



Minutes of General Meeting, 23 November, 2002

President Lucy called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. in Joppa Hall, Room J70.

Treasurer's report: \$2112.57

Old Business:

1. Public Outreach/ Star Parties : See following article

2. Speakers are arranged for the Jan-Mar. general meetings:

January 18. Mark Kochte from Space Telescope Science Institute will give a talk entitled "HD209458 B: A Transiting Planet". The talk will focus on the extra-solar planet search, in particular, the methodology used for the only known transiting planet.

February 15. Dr. Mark Voit, also from Space Telescope, will present a lecture entitled "Beyond the Boundaries of Galaxies", a discussion of the mysteries of dark matter and other unknowns.

March 15. Dr. Frank Summers, from Space Telescope, will present a fun demonstration and talk entitled "Simulations to Visualizations: Astrophysics Goes Hollywood."

3. Training for club members: Now that the Observatory is operational, we need to arrange for interested members to be trained on the equipment. Possible instructors are Bill Geertsen and Bruce Wrinkle. I will contact Bill/Bruce and see about their willingness to take on the assignment. Most likely the class would be held on a weekend due to schedule and time requirements. Members will be notified when we have this settled.

4. Public Star Party site: Tom Rusek obtained the necessary forms for us to secure documented permission to us the high school parking lot during our public star parties. Lucy has located a point of contact for us to get the insurance we should have to address any liability on the club's part for hosting these kinds of public events. Doug Wittich, self-described "insurance geek", graciously volunteered to lend his professional experience to complete this important task. In addition, we will aggressively pursue the "restoration" of the documents to certify the non-profit status of the HCAS. Those documents have not turned up despite intensive search so the best way forward is to simply re-apply. All members in attendance agreed that ONCE WE OBTAIN THE INSURANCE we will move to the new public site adjacent to the observatory rather than the current location next to Joppa Hall.

New Business:

1. George Thompson asked for club support to his HCC astronomy classes. Several club members have been regulars in this effort, but more consistent effort is necessary. Held every clear Monday night without a full moon when classes are in session, Members need only help set up scopes at the observatory and show the

students the sky for approximately 45 minutes starting at 9:30 P.M on those evenings. George will send me a listing of the dates for the coming school year so that members can better plan to support this critical outreach effort. George repeatedly emphasized how enthusiastically the viewing sessions were received by the students...he's even had people transfer into his class from other schools just to get the opportunity to look through a real telescope! This is a huge benefit to the club and is a large reason that we get the support we enjoy from HCC. In that vein, George will purchase one of the "green laser" pointers through his class funding for use during class and public events for instructing folks "where to look"!

2. Tom Rusek has asked for member support for an educational outreach presentation on Friday, December 13th at the Hillsdale Elementary School in Aberdeen. This is located across from Wal Mart on US40, in back of the Knights Inn. Beginning at 7:00 PM, Tom will give a lecture for about one hour to an expected 80-100 Brownies, Girl Scouts and Adult Leaders with a "look through the eyepiece" outside demonstration to follow. Several members volunteered support and we'll hope for clear skies that evening.

3.. Astronomical Calendar/Almanac: I only heard back from three folks that wanted to order the Astronomical Calendars. That is not enough to qualify for a price break. So, **if you want next year's calendar/almanac YOU WILL NEED TO ORDER IT ON YOUR OWN.** You can do so on-line at:
www.universalworkshop.com

Presentation:

Members demonstrated some recent "finds" that would make interesting gifts for Christmas. Lucy's "mobile storage" box, Wayne's "torcutum" and Doug's astronomical musical CD represented the eclectic selection of items we shared.

Annual Winter Solstice Party!!!

When: Saturday, 21 December, 2002. Begins at 6:00 PM

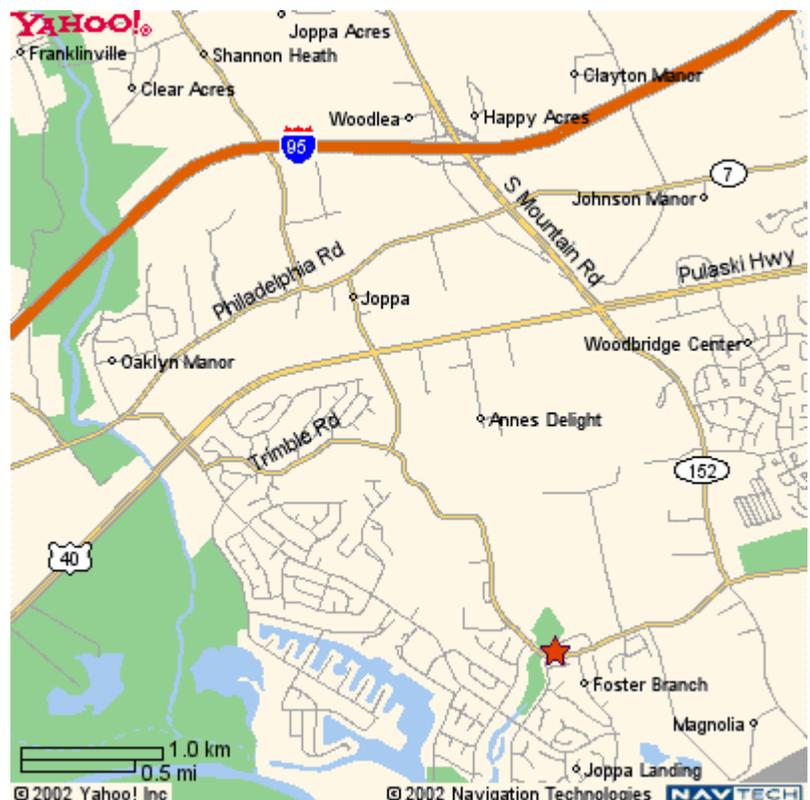
Where: Lucy Albert's home, 608 Falconbridge Drive, Joppa

Bring a dish to share with everyone and enjoy the evening with your fellow HCAS members!!

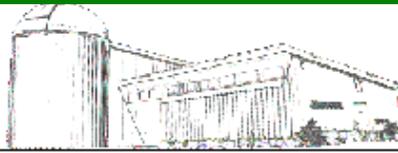
If clear, Lucy will open the observatory, and of course bring your scopes if you'd like.

Drinks and tableware will be provided.

P.S. Lucy said that whatever you'd like to bring...main dish, salad, dessert....will be fine...not necessary to call her!



December



2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Discussion Nite, 7:30 @ Observatory, Astronomy Class, 9:30	3	4	5	6	7 Star Party, Dusk at Stepping Stone and Observatory
8	9 Discussion Nite, 7:30 @ Observatory, Astronomy Class, 9:30	10	11 1st Quarter Moon	12	13 Public Outreach Hillsdale Elem School Aberdeen, 7:00PM	14 Public Star Party Joppa Hall 8:00 PM
15	16 Discussion Nite, 7:30 @ Observatory	17	18	19 Full Moon	20	21 Winter Solstice Party Alber's Home 6:00 PM
22	23 Discussion Nite, 7:30 @ Observatory	24	25	26	27 Last Quarter Moon	28
29	30 Discussion Nite, 7:30 @ Observatory	31				

Educational Outreach, 9 November 2002

Forty Brownie Scouts and leaders gathered in Joppa Hall Saturday evening to hear an outstanding presentation by Tom Rusek on astronomy, constellations and associated mythology. Tom's usual enthusiasm was enjoyed by all attending as he stepped the young ladies through the late fall and early winter sky.

Other members in attendance were: Wayne French, Mark Kregle and Steve Channel. Wayne and Steve Channel set up scopes outside, although the overcast sky did not look to be promising for viewing.

After a run through the basics of the night sky, Tom took all on a constellation-by-constellation tour discussing the mythological stories associated with names such as Pegasus, Cassiopeia and Perseus.





He has very clever instruction aids that show the relative color of the major stars that make up each constellation. At the end of the lecture, Tom darkened the room and used his "artificial sun" to let the girls create their own "moon phases" using Styrofoam balls.

Amazingly, the sky cleared just as the student lecture ended and everyone was able to practice recognizing the real stars they had just heard about!

Member's Corner: Items for Sale or Trade

Bill Geertsen, izar@juno.com, has listed the following:

A. Digital encoders. These are good encoders, USDigital, and would make fine spares for those of you with Digital Setting Circles, or as upgrades from your existing encoders.

(2) 2156 step encoders \$10.00 ea

(2) 4000 step encoders \$20.00 ea

B. Celestron CR102HD (4", f-10) Achromatic refractor OTA. This is my old 4" scope that has seen a lot of use but is in great shape. This scope has minimal residual color (violet) which is normal for all Achromatic objectives. I used it to observe Mars last time around and easily saw many surface features, including the start of the dust storm that ended the Mars observing season. I have modified it for low magnification binocular viewing and normal viewing with an extension tube (included). Includes the original mounting rings, but no mount. It needs at least a CG-5 or similar mount and recommended wood legs. \$175.00 OBO

C. 8" f-7.8, Criterion Dynascope OTA. The paint on the tube is rough. I have added wood end rings to the tube for comfortable gripping in cold weather. This scope is from the 60's and has a hand-figured, parabolic, Pyrex mirror with engraving on the edge of the glass. The primary coatings are in good shape, a little dusty, original mirror cell, JMI 1-1/4" focuser, enhanced aluminum diagonal (16% obstruction!) supported on stainless steel vanes. This is an excellent planetary scope and is of a very manageable size. I have had it up to 500x on Saturn with very good image quality and detail. It would make an excellent Dob, just in time for Mars and the big planets. \$300.00 OBO

All items pickup preferred.

Current Membership - Harford County Astronomical Society

We've had several new members and thought it appropriate to provide you a current list of all members in good standing. All are encouraged to meet and greet the newest members and take every opportunity to participate in club activities!

Lucy	Albert	Joppa	J. Gary	McDaniel	Bel Air
John E.	Asberry	Bel Air	Tom	Miller	Bel Air
Harold	Berman	Owings Mills	Pat	Nealy	Monkton
Howard & Judith	Bohm	Abingdon	Carl	Nothnick	Pasadena
David E.	Bowman	Perry Hall	Doris	Reese	Baltimore
Steve & Carol	Channel	Bel Air	Scott	Risso	Linthicum Hts.
Karol & Stuart	Chapman	Darlington	Salvatore J.	Rodano	Fallston
Wayne M.	Claytor	Middletown	Stephen	Rohrs	Fallston
Ernest T.	Davis	Baltimore	Tom & Barbara	Rusek	Aberdeen
James	Deitsch	Baltimore	Lynn	Roudenhuis	Perry Hall
Noel H.	Ethridge	Bel Air	Kathy L.	Roush	Bel Air
Wayne	French	Kingsville	C. Jeffrey	Schluederberg	Bel Air
William	Geertsen	Timonium	Philip A.	Schmitz	Baltimore
Barbara	Geigle	Sinking Spring	Ralph	Smith	Bel Air
Bertram	Grollman	Darlington	Michele L.	Snyder	Reisterstown
John	Harris	Perry Hall	Richard	Spencer & Family	Baltimore
Robert G.	Heacock	Edgewood	George	Thomson	Churchville
Leo	Heppner	Havre de Grace	Cathy	Tingler	Edgewood
Carolyn D.	Hetterick	Baltimore	Frank & Martha	Varisco	Baltimore
Warren	Hoover	Street	Ernest	Webb	Jarrettsville
Larry & Linda	Hubble	Forest Hill	Jason	Webster	Aberdeen
Charles	Jones	Baltimore	Michael A.	Weinrich	Baltimore
George R.	Jones, Jr.	Aberdeen	Fred	Wille	Lutherville
Dinah Faber &	Ben Knight	Bel Air	Andrew	Williams	Baltimore
Stephen	Krall	Kingville	Doug	Wittich	Baltimore
Mark	Kregel	Aberdeen	Margot	Wohl	Bel Air
Clinton	Lower, Jr.	Edgewood	Bruce R.	Wrinkle	Laurel
Cindy	Majewski	Havre de Grace	Grace	Wyatt	Bel Air
Frank	Majewski	Havre de Grace	Ron	Zimmerman	Fallston
Millie	McCoy	Bel Air			

AstroViews is the official publication of the Harford County Astronomical Society, P.O. Box 906, Bel Air MD 21014. For the year 2002 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 Steve Channel at EMAIL: srcac2@comcast.net, regular mail at: 602 Roxburch Terrace, Bel Air, MD 21015. Permission is not necessary for non-profit use of this material, although proper acknowledgment is required. Address changes should be brought to the attention of the editor at the address given above.

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