

Astro Views

Harford County Astronomical Society
Bel Air, Maryland
www.harfordastro.org



Volume 31 Issue 6

June 2005

"We have next to speak of the stars, as they are called, of their composition, shape and movement!"

Aristotle (384-322 BC)
De caelo
("On the Heavens", Book II, Chapter 7)

General Meeting: Saturday, June 18, 2005 7:30pm (19:30)

Public Star Party (Open House), June 11, 2005 at dusk

Club Calendar for 2005

Meeting night

June 18, 2005
July 23, 2005
August 20, 2005
September 17, 2005
October 15, 2005
November 19, 2005
December 17, 2005

Open House/Public Star party

June 11, 2005
July 16, 2005
August 13, 2005
September 10, 2005
October 8, 2005
November 12, 2005
December 10, 2005

Meeting time is 19:30 (7:30pm) unless noted otherwise. Dates and times are taken from the HCAS website.

<http://www.harfordastro.org>

Check the HCAS website for other club events.

Send newsletter articles to
Bill Geertsen at izar@juno.com

Regular Agenda:

1. President Monroe Harden called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM
2. Minutes of May meeting were accepted with the following correction; the filter that the membership voted to purchase is an H-beta (H- β) filter not an H-alpha (H- α) filter.
3. Treasurers Report: \$3,755.25 currently in the treasury.
Astronomy League bill is due this month and will be paid shortly.
4. The transition of records, accounts etc from the outgoing Treasurer and Secretary to the incoming Officers should be completed by the end of June.

Pres. Hardin ask that members be patient during the transition of Officers especially for the new Secretary (Irv Koplovitz) and Treasure (Bill Geertsen).

5. A letter will be sent to HCAS Security to update the access and contact list.
6. The speaker scheduled for this month cancelled. There are tentative speakers for July and August.
7. Observatory is up and running. Training can be requested by contacting Steve Channel.

Outreach: The Summer astronomy class at HCC (Astronomy 151) would like one-time support from HCAS on Monday June 20. Mark and Jeremy volunteered.

Open House was on June 11. Only Jeremy and Monroe were there with scopes. Nine guests showed up but no observing was done because of cloudy skies. President Harden suggested that a contingency plan like a presentation be offered to the guests in cases of bad weather. There was also a discussion of whether a roster should be used for member attendance at the Open Houses. No decision was reached and attendance will remain voluntary for now.

Tom Rusek gave presentations to Joppa Elementary School on May 8 and Bel Air Elementary School on May 18.

Mark Kregel and Tom Rusek volunteered to ask about support for the summer camps at Broad Creek. In previous years members had provided support.

Old Business:

There was discussion of storeroom items for purchase. Jeremy is currently talking to someone from Arizona about possible purchase of the large equatorial mount and its associated hardware.

There was discussion of the Daystar Solar filter and the brass telescope it is adapted for. Weather and job schedules permitting, use of the Daystar will be pursued for feasibility. A major concern for our small refractors is the need for a usable and portable mount. Tracking capability is preferred which would imply a German Equatorial mount.

One of the surplus items, a nice finder scope, was purchased at the meeting for \$10.00. There are many useful items available. Please take a look.

New Business:

One key to Broad Creek is missing.

(The missing key was kept near the gate in a secure location.)

The Broad Creek Ranger will be notified this week of the missing key. Cathy Tingler has agreed to do this.

The missing key is a potentially serious issue for Broad Creek and HCAS. If any of the HCAS membership has the key, please return it. Access to Broad Creek and how to handle the keys in the future will depend on the result of discussions with BC concerning the missing key. Membership approved funds for re-keying the locks should Broad Creek want this done.

Jeremy gave report on new H- β filter. Newsletter article will follow.

Maintenance of scopes in the store room under the Observatory will be performed at 4PM on July 16 before the Open House. A number of members volunteered to participate.

Members voted to approve the purchase of JMI-Wheely Bars for the Meade 8" SCT scope.

The possibility of observing Comet Tempel before and after the "Deep Impact" mission was discussed with interest expressed in photographing the comet with the C-14 and the ST-6 camera.

Use of the Astrovid camera for planetary photography, especially with the approaching Mars event was also discussed. The C-14 and Astrovid should be a good combination for Mars and/or the Planets now up.

Meeting was adjourned by President Hardin at 9:00.

<<<*>>>

Astronomical League Club Achievements by HCAS Members

Coordinator: Bill Geertsen izar@juno.com

*****This list needs to be updated*****

*You need not complete a program to be listed.
Just let us know what you are doing and how many objects you have observed.*

Telescope Messier Club

Steve Krall 110(5/99)
Woody Lower 110(5/90)
Ernie Webb 110(6/91)
Larry Hubble 110(5/91)
Bill Geertsen 110(6/98)
Richard Hagenston 110(2/90)
Phil Schmitz #1650 110(3/99)

Doris Reese 12
Ernie Davis 60
Wayne French 2
Lucy Albert 46
Leo Hepner 68
Warren Hoover 77

Binocular Messier Club

Stu Chapman 19
Cathy Tingler 57
Frank Varisco 3

Bruce Wrinkle 79
Phil Schmitz #442(1/01)

Double Star Club

Bill Geertsen #79(4/99)
Phil Schmitz #74(3/99)

Andrew Williams 100(6/2000)

Urban Club

Bill Geertsen 100(4/99)

Phil Schmitz #21(2/01)

Herschel-400 Club

Bill Geertsen #267(1/03)

Phil Schmitz #236(10/01)

Deep Sky Bino Club

Phil Schmitz #120(3/01)

Lunar Club

Phil Schmitz #258(1/01)

Caldwell Club

Phil Schmitz #8(12/01)

Phil Schmitz is currently working toward completion of four other certificates and is about to begin an additional four more AL observing programs!

<<<If you have looked at the Hercules Cluster you have a start on the Messier list. Send in your observations!>>>

<<<*>>>

June Messier Objects
Between RA 12h 30m and 12h 59mm

M49	RA 12-29	Dec +08-00	Size 8.9'x7.4'	Mag 8.4	El galaxy
NGC 4472		SA2K #12			
Large, round, bright. An easy object in Virgo.					
M87	RA 12-31	Dec +12-24	Size 7.2'x6.8'	Mag 8.6	El galaxy
NGC 4468		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
Another bright, round galaxy in Virgo. As a bonus, see if you can pick out NGC 4478, mag 12.5 and NGC 4476, mag 13.1, in the same field.					
M88	RA 12-32	Dec +14-25	Size 6.9'x3.9'	Mag 9.5	Sb galaxy
NGC 4501		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
Large, beautiful galaxy in Coma Berenices. See if you can detect any spiral structure.					
M89	RA 12-36	Dec +12-33	Size 5'x4.6'	Mag 9.8	El galaxy
NGC 4552		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
Fairly bright, small elliptical in Virgo.					
M91	RA 12-34	Dec +14-30	Size 5.4'x4.4'	Mag 10.2	Sb galaxy
NGC 4548		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
This galaxy was one of Messier's "missing" objects for some time. It has been argued whether this object (NGC4548) is the original M91 or whether it was nearby NGC4571, mag 11.3.					
M90	RA 12-37	Dec +13-10	Size 9.5'x4.7'	Mag 9.5	Sb galaxy
NGC 4569		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
Large, relatively bright oval in Virgo. Brighter toward the core. This is one of the nicest galaxies in this region. You will need your charts to sort out this crowded neighborhood.					
M58	RA 12-38	Dec +11-49	Size 5.4'x4.4'	Mag 9.8	Sb galaxy
NGC 4579		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
Very nice, oval galaxy in Virgo					
M104	RA 12-40	Dec -11-37	Size 8.8'x4.4'	Mag 8.3	Sb galaxy
NGC 4594		SA2K #13, 14			
The famous "Sombrero Galaxy". Edge-on galaxy, long a favorite for amateur astronomers.					
M68	RA 12-40	Dec -26-45	size 9'	Mag 8.2	Globular cluster
NGC4590		SA2K #21			
Rich, compressed globular cluster in Hydra.					
M59	RA 12-42	Dec +11-39	size 5.3'x3.4'	Mag 9.8	El galaxy
NGC 4621		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
This and M60 will appear in the same low magnification field of view. A fine pair in Virgo					
M60	RA 12-44	Dec +11-33	size 7.2'x6.2'	Mag 8.8	Sb galaxy
NGC 4649		SA2K #13, 14, B1			
The other half of the M59/M60 pair in Virgo. Brighter and slightly oblong as compared with M59.					
M94	RA 12-51	Dec +41-07	size 11'x9.1'	Mag 8.1	Sb galaxy
NGC 4736		SA2K #7			
Large, round, bright toward the core. Nice galaxy in Canes Venatici.					
M64	RA 12-57	Dec +21-41	size 9.3'x5.4'	Mag 8.5	Sb galaxy
NGC 4826		SA2K #7			
The "Black Eye" galaxy, large, bright with a prominent dust lane. Notable galaxy in Coma Berenices.					

16th Annual Mason – Dixon Star Party

Wednesday, July 6 to Sunday July 10, 2005
York County Astronomical Society

MDSP website: www.masondixonstarparty.org

e-mail: info@masondixonstarparty.org

YCAS website: www.ycas.org

Phone: 1-717-578-9109

Swap tables, vendors, talks, presentations, food, raffles, togetherness ...oh... and observing.

This one is at a “new” site, not to be confused with last year’s “new” site.

In past years many of us have enjoyed this star party very much and have made friends seen only at this star party. There is a rare bond among people who meet only at star parties and by the ensuing e-mails.

If you have never attended a star party, this is a good opportunity to break-the-ice, so to speak. Even if you do not know anyone on the first night, by the last night, you will have made many friends and will look forward to seeing them again at the next star party.

I encourage you to make the trip, if only for a day or two, to see what other people are doing, building, using and talking about. I enjoy just looking at the equipment. There is always new stuff, old stuff, antique stuff and homebuilt stuff to look at and discuss.

Even better, you may get a chance to actually use something you are thinking about buying before you buy.

******* Go For It *******

There are mail restrictions (number of pages) on the snail-mail version. To get the most out of your Astro Views, you are encouraged to subscribe to the e-mail version. This is easily done by contacting Bill Geertsen at izar@juno.com and adding your e-mail address to his mailing list.

This issue contains a detailed listing of objects in Canes Venatici (which are visible in scopes of 10" or smaller aperture. Many are listed in the AL observing programs. Using the list will get you started on the AL observing-certificate programs.).

Astro Views is the official publication of the Harford County Astronomical Society, P.O. Box 906, Bel Air, MD 21014. For the year 2005 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 Bill Geertsen at (EMAIL): izar@juno.com, regular mail at: 36 Northwood Drive, Timonium, MD 21093. Permission is not necessary for non-profit use of this material, although proper acknowledgement is required. Address changes should be brought to the attention of the editor at the address given above.
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**HARFORD COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL
SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 906
Bel Air, MD 21014**

**FIRST CLASS
Address Correction Requested**

Constellation: Canes Venatici "The Hunting Dogs"

α Canum Venaticorum "Cor Caroli" ST461

April

Obj	DB#	Type	RA	Dec	Pairs	Sep	PA	Mag	Size	Description
NGC 4111	*	SG	12h 07.1m	+43d 04m	*	*	*	9.7	3.3mx0.6m	Elongated, bright center
H-195-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Use AV
NGC 4143	*	SG	12h 09.6m	+42d 32m	*	*	*	11.0	1.4mx0.9m	Oval, bright center
H-54-4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Use AV
NGC 4151	*	PG	12h 10.5m	+39d 24m	*	*	*	11.6	2.5mx1.6m	Round, elusive
H-165-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Use AV
NGC 4214	*	IG	12h 15.6m	+36d 20m	*	*	*	10.3	6.6mx5.8m	Oval, irregular galaxy
H-95-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Binocular
2 CVn	ST431	DS	12h 16m	+40d 40m	AB	11s	260d	5.8/8.1	*	gold/blue
Σ 1632	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 4244	*	SG	12h 18m	+37d 49m	*	*	*	10.2	16mx2m	Long, narrow, edge on spiral
M-106	*	SG	12h 19m	+47d 18m	*	*	*	8.3	18mx8m	Small, bright center
NGC 4258	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Needlelike
H-43-S5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Long streak
Σ 1632	*	DS	12h 20.7m	+37d 54m	AB	10s	193d	6.5/9.5	*	*
NGC 4346	*	SG	12h 23.5m	+47d 00m	*	*	*	11.6	1.9mx0.7m	Small, round, starlike
H-210-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 4449	*	IG	12h 28.2m	+44d 06m	*	*	*	9.2	4.1mx3.4m	Round, bright
H-213-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 4485	*	IG	12h 30.5m	+41d 42m	*	*	*	11.6	1.5mx0.8m	Small, elusive
H-197-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 4490	*	SG	12h 30.6m	+41d 38m	*	*	*	9.7	5.6mx2.1m	Elongated, lg.
H-198-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	relatively easy

Constellation: Canes Venatici "The Hunting Dogs"

α Canum Venaticorum "Cor Caroli" ST461

April

Obj	DB#	Type	RA	Dec	Pairs	Sep	PA	Mag	Size	Description
NGC 4618	*	SG	12h 41.5m	+41d 09m	*	*	*	11.7	3.5mx3.0m	Large, faint, use AV
H-178-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 4631	*	SG	12h 42m	+32d 32m	*	*	*	9.3	15mx3m	"Humpback Whale Galaxy"
H-42-4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Bright, edge on spiral
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Very elongated, needlelike
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	One of the best Herschel's
Y CV#	ST453	V	12h 43m	+45d 26m	*	*	*	5.5->6.0	*	"La Superba", carbon star, red Deep orange to red
NGC 4656	*	PG	12h 44m	+32d 10m	*	*	*	11.2	18mx2m	Large, needlelike, elusive Use AV
H-176-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M-94	*	SG	12h 51m	+41d 07m	*	*	*	8.2	11mx9m	Small, bright center
NGC 4736	*	*	UC-BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 4800	*	SG	12h 54.6m	+46d 16m	*	*	*	11.1	1.2mx1.0m	Round, small, nice star field
H-211-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
α CV#	ST461	DS	12h 56m	+38d 19m	AB	20s	229d	2.9/5.5	*	"The Heart of Charles"
Σ 1692	*	*	DSC	*	*	*	*	*	*	Binocular, Blue/white (1)
17 CV#	*	DS	13h 10.1m	+38d 50m	AB	280s	297d	6.0/10.5	*	*
Σ 24	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 5005	*	SG	13h 10.9m	+37d 03m	*	*	*	9.8	4.4mx1.7m	Elongated, lg. bright center
H-96-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 5033	*	SG	13h 13.4m	+36d 36m	*	*	*	10.3	9.9mx4.8m	Elongated, bright, NGC5005 in the same FOV
H-97-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M-63	*	SG	13h 16m	+42d 02m	*	*	*	8.6	12mx8m	"Sunflower Galaxy"
NGC 5055	*	*	BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Constellation: Canes Venatici "The Hunting Dogs"

α Canum Venaticorum "Cor Caroli" ST461

April

Obj	DB#	Type	RA	Dec	Pairs	Sep	PA	Mag	Size	Description
M-51	*	SG	13h 30m	+47d 12m	*	*	*	8.4	11mx8m	"Whirlpool or Question Mark Galaxy", interacting, face on *
NGC 5194	*	*	BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	
NGC 5195	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
H-186-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Σ 1775	ST474	DS	13h 32.4m	+36d 49m	AB	4.4s	131d	7.2/8.1	*	*
25 CVn	ST476	TriP	13h 37.5m	+36d 18m	AB	1.8s	?	5.6/6.9	*	*
Σ 1768	*	*	*	*	AC	218s	141d	8.6	*	*
M-3	*	GC	13h 42m	+28d 23m	*	*	*	6.4	16m	First bright GC of Spring
NGC 5272	*	*	UC-BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	
NGC 5273	*	SG	13h 42.1m	+35d 39m	*	*	*	11.5	0.9mx0.8m	Small, elusive; use AV
H-98-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

Named Stars

"The Hunting Dogs", Chara and Asterion.

α_2 CVn Cor Caroli; The Heart of Charles; Asterion; "Starry"
 β CVn Chara; "Dear to the Heart of Her Master"; "La Superba"