



# ***Harford County Astronomical Society***

*2015 Monthly Newsletter*

*Vol. 42 Issue 3--- March*

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*HCAS is an affiliated member of both the Astronomical League and the Night Sky Network.*

This is an official publication of the Harford County Astronomical Society

Please go to our website for the latest updates for viewing schedule changes, and Public Outreach Events

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# Harford County Astronomical Society Executive Committee and Board Members

Please feel free to contact these members at anytime with your concerns.

## *Executive Committee:*

*Robert ( Bob ) Kesler..... President*

*Jim Gerlach ..... Vice President*

*Tim Kamel..... Treasurer*

*Rick Fensch ..... Secretary*

## *Sitting Members of the Board:*

Tom Rusek      Larry Hubble      Mike Talbard

Dave Jayroe      Tim Phelan

## *Technical Advisor to the Board: (Lifetime Standing)*

Mark Kregel

## *Astronomy League, Night Sky Network coordinator:*

Colleen Gerlach



### *HCAS MISSION STATEMENT*

- HCAS IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE FROM VARIED BACKGROUNDS OF ALL AGES BOTH MEN AND WOMEN WITH A COMMON BOND, THE LOVE OF ASTRONOMY. HCAS IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HARFORD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ( HCC ) AND HAS THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE OBSERVATORY AND ASSOCIATED MEETING ROOMS.
- 
- HCAS MEMBERS ARE FRIENDLY, AND WE WELCOME ANYONE WITH AN INTEREST OF ASTRONOMY TO JOIN OUR RANKS. A BEGINNER OR ADVANCED OBSERVER AND OR AN ASTRO-PHOTOGRAPHER. HCAS IS COMMITTED TO THE PEOPLE OF HARFORD COUNTY TO ASSIST AND AUGMENT LEARNING AND INTEREST IN ASTRONOMY, AS WELL AS PROVIDING STRONG, ALL VOLUNTEER OUTREACH PROGRAMS TO SCHOOLS, CLUBS, AND OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS



### Goals for HCAS

- 1.- PROMOTE THE INTEREST AND LOVE OF ASTRONOMY FOR THE PEOPLE OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND.
- 2.- ADVOCATE FOR DARK SKIES AND FIGHT LIGHT POLLUTION AND LIGHT TRESPASS.
- 3.- ENGAGE WITH SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, SCOUTS AND OTHER GROUPS TO EXPAND KNOWLEDGE AND INTEREST IN ASTRONOMY.
- 4.- ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN ATMOSPHERE AT THE OBSERVATORY WHERE EVERYONE IS INCLUDED AND INVITED TO JOIN AND SHARE ASTRONOMY BY VISUAL OBSERVING AS WELL AS ASTRO PHOTOGRAPHY, REGARDLESS OF SKILL LEVEL OR EDUCATION.



This newsletter is an official publication of :

Harford County Astronomical Society

P.O. Box 906

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

For any articles and or pictures you would like to submit to the newsletter for consideration for publication

Please read the following :

It is strongly suggested that all articles be submitted in a “Word” document and sent to the newsletter email address at: [hcasnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hcasnewsletter@gmail.com)

Articles and pictures will need to be submitted by the deadline. The deadline for each monthly issue is **NO LATER THAN** the third week of each month.

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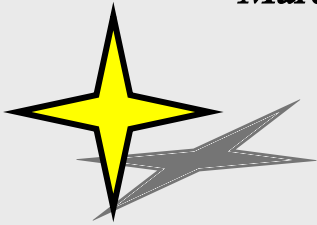
Any address changes should be brought to the attention of the editor given above. Any complaints concerning any content of this newsletter should be brought to the attention of the editor promptly.

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## *Upcoming Club Events:*

*March events for the club are as follows:*



### *HCAS Open House:*

Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 pm here at the Observatory ,  
there will be a 10 member Girl Scout troop attending

### *HCAS General Meeting:*

Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm in the classroom

### *HCAS Board of Directors Meeting :*

Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:30 pm in the classroom

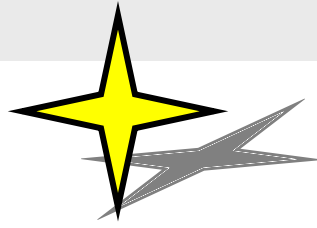
### *HCAS Members Only Night:*

Please consult the “Members Only” page of the website for details

### *March Tid-Bit:*

Anyone have any idea as to what happens on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> @

9:26:53 am & pm?



## *Observing Reports*

*Peter N.*

### Rosette Nebula (NGC 2237) on Jan 29 2015

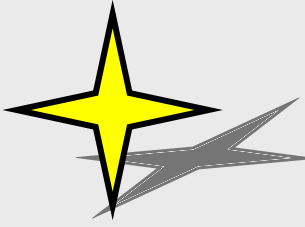
This image shows the Rosette Nebula which I captured on Jan 29 2015. I used a thermoelectrically cooled CCD camera on a 92mm refractor. I recorded 4-15 minute subframes with an H-alpha narrowband filter and 2-15 minute subframes and 1-10 minute subframe with an O-III narrowband filter for a total of 100 minutes exposure time.

This image is shown in mapped color which means that the red color channel has been assigned to the hydrogen alpha emission line which is present at the red wavelength of 6563 Angstroms while the green and blue channels have been assigned to the Oxygen-III (doubly ionized oxygen) emission line present at the green wavelength of 5001 Angstroms.



Peter Nerbun





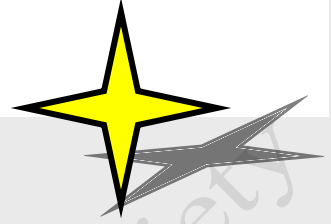
*8 Day Moon*

*Joe G.*



## Vienna Md. Observing Report

Tim P.



Observing Report, 2/13/15

Vienna, MD | Bortle Class 3.5-4

38.347285 N, 75.937736 W

On Friday February, 13<sup>th</sup> I decided that enough was enough and I took my 10" Dob down to the Eastern Shore for an extended observing session. I hadn't been observing since about November and I didn't care if the overnight low was 15°. I bundled up excessively and made the drive. The weather was clear and frigid but I was rewarded with excellent transparency, easily a 4/5. I had planned to observe objects in Canis Major and Puppis, mostly Puppis, which are too low to observe anywhere else in the state. I stuck with mostly open clusters since galaxies or nebulae would be extremely hard to detect at less than 30° above the horizon, even in that dark sky.

There are quite a few really eye-catching clusters worth mentioning. First, there's the venerable Messier 46 open cluster that houses planetary nebula NGC 2438 in the foreground. The contrast between closely packed stars and the small smoky oval is terrific. If you slap an O-III filter on your eyepiece it's really fantastic. Thankfully M46 sits quite high in Puppis and can be observed from most moderately light polluted areas. The next item of note is NGC 2467 which is referred to as the *Skull & Crossbones Nebula*. NGC 2467 is an open cluster associated with an emission nebula that when photographed with a short exposure looks like a Jolly Roger flag. Visually it is still neat under dark, transparent skies. The cluster is easy to observe, it is large and fairly bright with the faint nebulosity centered around one star on the west side of the cluster. The nebulosity looked sort of like a snail shell.

There were several other clusters I observed in Puppis as well but my final two that I want to highlight are NGC 2362 and Messier 51. NGC 2362 is a superb open cluster of which the star Tau Canis Majoris is a member. This cluster is a very compact and small cluster but its stars are very luminous and stands out beautifully among the decent star field. Although Messier 51 is not in Puppis or Canis Major I was curious to see what it looked like under very good transparency and dark skies. I was not disappointed. M51 was very high in the sky around 11:45 PM and observing it first in my 24 mm eyepiece at 50x I could clearly discern dark knots in the galaxy which I assume were gaps between the spiral arms. There seemed to be one on the east and one on the west side. This was terrific! So I went all the way up to 200x magnification and while the outer portions of the galaxy disappeared the spiral structure was easily visible. This was by far the best view of M51 I'd ever gotten and I've observed it at Cherry Springs before!

All in all it was a fun night. My scope batteries died at about 12:15 AM so I packed up and drove to the shabby little hotel room I rented in Cambridge and drove home the next morning.

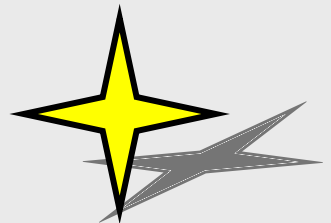
Answer March Tid-Bit :

the date and time will reflect the first 10 digits in the mathematical constant Pi  $\pi$ ,

it last happened 100 years ago, 3.141592653

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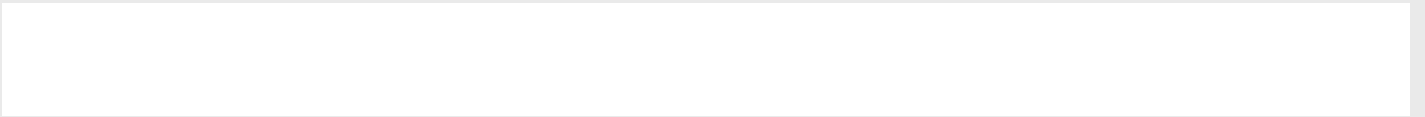
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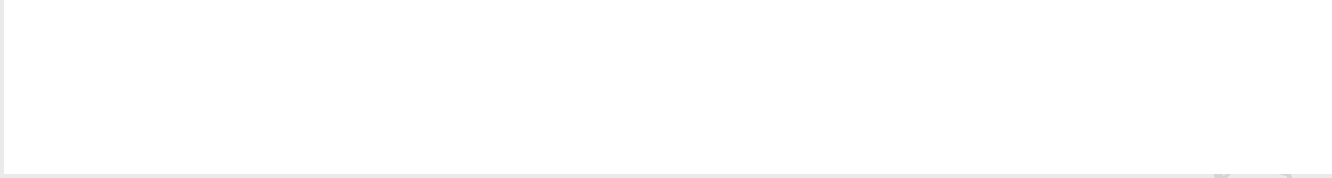


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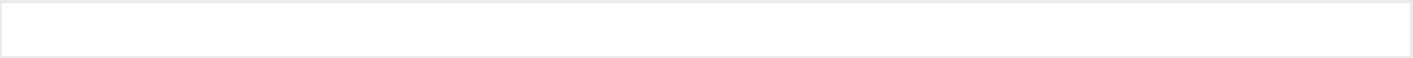
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