

Harford County Astronomical Society

Bel Air, Maryland
www.harfordastro.org



Volume 31 Issue 8

August 2005

**"For every one, as I think, must see that astronomy compels
the soul to look upwards, and leads us from this world to another."**

Plato (c. 428-c.348 B.C.)
The Republic, Book VII

**General Meeting: Saturday, August 20, 2005 7:30pm (19:30)
Public Star Party (Open House), August 13, 2005 at dusk**

Club Calendar for 2005

<u>Meeting night</u>	<u>Open House/Public Star party</u>
August 20, 2005	August 13, 2005
September 17, 2005	September 10, 2005
October 15, 2005	October 8, 2005
November 19, 2005	November 12, 2005
December 17, 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.

Minutes of the August, 2005 meeting:

President Harden opened the meeting at 7:35 PM
The June and July minutes were accepted
Treasurer's Report: \$3,688.30 currently in the treasury.

Mark Kregel reported on a method to motorize the dome of the Observatory. This will involve a substantial amount of work and money.

Phil Schmitts suggested that a group of members come to the Observatory at the Science Center to see how the dome works there. Members agreed to this suggestion. Group has not yet been identified..

There was a discussion of the 2-man rule for using the observatory. A number of suggestions of how to implement the buddy system was discussed. The discussion was tabled.

Monroe, Mark, and Grace were present for the last open house. Although, the skies were cloudy, they were able to show visitors the moon.

New Business :

There was a Discussion of publishing Open House Dates and times in the Harford County Board of Education Newsletter. Open House. Dates will be decided.

October - April 7:30 PM

Apr - Sept 9:00 PM

Swan Fest is Oct 9th 11:00 to 4:00. Volunteers are needed to man the booth.

Joe Manning gave a very nice slide show presentation on his trip to Stellafane. Jone won 1st prize for optics in telescopes greater than 12.5 inches Congratulations to Joe.

President's corner:

I have noticed a trend at the club outreach events that I have attended. Many members of the general public have some seriously misguided opinions and "facts" about astronomical events and the sky in general. For example, almost everyone at the August open house asked about the email circulating about Mars' Opposition "later this month," and how it will look as big as the full moon. We explained to them that this email started two years ago, when the opposition was in August 2003, and that Mars would look like a nice, bright red star this fall. We used the opportunity to ask them to come back to another open house later in the year when we can show them Mars through our scopes. Other guests have asked about the asteroid that will hit the earth in a few years, or the comet tail we are passing through, endangering us all with noxious gasses.

These comments came from people who were interested enough to come visit us and ask the right questions. I can only imagine what people who don't really care think about Mars this fall, or inbound asteroids, or who knows what other fictional calamities we may be facing.

As part of our service to the public, maybe we should consider expanding our outreach efforts to include contacts with the local newspapers, or even television and radio stations, so that these media outlets know they have a local, informed source for information about the sky, astronomy, and space science events. We can use our web site to post stories about internet rumors or other odd stories posing as facts about astronomical events.

Just an idea. We can talk about it at our next meeting. Until then,

Clear skies,

Monroe

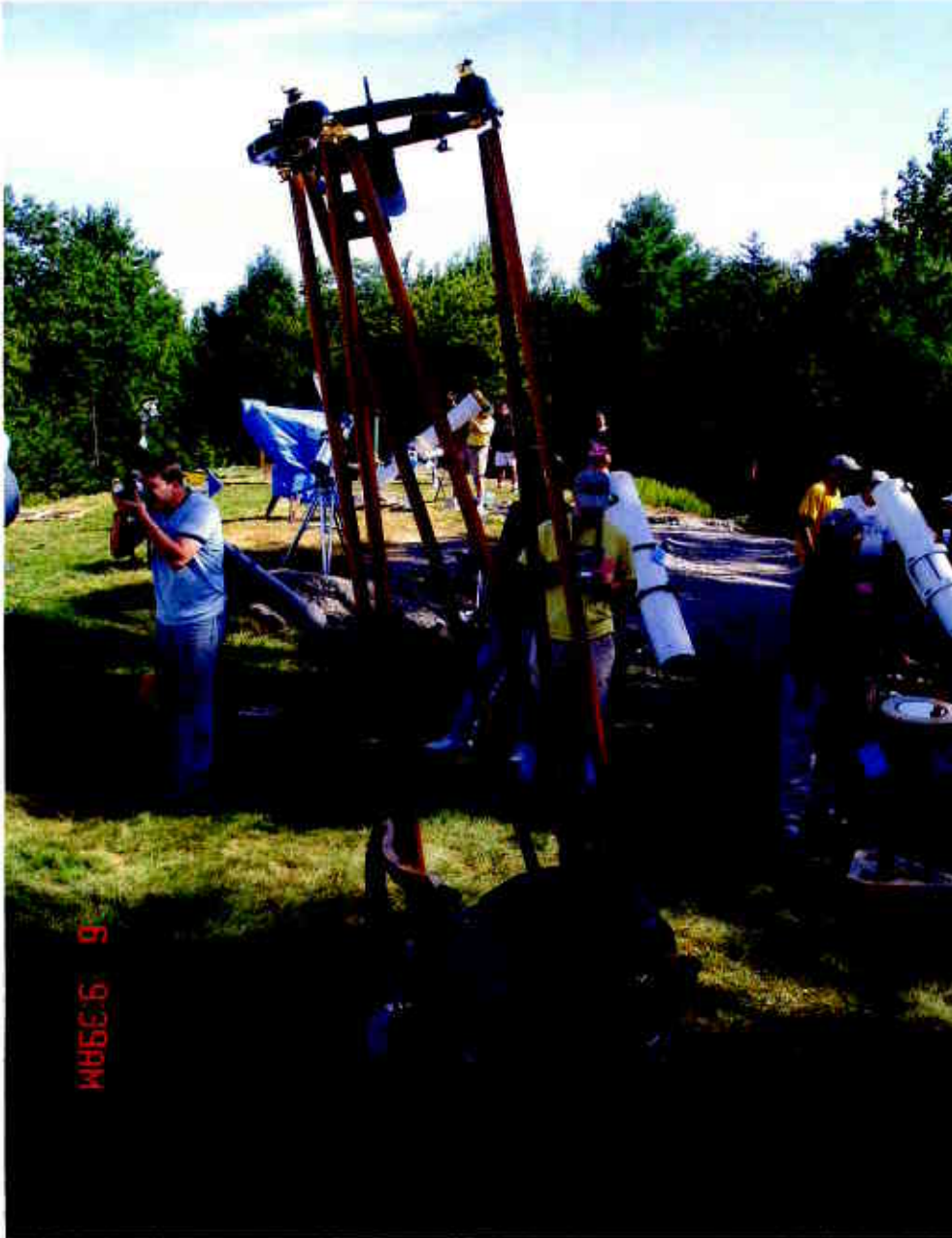
Interesting Mars website: www.msss.com

Old business:

No old business submitted.

!!! 1st Place at Stellafane !!!

Let's hear it for Joe Manning and his new scope



Astronomical League Club Achievements by HCAS Members

Coordinator: Bill Geertsen izar@juno.com

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

!!!Send your info to the coordinator!!!

Telescope Messier Club

Steve Krall	110(5/99)	Doris Reese	12
Woody Lower	110(5/90)	Ernie Davis	60
Ernie Webb	110(6/91)	Wayne French	2
Larry Hubble	110(5/91)	Lucy Albert	46
Bill Geertsen	110(6/98)	Leo Hepner	68
Richard Hagenston	110(2/90)	Warren Hoover	77
Phil Schmitz	#1650 110(3/99)		

Binocular Messier Club

Stu Chapman	19	Bruce Wrinkle	79
Cathy Tingler	57	Phil Schmitz	#442(1/01)
Frank Varisco	3		

Double Star Club

Bill Geertsen	#79(4/99)	Andrew Williams	100(6/2000)
Phil Schmitz	#74(3/99)		

Urban Club

Bill Geertsen	100(4/99)	Phil Schmitz	#21(2/01)
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Herschel-400 Club

Bill Geertsen	#267(1/03)	Phil Schmitz	#236(10/01)
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Deep Sky Bino Club

Phil Schmitz	#120(3/01)		
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Lunar Club

Phil Schmitz	#258(1/01)		
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Caldwell Club

Phil Schmitz	#8(12/01)		
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*****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 Orion Nebula you have a start on the Messier list. Send in your observations!>>>

Meeting adjourned by President Monroe Hardin at 8:30pm (20:30).

August Messier Objects

Between RA 17h 00m and 18h 29mm

M62	RA 17-01	Dec -30-07	Size 10'	Mag 6.6	Globular cluster
NGC 6266		SA2K #22			
Medium sized GC in Ophiuchus. Stars can be resolved. Just southeast of Antares. About 22,000 LY distant.					
M19	RA 17-03	Dec -26-16	Size 14'	Mag 7.2	Globular cluster
NGC 6273		SA2K #22			
Very bright and compressed GC in Ophiuchus. Resolvable at high magnifications. About 22,000 LY distant.					
M92	RA 17-17	Dec +43-08	Size 14'	Mag 6.5	Globular cluster
NGC 6341		SA2K #8			
Another bright, easy GC in Hercules. About 28,000 LY distant.					
M9	RA 17-19	Dec -18-31	Size 10'	Mag 7.9	Globular cluster
NGC 6333		SA2K #15, 22			
Bright, round, very compressed GC in Ophiuchus. About 26,000 LY distant.					
M14	RA 17-38	Dec -03-15	Size 10'	Mag 7.6	Globular cluster
NGC 6402		SA2K #15			
This GC in Ophiuchus resides in a rich Milky Way star field and contains over 70 known variable stars. About 24,000 LY distant.					
M6	RA 17-40	Dec -32-13	Size 15'	Mag 4.2	Open cluster
NGC 6405		SA2K #22			
This OC in Scorpius almost covers the diameter of a full moon. Use low magnification. About 1,300 LY distant.					
M7	RA 17-54	Dec -34-49	Size 80'	Mag 3.3	Open cluster
NGC 6475		SA2K #22			
A very large, bright OC in Scorpius. Use binoculars or a rich-field scope with low magnification. Because it is so far south, M7 is best viewed when it is at culmination. About 800 LY distant.					
M23	RA 17-57	Dec -19-01	Size 26'	Mag 5.5	Open cluster
NGC 6494		SA2K #15, 22			
Another large, round OC. This one is in Sagittarius. About 2,200 LY distant.					
M20	RA 18-03	Dec -23-02	Size 28'	Mag 6.3	Nebula, Open cluster
NGC 6514		SA2K #22			
The famous "Trifid Nebula" in Sagittarius. Large, relatively bright, an O-III filter really brings out the nebulosity, look for three lobes.					
M8	RA 18-04	Dec -24-23	Size 90'x39'	Mag 5.8	Nebula, Open cluster
NGC 6523		SA2K #22			
The "Lagoon Nebula" in Sagittarius. Except for the Orion Nebula, this is the finest nebula in the sky. Very large and bright, naked eye visible. An O-III filter is strongly recommended. Contains OC NGC 6530.					
M21	RA 18-05	Dec -22-30	Size 12'	Mag 5.9	Open cluster
NGC 6531		SA2K #22			
Concentrated, detached OC in Sagittarius, about 50 stars. Obvious, even against the Milky Way background. About 4,300 LY distant.					
M24	RA 18-17	Dec -18-29	Size 95'x35'	Mag 4.5	Star cloud
(NGC 6603)		SA2K #15, 16, 22			
The "Sagittarius Star Cloud", large, bright patch of the Milky Way. Contains the small and beautiful OC NGC 6603.					
M16	RA 18-19	Dec -13-47	Size 34'x27'	Mag 6	Nebula, Open cluster
NGC 6611		SA2K #15, 16			
The "Eagle Nebula" in Sagittarius, bright OC with nebula, an O-III works well. About 5,900 LY distant.					
M18	RA 18-20	Dec -17-08	Size 8'	Mag 6.9	Open cluster
NGC 6613		SA2K #15, 16, 22			
Loose, OC in Sagittarius. About 10 bright stars. About 3,900 LY distant.					
M17	RA 18-21	Dec -16-11	Size 45'x37'	Mag 7	Nebula
NGC 6618		SA2K #15, 16			
The "Omega or Swan Nebula" in Sagittarius. Use an O-III filter.					
M28	RA 18-25	Dec -24-52	Size 11'	Mag 6.8	Globular cluster
NGC 6626		SA2K #22			
Nice, easily resolvable GC in Sagittarius					

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 Ophiuchus (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.

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

**HARFORD COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 906
Bel Air, MD 21014**

**FIRST CLASS
Address Correction Requested**

Constellation: Ophiuchus, "The Serpent Bearer"

Alignment Star λ Oph ST578

α Ophiuchi "Ras Alhague"

June

Obj	DBF	Type	RA	Dec	Paix	Sep	PA	Mag	Size	Description
Σ 2038	*	DS	16h 23.5m	+02d 12.9m	AB	17.4s	214d	9.1/11.3	*	*
ρ Oph	ST572	DS	16h 25.6m	-23s 27m	AB	3.1s	344d	5.3/6.0	*	Yellow/iliac (0)
H-II-19	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	very nice field
V Oph	*	V	16h 26.7m	-12d 26m	*	*	*	7.3-11.6	*	300 day period, 900 LY
λ Oph	ST578	DS	16h 30.9m	+01d 59m	AB	1.4s	355d	4.2/5.2	*	Yellow/blue (0)
Σ 2055	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	challenging
M-107	*	GC	16h 32.5m	-13d 03m	*	*	*	8.1	*	Some resolution w/6"
NGC 6171	*	BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
H-40-6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Do 27	*	OC	16h 36.5m	-08d 56m	*	*	*	*	25m	8-12 stars form a stick figure
M-12	*	GC	16h 47.2m	-01d 57m	*	*	*	6.6	*	Fine cluster, resolved
NGC 6218	*	UC-BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 6235	*	GC	16h 53.4m	-22d 11m	*	*	*	10.4	1.9	Small, faint, elusive
H-584-2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M-10	*	GC	16h 57.2m	-04d 06m	*	*	*	6.6	*	*
NGC 6254	*	UC-BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M-62	*	GC	17h 01.2m	-30d 07m	*	*	*	6.6	*	*
NGC 6266	*	UC-BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M-19	*	GC	17h 02.6m	-26d 16m	*	*	*	7.2	*	*
NGC 6273	*	BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 6284	*	GC	17h 04.5	-24d 46m	*	*	*	10.5	1.5	Small, round, faint
H-11-6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 6287	*	GC	17h 05.2m	-22d 42m	*	*	*	9.9	1.7	Small, no resolution
H-195-2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	near a string of field stars

Constellation: Ophiuchus, "The Serpent Bearer"

Alignment Star λ Oph ST578

α Ophiuchi "Ras Alhague"

June

Opl	DB#	Type	RA	Dec	Parls	Sec	PA	Mag	Size	Description
NGC 6293	*	GC	17h 10.2	-26d 34m	*	*	*	9.5	1.9	Small, bright
H-12-6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 6304	*	GC	17h 14.5m	-29d 28m	*	*	*	9.8	1.6m	Small, bright,
H-147-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
36 Oph	ST599	DS	17h 15.3m	-26d 36m	AB	5s	163d	5.1/5.1	*	Eq mag
SHL-243	*	DSC	DSC	*	*	*	*	*	*	(0)
NGC 6316	*	GC	17h 16.6m	-28d 08m	*	*	*	10.0	1.1m	Small, faint, use AV
H-45-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
O Oph	ST600	DS	17h 18m	-24d 17m	AB	10s	355d	5.4/6.9	*	Pale orange/clear blue
39 Oph	*	DSC	DSC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
H-II-25	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
M-9	*	GC	17h 19.2m	-18d 31m	*	*	*	7.9	*	*
NGC 6333	*	BMC	BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 6342	*	GC	17h 21.2m	-19d 35m	*	*	*	10.0	0.5m	Small, faint, use AV
H-149-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
B 59, 65-7	*	DN	17h 21m	-26d 60m	*	*	*	*	*	"Pipe Nebula", Challenging
NGC 6356	*	GC	17h 23.6m	-17d 49m	*	*	*	9.5	1.7	Bright center, no resolution
H-48-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 6355	*	GC	17h 24m	-26d 21m	*	*	*	10.5	1.0m	Round, small, faint
H-46-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
NGC 6366	*	GC	17h 27.7m	-05d 05m	*	*	*	9.2	13m	Challenging
NGC 6369	PN145	PN	17h 29m	-23d 46m	*	*	*	11.5	30s	"Little Ghost Nebula"
H-11-4	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Ring shaped, faint
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Round, blue-green
M-14	*	GC	17h 37.6m	-02d 15m	*	*	*	7.6	*	Gold/yellow
NGC 6402	*	BMC	BMC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Constellation: Ophiuchus, "The Serpent Bearer"

Alignment Star λ Oph ST578

α Ophiuchi "Ras Alhague"

June

Obj	DB#	Type	RA	Dec	Pair	Sep	PA	Mag	Size	Description
NGC 6401	*	GC	17h 38.6m	-23d 55m	*	*	*	11.0	1.0m	Small, round, no resolution
H-44-1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
SHJ 251	*	DS	17h 39.1m	+02d 02m	AB	111s	?	6.4/7.8	*	400LY, orange-gold
61 Oph	ST619	Trip	17h 44.6m	+02d 35m	AB	21s	93d	6.2/6.6	*	Off white
E2202	*	*	*	*	AC	96s	28d	/12.5	*	Binocular object
NGC 6426	*	GC	17h 44.9m	+03d 00m	*	*	*	11.5	1.3m	Small, faint, elusive
H-587-2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
IC 4665	*	OC	17h 46m	+05d 43m	*	*	*	4.2	41m	80+ stars, Binocular object
*	*	UC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cr 350	*	OC	17h 48.1m	+01d 18m	*	*	*	6.1	44m	Large, loose
LFT 1365	ST626	V	17h 58m	+04d 34m	*	*	*	9.5	*	"Bernard's (Runaway) Star"
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Fastest moving star in the sky
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	10 arcseconds/year
τ Oph	ST630	DS	18h 00.1m	-08d 11m	AB	1.8s	271d	5.2/5.9	*	Challenge
E2262	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*(0)
NGC 6517	*	GC	18h 01.8m	-08d 58m	*	*	*	10.5	0.4m	Small, elusive
H-199-2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Use AV
70 Oph	ST631	DS	18h 05.5m	+02d 30m	AB	1.5s	72d	4.2/6.0	*	Yellow/red
E2272	*	DSC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*(0)
NGC 6572	*	PN	18h 12m	+06d 51m	*	*	*	9.0	*	*
NGC 6633	*	OC	18h 28m	+06d 34m	*	*	*	4.6	*	Lg. loose
H-72-8	*	UC	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	Binocular object

Named Stars

α Oph	Ras Alhague: "The Head of the Serpent Charmer"
β Oph	Cebalrai: Cheleb: "The Heart of the Shepherd"
γ Oph	Muliphen
δ Oph	Yed Prior: "The Forward Star of the Hand"
ϵ Oph	Yed Posterior: "The Following star of the Hand"
η Oph	Sabik: "The Driver"; the Vulcan Lt. Sabik from the first Star Trek Movie
λ Oph	Martik: "The Elbow"