



ECLIPSE



The Newsletter of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society

February 2002

A Note from the Editor.

This issue is an abbreviated version of the Eclipse Newsletter. Due to a much anticipated vacation, the editor was unable to put together some of our regular columns. The March Eclipse will be published in a more familiar form.

Thank You,
Rocky Alvey

The Bergquist C-14 Telescope Steward List

Our club telescope is available for use by club members on a first-come basis. To use the telescope please call the person who is assigned for that night you choose. Please give the stewards as much notice as possible.

- Monday - Mike Benson 615-883-6571
- Tuesday - Lonnie Puterbaugh 615-661-9540
- Wednesday - A.G. Kasselberg 615-661-0231
- Thursday - Lloyd Watkins 615-824-3005
- Friday - John Bradford 615-871-9542
& Powell Hall 615-872-0162
- Saturday - Jim Reid 615-595-6589
- Sunday - Tom Murdic 615-794-6029
- Alternate - Dudley Pitts 615-837-2696

HAPPENINGS & EVENTS

February 1 - February 28, 2002

- 2/1 Public StarParty, Warner Park, 7:30-9:30
- 2/4 LAST QUARTER MOON
- 2/7 Board of Directors Meeting at Cumberland Science Museum, 7:00 p.m.
- 2/8 Alpha Centaurid Meter Shower
- 2/9 BSAS Private StarParty at Natchez Trace Water Valley Exit.
- 2/10 Conj., Moon & Mercury
- 2/12 NEW MOON; Chinese New Year (Year of the Horse); Mardi Gras
- 2/15-17 Starting Astronomy Weekend at Fall Creek Falls State Park Resort Inn, Call Jana Ruth Ford at Dyer Observatory for details 373-4897
- 2/16 Conj., Moon & Mars
- 2/18 Discovery of Pluto, 1930, Clyde Tombaugh
- 2/20 FIRST QUARTER MOON; Moon & Saturn Occultation
- 2/21 BSAS Meeting at Cumberland Science Museum 7:30 p.m.; Speaker: to be announced**
- 2/22 Conj., Moon & Jupiter
- 2/27 FULL MOON

Challenge of the Month - Omega Centauri

I know this is rather unfair to all of you. The great Globular Cluster Omega Centauri is not well placed for this time of year, and besides, it is barely visible from our latitude. Fortunately I will be much closer to the equator for a portion of the month and I intend to capture this object. I hope to give you all a report at our next BSAS Meeting when I have returned from Jamaica.

Have fun. I know I will
Rocky Alvey

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR BSAS MEMBERS 2001

We are always able to accept requests for new and renewal yearly subscriptions to **SKY AND TELESCOPE** and **ASTRONOMY** from our members in good standing.

The current yearly rates are as follows:
SKY AND TELESCOPE : \$29.95
ASTRONOMY : \$29.00

Checks or Money Orders should be made out to the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society (BSAS) and sent to the Treasurer at the following address:

BSAS
Dyer Observatory
1000 Oman Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027

DUES INFORMATION

On your Eclipse mailing label is the expiration date for your current membership in the BSAS. There will be a two month grace period before any member's name is removed from the current mailing list. You will be receiving a number of warnings informing you that your membership is expiring.

Dues are \$20.00 per year for Regular and Family membership and \$15.00 per year for Seniors (over 60 years of age), and \$10.00 for Students (under 22 years of age). Please call the Dyer Observatory (373-4897) if you have questions. Dues can be sent to:

BSAS c/o Dyer Observatory
1000 Oman Drive
Brentwood, TN 37027

THE ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER

Editor: Rocky Alvey
r.alvey@vanderbilt.edu

BSAS Officers:
Powell Hall, President
John Bradford, Vice President
Evelyn Wright, Secretary
A.G. Kasselberg, Treasurer
Board of Directors
Kris McCall, Ch.
Mike Benson
Douglas Hall
Joe Boyd
Lloyd Watkins
Logo Photograph:
Francisco Diego

Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society Board of Directors Special Meeting on January 10, 2002

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Board Chairperson Kris McCall at 7:10 PM on January 10 in the Cumberland Science Museum Volunteer Lounge, the regular meeting on the first Thursday of the month having been cancelled due to holiday travel. Also attending were board members Mike Benson, Joe Boyd, Doug Hall, and Lloyd Watkins. Officers attending were President Powell Hall, Vice President John Bradford, and Secretary Evelyn Wright. Others present were Eclipse Editor Rocky Alvey, WebMaster Bill Collins, and club members Stephen Balay, JanaRuth Ford, and Larry Southerland.

Powell Hall collected money from the officers for the ham served at the Christmas potluck dinner, and Mike Benson distributed Ottewell calendars to those who requested them.

Kris McCall asked if there was any old business to be taken care of. Joe Boyd said he received the up-to-date version of the list of the designation of registered agents from the Secretary of State. Powell Hall is still working on the three year financial report that Joe Boyd needs to file for the club to obtain 501(c)(3) (non-profit) status.

As Doug Durig (asteroid discoverer) has not replied to John Bradford's emails, the January program will be by Dr. Doug Hall on how to calculate the orbits of asteroids and planets. John hopes that Doug Durig will be available for the February program. Tut Campbell's program in March will be on photo imaging.

Lloyd Watkins noted there has been no progress he is aware of on the budget committee. Kris McCall asked about the status of the C-14 telescope.

Dr. Hall interrupted to present the good news that Vanderbilt has decided to continue the position vacated by Betty Thurston. JanaRuth Ford has accepted the position that has been expanded to include outreach activities. Dr. Hall also noted that Vanderbilt's chair has been replaced by David Earnst.

Back on the C-14 front, Lloyd Watkins asked if the list of members in charge of C-14 use are included in "The Eclipse" newsletter, and Rocky Alvey said they were on the second page of the newsletter about to be distributed. Lloyd asked if it could include a note to reserve at least a week ahead to give the stewards enough time to arrange their schedules. It was also noted that one of the stewards has been replaced by Powell Hall and John Bradford, who will alternate that particular night.

There has been no progress on the 12" telescope purchased from the lady down the street.

The discussion of the purchase or lease of land for a dark site was postponed until Lonnie Puterbaugh could attend a future board meeting.

TNSP 2002 dates are still being researched. Doug Hall mentioned that the startup of classes in the first week of September might affect which Vanderbilt professors could make presentations. Kris McCall will await the schedule being prepared by Rocky Alvey and Lloyd Watkins.

Mike Benson still needs the membership list from A.G. Kasselberg to send to the Astronomical League.

Bill Collins asked if the membership application should be displayed on the BSAS website. Joe Boyd thought the changes Rocky Alvey made were fine, and that the form is ready. It was suggested that Bill add a note that membership dues of new members could be mailed to the BSAS using the Dyer Observatory address, or could be paid in person at a normal club meeting. It was highly recommended that current members also fill out the form so that all information can be brought up to date. Bill would also like an official declaration at the next regular club meeting that he is the current BSAS Webmaster.

Mike Benson brought up the Astronomical League request for nominations for outstanding young astronomers. The winner last year was instrumental in starting up a young astronomer's club. Powell Hall asked if those of us in our second childhood were eligible. Several of our young members were mentioned.

Lloyd Watkins asked about the science and engineering fair that BSAS provides judges for on astronomical projects. No one knew if BSAS had gotten the last minute notice of this yet. Doug Hall noted that the regional science and engineering fair is held in Vanderbilt's memorial gym, and IPPP sponsors a \$500 prize in the international fair.

Rocky Alvey distributed a tentative schedule for the Fall Creek Falls "How to Get Started in Astronomy" weekend during February 15-17, 2002. The number of BSAS presenters at this event is necessarily restricted due to the number of rooms provided by Fall Creek Falls Inn. BSAS members who feel they could benefit from introductory astronomy information can attend, but will be responsible for their own lodging. Tentative programs include an informal introduction to astronomy, how to use a star chart and other astronomy tools, observation of the sun using solar filters, how to photograph the night sky, lunar astronomy, and a question and answer session. Joe Boyd noted that the Fall Creek Falls "How to Get Started in Astronomy" weekend was not to his knowledge an official club project. Doug Hall made a motion to make it an official club project, Lloyd Watkins seconded it, and the board members passed the motion unanimously. Stephen Balay suggested that the same program be given at Dyer in the spring, and several agreed with him.

The subject of publicity for BSAS efforts surfaced, and it was noted that the "Tennessean" does not always use articles turned in by BSAS members, and it seems that not many outside of the club are aware of BSAS. Rocky Alvey recently published an article on light pollution in "The Tennessee Conversationist" magazine. Rocky suggested a free monthly electronic newsletter that would include information about midstate astronomy events that could be sent to Metro schools and anyone else that was interested. It was suggested that the "Tennessean" weekend events section might accept BSAS events. Dr. Hall also mentioned a Green Hills publication.

The ISS-AT project requires the club's participation to help man the server at Dyer Observatory, at least initially. A.G. Kasselberg is in charge of "first light" on February 2, 2002, with the press conference from 6-7 pm. Joe Boyd has played with the "Sky" program software, and more need to learn how it works. Joe also noted that there is no official acceptance of the ISS-AT project by the club, and made a motion to do so. Lloyd Watkins seconded the motion which was unanimously passed by the board members. It was suggested that there be some practice time on the equipment before the "first light" press conference to make sure everything will work as planned.

Combining the subjects of light pollution and possible publicity for BSAS, Evelyn Wright noted that her husband Larry Southerland wondered if it would help to forward Rocky's article to Tom Purkey of the "Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation" magazine since Mr. Purkey had mentioned in one of his articles that the skies did not seem as dark as when he was younger. Rocky had already emailed Mr. Purkey, but had received no response. Joe Boyd mentioned that he was not aware that the club was a member of the International Dark-Sky Association. The dues are \$15 for individuals or \$100 for groups. Others present thought we had already joined, but no one was aware of receiving the newsletter at Dyer Observatory. Joe Boyd moved that the BSAS join the IDA as a society, and that Powell Hall appoint a Dark-Sky Committee. Powell Hall added the modification that the membership be continued if the BSAS was already a member. Lloyd Watkins seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Powell Hall asked Rocky to look for a certain constellation while he is in Jamaica in February. Rocky suspected he would be staying up most nights if possible.

Bill Collins asked for a clarification that the Fall Creek Falls "How to Get Started in Astronomy" information should be published on the BSAS website, and was advised to proceed.

There was much discussion about how to handle whether a star party should be scrubbed, with Kris McCall concerned that she had made a wrong decision even though she had consulted with her local advisors. There were several policies put forth, such as to always assume it is on, and let the public show up at its own discretion. This makes it difficult for those who would have to load up and make a long trip to set up telescope equipment in inclement weather. Doug Hall noted that it usually averaged out on the uncertain days: fewer telescopes show up, but so do fewer of the public. Lloyd Watkins suggested that there be a core group per site that was based on who lived near the site in question who would show up no matter what, and others would decide whether it was worth the effort to get to that site for that event.

Kris McCall noted Astronomy Day on April 20, 2002 would be included in an upcoming discussion. Warner Park will have a star party the night before on April 19, 2002. Cumberland Science Museum is undergoing renovation and may be a mess by that time. Lloyd Watkins asked Dr. Doug Hall if the programs could possibly be held at Dyer Observatory, and Dr. Hall seemed willing.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Wright, Secretary