

Harford County Astronomical Society

Bel Air, Maryland
www.harfordastro.org



Volume 32 Issue 3

March 2006

*"I stood by the open casement
And looked upon the night,
And saw the westward-going stars
Pass slowly out of sight.*

*Till the great celestial army,
Stretching far beyond the poles,
Became the eternal symbol
Of the mighty march of souls.*

*And long let me remember,
That the palest, fainting one
May to deviner vision be
A bright and blazing sun.*

Thomas Buchanan Reid (1822-72)
"The Celestial Army"
(Lines 1-4, 9-12, and 41-44), 1860

**General Meeting: Saturday, March 11, 2006 7:30pm (19:30)
Public Star Party (Open House), March 4, 2006 at dusk**

Club Calendar for 2006

Meeting night

April 15, 2006
May 13, 2006
June 10, 2006
July 8, 2006
August 12, 2006
September 9, 2006
October 7, 2006
November 4, 2006
December 2, 2006

Open House/Public Star party

April 8, 2006
May 6, 2006
June 3, 2006
July 1, 2006
August 5, 2006
September 2, 2006
October 28, 2006
November 25, 2006
December 30, 2006

Meeting time is 19:30 (7:30pm) unless noted otherwise. Dates and times are taken from the HCAS website.
Please check the website for possible schedule updates and changes.

<http://www.harfordastro.org>

Check the HCAS website for other club events.

In Memory of Monroe Harden's Father

On behalf of the members of the Harford County Astronomical Society, we offer condolences to Monroe Harden and his family on the passing of his Father.

Please devote a moment of silence to his memory.

Treasurer's Report: \$5,266.85 in the treasury as of 2/11/06.

Minutes: Graciously provided my Grace Wyatt.

The dome project is on hold pending good weather (I guess that means work will get under way soon).

Tom's Ruseck's outreach programs: He is a very busy guy right now. He did an all day program at St. Joan of Arc school. He is scheduled for a program on March 20 at Fallston library, a program in July at Bel Air library and a couple Girl Scout programs.

Earth Day is coming up in April and we have already gotten information about Swanfest in October.

We had a really good open house this month. It was very clear (also cold and windy) and we had a good turn out.

New business:

If anyone has updates about the dome automation project, please forward it to me for the next newsletter. Such information as who, what, where, how and why will be more than welcome to HCAS members.

Old Business:

Editor's note:

Election of HCAS Officers and other HCAS functions is rapidly approaching.

Please give some thought to the following positions:

HCAS Treasurer

HCAS Newsletter Editor

HCAS Astronomical League Coordinator

I currently hold all three. However, after the next election cycle, I will not be available for any HCAS candidacy.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2006



WE are pleased to announce our Twelfth annual Star Gaze Star Party from
 Friday April 28 through Tuesday May 2 2006
 at Tuckahoe State Park near Queen Anne, MD.

The registration fee includes camping for the observing area,
 campers are permitted to park and set up by their scopes.

ALL NIGHT STARGAZER COFFEE, as always, will be free along with a Stargazer
 prepared soup each evening except Sunday which will be a fish fry. Sodas and hot dogs
 will be available at minimal cost.

There are no hookups or electricity in the observation area. There is power available to
 charge batteries. Vehicles will be restricted in the observing area after dusk as a
 courtesy to those who are there to observe.

All attendees are encouraged to register in advance for this event due to limited space and growing popularity of the Star Gaze Star Party. Your badges and entrance parking permit will be sent to you on receipt of payment.

REGISTRATION for Star Gaze XII

	2-3 Days		4 Days		5 Days	
	Pre Registration	After April 1	Pre Registration	After April 1	Pre Registration	After April 1
1 Person	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$45	\$35	\$50
2 Persons	\$40	\$55	\$50	\$65	\$55	\$70
Family (3 or more)	\$55	\$70	\$60	\$75	\$65	\$80

For more information call or e-mail:

[Vice-President: Jerry Truitt,\(410\) 885-3327](mailto:Jerry.Truitt@delmarva.org)

Reservation / Registration

[Registrar: Joe Cain,\(302\) 998-4534](mailto:Joe.Cain@delmarva.org)

Star Gaze XII

Friday April 28 through Tuesday May 2 2006
at Tuckahoe State Park near Queen Anne, MD.

Star Gazer XII Registration Form Calculation Table

Number in Party	1 to 3 Days		4 Days		5 Days	
1 Person	\$25	\$40	\$30	\$45	\$35	\$50
2 People	\$40	\$55	\$50	\$65	\$55	\$70
3 or More	\$55	\$70	\$60	\$75	\$65	\$80

Registration Form	Delamarva Stargazers	Star Gaze XII
Name: _____	Circle Arrival Date ___[Fri]___ [Sat]___ [Sun]	
Phone Numbers Home:(____)____-_____	Day:(____)____-_____	Cell:(____)____-_____
Address: _____	City: _____	Zip: _____
Make/Model of Vehicle: _____	Year: _____	Number in your Party: _____
Attendee #2: _____	Attendee #3: _____	Attendee #4: _____
Attendee #5: _____	Attendee #6: _____	Attendee #7: _____
Use Calculation Table to arrive at total cost		Amount Inclosed:\$_____
<p>Print this form, complete form and mail with Check made out to Delmarva Stargazers to: Joe Cain 2219 Henlopen Ave Wilmington, DE 19804</p>		

Classifieds:

I need to thin my telescope collection a bit and offer the following for sale. I used each of them for many years but not recently. They would be happier gathering photons under a dark sky than dust in my basement.

No, I am not getting out of astronomy. I still have scopes which I do use when the sky permits.

1. OTA

Criterion Dynascope 8" f-8 Newtonian (RV-8)

Enhanced diagonal, SS spider, JMI focuser

Pine end rings, original mirror and cell, finder and bracket, Criterion tube rings for EQ mounting.

The tube paint job is rough but the mirror figure is excellent. This is a planetary scope with very good deep space reach. It would make an excellent Dob.

\$80.00 pickup.

2. OTA

Celestron C-11 (11" f-10 SCT), circa 1986, ribbed back with crinkle finish.

Finder bracket, off axis solar filter (Thousand Oaks), fitted metal lens cap and storage trunk.

Tube rings (Byers) and Losmandy dovetail plate, visual back and focal reducer.

This is the scope which was mounted in the observatory prior to the arrival of the new C-14.

Except for a couple of touched-up scratches, this scope is in very good condition. I am the second owner. The original owner was Ed Gill, former, long time, HCAS member.

\$750.00 pickup

3. Complete scope and mount, ready to use.

6" f-6 Edmund Scientific Newtonian, red tube, circa 1975

Massive cast aluminum tripod mount, motorized.

JMI focuser, curved vane spider with enhanced 18% diagonal, original diagonal and cell.

No diffraction spikes, very good planetary and double star performance. I completed the Messier list with this scope.

\$250.00 pickup

4. OTA

Celestron "Cometron" 60mm refractor.

Good, small refractor starter scope. PVC tube, 0.965 focuser with hybrid 0.965"/1-1/4" diagonal to accept 1-1/4" eyepieces.

Lucy photographed the Venus transit with a similar scope a couple of years ago.

\$35.00 pickup

If anything interests you, please call me at 410-561-0973 or e-mail at izar21093@verizon.net

Thanks for looking.
Bill Geertsen

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.

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

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**FIRST CLASS
Address Correction Requested**

