



**General Meeting Saturday, July 31, 2004
-- Special Event at Maryland Science Center --**

President Larry Armstrong opened the meeting at 7:30

Minutes accepted.

Treasurer's report: \$2932.85

- Astro League Dues have been paid
- Post Office Box Rent Paid
- Magazine Subscriptions paid and current

Regular Agenda:

1. **Public Star Party:** Clouded out at last Public Star Party.
2. **Observatory Operations:** Tree cutting near the observatory has commenced. It will be a slow process since they will have to actually remove the large trees entirely.

Old Business:

1. **Warren Hoover Estate.** President Larry distributed the generated by Leo and Mark that itemized and priced the astronomical items in Warren's estate. We much appreciate Leo and Mark's work to establish fair target prices for the family. Members are free to submit bids against the equipment directly to the family...President Larry will distribute the address and contact information via the EMAIL group. The membership present authorized Larry and Steve to submit a bid on selected eyepieces that could be used as a quick "grab and go" set for members that wanted to check out and use one of the club scopes. An upper limit of \$500 was approved for that purpose...although both Larry and Steve are certain only a fraction of that amount will be sufficient.

2. Swan Harbor Fall Event: Still scheduled for 10 October from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m...this Sunday afternoon event has been well attended in past years. We generally set up a few scopes filtered for solar observing...there is no cost to the club for this event. Grace will keep us on track with the times and notification.

3. Susquehanna State Park Event. As follow-on to the successful Rocks State Park Lunar Evening (see article to follow) we agreed to provide a public viewing opportunity for the Park Service at Susquehanna, time of our choosing. The may take the form of an evening camp out, much like the previous event we supported at Rocks State Park in June. Details will be provided as they develop.

New Business:

1. Observatory Donation. Lucy Albert graciously offered to donate her 10ft observatory building to the club, for locating on the HCC campus near the current observatory. Extended discussion from the membership explored the options, optimal locations, and associated issues. The membership decided not to take her up on this generous offer. Perhaps the HCC will consider it...however, several members expressed interest in purchasing the observatory and they will contact Lucy directly.

2. Rocks State Park Key. We will contact the Rocks State Park administration to obtain our promised key to the picnic grounds for observing. The Broad Creek key is back in its original location and the same rules apply. Joe suggested some sort of signal to alert members that the key has in use at the observing site and not in the box...this would reduce the hassle of everyone arriving later to a session from having to physically check the key location. Joe, and everyone, will consider some signal suggestions.

DOOR PRIZE: Ron Zimmerman won the door prize!!!

Program:

Maryland Science Center, Baltimore.

Phil Schmitz and Doug Wittich were excellent hosts to our club's meeting this evening. Phil gave extensive details of the Maryland Science Center's equipment and operations. Members were treated to views of Jupiter from a "still bright" sky! The

numerous details that Phil has about the large refractor, software control, and public interactions exhausted this reporter's ability to keep up!



At the left Jim peeks at Vega. Phil provided a spectral grating to generate spectra for observers. (All pictures courtesy of Doug Wittich) .

After we observed for almost an hour we moved to the BOARD ROOM for our general meeting. It was a nice treat to have such a "formal"

venue for our club's discussion.

To the right, Ron Zimmerman accepts his door prize!

Phil said we could have one meeting a year at this facility and I believe all attending would agree that it was a great opportunity and a nice event that will be sure to entice more members the next time around. The group was certainly treated to a great evening! Thanks again Phil and Doug!



It's Star Party Season!!!!

Stellafane, Aug 13-14. Our own Joe Manning will be competing his scope at the granddaddy of all star parties. Springfield, VT. <http://www.stellafane.com/>



Mid Atlantic Star Party, Oct 12-18. MASP is about 10 miles South of Robbins, NC. This is about halfway between the star party "Stellafane" in Springfield, VT and the "Winter Star Party" in the Florida Keys; between Dillon, SC and Winston Salem, NC; as well as between Washington, DC and Atlanta, GA. <http://www.masp.org/>



Delmarva Stargazers No Frills IX, 15-19 Sep. Tuckahoe State Park, MD. The registration fee includes camping fee for the observing area. ALL NIGHT STARGAZER COFFEE, as always, will be free and usually corn-on-the-cob and watermelon as well. Sodas and hot dogs will be at minimal cost. Campers will be permitted to park and set up by their  available scopes, but there are no hookups or electricity in the observation area. Since everyone liked the location of Star Gaze X (the Equestrian Center), this year's No-Frills will be moved to the **Equestrian Center** and **Not** at the Youth Camping Area (See map on back of registration form). All attendees are encouraged to register in advance for this event. Your entrance-parking permit will be sent to you on receipt of payment and your badges will be given to you when you arrive. <http://www.delmarvastargazers.org/archive/nofrills2004/index.html>

Blackwater Falls Astronomy Weekend Sept 17th - 19th, 2004. Held in West Virginia, KVAS co-sponsors the Blackwater Falls Astronomy Weekend with Blackwater Falls State Park each fall. A Friday night star party kicks off the weekend and is followed by classes and round table discussions on such topics as Astronomy Myths, Astrophotography, Radio Astronomy, Telescope Basics, etc. A Keynote Speaker kicks off the Saturday night activities with drawings for door prizes to follow. A "Star Party" is always planned where, weather permitting, telescopes of all sizes and types, factory and home made, are set up for public viewing. http://www.kvas.org/astronomy_weekend_2004.htm



Stella Della XVIII Oct 15th - 17th, 2004. Stella Della Valley offers you a chance to gather with astronomers and families under some of the most pleasant dark skies in Eastern Pennsylvania, at Camp Onas in Ottsville, PA. <http://bmaa.freeyellow.com/Sdv.html>

August

- 7th, 14th - Star Party, Broad Creek ** Members Only**
21st - Public Open House, tech school Parking Lot
26th - General Meeting, 7:30, Observatory.

September

- 4th, 11th - Star Party (members only) at Broad Creek
18th - Public Open House, tech school Parking Lot
30th - Rocks State Park "Photography under the Moon"
31st - General Meeting, 7:30PM, Observatory
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Rocks State Park Lunar Evening, 30 July, 2004.

The day had not been encouraging for clear skies, so the members heading out to support the "Lunar Photography" evening didn't expect optimum observing to be the evening's fare. Nine of us set up scopes and binos in the picnic area about 8:30p.m.

According to the park naturalist Ms. Amanda Coss, there were 22 people



registered for the evening's events. The primary goal was to allow folks to learn a bit about the night sky and photography. A professional photographer was on hand to give instruction on how best to capture

the landscapes illuminated by a full moon -- a blue moon, as it turned out!



Larry Armstrong gave a brief lecture on the sky, as a "sucker hole" opened the entire Triangle! looking more

Cathy Tingler headed up to rocks"

About 9:45, two groups the King and formation and he helped guide

onto the rocks! Steve gave a quick orientation to the sky...by that time the moon had drifted out in full glory and the triangle was still visible. Cathy handed out some binoculars --

ensuring that folks sat down to use them since tilting your head up is disorientating enough during the daytime!! A park ranger was present and this reporter got the impression that the whole thing made him a little nervous...abrupt drops from high places at night didn't seem like a "fun evening". Never the less, both Cathy and I were delighted to have

the opportunity to see the rocks and the forest from such an elevated position during a full moon...not something you can get every day! There were several folks that were quite taken by the binocular views. The cameras were snapping...some very high-end digital equipment was on hand to capture the moon and the rocks in relation to it. Cathy even took a shot through one of the rock windows (see photo...came out pretty good Cathy!).

We delivered the second group back into the Amanda's hands about 11:00p.m.and headed back to the picnic area to help load up. A good evening for the club...and I know our efforts were greatly appreciated by the park and the folks in attendance!



as a "sucker up revealing Summer Things were promising!

and Steve be the "on the astronomers. the first of showed up at Queen's Seat where Cathy (nervously!) the group out



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.

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