

HARFORD COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 7 JULY 2013

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, JULY 13TH AT 8:00PM
&
NEXT MEMBERS' OBSERVING NIGHT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH
HCAS OBSERVATORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,
THURSDAY, JULY 18TH AT 6:00PM
&
GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 18TH AT 7:00PM
HCAS CLASSROOM

Please check our website for possible schedule updates and changes
<http://www.harfordastro.org>

and our Facebook page
<http://www.facebook.com/HarfordAstro>



<http://astroleague.org/>



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



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES & INFORMATION

JUNE 20, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Previous minutes were read, seconded and passed.

Dr. Bonnie Meinke, from the Space Telescope Science Institute, gave a fine and informative presentation on the latest observations of Saturn's F Ring and the probable explanations for the anomalies that have been found in it. We enjoyed it very much. Thank you!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balance as of 5/13/2013

Main checking account:	\$4,901.61
Second Checking account:	\$ 925.31
PayPal Account	<u>\$ 941.94</u>
Total	\$6,768.86

Membership renewals are continuing and we now have 46 paid up members. I will send out one more follow-up email, the third one, and then close out the process. .

Tim Kamel

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome our newest member, Paul Zappala. Welcome, Paul!

MEMBERS NIGHT & OPEN HOUSE REPORTS

OPEN HOUSE

June 15th, 2013

We lucked out with beautiful night though the forecast was actually marginal and kept many of the members away. We had a scout troop scheduled and between the troop, their family and guests, we must have had about 40 guests. Good show.

Participating for the club were Karen and Paul doing presentations. Larry and Ricky were in the dome and Tim and Rick had scopes set up on the apron. Karen and Paul also set up scopes

We had a great time showing off the moon and Saturn as well as a bunch of other objects. Sky conditions were actually quite good.

Tim Kamel



GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM

Upcoming Speakers

August 22, 2013

(Tentative) Mr. Tom Donaldson, Space Telescope Science Institute, will introduce us to the vast array of accessible information available in the Hubble Legacy Archive.

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.

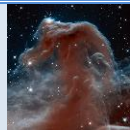
We hope to have a speaker at every other meeting.

We also encourage our members to share their special skills and knowledge with everyone in the club.

A short 10-15 minute presentation by our members would be welcome at our regular 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 lj Albert608@gmail.com to make arrangements to present.



OBSERVING NOTES, STAR PARTIES, ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER FUN STUFF

NOTE: 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 or at the Observatory is made within a few hours before sunset. In any case, all club members will be notified by email.

OBSERVING REPORT

Tim Kamel

Friday, July 5, 2013

As you may have noticed, the weather for the last few weeks, since our last open house, has been downright miserable, clouds and rain every day. Then Friday the 5th came along and it was a beautiful day. Hoping for a good night, we checked the forecast and the prediction was for clouds starting at 10 pm. Since it gets dark only around 9 PM, it did not seem worthwhile to go to the dome for an hour. So I gave up. Around seven, I picked up an e-mail from Gary saying that he and Rick were going to the dome to shoot Saturn. I decided that I would go. One hour is better than nothing.

Rick put out a note to all members, and Ann Bizzano and six children came.

It turned out to be a beautiful night, much better than we usually get. Stars were bright and numerous and there were many of them.

We spent the night looking at Saturn and several deep sky objects. Our attempts to see objects in Scorpius and Sagittarius were unsuccessful, with the objects being either too low, or behind the trees. We were able to snag the Wild Duck, The Ring Nebula, The Dumbbell and M5, as well as Alberio and others.

We were also able to use Gary's CCD camera to capture 3 videos of Saturn before it dropped below the tree line. I processed one of the shots and it is attached. It comes up black and white and I can't seem to be able to bring out any color. However, I still like it.

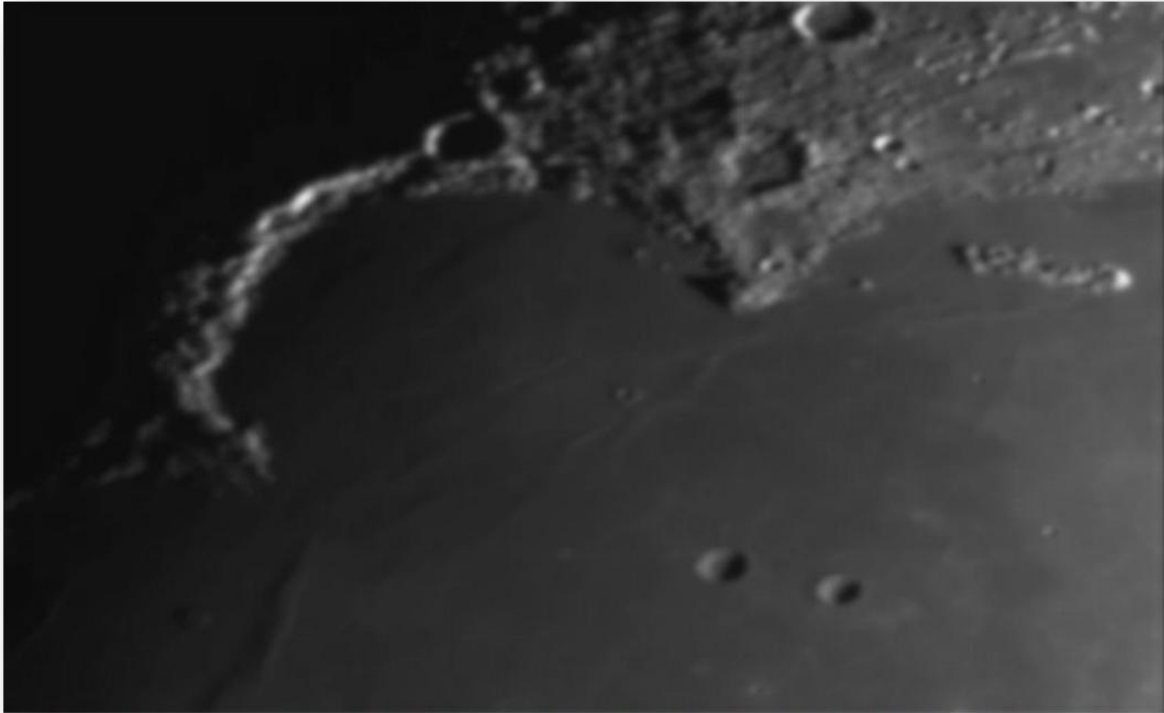


OBSERVING REPORT

Gary George

With the “terminator” just creeping behind the “Bay of Rainbows” and bathing the mountain tips of the Jura’s in sunlight, the shadow of the Laplace is coming to a point. The craters LeVerrier and Helicon are to the bottom right and the “Teneriffe Mountain” range is to the upper right. Sinus

Iridum, from point to point of the two promontories, lies a mere 248.5 miles across with the northern most edge approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ of a mile below sea level, meaning the lava has never completely filled the crater. The main crater just behind the Jura Mountains is Bianchini, a little over $28\frac{3}{4}$ miles wide and just a little over a mile deep. This picture was taken on day 10 of the lunation period.



OBSERVING REPORT

Peter Nerbun

June 16, 2013

Mercury

This photo shows Mercury on June 16 2013 at 00:16 UT; I captured this image when Mercury was 20 degrees above the horizon and 31 percent illuminated. At the time the planet's diameter was 8.8 arc seconds.

Mercury is difficult to capture at higher altitudes because the brightness of the sky tends to reduce the contrast level between surface features and the background. Nevertheless it is possible to capture albedo features on Mercury; note that the lower half of the image corresponding to the Northern hemisphere is brighter than the upper half.

I captured this image with a C11 SCT, a 2.2x Barlow and a monochrome CCD webcam. The Focal Ratio for this image was F/28 and the Effective Focal Length (EFL) was 7,700 mm



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, ETC.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, GARY GEORGE:

Before you know it the summer will be half way over, and it seems that before you even think of it, the cold air of Mr. Winter will be gripping us all and we will be huddled over the space heater wishing for the “dog days of summer”. For most of us who like the heat we hate to see it leave.

We have several ideas going on, and one of them is the hopeful return of a summer cook out and star party for the membership. We have told you that we would like to hold it toward the end of August, the first part of September, and as of this writing we are waiting to hear back from two

parks where we would like to hold it. When we hear from them and can firm up the date, you, the members will be the first to know! Once this is confirmed I would like to see a really big turnout of a day of good food, fun, and friendships. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

July 4th has come and gone, and hopefully everyone still has 10 fingers and 10 toes, as for the family cookouts, I am quite sure everyone has had fun with that. I know that I sure have had my share of family cookouts. We have had several really good turn outs at a couple Open House events and the members seem to be getting back into the swing of things. I just hope that we can fulfill our obligations with the groups that are signing up and put on some really good presentations that will keep them coming back, like the past Open House of June 15th. We had a really good night for seeing and the turnout was fantastic. So the only thing left to say is "let's keep 'em coming back for more".

The past couple Speaker meeting have really been something to talk about, all the way from the Transit of Venus up to the last one, learning about the "F" ring of Saturn. I would like to take a minute and say "THANK YOU" to Dr. Bonnie Meinke for her presentation, which was very rewarding to see and to hear the excellent questions from our members and guests. Remember that all of this could not have been happening and us learning all this neat stuff if it wasn't for Lucy, a special "THANKS" to her as well.

Our membership rolls will be closing soon, so if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so as you are missing out on some really neat stuff. Remember, "Membership has its Rewards"! So with that in mind, let's hope everyone has a safe and rewarding rest of summer, cause old man winter is coming. Hope to see you at an event soon.

Gary George

FROM THE EDITOR:

Thanks again to all for your kind remarks relating to last month's newsletter, my first attempt. I'd like to remind HCAS members that the newsletter welcomes any articles, stories, photos, classifieds, "Letters to the Editor", etc. that you may have. Feel free to send your information to the newsletter email address.

Lucy Albert

CLASSIFIEDS

Interesting Links - "Explore Astronomy" on HubbleSite.org



http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/

Hubble's Universe Unfiltered with Dr. Frank Summers
http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/hubbles_universe_unfiltered/

Deep Astronomy with Tony Darnell
http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/deep_astronomy/

Skywatch with Dr. Carol Christian & Jim O'Leary from the Maryland Science Center
http://hubblesite.org/explore_astronomy/skywatch/

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. HCAS is associated with Harford 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:

Editor: Lucy Albert: hcasnewsletter@gmail.com

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And be sure to visit our award-winning web Site: <http://www.harfordastro.org>

Webmaster: Larry Hubble lkhubble@verizon.net

...and our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/HarfordAstro>