



General Meeting Saturday, March 5, 2004

President Wayne French opened the meeting at 7:30

Minutes accepted. Treasurer's report: \$1961.92

Old Business:

1. Public Star Party: Mark K. report that the February open house was very well supported by the members. As Bill G. wrote: *"The Open House tonight was graced with a clear sky, pleasant temperatures, no wind and a very good turnout of club members and scopes. The visitors were treated to three bright planets, the moon, a comet, many deep sky objects and interesting discussions of what they were seeing.*

We observed two of Jupiter's moons completing transits and at least one shadow transit. Venus exhibited a phase very similar to the moon phase and Saturn showed a wealth of ring and surface detail."

Lucky Lucy A., the Diva of Deep Space, even pulled out the comet and a galaxy pair in Ursa Major to thrill the crowd!

2. Observatory Operations: We held another certification class and now have over 24 members that are able to access and use the observatory. We welcomed two new members, Roberto Ramos and Chuck Quintero.

3. Blue and Gold Banquet: Tom Rusek reported on the Blue and Gold Banquet support. The sky wasn't helpful so the several members set up a "static display" in the building lobby. Our club received a donation of \$100.00 in appreciation of Tom's presentation. Following discussion, we agreed to use part of that donation toward providing to the Cub Scout troop materials that would help them to learn more about astronomy. Tom Rusek will follow-up on that task. Great job, Tom and all!

4. Warren Hoover Memorial: Lucy Albert needs ANY PHOTOS you may have of Warren so she can put together a slide show for a memorial gathering for Warren Hoover. Discussion about when to hold this centered on the heavy commitments we have for April and the consideration that we may not have enough time for a Pot Luck for the next General Meeting, 3 April. After talking with Lucy, she didn't think moving the memorial into May was a problem since she needed to check with the college anyway to see if there is some particular wording they may require for the brass sign we'll affix

to the scope pillar in Warren's honor. We will discuss the date and form of the memorial at the 3 April meeting. **HELP LUCY AND THE HCAS MAKE THIS A CLASS ACT TO HONOR ONE OF OUR OWN! Lucy can be reached at: 410-679-7055, virgoastronomics@comcast.net**

5. Rocks State Park Adult/Family Camp: George Jones reported the progress on our support to the Rocks State Park camp for families on 24 April. Several members are planning on camping and others have agreed to provide observing opportunities for the adults and families during this event. The event begins at 4:30 PM on that Saturday. Tom Rusek will present one of his excellent slide shows. The park is providing hot dinner and breakfast, cost is \$10/person. Carol will call to get an estimate of the number of club members that will eat so George can close the loop with the camp officials. Tom Rusek adds: "Ms. Lori Wolfe (secretary) and Mr. Eric Cook at the park (410-557-7994) are the contacts.

Directions: Take Rt. 24 north (from Bel Air) to Rock State Park in Jarrettsville. Take a left onto St. Clairs Bridge Road. GO PAST Wilson Picnic Area for about 0.6 miles to Hills Grove Area on the right. There is a field for observing and a pavillion with electricity.

We will pass out maps at the next meeting on 3 April.

IN ADDITION TO THE ROCKS STATE PARK EVENT, we will also hold our regularly scheduled public observing session at the usual location. Several members who were unable to go to the Park event have agreed to come to the public open house and support that.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Nominations were opened for the next year officers for the Harford County Astronomical Society. As per the by-laws, voting will be open until 30 April. The votes will be tallied and results announced at the 1 May General Meeting. You can either mail your ballot to Carol Channel at the club address or bring your ballot with you to the May General Meeting. The new officers will assume their duties at the end of the May 1 General Meeting. The official ballot and membership list is on the following page. Please print it out and either mail it or bring it with you on 1 May, Saturday.

MARCH EVENTS

- 6th** - General Meeting, 7:30, Observatory, OFFICER NOMINATIONS!
13th and 20th - Star Party, Steppingstone, MEMBERS ONLY.
27th - Open house Public Viewing; Tech H.S. next to observatory

April Events

- 3rd** - General Meeting, 7:30, Observatory
10th , 17th - Star Party, Stepping Stone, MEMBERS ONLY
17th - DelMarva Star Party, Tuckahoe State Park
24th - Rocks State Park Astronomy Camp AND Public Open House

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