaching members how to use the much improved Ritchie telescope that is just now coming back on line. If you are interested in learning how to operate the Ritchie, contact Nels at:

Astronomer@bpastro.org

Members will continue to receive updates on the Ritchie and on programs related to its use and maintenance. Watch this space for further developments.

Recently, members received notice that BPAA and BARN will offer "hands-on" classes delivered over ZOOM. In these classes, a ZOOM host will demonstrate how to do something - such as adjusting a telescope while participants follow along at home using their own equipment. These "hands-on" classes will be informal so that there will be a lot of opportunity for feedback and discussion during the class itself. You can register for the first two classes here:

Introduction to Basic Astronomy

<https://bainbridgebarn.wildapricot.org/event-3879568> and -

Introduction to Telescopes

<https://bainbridgebarn.wildapricot.org/event-3894175>

You can register for monthly ZOOM lectures here:
www.BPAstro.org

WHAT'S UP!

August shows our most reliable meteor display, the Perseids, with the waning moon interfering only late at night. Flashing from the north-east they are best viewed from Aug. 11th thru the 13th. And using a star chart you can find Anser, a red giant 300 light years from earth. Good binoculars will show it to be a double. Slightly above and to the left of Anser is Vulpecula, the first known pulsar discovered by Jocelyn Bell, a Cambridge graduate student, in 1967.

Aug 3 - Full Moon

Aug. 11 - Last Qtr. Moon

Aug 19 - New Moon

Aug 25 - First Qtr. Moon

Battle Point Astronomical Association

P. O. Box 10914

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110



to contact editor, send email
to: Rex Olsen
secretary@bpastro.org