



Minutes of General Meeting, 19 April 2003

President Lucy called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. in Joppa Hall, Room J70.

Treasurer's report: See Annual Financial report below.

Old Business:

Educational Outreach:

Open House, 12 April: An excellent evening with uncommonly good viewing conditions, even with the heavy light pollution near Joppa Hall! We had at least 8 scopes out with members showing the crowds the night skies.

Swan harbor Earth Day, 19 April: Grace, Steve, Carol and Bill G. had *480 people* stop by our display at the Earth Day activity. Although the day started out with gray skies, it cleared after the first hour and we were able to demonstrate sunspots using filtered scopes. There were many inquiries and lots of interest in our 10 May Astronomy Day Open House at the Observatory.

ASTRONOMY DAY:

May 10th, Saturday, is National Astronomy Day. There are numerous opportunities to publicize our intent to host an open house at the observatory that day from 1100-2300 hrs. Grace W. will contact the Aegis newspaper to alert them of the press release package from the Space Science Telescope Institute that will coincide with Astronomy Day...our club will be one of only two in the region to enjoy the "boost" from the release of the newest Hubble picture. Tom Rusek is contacting the local radio station to have the event announced periodically. We've had many people ask about help with their "new telescopes" so clearly some beginner orientations will be in order. In addition, we intend to open the observatory for public tours. On that score, discussion was focused on preparing the observatory and grounds for the event. **Members are working to eliminate the remaining safety concerns within the observatory upper deck. Projects are underway and will be completed by Saturday, 26 August. Come out and lend a hand!** Call any of the officers for details. Bill G. is heading the effort to align, collimate and calibrate the scope.

A general member working day will be held on Saturday, 3 May, to do the final “clean up” and preparation of the observatory for the following Saturday. All members are strongly encouraged to participate in that effort as well as during the 10 May activities...this is our best opportunity to move our club forward and has been long anticipated by current members and public alike! [The Editor will take license and put it more directly: “Show up and help! This could determine whether the HCAS survives as a meaningful organization.”]

New Business:

Discussion Nite: The membership voted to eliminate the Monday “Discussion Nite at the Observatory” sessions from our calendar of events. There have been some disappointed people that showed up acting on that announcement from the web site, only to discover nobody in attendance. Leo explained that this actually grew out of our support of Dr. George Thomson’s astronomy class – one obligation we have to the college for our use of the observatory. Consequently, we will remove this reference from both the web site and within the newsletter calendars. The calendars will now reflect only those evenings that have astronomy class events we need to support. For similar reasons, we will remove the observatory reference in our Saturday club star party listing.

Broad Creek: Cathy T. did yeoman’s work to track down and acquire the new keys to the Broad Creek site. As with last year, we’ll have Barb G. locate a key at her father’s cabin located on Broad Creek proper to provide easy access to all members headed up to the dark sky site. Specific directions, including GPS cords, are included in this newsletter for the newer members who are unfamiliar with the Broad Creek site.

Boy Scout Support: An obligation we enjoy for our use of the Broad Creek site is support of the Scout Camp activities. Specifically, the Scouts have asked for support during their summer camps. We will use the club’s Mead scope for this to eliminate member’s having to schlep their personal instruments up to the camp. Drew Wilkerson stepped up to coordinating this. He’ll be calling you...the aim is to line up enough folks so we each could expect to do this only one time this summer. Seems a very reasonable means to support the Scouts and the club for minimal time investment for any one member!

Yahoo Group Site: For all members, the use of the Yahoo Group Site (see: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hcas/>) is an outstanding means of communication and reference for issues specific to the Harford County Astronomical Society. You can join the group, no charge, and receive EMAIL and have access to the reference files. Currently, there are 38 of us on the group. To subscribe you could send an EMAIL to: hcas-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and Charlie will get you lined up. During the discussion on this topic, the possibility was raised about hosting our own server site, eliminating some of the problems that may occasionally arise going through Yahoo. We’ll explore that, however in the meantime, most who use the Yahoo site will attest to it’s usefulness for timely communications among HCAS members.

Nominations for New Officers:

President Lucy opened the floor to nominations for the next year's slate of officers. A ballot is included at the end of this Newsletter. Please fill it in and either bring it to the May General Meeting or mail it into the club secretary.

Meeting Program:

The members adjourned at 1000 hrs and moved to the observatory to consider the work improvements necessary to prepare for Astronomy Day.

Star Parties:

Del Marva Stargazers: 30 April - 4 May, Tuckahoe State Park;



www.delmarvastargazers.org

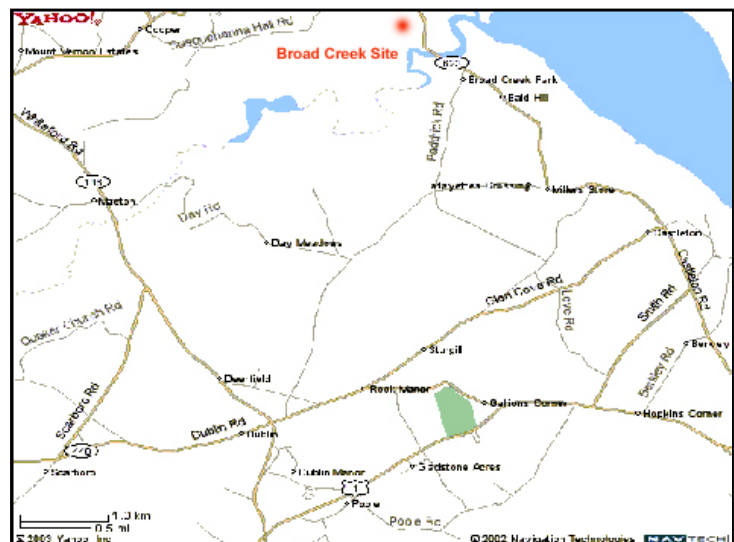
MASON DIXON: May 30 – June 1st., Codorus St. Park, PA, <http://masondixonstarparty.org/>



Broad Creek

The Broad Creek site offers the best skies in our region. We are grateful to the Boy Scouts of America and to the Harford Co. Sheriff's office for the opportunity to use the site responsibly. Directions to the site are included below. Remember, the gate to the site is locked – keys are available to any member. If you need specific instructions on where to access those keys, call any of the HSAC officers. Please respect the site and remember to lock the gate and return the key when you leave!

Directions: You'll be taking Route 1 north, toward Rising Sun. At the junction of US1 and 136 turn left (there is a Wa Wa Store on the left). Go into the town (?) of Dublin, passing the Dublin Elementary School on your right. Just past the school you'll come to a 4-way stop [you know, those things that Marylanders can't manage too well, so they build round-a-bouts!!☺] Turn right and go to the first left (Castleton Rd) Turn left onto Castleton Rd. and follow it out of town, into the farmland and wooded areas [LOOK OUT FOR DEER!!!]. After 2.2 miles you'll turn left onto Paddrick Rd. [this can sneak up on you, especially if at night, again WATCH FOR DEER!!] Paddrick Rd. ends in "T" with Rte 623. Turn left onto 623. At this point you may want to pick up the key from the box maintained by Barb Geigle's father. Go over the bridge and after 1/2 mile you'll notice



"driveways" coming off the road on your left hand side. These aren't residential drives by any means...gravel at best. At any rate you want the third 93rd0 drive of such type on the left...it is actually 0.9 mile after crossing the bridge at Broad Creek. You'll see the small "HCAS" sign on the utility pole. Turn into the driveway, open the gate (closing it but not necessary to lock it until you leave). Drive up the gravel road 0.3 mile, turning right onto the top of the hill (turn off your lights!!!). 39deg 42.05 N; 076 deg 15.42 W.

Financial Report - April 30, 2002 - April 22, 2003

	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance on Hand			\$1,358.48
<u>Income</u>			
Membership Dues		\$ 952.75	
Sky & Telescope Magazine		\$ 569.05	
Astronomy Magazine		\$ 174.00	
Battelle & Battelle Contrib. donations		\$ 250.00 \$ 20.10	
Subtotal		\$ 1,965.90	
<u>Disbursements</u>			
Astronomical League Dues	\$ 213.00		
Box Rent at Post Office	\$ 76.00		
Marsh Affinity Group Service (insurance)	\$ 327.00		
Laser pointer (Beta Electron.)	\$ 137.38		
Newsletter	\$ 89.91		
Observatory improvements	\$ 273.15		
Miscellaneous Expenses (printed checks, Xerox copies)	\$ 30.92		
Sky Publishing *	\$ 179.70		
Astronomy Magazine	\$ 174.00		
Subtotal	\$ 1,501.06		
Balance on Hand			\$1,823.32
* \$389.35 sent in May 13, 2002 included in balance on hand			

OFFICIAL BALLOT - Vote, Detach and turn in at May General Meeting

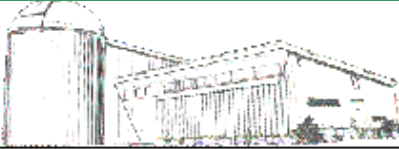
President - Wayne French _____
Write-in _____

Vice President - Tom Rusek _____
Write-in _____

Treasurer - Carol Channel _____
Write-in _____

Secretary - Steve Channel _____
Write-in _____

Executive Board (vote for four):
 Drew Wilkerson _____
 Lucy Albert _____
 Phil Schmitz _____
 Grace Wyatt _____
Other _____

May				2003		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>New Moon</i>	2	3 Star Party, dusk at Broad Creek 4AM Class
4 4AM makeup class	5 Makeup class - call Dr. Thomson 410-879-5871	6	7	8	9 <i>1st Qtr Moon</i>	10 ASTRONOMY DAY Observatory 1PM-1100PM
11	12	13	14	15	16 <i>Full Moon</i>	17 GENERAL MEETING Joppa Hall, 7:30PM Rm J70
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Moon:</i> Star Party, dusk at Broad Creek

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: srccac2@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.

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

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**FIRST CLASS
Address Correction Requested**