

THE GREATER PORTLAND ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
AND THE USM SOUTHWORTH PLANETARIUM
PRESENT



***“THE 2,000 YEAR OLD
ASTRONOMICAL
COMPUTER”***

Wednesday, November 11, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Astronomers regard it as being one of the most astounding achievements of the ancient world: the Antikythera Mechanism: a clock-like device dating from the second century BCE. Salvaged in the early 20th century from a Roman shipwreck off the coast of Antikythera, the Antikythera Mechanism was a

complex, highly precise astronomical calculator. During the decades following the instrument’s excavation, astronomers, mathematicians, archaeologists and computer experts have striven to understand how it worked and what celestial events it was designed to track and predict. By painstakingly reconstructing the mechanism from the many recovered fragments, experts now realize that this ancient device was far more sophisticated and complicated than previously assumed.



The Greater Portland Astronomical Society invites you to attend a presentation about the Antikythera Mechanism. Who built the machine that turned out to be more elaborate than anything which would be built during the subsequent millennium? How did it work and how did modern day scientists unravel its secrets?

Dr. Jerry LaSala, the director of the Southworth Planetarium, presents this lecture on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Admission by donation. (Any amount). Call 207-780-4249 for more information.

Astrophysicist Jerry LaSala is the Director of the Southworth Planetarium and the chair of the University of Southern Maine’s Physics Department. The Greater Portland Astronomical Society is delighted to have him deliver a lecture on this fascinating topic.



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