



# Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh October Meeting Joint with the AAAP



(Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh)  
Wednesday – October 21, 2015  
held at Duquesne University

- 5:30 PM** Technology Forum Speaker's Presentation – **Power Center Ballroom Section C**
- 5:30 PM** Social Hour – **Power Center Fides Shepperson Suite**
- 6:45 PM** Dinner – **Power Center Ballroom Section C**
- 8:00 PM** Business Meeting – **Power Center Ballroom Section C**
- 8:15 PM** Technical Program Speaker's Presentation – **Power Center Ballroom Section C**

Deadline for Dinner Reservations: Thursday, 15 October 2015 at 12:00 noon

<http://www.ssp-pgh.org/> and click on SSP Monthly Meeting "More Info" link

## Dinner Reservations:

Please register on-line at <http://www.ssp-pgh.org/> to make dinner reservations **NO LATER THAN Thursday, October 15, 2015 at noon**. Dinner will cost **\$10** (\$5 for students) and checks must be made payable to the SSP. This month's entrées will be **Sauerbraten w/Dumplings & Sautéed Cabbage OR Grilled Vegetables w/ Dumplings & Sautéed Cabbage**. If you have any dietary restrictions, please indicate them when you RSVP.

## Parking:

The Duquesne University Parking Garage is located on Forbes Avenue. Upon entering the garage, receive parking ticket and drive to upper floors. Pick up a parking chip at the dinner or meeting.

## TECHNOLOGY FORUM - 5:30 PM

**Arthur Glasser**

**Educator, Senator John Heinz History Center**

### *"The Mystery of the Brashear Time Capsule Revealed!"*

In the spring of 2015, a support wall of the abandoned Brashear Optical Shop at 2016 Perrysville Ave. collapsed. The City of Pittsburgh hired a salvager to demolish the unsafe structure. During this work, a steel box that served as a time capsule was discovered. This historical discovery generated a great deal of excitement when the contents of the box were made public. There was a question of ownership of the box and its contents between the salvager and other contending parties. By June, an agreement was reached making the Senator John Heinz History the owner and conservator. This presentation will focus on the contents of the time capsule and what has been learned about Brashear, the Optical Shop, the Brashear family and the Perrysville neighborhood

## Biography

The speaker grew up in the mill town of McKeesport where very little of the night sky was ever visible. He received his first telescope from a friend in 1973 and joined the Amateur Astronomer's Association of Pittsburgh shortly thereafter. During a teaching sabbatical from the Mt. Lebanon School District in 1982, Art joined the Allegheny Observatory to conduct an archival inventory of materials in the building. Knowledge gained from this endeavor earned him a position as public evening lecturer for the observatory. Art eventually became known as the **"unofficial historian of the observatory"**. He has since written a manuscript detailing the history of the observatory. He currently teaches visiting university students and is an educator at the Heinz Regional History Center.





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## TECHNICAL PROGRAM - 8:15 PM

Professor William B. McKinnon,  
Washington University

### "NASA's New Horizons Mission: To Pluto and Beyond!"

After a 9-plus year journey, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft reached the dwarf planet Pluto on July 14, 2015. Encounter highlights included images, compositional maps (derived from spectroscopy!), atmospheric measurements and more of Pluto, its 5 known moons, and the surrounding space environment. Now, new data are being returned almost every day. Washington University's William B. McKinnon, Deputy Lead for Geology & Geophysics on the New Horizons Science Team, will describe the latest about this distant mini-planetary system. Plus, he will outline what's next for the plucky interplanetary explorer.

## Biography

William B. McKinnon is a Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences in Washington University in St. Louis. His research focuses on the structure, origin, evolution, tectonics, and bombardment histories of outer planet satellites and bodies in Kuiper belt, as well as fundamentals of impact cratering everywhere. Dr. McKinnon is a Science Team member on NASA's *New Horizons* mission to Pluto and the Kuiper belt, where he serves as a Deputy Lead for the Geology and Geophysics/Imaging Theme Team. He is also a Science Team member for ESA's upcoming *Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer* mission and NASA's planned *Europa Multiple Flyby* mission. Dr. McKinnon received his undergraduate degree at MIT and his Ph.D from Caltech. He is a Fellow of the GSA (Geological Society of America) and the AAAS, and in 2014 he received the G.K. Gilbert Award from the Planetary Geology Division of the GSA, which is given for outstanding contributions to the solution of fundamental problems in planetary geology. And he has an asteroid (9526 Billmckinnon).

