

Harford County Astronomical Society

Bel Air, Maryland
www.harfordastro.org



Volume 32 Issue 4

April 2006

“To go into solitude, a man needs to retire as much from his chamber as from society.... But if a man would be alone, let him look at the stars. The rays that come from those heavenly worlds, will separate between him and what he touches.... But every night come out these envoys of beauty, and light the universe with their admonishing smile.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82)
“Nature”
1836

**General Meeting: Saturday, April 15, 2006 7:30pm (19:30)
Public Star Party (Open House), April 8, 2006 at dusk**

Club Calendar for 2006

<u>Meeting night</u>	<u>Open House/Public Star party</u>
May 13, 2006	May 6, 2006
June 10, 2006	June 3, 2006
July 8, 2006	July 1, 2006
August 12, 2006	August 5, 2006
September 9, 2006	September 2, 2006
October 7, 2006	October 28, 2006
November 4, 2006	November 25, 2006
December 2, 2006	December 30, 2006

Meeting time is 19:30 (7:30pm) unless noted otherwise. Dates and times are taken from the HCAS website.
Please check the website for possible schedule updates and changes.

<http://www.harfordastro.org>

Check the HCAS website for other club events.

Treasurer's Report: \$5,266.85 in the treasury as of 4/15/06.

Minutes of the April 15, 2006 HCAS Meeting

Graciously provided by Monroe Harden.

1. President Monroe Harden opened the meeting at 7:45 PM. The March meeting minutes were sent out separately from the March newsletter, and they were approved as printed.
2. Treasurer: Bill Geertsen did not have his financial information with him, but he did say that the club's bank balance was about \$5,000, and there have been no deposits or payments in the recent past. He has not received anything from the secretary, even though we know of several new members who have mailed in their payments to the PO Box. (see above)
3. Observatory operations: The dome motorization project will start up again later this spring. The team working on this has been busy with work related issues and has not had time to devote to the design of the upgrade.

4. Outreach:

- a. Tom Rusek was not able to attend the meeting, but he sent an emailed summary of his recent outreach activities. He did a presentation for the scouts in early April, and it went well. He is running another program in Jarrettsville on April 23rd. he did say that he cannot participate in the girl scout event on 22-23 April due to other conflicting activities. The club has commitments with the Bel Air library in July and the Abingdon library in October.
 - b. Grace Wyatt and Monroe Harden will represent the club at Aberdeen's Earth Day event on April 22nd. The rain date is April 23rd. Grace cannot make it on the 23rd, but Mark and Tim said they could help out if needed.
 - c. Tom said that he has heard from HCC sources that we may be allowed to use the observatory for future open houses. He volunteered to handle the discussions with the school. The club discussed this, and noted that visitors would have to park at the Harford Tech parking lot and then walk to the observatory, since having cars come and go through the area in conjunction with lots of foot traffic, in the dark, could be hazardous.
 - d. Grace suggested having a club/observatory open house on May 6th as part of Astronomy day. The club agreed that the open house should take place from 10 AM to 2 PM to avoid conflicts with the observing session that night. Grace, Roy Troxell, Tom Rusek (via Grace), and Jim Garrett said they would help out.
6. Old business- Lucy did send more NASA handouts for use during outreach events. She said that it was getting harder for her to obtain these photos, so we need to be more careful with how many we hand out.

7. New business

- a. John Dobson visit. John Dobson will spend the day with the club on May 3rd. Wayne French, Joe Manning, and several others formed an ad-hoc committee to plan this visit. Sal Rodano has reserved a lecture hall at HCC for 1030-1230. Joe will pick Mr. Dobson up in Annapolis and drive him to HCC. A public discussion will follow, with attendance open to anyone. After this ends, the club will take Mr. Dobson to lunch, and then to a private discussion at the observatory. The lunch and afternoon sessions are open to the club and other specifically invited guests only- not the general public.

The club voted to pay Mr. Dobson a \$200 honorarium, and to pay for his lunch that day.

Grace agreed to send a mailing to all club members advising them of the event and asking for RSVPs. Steve and Carol Channel agreed to call the membership to remind them and get any late RSVPs later in the week.

b. Nomination of officers. The club nominated officers for the next club year. Jim Garrett was nominated to be president; Wayne French agreed to stay on as vice president; Tim Kamel was nominated for treasurer; and the club nominated Irv Koplovitz to remain as secretary. Roy Troxell agreed to take over as newsletter editor, and Phil Schmitz will be contacted as a possible candidate for Astronomical League coordinator.

c. Ballots will be prepared and mailed as soon as possible.

d. Astronomy Day is Saturday, May 6. HCAS will have observatory tours from 10 AM to 2 PM on that day. If you are interested in helping with the tours, either by getting the observatory ready or loaning a display or helping out on May 6, please let me know. We will have a planning and cleaning day on Saturday, April 29, starting at 9 in the morning. There is not much to do, just a little "sprucing up" prior to May 6 which will also make things a little nicer for John Dobson's visit on May 3. Tom Rusek did a great job cleaning out the office area so the main concentration will be the classroom area.

I don't think the bulletin board has changed since we moved in 6 years ago!!! Yes, it has been 6 years. Sunday, May 7 will be the 6 year anniversary of the dedication of the new building. I would like to collect astronomy pictures taken by members to display on that board. If you have pictures you have taken, please get them to me by April 29--either bring them to the meeting on April 29 or mail them to me at P. O. Box 272, Bel Air, MD 21014 or email them to me at dgracew@comcast.net. Make sure you provide your name, what the picture is and when you took it (and any other info you would like included with the picture for display). If you have a display you would like to share for that date and time let me know and get it to me by April 29--unless you plan to come on May 6 and can bring it yourself.

Please don't forget that May 6 is also an open house night. We will need people to come out with telescopes that night to greet people in the parking area of Harford Technical High School. The open house is scheduled for 9 PM and will still be a weather permitting event. The daytime tours will be rain or shine since it is inside. Thanks for your help in advance.

Grace Wyatt

8. Old Business:

No Old Business issues were discussed

9. The next open house (public observing session) will be on May 6th at the Harford Tech High School parking lot. The observatory open house is also on May 6th, from 10 AM until 2 PM. The next club general meeting is on May 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.



WE are pleased to announce our Twelfth annual Star Gaze Star Party from
 Friday April 28 through Tuesday May 2 2006
 at Tuckahoe State Park near Queen Anne, MD.

The registration fee includes camping for the observing area,
 campers are permitted to park and set up by their scopes.

ALL NIGHT STARGAZER COFFEE, as always, will be free along with a Stargazer
 prepared soup each evening except Sunday which will be a fish fry. Sodas and hot dogs
 will be available at minimal cost.

There are no hookups or electricity in the observation area. There is power available to
 charge batteries. Vehicles will be restricted in the observing area after dusk as a
 courtesy to those who are there to observe.

**All attendees are encouraged to register in advance for this event due to limited space and growing
 popularity of the Star Gaze Star Party. Your badges and entrance parking permit will be sent to you
 on receipt of payment.**

REGISTRATION for Star Gaze XII

	2-3 Days		4 Days		5 Days	
	Pre Registration	After April 1	Pre Registration	After April 1	Pre Registration	After April 1
1 Person	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$45	\$35	\$50
2 Persons	\$40	\$55	\$50	\$65	\$55	\$70
Family (3 or more)	\$55	\$70	\$60	\$75	\$65	\$80

For more information call or e-mail:

[Vice-President: Jerry Truitt,\(410\) 885-3327](mailto:jerry@delmarvastargazers.org)

Reservation / Registration

[Registrar: Joe Cain,\(302\) 998-4534](mailto:joe@delmarvastargazers.org)

<http://www.delmarvastargazers.org>

Star Gaze XII

**Friday April 28 through Tuesday May 2 2006
 at Tuckahoe State Park near Queen Anne, MD.**

Star Gazer XII Registration Form Calculation Table

Number in Party	1 to 3 Days		4 Days		5 Days	
1 Person	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$45	\$35	\$50
2 People	\$40	\$55	\$50	\$65	\$55	\$70
3 or More	\$55	\$70	\$60	\$75	\$65	\$80

Registration Form	Delmarva Stargazers	Star Gaze XII
Name: _____	Circle Arrival Date ___[Fri]___[Sat]___[Sun]	
Phone Numbers Home:(____)_____-_____	Day:(____)_____-_____	Cell:(____)_____-_____
Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
Make/Model of Vehicle: _____	Year: _____	Number in your Party: _____
Attendee #2: _____	Attendee #3: _____	Attendee #4: _____
Attendee #5: _____	Attendee #6: _____	Attendee #7: _____
Use Calculation Table to arrive at total cost		Amount Inclosed:\$ _____
<p>Print this form, complete form and mail with Check made out to Delmarva Stargazers to: Joe Cain 2219 Henlopen Ave Wilmington, DE 19804</p>		

Classifieds:

I need to thin my telescope collection a bit and offer the following for sale. I used each of them for many years but not recently. They would be happier gathering photons under a dark sky than dust in my basement.

No, I am not getting out of astronomy. I still have scopes which I do use when the sky permits.

1. OTA

Criterion Dynascope 8" f-8 Newtonian (RV-8)

SOLD

2. OTA

Celestron C-11 (11" f-10 SCT), circa 1986, ribbed back with crinkle finish.

Finder bracket, off axis solar filter (Thousand Oaks), fitted metal lens cap and storage trunk.

Tube rings (Byers) and Losmandy dovetail plate, visual back and focal reducer.

This is the scope which was mounted in the observatory prior to the arrival of the new C-14.

Except for a couple of touched-up scratches, this scope is in very good condition. I am the second owner. The original owner was Ed Gill, former, long time, HCAS member.

\$750.00 pickup

3. Complete scope and mount, ready to use.

6" f-6 Edmund Scientific Newtonian, red tube, circa 1975

Massive cast aluminum tripod mount, motorized.

JMI focuser, curved vane spider with enhanced 18% diagonal, original diagonal and cell.

No diffraction spikes, very good planetary and double star performance. I completed the Messier list with this scope.

\$250.00 pickup

4. OTA

Celestron "Cometron" 60mm refractor.

Good, small refractor starter scope. PVC tube, 0.965 focuser with hybrid 0.965"/1-1/4" diagonal to accept 1-1/4" eyepieces.

Lucy photographed the Venus transit with a similar scope a couple of years ago.

\$35.00 pickup

If anything interests you, please call me at 410-561-0973 or e-mail at izar21093@verizon.net

Thanks for looking.

Bill Geertsen

There are mail restrictions (number of pages) on the snail-mail version. To get the most out of your Astro Views, you are encouraged to subscribe to the e-mail version. This is easily done by contacting Bill Geertsen at izar21093@verizon.net and adding your e-mail address to his mailing list.

Astro Views is the official publication of the Harford County Astronomical Society, P.O. Box 906, Bel Air, MD 21014. For the year 2005 any items for publication in any issue are due to the editor by the 15th of the preceding month. Please send all contributions (electronic format is STRONGLY encouraged) to Bill Geertsen at (EMAIL):izar21093@verizon.net, regular mail at: 36 Northwood Drive, Timonium, MD 21093. Permission is not necessary for non-profit use of this material, although proper acknowledgement is required. Address changes should be brought to the attention of the editor at the address given above.

Home Page Web Site: <http://www.harfordastro.org> Webmaster: Charles Jones

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**FIRST CLASS
Address Correction Requested**