



General Meeting Saturday, May 3, 2004

President Wayne French opened the meeting at 7:30
Minutes accepted. Treasurer's report: \$2074.80

Old Business:

1. Public Star Party: An EMAIL report from Larry: Just a quick report on the open house last night. We had 5 scopes present with Mark Kregel, Steve Krall, Chuck Quinteros, Fran and myself. When Fran and I got there at 19:30, Mark and Steve were already there setting up. The sun hadn't even gone down before people started arriving. A lot of them said that they had read about the open house in the Aegis so kudos to Grace once more. We were able to show them Jupiter, Saturn, Venus and the moon fairly early and by the time I could finally see Polaris there were too many people lined up to take time out to polar align my scope. It was a real drag having to constantly tweak the mount to keep something in it and I never did have the time to align my scope. It was that busy with some very enthusiastic viewers. People kept arriving fairly steadily (I can't estimate how many since I was pretty busy at my scope) but at one point I was able to look down the line and see that Chuck had joined us and early in the evening Gary from Chesapeake Optics in Havre de Grace joined us as well. It would be great if perhaps next time Gary could bring some binoculars on a tripod so people can see that you don't need a fancy scope to enjoy the hobby. The skies were partly cloudy and the seeing was very poor with lots of high hazy clouds. Saturn kept coming in and out but we managed to keep the crowd entertained. There were a couple of astronomy students and one 9-10 year old very interested junior scientist in particular who kept us on our toes with her questions. There were some folks who seemed very interested in joining the club and I wish we had some handouts with information such as contacts, dues and membership benefits that we could pass out to interested people. We are still handing out the ones I made up with our web address and basic astronomy info, but it doesn't have club info since it is not an officially sanctioned publication. Perhaps we could address that in the next meeting.

Fran and I had to leave at 22:00 since Fran had to get up at 04:45 : (to go to work and wouldn't you know the skies really started to clear just as we were leaving. There were still a few people there and perhaps Mark, Steve, Chuck or Gary could comment about what went on after we left. All in all, even with the poor conditions, a good night with an enthusiastic public.

2. Observatory Operations: We're lining up enough interested folks to hold another certification class. Steve will call those on the list and get the class scheduled within the next two weeks. TREE TRIMMING: It

turns out that some of the trees that need trimmings are on the Technical School's property. The HCAS officers will contact the school to ensure it is OK with them for us to proceed with the trimming.

3. Rocks State Park: The 24th of April campout at rocks State Park was by all accounts very successful. Tom led with one of his excellent presentations. Phil brought a fraction of his extensive meteorite collection including his newest 11 Lb. acquisition that fell in Algeria. The approximately 15 families were treated to some very good viewing, especially in the clear patches that seemed to float over the campgrounds until about 2400 hrs. The campers hit the sack and so did the HCAS members after some extended whole hopping! The organizers told Joe that they were delighted with the event and hope to have us out again perhaps a couple of times this summer. Joe assured them we'd be happy to help out, but that they would have to stop handing out "whistles" to all the kids as a "goodie" prize!!! George Jones will contact the Park to get the key we were promised to access the site...another dark sky location!!!

4. Warren Hoover Memorial: Lucy Albert asked for club support to purchase the dedication plaque for Warren's memorial. Membership voted to support this purchase. **The service will commence at 5:30 PM at the observatory next Saturday, the 8th of May. Please attend this brief ceremony for an old friend.**

Election of Officers, 2004-2005.

The new slate of officers voted and elected:

President - Larry Armstrong, PH: 410-671-7334, lfjr@comcast.net
VP. - Joe Manning, PH: 410-569-2683, jmann652401@comcast.net
Sec: Steve Channel, PH: 410-420-8647, srccac2@comcast.net
Tres. _ Carol Channel, PH: 410-420-8647, srccac2@comcast.net

Board of Directors (2 year term):
Wayne French, Tom Rusek

President Larry received the congratulation from outgoing President Wayne! Larry assumed the direction of the remainder of the general meeting.



New Business:

1. Speaker's Podium: the club will contact the college to see if we can move a speaker's stand to the observatory.

2. Cub Scout Camp. Tom Rusek has been contacted to support a Cub Scout campout, similar to the recent 24th April event. Scheduled for 5 June, it conflicts with our General Meeting. We'll have to decide whether we can support this, however it appears unlikely given the conflict.

3. Meeting Program Committee. Vice President Joe enlisted everyone present to the program committee. Any contacts, ideas or programs you'd like to see for the general meetings please send to Joe at his email listed above. He wants to move aggressively to take out meeting programs to a higher level. Several ideas were added during the discussion such as field trips to the Naval Observatory, and the Maryland Science Center. Also, we'll work to get someone from the Astronomy League to come and present League activities and benefits.

4. How to Buy a Telescope: Doug Wittich will coordinate creation of a handout and class on this topic. He has seen the need from his work at the science center and we all fact this question at every public event we work.

5. MERAL: MERAL Regional Meeting at the Mason Dixon Star Party

The 2004 regional meeting of the Mid East Region of the Astronomical League (MERAL) will be held at the Mason Dixon Star Party (MDSP) at Corderus State Park, Hanover, PA on Saturday May 22 at 11 am. For details of the star party please refer to <http://masondixonstarparty.org/>. All Club Presidents and ALCors are encouraged to attend. A club may send any two members in good standing provided that ther has been sufficient notice in the opinion of the regional Chair by email or writing of the authority of these two members to represent their club. Proxies are acceptable but not encouraged. One club member may carry a written or emailed proxy from another valid Council member from the same member club as the person giving the proxy.

Our ALCors are: Bill Geertsen and Phil Schmitz.

6. Dues Renewal: Carol will distribute this week the dues letters. Please correct your information and return to Carol. **DUES ARE TO BE PAID BY 1 JUNE ACCORDING TO OUR BY-LAWS.** Since we must send in our payment to the Astronomical League based on the full members paid in June, if we don't receive your dues, you name will be dropped from the roster. We're forced to adhere to the by-laws since there is no grace period from the Astronomical League.

7. Keys to Access Broad Creek: The key for Broad Creek has been removed from the access box at Broad Creek pending a re-evaluation of security. Steve will investigate the situation and announcement will be made to the members personally (not in the news letter) of the solution. Any questions, please contact Steve Channel.



It's Star Party Season!!!!

The 2004 Mason Dixon Star Party, Thursday, May 20 to Monday, May 24, 2004 Codorus State Park near Hanover, PA; This large gathering of amateur astronomers will have speakers, vendors, swap tables, door and raffle prizes, photography Munchables contest, telescope contest and a 24-hour food caterer, May's of Hanover, PA.

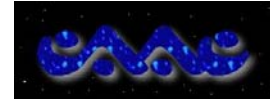


www.masondixonstarparty.org

Green Bank Star Quest, July 8th - 11th, 2004 Green

Observatory - Green Bank, West Virginia. This is the one you've been waiting for! Combining OPTICAL AND RADIO ASTRONOMY at ONE EVENT! Central Appalachian Astronomy Club <http://www.caacwv.org/gbstarquest.htm>

Bank National Radio Astronomy



for!

Susquehanna Summer Star Spectacular, July 16, 17, and 18, 2004 Pine Grove Furnace State Park (near Newville, PA - conveniently off of I-81). Astronomical Society of Harrisburg, PA. <http://www.s4starparty.org/>

May

8th - Warren Hoover Service, 5:30, Observatory.
15th, 22nd - Star Party, Broad Creek ** Members Only**
29th - Public Open House

June

5th - General Meeting, 7:30, Observatory.
12th, 19th - Star Party, Broad Creek ** Members Only**
26th - Public Open House

For Sale

10" F/5 Dob for sale-homemade-convenient height-portable-fiberglass tube-less finder-\$225.00. Steve Krall

8" reflector telescope. The mirror was professionally polished. The tube for the mirrors is a square wood box. That is what the plans showed. Nothing fancy. I have three new University Optics eyepieces: 4 MM, 12.5MM, 25MM. James Kitzmiller, 724 Webb St. Aberdeen Md tel 410-272-3982.

Broad Creek Happenings

Some photos of a recent outing for some members at Broad Creek



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