M9 with Barnard 64 and 259

Dan Crowson

Imaged over four nights in August and September at the Danville Conservation Area
October Calendars

Social
October 2 – 7pm Beginner Meeting @ Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 HWY 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304

October 11  – 6pm Social hour, dinner followed by monthly meeting

October 21 - DigitalSIG Astrophoto group meeting Weldon Spring, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304.

October 22 - 7PM DIY-ATMSIG For the telescope maker to display his wares or those who wish to see what folks have been doing in their workshops. Weldon Spring, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - 7 pm start times Broemmelsiek Park Public Viewing, weather permitting.

Astronomical Calendar

October 8 total lunar eclipse, October 23 partial solar eclipse.

News Flash!

MORE scope stuff in our For Sale page. Check’em out.
CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dan Crowson
Greg Ruppel
Amy White
Carl Turek

Would you like intergalactic recognition in our newsletter? Send a note to your friendly editor on any astronomy related subject at newsletter@asemonline.org I’ll get it posted in the monthly newsletter.

Your editor at large (not large editor),

Jim Curry
The ASEM picnic took place on a glorious afternoon, September 14 at Broemmelsiek Park Shelter #4. Around 35 people enjoyed clear skies and pleasant temperatures. As usual, the food was excellent, and everyone had a great time socializing. A big thank you should go to our ASEM Hospitality Committee for pulling it all together.

After the picnic, a number of us drove over to the Broemmelsiek Park Astronomy Site, with hopes that the sky would stay clear. The images that follow were taken just before sunset. I’m not sure how to caption these using MS Word, so here is some text to accompany the pictures. If you don’t know who is who, then maybe you should attend more meetings, winky winky.

Jim Curry brought out his Unitron refractor. Jim and Ann Trull set up their SCT near the Broemmelsiek Park Observatory. Jim Twellman had his beautiful Teeter Dobsonian out for some sky time. Brad Griffin brought his 18 inch Obsession for viewing. Kirk Steinbruegge brought his SCT and set up on the west-side pad. Another guy came and set up his scope as I was leaving, and I did not remember his name—I am so sorry, my bad! There were also Carol Steinbruegge, Bill and Flory Sheehy, and some curious new visitors spending an enjoyable evening at the park.
September’s Digital SIG Meeting Notes
Submitted by Dan Crowson

The theme of September’s Digital SIG meeting continuing on our quest for a beginning Astrophotography set of presentations. Eddie Agha and Terry Clinkingbeard came up with a matrix and Bill Runge had a trial presentation. It was nice to get input from the security guard who seemed to have an interest in our topic.

Dan Crowson gave an Astrophotography presentation to approximately 40 people at SIU Carbondale. This was organized by the Astronomical Association of Southern Illinois (https://sites.google.com/site/astronomyinsouthernillinois/). Several members expressed an interest in coming up for imaging meetings or a workshop if we plan one. Also note that they were envious of ‘this Broemmelsiek Park’ they had heard about through Will Day’s letter to one of the Astronomy magazines.

October’s Digital SIG topic is currently in development. Several members will be out west hopefully enjoying clear, pristine skies we can only dream of seeing in our area. Check the ASEM website for updates.

Show up. Bring your images and questions. We can help.

The latest Digital SIG news can always be found in the ASEM Digital SIG Yahoo Group.

![M39 Cygnus – Greg Ruppel](image-url)
Danville Reports
Submitted by Dan Crowson

September 19th – Danville

Three imagers and one visual astronomer. Conditions were just ok. It didn’t help that there were Friday night traffic issues that lead to everyone showing up after dark. It was nice to get out and talk AP until the clouds drove us away around 3 AM.

September 21st – Danville

Just Dan Crowson and the creatures. While the forecast didn’t look real good, this turned out to be the best night of the year so far. I imaged until something fogged up in my image train around 5 AM. Using my $20 binoculars and a sky chart, I was able to view approximately 30 Messiers. It was a great night.

Danville Star Trails
Dan Crowson
Beginner’s Meeting October 2nd 2014
By Amy White

The next ASEM Beginner Meeting
• Thursday, October 2, 2014, from 7pm to around 9pm. We are in the classroom of the Weldon Springs Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304.
• Completely FREE! For ASEM members and the general public. All are welcome!
• Yes, we can help you use your telescope or binoculars. Bring your equipment if you want help getting it going properly.
• Yes, come with any questions about observing the sky.
• No, you do not need a telescope, or to be a member of ASEM, to participate.

For October, we will talk about sky objects to observe in Autumn.

October is a busy month for eclipses. For early risers, there is a lunar eclipse peaking at 5:50am on the morning of October 8. There will be a partial solar eclipse on October 23rd just before sunset. Find out how to safely observe the solar eclipse. If you want to be part of the Broemmelsiek Park outreach action on October 23rd, we can talk about how to get involved.

For those of you with an interest in the Solar System, the Gateway to Space event will be going on November 7 through 9. Please visit www.gatewaytospace.org for information. The weekend will have more than 30 speakers to talk about the Moon, Mars, Asteroids, and spacecraft. Our own Jim Roe will be one of the presenters. Just a note: after the speakers finish on Saturday, November 8, you still have time to get to the Weldon Springs room for the General meeting. You won’t want to miss the excellent turkey and all the trimmings!

Buy/Sell - Swap/Trade - Wanted

For Sale:
4” Unitron equatorial mount with tripod, perfect condition $1,500.00
I have two Unitron 75mm OTA’s for sale with solar screens, finder. Perfect condition. SOLD
I also have 2 Unitron 60mm scopes, boxes and alt-az mounts for sale.
Contact Jim Curry @ jje@structureguard.com if interested.

Wanted:
More For Sale Ads.
ASEM’s Tinkerer’s aka The Do-It-Yourself Crowd

These guys will find solutions to problems you didn’t know you had

Submitted by Carl Turek

September 2014 Meeting Report

The September 2014 DIY meeting started off with Steve Boerner giving an update on the status of the 32". The various components of the scope are being repaired and refinished by ASEM members at home. Grant Martin is working on the truss tubes, Steve Boerner is working on the wood OTA sections. Carl Turek is working on the focuser/filter assembly. Ed White is working on designing the brackets to mount the drive motors. Stacey Thater has taken delivery of the drive and controller system and is working on a design to mate the drive system to the ground board/altitude assemblies. After the component parts are repaired and refinished, they will be returned to Stacey’s for re-assembly.

Next, Carl showed cooling and dew prevention modifications to his vintage orange tube C8. Based on an SCT ventilation and cooling study comparing the mirror temperature characteristics of an unmodified SCT vs. one with the primary mirror actively cooled by convection with fans mounted in the rear casting, Carl decided to make the modifications to the 1978 C8.

The cooling study can be found here:

http://www.astrogateeks.com/Bliss/OccultVideo/SCTCoolingFreestar8n.pdf

Before:

![Image of vintage orange tube C8 before modifications]
the rear casting was drilled for two fans, one exhaust port, one power port and a high-low speed switch.

After:

The fan and exhaust openings are protected with insect screening and finger guards. The red switch powers the fans at either 12 or 8 vdc. This mod has been field tested and has proven to significantly reduce the waiting time for the mirror to deliver the quality images it is capable of.
A homemade dew heater was installed at the Schmidt corrector. The heater consists of 24 1.5 ohm resistors dissipating approximately 4 watts of heat when powered by a 12 volt dc supply.
ASEM Members Photography

A section for ASEM members to distribute their photographs within the Society. Whether you’re shooting digital, film or working in charcoal (hand sketching), this page(s) is for members to show us what you’ve seen and how you recorded it. Sunsets, supernovas, sundials, Stonehenge. Crepuscular rays, planetary alignments, or Markarian’s Chain. If it’s something we have to look up to see it will probably interest this crowd of inquisitive folks.

Ruppel’s Ripples (in space)
Astrophotos by Greg Ruppel

Luna
IC 1396 a&b
M33 Triangulum
Club Contacts

Membership

Membership issues can be addressed through our executive director Stacey Thater (pronounced “totter”) at these addresses:

Email: sthater@stchas.edu

Snail mail:

Alliance for Astronomy (ASEM)
PO Box 141
New Melle MO 63365

Committees

Comments, questions, suggestions and money (just kidding) may be sent to the following addresses:

program@asemonline.org

Use this address to communicate with the program committee. If you have something to present at a meeting or wish to contribute and let someone else perform, send it here. Questions and/or suggestions about programming etc. Remember, they are here to help you. This is a user friendly society and we like to see members get up and share.

equipment@asemonline.org

This address is used to find out about ASEM loaner equipment. If you find something amiss at BPark by all means report it here. If you are curious about borrowing an item, put in a request via this address.

hospitality@asemonline.org

Got a main dish you’d like to bring to the potluck? We sure could use it AND you will be reimbursed for your expenses.

newsletter@asemonline.org

Primary contact for the newsletter. Got an article or notice you’d like to see published? Send it here and be famous!

Outreach@asemonline.org

Special requests for groups at Broemmelsiek Park including:
- Notice of large party (more than groups of twenty)
- Request for specific requirements needed (school assignment, merit badge requirements, etc.)
- Requests for Star Party / Telescope event at another location

webmaster@asemonline.org

Kirk Steinbruegge is now our webmaster. Shoot him anything you want posted on our Web page

Entertainment

Late breaking news and member adventures (or shenanigans as the case may be) can usually be found at

STLAstronomy in yahoo groups. If you aren’t a member, you should join. Go to

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/STLAstronomy/

and click “Join”

Think Clear, dark skies