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## Blog

### Revive Your Telescope

Posted by admin on July 9, 2013



Thinking of buying a telescope? Or have a telescope that hasn't been used in awhile? On Saturday, December 7, 2013, the [Michiana Astronomical Society](#) (MAS) will host a Telescope Clinic from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the [State Theater](#) in downtown South Bend. There you can meet one-on-one with practicing amateur astronomers who will listen to what your observing expectations and interests are, show you examples of multiple types of telescopes, and guide you in making your next telescope purchase with confidence. If you already own a telescope but are not comfortable using it, bring the scope, manual, and all parts to the Telescope Clinic for a tune-up, for instruction, or simply for encouragement. The MAS folks may have a few quick tips that will turn your attic denizen into a renewed asset...

Let's face it--too often someone shopping for a gift hastily buys a department store telescope with colorful packaging that promises vast magnification and grand views of the universe. A cheap scope delivers exactly what you pay for, with impractical lenses, small light gathering capability, toy-like parts, and a flimsy mount. In giving junk you may easily dissuade a person from advancing their interest in astronomy rather than nurturing it as intended. At the risk of being brusque, I encourage you not to be the one who stifles a child's curiosity with inferior equipment.



In addition to not getting the right telescope in the first place, a shortcoming that can discourage hours behind an eyepiece is not having a mentor to expose you to celestial highlights and telescope techniques. Here again, the MAS can support your budding hobby. The club usually meets the third Thursday of the month (with exceptions for solstice months and during the annual spring star party) at the downtown Mishawaka public library at East Lincolnway. MAS meetings often have a guest speaker and are open to the public, and attendees range from newbies intrigued by the mystique of the firmament to advanced amateurs pursuing leading-edge astronomy. More information is at [www.michiana-astro.org](http://www.michiana-astro.org).

Lastly, if you have an old telescope that you just want to pass on to someone else, feel free to bring it to the Telescope Clinic and the MAS will get reasonable scopes into the hands of new observers in the community. We appreciate your consideration. Thanks go to Paul Kitt of Elkhart, IN, who recently donated a Meade ETX telescope and eyepieces for the club to get back into circulation.



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