

Harford County Astronomical Society

Bel Air, Maryland
www.harfordastro.org



Volume 31 Issue 12

December 2005

*"Pure fish of space, quicksilver, incandescent,
green cross or parsley light in the dark,
firefly fixed in the singleness of heaven,"*

Pablo Neruda (1904-73)
"A Hundred Love Sonnets:Night" (Canto LXXVI) (lines 9-11), 1960
("On the Heavens", Book II, Chapter 7)

General Meeting: Saturday, December 17, 2005 7:30pm (19:30)
Public Star Party (Open House), December 10, 2005 at dusk

Club Calendar for 2005

<u>Meeting night</u>	<u>Open House/Public Star party</u>
December 17, 2005	December 10, 2005

January 14, 2006	January 7, 2006
February 11, 2006	February 4, 2006
March 11, 2006	March 4, 2006
April 15, 2006	April 8, 2006
May 13, 2006	May 6, 2006
June 10, 2006	June 3, 2006
July 8, 2006	July 1, 2006
August 12, 2006	August 5, 2006
September 9, 2006	September 2, 2006
October 7, 2006	October 28, 2006
November 4, 2006	November 25, 2006
December 2, 2006	December 30, 2006

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.

*Merry Christmas to all
May you have a Happy and Productive New Year
(ed)*

Treasurer's Report: \$5,266.85 currently in the treasury.

Minutes of the November 19th, 2005 HCAS Meeting

President Monroe Harden opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

1. The minutes of the October 2005 meeting, as published in the October newsletter, were accepted.
2. The treasurer was not present to give a report, and no information was available to make a report in his absence.
3. Mark Kregel did not have any additional information on the dome motorization project. Other activities have had to take precedence in the recent past.
4. **Outreach:**
 - a. Boy Scout Aviation Day, November 12th. The club was represented by Tom Rusek, Larry and Fran Armstrong, Larry Hubble, Millie McCoy, Mark Kregel, and Monroe Harden. Several hundred scouts, parents, and scout leaders came though the HCAS area. Several telescopes were on display, along with many photographs and handouts with astronomy information. Monroe and Larry Armstrong showed off the sun through filtered telescopes. More information is available in a more thorough article elsewhere in this newsletter.
 - b. Mars Public Observing, October 28th and 29th. Steve Channel reported that there was not much of a turnout either night. We speculated that it was because the event was scheduled late and did not receive newspaper publicity.
 - c. Open House, November 12th. Steve reported that there was a large crowd for the monthly open house at Harford Tech.
5. **Old business:** The Aegis newspaper article on the club was published on October 21st.
6. **New business:**
 - a. Mr. Conrad Buelow attended the meeting as a guest. He has recently moved into our area and is interested in joining the club. He is retired and is renewing his interest in astronomy. We welcomed him to the area and discussed the club and our personal observing interests.
 - b. We gave out a majority of our publicity photographs of pretty astronomical objects at the Boy Scout event. Tom Rusek said he would get with Lucy to replenish our stocks for upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Harford County Boy Scout Aviation Day

Tom Rusek, Larry and Fran Armstrong, Larry Hubble, Mille McCoy, Mark Kregel, and Monroe Harden represented the Harford County Astronomical Society at the Harford County Boy Scout Aviation Day, held at the Harford county airport on November 12th, 2005.

Tom and Mark brought telescopes to show the different types of scopes used in astronomy. Monroe had his Coronado Personal Solar Telescope (PST) set up for H-alpha solar observing, and Larry Armstrong had his newtonian with a white light solar filter. Larry Hubble had his astrophotography equipment on his SCT along with a series of his photographs. Fran and Millie handed out photos and other information sheets, and Tom gave a presentation at the speakers' tent.

We had several hundred scouts and parents come by our tent throughout the day. The scout dens and troops arrived on a staggered schedule, which meant we were busy pretty much all day. The visitors enjoyed looking at the sun, which cooperated by presenting a nice prominence area and a small sunspot rotating over the limb.

Larry Armstrong shows the sun in white light.



Millie and Fran hand out literature.



Mark gives a short class to some interested scouts.



Larry Hubble discusses his astrophotos.



Loretta Cook, the organizer of the event, was heard praising our club to the other exhibitors at the show. She said our tent had the most visitors, and the kids love looking through the telescopes and learning about what they see. Our visits to scout camp-outs are also popular, and she praised our members for answering questions at a level appropriate to the kids' knowledge. And finally, she was happy that when asked to participate in an event, we always show up when we say we will.

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!!>>>

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 izar21093@verizon.net and adding your e-mail address to his mailing list.

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):izar21093@verizon.net, 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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