

# Harford County Astronomical Society

Monthly Newsletter

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Volume 40 Issue 8 August, 2013



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Public Open House  
Saturday, August 17  
at 8:00pm  
HCAS Observatory

General Meeting with Guest Speaker  
Thursday, August 22  
at 7:00pm  
HCAS Classroom

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*Please check our website for possible schedule updates and changes:*

<http://www.harfordastro.org>

*and our Facebook page at:*

<http://www.facebook.com/HarfordAstro>



<http://astroleague.org/>



<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/>

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## HCAS General Notes

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### General Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Last Meeting, July 18, 2013: Editor's Note: The Board of Directors' and the General Meeting scheduled for July 18 was hampered by a campus wide blackout. The BOD did convene outside the observatory, but the General Meeting itself was cancelled due to the intense heat.

Below are President Gary George's comments on the situation and on the shortened BOD meeting that was held.

#### *Fellow Members*

*Everyone know exactly how hot it is outside, and all the numerous power failures, and the college is not prone to it either, yesterday sometime around 5:15 / 5:40 the entire campus lost power and the heads to be, along with security "locked down" the college, in doing so we were not permitted to enter any buildings at all, including the classroom and the Observatory. Normally we have 24 - 7 access to these two rooms, but with the heat, the officials at the college made the correct call.*

*So to the members who did in fact show up and call me on my cell, I explained to them just what had happen and they said "thanks" and see you next month. I do need to send this out to the rest of the members that possibly did show up and waited and then left, they as well are owed an explanation as well.*

*Your Board of Directors did in fact hang around in the searing heat and held the Board meeting in the parking lot and the big news out of this meeting that you need to know is that we have been talking about starting back up our BBQ and Star Party, well good old Bob, has been driving all around Harford County trying his best to find us a spot, and he has, he brought his laptop computer and was planning on showing everyone the pictures of the site, but .....or as Paul Harvey would say, "And now you know the rest of the story". The date and rain date is set, our annual BBQ / Star Party will take place on Saturday September 7th and the rain date will be October 5th. More information will be coming out,, such as the directions on where it is, but the pictures we have seen this place looks to be a great spot to have this. THANKS BOB for all your hard work on finding this spot. now as for the lobster and shrimp.....*

*So once again, Sorry to those who drove up for the meeting , this one was completely out of our hands, hope to see everyone at the next upcoming meeting scheduled for Thursday August 22nd, our Open House will be on Saturday August 17th, and the Members night will be on Saturday August 10th, I hope to see everyone at least one of these events .*

*Stay cool,*

*Gary.*

#### *Fellow Board Members*

*Here is a brief but short note stating what we have talked about and voted on last night, Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm all Board members were present , Lucy was sick and was excused.*

*The college's computer that is currently booked up in the classroom will be removed and "OUR" computer will be put back in, Mike Talbard and Larry Hubble have set a date to do this and I believe this weekend it shall be done. Thanks to both of you for doing this, it's been a long time trying to get this done.*

*We had a very good response to having any "old parts that you would like to donate", so we can possibly use them to help in fixing up the telescopes, we now have 2 focuses that were donated , meaning we*

*will not need to purchase these 2 focuses and saving the club a little additional money. Tim will be ordering these parts by the first of the week, the Board has in the past voted to get this done and it will be done hopefully by the first of the week, another job we have been waiting over a "year" to get done. Yes it has been a year as of Memorial Day that we cleaned up and took an inventory. Another job "WELL DONE GUYS" and THANK YOU for all those who have donated old parts.*

*Here are the dates for the BBQ / Start Party Saturday September 7th and the rain date is October 5th, and the other good news I remember Bob saying something to the effect Lobster OR shrimp..... ( that's a joke Bob )*

*I have sent Sal another email explaining to him that we are now picking and choosing what objects we can show the public, and our astro-photographers are taking pictures between tree limbs, and we know funding was tight but if it is at all possible could we get the trees topped by summers end ? Sal's response was that he has forwarded our request on over to the Dean and when she makes a decision, he will get back to us.*

*Putting our complete inventory up on the web,,,,, we discussed this issue and the result will be that Dave, Tim, and Larry will review the list and only put up on the "MEMBERS PAGE" the inventory that members will be allowed to borrow.*

*We do have scopes that are in need of repairing that will not be lent out until they are fixed, and some other parts, such as filters, eye pieces ,etc that are to stay in the observatory that are used only with the 14in telescope. This list as well as the complete inventory will be circulated to the Board.*

*The Board has made the decision "NOT TO" publish our financials up on the website, we see no reason to include this to be put out there for the entire world see just how much money the club has in it's treasury. But we also said that this report will appear on the "MEMBERS ONLY" page for those who wish to see it, and will be included in the newsletter, but before Larry scans the newsletter up to the world wide web, this page will be put on the Members page and exclude from the newsletter before going up to the website. The Board voted in favor of doing this*

*Lastly, the Board is renewing it's security list to be sent over to the college, this new list will be sent to the Chief by this Monday the 22nd, we have made a decision to remove 5 people who have not been to an event in the past as to the requirements of the By Laws, and we are going to add 4 people, the "New Security List" will be as follows:*

*Mark K. , Larry H., Tim K., Gary G., Jim & Colleen G., Paul S., Lucy A., Karen C., Bob K., Mike T., Rick F., and Dave J.*

*This group of people will have the right to Open and Close the Observatory per the rules set forth by the Board of Directors, any violation of these rules will result in suspension of your rights. No questions asked, this is exactly how serious this club is as to being allowed to use the Observatory.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm*

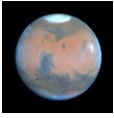
*If for any reason these need to be changed or amended please inform me ,if I do not hear from anyone about changing these notes by Monday the 22nd , then I will ask Karen to publish them as the "OFFICIAL MINUTES"*

*I hope to see everyone at the next scheduled general meeting on Thursday August 22nd a speakers meeting , THANKS to everyone who showed up last night and I am voting for both Lobster and Shrimp.....*

*Gary*

*Briefly stating the Board voted to order parts for the scopes, not to publish our financials, set date for BBQ, update our security list.*

**Treasurer's Report** – Note from Tim Kamel, Treasurer. “We are no longer posting our finances in the newsletter...”



### New Members

Please welcome the following new members: Jean Magni and Family

We now have 50 paid up members. I am now stopping further e-mails for renewal, having sent out three over the last two months or so.

Tim Kamel



### August Speaker Presentation

Mr. Tom Donaldson, Space Telescope Science Institute, will introduce us to the vast array of accessible information available in the Hubble Legacy Archive. The Hubble Legacy Archive (HLA) is designed to optimize science from the Hubble Space Telescope by providing online, enhanced Hubble products and advanced browsing capabilities. The HLA is a joint project of the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), the Space Telescope European Coordinating Facility (ST-ECF), and the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre (CADC).



Please join us as we offer a program of timely presentations at many of our general meetings.

These programs will last about 30-45 minutes in addition to our regular discussions.

We hope to have a speaker at every other meeting.

However, we also encourage our members to share their special skills and knowledge with everyone in the club. A short presentation by our members would be welcome at those general meetings when we don't have a special speaker. Anyone who would like to present a topic of interest to the HCAS membership is welcome.

***Please contact Lucy Albert at 410-679-7055 or [ljalbert608@gmail.com](mailto:ljalbert608@gmail.com) to make arrangements to present.***



## Observing Notes, Star Parties, Astrophotography and Other Fun Stuff

### Observing Notes

**Tim Kamel**

**Astrophotography Report**

**Tuesday, July 30th, 2013**

With nothing better to do, I was hoping to get out this evening, July 30<sup>th</sup>, and do some astronomy. I was watching the weather but the forecast was not good and a look outside showed partly cloudy skies. There were no messages on e-mail and I had almost given up when Larry called to see if I was available. He had a new camera (again!!!) and wanted to try it out. He had traded in his color Lunar Planetary Imager for a monochrome camera with filters which would give sharper images. This was the last chance to shoot Saturn, which was now really low and it was going to be a long time before Jupiter came around. I agreed to be his second to get the dome open, but was expecting a really short night with the weather. None-the-less, I brought along my DSLR. Just in case, you know.

I was glad I did. It turned out to be a beautiful night. The sky cleared, the seeing was OK and the night was mild. We stayed at the dome till 11:45 and shot several objects. Larry took his video of Saturn using four different filters and he will share those when he is ready. After that, I had use of the C-14 and started picking objects and shooting them. I have since processed three sets and will share them here. The rest will have to wait for another time.

My first target was also Saturn. I did not bring a LPI with me but my DSLR has a video mode that I had never used for astrophotography because it shoots in .mov mode, which is not supported by Registax. I have since found a converter that will change it to .avi so I decided to try it out. I shot a 40 second sequence of about 350 frames, which I have since processed to this photo using the 50 best frames.



The target that I really wanted to shoot this night was M-13, the Hercules Globular Cluster. Unfortunately, it was too high and was obstructed by the wind screen, which could not be raised any higher. So we decided to shoot some other objects while we waited for M-13 to settle lower into our field of view. We tried for several objects in Sagittarius and Scorpius, but mostly these were either below the wind screen or behind the trees. We then tried the

Ring Nebula, but that was also too high. After a few more false starts, we were able to get some shots of the Dumbbell, The Eagle, The globular cluster M22 in Sagittarius and even got a shot of Altair. I have not tried to process these as yet so I do not know how they came out.

One of the objects that we did shoot was Alberio, the beautiful double in Cygnus, the Swan. I took 5 time exposures and four were not useable. So I processed the fifth one as a single shot and got this image.



Sometime after 11 PM, M-13 finally got low enough to shoot from the dome. We shot seven 90-second frames. We thought that we really had good focus, but it was not good enough and only 2 were useable. My attempts to process the shots would not give any color and somehow, in the process of converting the shots from portrait to landscape layout, Deep Sky Stacker created double stars at the edge of the photo. Larry helped out and did a great job of processing the two frames into this photo.



This was a very rewarding night. We packed up around 11:45 and headed out. I am looking forward to the remaining photos to see what can be done with them.

Tim Kamel

*Because of the unpredictable weather conditions, we cannot set a specific date and time to observe. Sometimes the decision to go to our observing area at Broad Creek is made within a few hours before sunset. In any case, all club members will be notified by email.*

## HCAS Mission Statement

### What is HCAS?

HCAS is a group of people from varied backgrounds, of all ages, men and women, with a common bond – a love for astronomy. CAS is associated with the Harford County Community College and has use of the HCC observatory and meeting rooms. Our members are friendly, and welcome anyone with an interest in astronomy – a beginner or an advanced observer and/or astro-photographer. HCAS is committed to the people of Harford County, to assist and augment learning and interest in Astronomy as well as providing strong, all-volunteer outreach programs to schools, clubs and other interested organizations.

### GOALS

- \* Promote the interest and love of astronomy for the people of Harford County, Maryland.
- \* Advocate for dark skies and fight light pollution and light trespass.
- \* Engage with schools, churches, scouts and other groups to expand knowledge and interest in Astronomy.
- \* Establish and maintain an atmosphere at the observatory where everyone is included and invited to join and share astronomy by visual observing as well as astro-photography regardless of skill level or education.

This newsletter is the official publication of  
**Harford County Astronomical Society**  
P.O. Box 906,  
Bel Air, MD 21014.

*Items for the newsletter are due to the editor by the 10th of the month of publication.*

Please send all contributions (electronic format is strongly encouraged) to:

**Lucy Albert** at:

[hcasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hcasnewsletter@gmail.com)

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**And be sure to visit our Web Site:**

<http://www.harfordastro.org>

**Webmaster: Larry Hubble** [lkhubble@verizon.net](mailto:lkhubble@verizon.net)

**...and our Facebook page at:**

<http://www.facebook.com/HarfordAstro>