

General Information

The Society is a not-for-profit community organization, incorporated in 1959, for the purpose of education in astronomy and related sciences. All officers and committee members are volunteer.

A new observatory is planned to be located at Jefferson Township Park, east of Fort Wayne and New Haven Indiana.

The Society conducts community observing sessions at Jefferson Township Park every clear Saturday evening from April through November. The Society also gives local "star parties" for schools, scouts, and other groups.

The Society holds monthly meetings the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis Schouweiler Planetarium. Everyone is welcome.

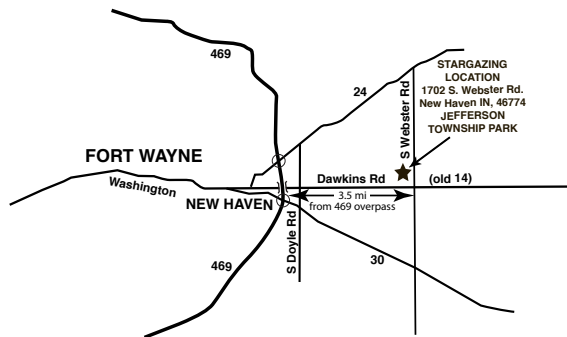
A monthly newsletter "The Eyepiece" is published by the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society to keep members informed of upcoming events, local meetings, field trips and latest facts on astronomy. See the application for additional benefits of membership.

FortWayneAstronomicalSociety.com



Fort Wayne Astronomical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 11093 • Fort Wayne, IN 46855
FortWayneAstronomicalSociety.com

Stargazing at Jefferson Township Park



Public Observing
every clear Saturday night
April thru November

STAR*QUEST

Our Future

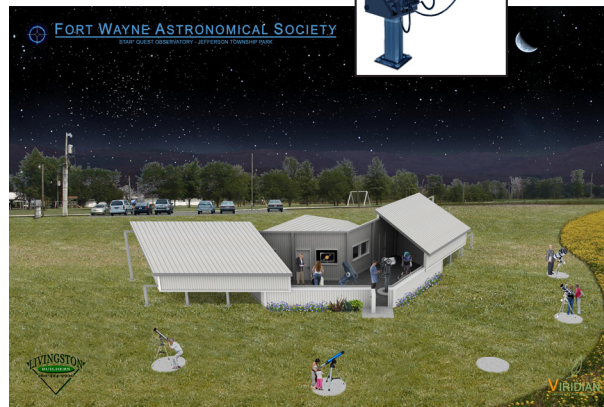
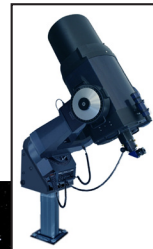
The Fort Wayne Astronomical Society is in the process of updating the observatory and its programs to meet changes in technology and local sky conditions. The goals for our project STAR*QUEST are:

NEW STATE OF THE ART OBSERVATORY

- large 16" telescope
- computer control
- pre-K, senior, handicap friendly
- solar-observing
- imaging, photometry, discovery
- live video and infrared observation
- Internet broadcasting, live streaming
- platform for new technology
- free community observing

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- introductory, sidewalk observing, fairs
- astronomy consulting/lectures
- advanced membership study
- promotion, newspaper, radio, television



Bring your
family
and friends!



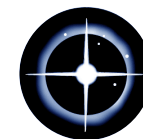
Saturday Night Stargazing

at Jefferson Township Park every clear Saturday night
starting 1 hour after sunset
and continuing for 2 hours
April through November. Admission is free.

Everyone is welcome

Monthly Astronomy Meeting

The Society meets every third Tuesday of the month
at the University of Saint Francis Schouweiler Planetarium,
7:30 pm. Various programs related to astronomy are presented.



The Fort Wayne Astronomical Society

A non-profit organization
dedicated to community education in
astronomy and related sciences

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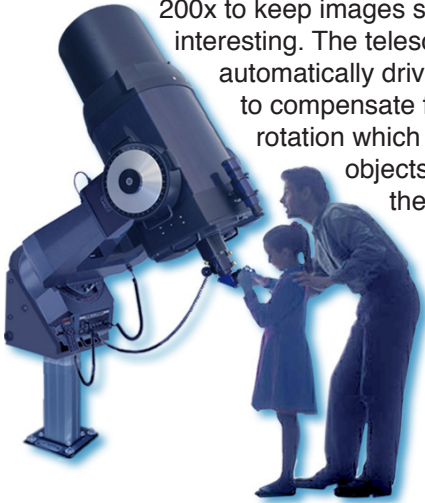
facebook.com/FortWayneAstronomicalSociety



The Richard Johnston 16 inch Telescope

The telescope for our new observatory at Jefferson Township Park will be available on limited Saturday nights and for special events until the new observatory is built. It is a new advanced-optics telescope that uses a 16" diameter mirror to collect 6,000 times more light than the naked eye, allowing you to see very faint objects. Depending on the time of year, a stargazer can see very faint nebulae, galaxies, double stars, star clusters and details on the moon and planets.

Magnifications are kept between 60x and 200x to keep images sharp and interesting. The telescope is automatically driven by a motor to compensate for earth's rotation which keeps celestial objects centered in the eyepiece.

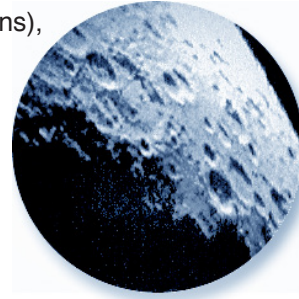


Objects Within our Solar System

Our Solar System contains all the objects under the influence of the gravity of our Sun. These include planets, moons, comets, meteors, and asteroids. All of these objects are in orbit about the Sun.

Of all the various objects we view through the telescope, our own Moon and the planets are always the most impressive to the first time or casual observer. They are the brightest and the most easily understood.

On the Moon we can easily see the mountain ranges, hundreds of craters (ringed mountains), and the seas (plains). The best time to view the Moon is at First Quarter (half Moon), when we can see the long shadows cast by the sun shining on the mountains and craters.



All the planets can be seen through the observatory telescope, but one is rarely viewed. Elusive Mercury is too close to the sun. Venus shows a bright white face; Mars shows dark markings at closest approach; Jupiter shows dark cloud belts and four bright moons; Saturn displays its beautiful ring system and several small moons; Uranus and Neptune are seen as small blue-green disks.

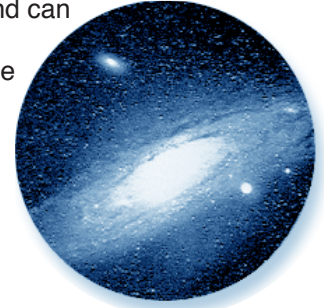
Objects to See Beyond Our Solar System

Beyond our Solar System are a vast number of interesting and beautiful objects to view. With one exception, everything you see with your naked eye is a part of our own Milky Way Galaxy. The thickest part of our galaxy can be seen in mid-winter and mid-summer as a broad band of light stretching from north to south. Our Sun is just one of billions of stars contained within the Milky Way.

Double stars, sometimes showing a beautiful color contrast, can be viewed at any time of year. Some are physically close together in space orbiting about each other, and others appear close only because of our line-of-sight.

Various nebulae, bright clouds of glowing gases, can be viewed during the summer and winter seasons. Some are birthplaces of stars, while others are remnants of old dying stars.

Galaxies beyond our Milky Way can also be viewed. The Great Galaxy in Andromeda is visible during the fall, and can be glimpsed on a clear moonless night with the naked eye. The light we see from these remote galaxies has been traveling through space for millions of years.



Jefferson Township Park Saturday Night Viewing

The public is invited to join the fun of stargazing through telescopes on clear Saturday nights. Peak into different telescopes as members scopes are varied in sizes, types, styles, eyepieces, filters and objects observed.



Bring your own telescope and share the views with all. If you are new with using a scope to view the heavens, Saturday night viewing is the perfect place to learn. Society members are on hand to assist in proper setup and can suggest perfect targets for your telescope. And don't be afraid to join the Society. To qualify all you need is an interest. Family memberships are just \$36 per year that include newsletters, monthly meetings, special observing events, private star gazing, astrophotography, loaner telescopes and more.

The Fort Wayne Astronomical Society exists to provide community education in astronomy and related sciences. We hope that you will take advantage of the free star viewing that this Society offers on clear Saturday evenings from April through November. See you soon.