

Static



The Starved Rock Radio Club newsletter for October 2009
Prepared November 2, 2009
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New temporary location for club meetings

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ARES meeting location okay for kids after all

Kids under age 18 can go to the Saturday morning ARES meetings at Ottawa Regional Hospital after all. The meetings start at 8am in one of the hospital meeting rooms.

The hospital, trying to prevent the spread of H1N1 influenza, announced October 23 that no one under age 18 would be allowed in the building unless getting medical treatment. However, there was a partial rollback of the policy days later. Those under 18 who aren't going to the patient floors are allowed in now.

On October 26, spokeswoman Cheryl Cato explained that hospital administrators didn't want parents who had nowhere to take their kids to stay home instead of going to the lab for tests or getting other hospital services.

Anyone who isn't feeling well is still asked to stay away if possible. And hospital personnel may ask that kids wear breath masks.

Club meetings at Red Cross bldg. in Peru

While the Starved Rock Radio Club building in Leonore is undergoing renovations, meetings are being held at the Red Cross location in Peru. The location is at 1530 Fourth St. That's by the police station, across the street from the post office, and around the corner

from Illinois Valley Community Hospital.

The club's repeater will be turned off for much of the time during the renovations. The renovations are being done to accommodate a tenant, Ruff Brothers Grain.

Clubhouse makeover

The SRRC clubhouse looks like a grain bin operation now. The club's new tenant, Ruff Brothers Grain, has put in a truck loading platform where club members used to park on the north side of the building. There's a new bay window on the front side. And a diamond shaped sign hangs on the front naming the new occupant.

Leonid meteors

A 543 year old meteor trail could make for a good off-year meteor shower around November 17.

The Leonids, long known for their regularity, don't seem to be quite as regular anymore. It used to be, every 33 years there'd be a Leonid shower. After the 1966 shower, people waited for the next one in 1999. But the next one came in 2001.

There was a mini shower in 2008. And some scientists predicted late last year that there'd be a "half shower" this year.

The Leonids are produced when the earth passes through the dust trail of Comet

55P/Tempel-Tuttle. Jeremie Vaubaillon of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) told NASA last year, our planet passed through a dust stream laid down in 1466 and would do so again this year. He predicts 500 or more meteors per hour with a peak at 21:43 UT on November 17.

Bill Cooke of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center predicts 21:34 to 21:44 for the peak.

Visual observers should start looking to the skies the first or second week in November and try to see if there's a peak on the 17th. They'll be limited to nighttime observing. Meanwhile, radio observers can get their gear ready. And they can try their luck day or night.

Club elections Nov. 2

Nominations for elected club posts will be made at the November 2 meeting. That meeting will be at the Peru Red Cross. The election will be December 6.

From the editor – I'm not seeking reelection

Friends, I regret that I'm under many time pressures and I don't feel I'll be able to do this job effectively in 2010. I'll gladly work with whoever has the job next year if my help is requested.