



ECLIPSE



The Newsletter of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society

Celebrating our 75th Year in 2003

August 2003

BSAS August 21, 2003 Meeting

The August meeting of the BSAS will be held at Dyer Observatory at 7:30 pm on the 21st.

The BSAS' August meeting will feature a showing of portions of the acclaimed BBC astronomy television series "Hyperspace," praised by many as the natural successor to the late Dr. Carl Sagan's Cosmos series. Hyperspace, produced in 2001, utilizes outstanding CGI graphics to illustrate a wide variety of astrophysical concepts, including the formation of stars, planetary systems, nebulae, galaxies and even black holes and the ultimate fate of the universe. Although the program addresses cutting-edge topics in astrophysics, it does so in a way accessible to astronomy newcomers. The Hyperspace series is divided into six parts. They are: *Star Stuff*; *Staying Alive*; *Black Holes*; *Are We Alone?*; *New Worlds*; and *Boldly Go*, and we plan to show the first two parts at the meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Joseph M. Boyd, Jr.

It is with a sigh of relief that I write this particular column, for we have just completed one of the most challenging undertakings our club has had in a long time. After 18 months of planning and preparation and hard work, our hosting of the annual convention of the Astronomical League left us tired but justifiably proud of what we accomplished. It is noteworthy that we have not received a single complaint by those in attendance about the quality or the execution of the convention. On the contrary, we have received many gestures of appreciation for the genuine hospitality we exhibited and for the excellence of the presentations. At the banquet, one of our out of town registrants stopped me as I was walking by her table, and said she just wanted me to know how welcome every BSAS member she had encountered had made her feel, and that she thought all of those attending felt the same way.

With 57 of our members actively working at the convention, many of you for several hours, our level of participation must have been at an all time high. It was a high moment at the membership meeting on 17 July when I read the name of every person who had worked and asked them to stand and remain standing. By the time I finished the list, almost the entire room was standing. (It is no coincidence that our attendance at the meeting was one of the largest since I have been a member, and that almost every person who worked was present.) Each person was trained to do his or her job, and then was expected and allowed to do it without interference. As a result, many of you showed great ingenuity in carrying out your duties. The amazing thing is that almost every one of you who worked told either Mike Benson or Jill Thompson or myself that you enjoyed the experience, appreciated being asked to do a specific job, and particularly enjoyed getting to know the other members of the BSAS. It is one thing to know people on a social or superficial level, but it is quite another to get to know people while working with them on a common project. I personally got to know many of you whom I had hardly met before, and I think most of us would agree that we also got to like each other.

We learned so much about each other during this experience that we discovered a wealth of talent in our membership that somehow had been undiscovered, untapped, and unenlisted in the past. I hope that this talent will not be overlooked in the future, and it is my intention that all of you will be given an opportunity to contribute your talents to the work of the BSAS, particularly in the field of outreach.

My special thanks go out to Evelyn Wright and Jill Thompson. Evelyn has done a superb job as secretary for a little longer than the past year, and recently resigned that office for personal reasons. She deserves a special accolade for her faithful performance and her excellent minutes. Jill's service as co-chair of the ALCON has been recognized not only by our out of club guests but also by our own members. Her organizational ability and her hard work made her the proper person to take Evelyn's place as BSAS secretary, and the board of directors honored her by electing her to that position, effective the 15th of July. She will serve out the remainder of Evelyn's unexpired term.

I have never seen our membership so enthused and involved. Let's keep it that way as we celebrate our 75th year. The sky's the limit . . . or is it?

The Perseids

by Tony Campbell

The 2003 Perseids, one of the most reliable and enjoyable meteor showers of the year, begins today. This is a very old shower indeed-- the first recorded observation was in 36AD, when Chinese records indicated that "more than 100 meteors flew thither in the morning." This year the Perseids will be handicapped by a nearly full Moon at their peak, but they should still provide an impressive display.

A few early meteors will be visible this week while the radiant is still in Cassiopeia. Rates should slowly increase until a day or two before the August 12/13 maximum, then should increase more sharply. The peak, usually anywhere from 70 to 200 per hour, will be lower because of the Moon (no need to try to find pure dark skies for this one!). Before the maximum, the best times will be just before morning twilight when the Moon has set.

Perseids continue for several days after the maximum, and observed rates may even be better in the evening hours due to the waning Moon. Look for very fast meteors averaging magnitude 2.3, with about half spawning persistent trains as they "fly thither" across the heavens, just as they did in the Oriental dawn of millennia past.

Inauguration of Middle Tennessee International Dark-sky Association

An IDA MIDDLE TENNESSEE SECTION was inaugurated on Friday morning 11 July 2003 at the Astronomical League Convention meeting in Nashville. Bob Gent, IDA vice president, spoke to the assembled astronomers and lighting engineers and told us that the INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION is not about making enemies. At that meeting Powell Hall of BSAS was elected president of the new section; Glenn Johnson of IESNAW was elected vice president.

As soon as IDA approves our application to form a section here and sends me the names & addresses of IDA members in Middle Tennessee, we shall get together and consider the next steps. We encourage any astronomers not already personally members of IDA to consider joining. If you wish to meet with us, I plan to have membership forms available. Please telephone me at (615) 872-0162 so that I can notify you of the time and place of our meeting.
-Powell Hall

July 17, 2003

Dear Joe and the BSAS:

Thank you very much for the wonderful convention in Nashville. ALCON03 was a huge success. I was especially impressed with the line-up of speakers. I learned a great deal. Please pass on my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mike Benson, Jill Thompson and the BSAS

With Best Regards,

Richard Schmude, Jr.

Editor's note:

Dr Richard Schmude was one of the fine speakers at the ALCon and will also be the speaker for the December meeting of the BSAS. His talk will be on Mars and Jupiter.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR BSAS MEMBERS

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 following address:

BSAS

P. O. Box 150713

Nashville, TN 37215-0713

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 memberships and \$15.00 per year for Seniors (over 60 years of age), and \$10.00 for students (under 22 years of age). Please call President, Joe Boyd, (615) 386-3134 if you have questions. Dues can be sent to:

BSAS

P. O. Box 150713

Nashville, TN 37215-0713

THE ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER

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BSAS Officers:

Joe Boyd, President

John Harrington, Vice President

Evelyn Wright, Secretary

A.G. Kasselberg, Treasurer

Powell Hall, Immediate Past President

Board of Directors

Mike Benson

JanaRuth Ford

Bill Griswold

Kris McCall

Greg Selah

Jill Thompson

Logo Photograph:

Francisco Diego

Regular Meeting of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society Board of Directors on July 3, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Boyd at 7:04 PM on Thursday July 3, 2003 at the Jefferson Square Clubhouse. A quorum was present consisting of board members Joe Boyd, Bill Griswold, Powell Hall, Greg Selah, Jill Thompson and Evelyn Wright. Board Member John Harrington arrived later. Board members Mike Benson, JanaRuth Ford, A.G. Kasselberg, and Kris McCall were absent. Joe Baxter, Lonnie Puterbaugh, and Larry Southerland attended as guests. The minutes of the June board meeting were approved as published in the July issue of "The Eclipse" newsletter. There was no treasurer report due to the absence of the treasurer.

Joe Boyd expressed concern that few BSAS members were attending ALCON 2003 except those that were volunteering. Jill noted that ALCON expenses were leading income by about \$1000 at this point.

Jill Thompson gave a report on ALCON 2003, listing the final training and equipment collection meetings. A few more volunteers are needed Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Greg Selah moved that the ALCON treasurer be authorized to buy a cash drawer which can be turned over to the BSAS after ALCON is over. Bill Griswold seconded the motion which passed.

Powell Hall reported that the Dark-Sky Committee needs volunteers to help out with the International Dark-Sky Association's display at ALCON. IDA is also providing ALCON speakers, and will hold a meeting to start a Middle TN chapter of the IDA at ALCON on Friday morning at 8 AM.

Lonnie Puterbaugh assembled and displayed the John Bradford Memorial 8" Dobsonian Telescope he received from Hardin Optical. He also described his plans for supporting the BSAS banner at ALCON and at upcoming star parties. Lonnie will pick up the ALCON T-shirts on Monday or Tuesday night.

Powell Hall would like to know if the Membership Committee would like to incorporate the Mag 5 Star Atlases he purchased recently into its New Member program.

Powell Hall moved that the treasurer be authorized to reimburse Lonnie Puterbaugh for the expense of the John Bradford Memorial Telescope, and the cost within reason of a suitable carrying case. Greg Selah seconded the motion which passed.

Powell Hall moved that the treasurer be authorized to reimburse Lloyd Watkins for the telescopes and binoculars he has purchased on behalf of TNSP 2003. John Harrington seconded the motion which passed.

Bill Griswold reported that the ALCON 2003 Huntsville bus tour driver needs \$500 for that trip. ALCON treasurer Jill Thompson will see to it.

Powell Hall moved that the BSAS subscribe its support to the Long Hunter Star Party on August 16, 2003. John Harrington seconded the motion which passed.

Joe Boyd noted that the board must select a replacement secretary since Evelyn Wright has resigned effective July 15, 2003. John Harrington moved that the board adopt a resolution thanking Evelyn for all her hard work. Powell Hall seconded the motion which passed. John Harrington then asked that Jill Thompson be placed in the nominations for the office of secretary. Greg Selah moved to close the nominations. John Harrington seconded the motion which passed. Powell Hall moved that the board elect Jill by acclamation to the office of BSAS secretary. John Harrington seconded the motion which passed. Joe Boyd called for the election, and Jill was elected to fill out the unexpired term. Consideration of the seat on the board of directors that Jill will vacate when she takes on the office of secretary and its associated board seat was deferred.

Joe Boyd described the BSAS brochure that Brock and Rachel Schippers designed to be distributed at ALCON, Dyer Observatory, and star parties. Greg Selah moved that Bill Griswold, Joe Boyd and John Harrington be authorized to decide on the printer, price, and quantity of BSAS brochures to be printed.

Joe Boyd noted that it has been requested that the board meeting time be moved from 7 PM to 7:30 PM. Bill Griswold moved that the board adopt the following resolution: "Be it resolved that pursuant to Section 305 of the bylaws of the BSAS, the meeting time for all regular monthly meetings of the BSAS board of directors shall be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM." Powell Hall seconded the motion which passed.

Joe Boyd reported that Workman Publishing Co. had a half-price offer for 10 or more copies of the book A Traveler's Guide to Mars. Greg Selah moved that the club buy 25 copies of the book at half price. John Harrington seconded the motion which passed.

Greg Selah recommended that the club develop a policy on how to discourage mosquitos at star parties that does not affect the lenses of telescopes and other optical equipment. Greg will research the subject and report back. The star party policy (including no use of tobacco products) of the Western Kentucky Astronomical Association is also under consideration.

With no objection, Joe Boyd declared the meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Wright, Secretary

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Membership Meeting of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society on July 17, 2003

President Joe Boyd called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM Thursday, July 17 2003 in the library of Dyer Observatory.

The first item on the agenda was the recognition of visitors and new members. New members Owen Embry and Bill Ward were introduced. It was noted that Mr. Ward had been a member a number of years ago and had come to the meetings again because the BSAS was mentioned in the newspaper. He stated that the late Jack DeWitt was his cousin.

Joe Boyd announced that Evelyn Wright has resigned as secretary effective July 15 and that the Board of Directors has elected Jill Thompson to fill the remainder of her term.

As there were no additions or corrections to the last meeting's minutes, they stood approved as presented.

Warner Park Naturalist Heather Gallagher addressed the membership and requested volunteers for two activities at the Park. The first activity takes place on August 6, from 10-11:30 AM and 1-2:30 PM. The second activity takes place on August 23 from 8-11 PM. Interested parties should contact Heather Gallagher by telephone at 352-6299 or by e-mail (heather.gallagher@nashville.gov).

Treasurer A.G. Kasselberg reported that the present balance is \$3,901.19, with \$365 outstanding for binoculars and \$347 for the John Bradford Memorial Telescope.

Joe Boyd announced that the new book, *A Traveler's Guide to Mars*, by William Hartmann, would be available to members at a cost of \$10, which is approximately the cost to the BSAS. The retail price is \$18.75. Those interested in ordering a copy were instructed to tell Jill Thompson.

Mike Benson and Jill Thompson issued an initial report on the Astronomical League Convention (ALCON). It was declared a success and Mike Benson read a number of positive comments from attendees. Jill Thompson noted that preliminary figures indicate that our present balance is \$9808.88 with outstanding bills totaling approximately \$4205.00. Of the remaining amount (\$5,603.88), \$2500 must be used to repay the loan from the Astronomical League and the remainder should be divided 60/40 between the BSAS and the Astronomical League. This leaves an estimated profit of \$1,862.33 for the club. These are preliminary results only and the final amounts may vary somewhat once all costs and profits are calculated. There were 117 attendees registered, 57 volunteers and 21 speakers. Jill Thompson thanked several people in particular. Joe Boyd later listed the names of all of the volunteers and had them all stand up to be recognized.

Powell Hall reported that the BSAS Dark Sky Committee took part in the creation of a Nashville Chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association on Friday, July 11 during the ALCON. He also announced that volunteers are needed to man a Dark-Sky table on Friday and Saturday, August 1 & 2 at the Adventure Science Center's Energy Weekend.

Lloyd Watkins reported on the plans for the 2003 Tennessee Star Party (TNSP). Flyers have been sent out and mailers have been sent. Lloyd is currently looking for places for ads. This year's TNSP will be September 26-28 at Camp Nakanawa.

Joe Boyd announced that profits from any additional t-shirt sales from ALCON would go to the BSAS and would not be divided up with the Astronomical League. In addition, he passed out extra copies of Sky and Telescope and instructed interested parties to take them to their local barber or hair salon and leave them there for people to read. Later on, the barber or stylist could let us know who read the magazine so that we might contact them to attend meetings.

John Harrington, Vice-President and Program Chair, introduced the speaker for that evening. BSAS member Lonnie Puterbaugh explained the various types of telescope mounts (equatorial, dobsonian, alt/az etc.) and described the pros and cons of each.

At 9:37 PM Joe Boyd adjourned the meeting and encouraged all present to take advantage of the social hour and the refreshments provided by Pam Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Thompson
Secretary

A Few Thoughts on the 2003 Astronomical League Convention

By Jill Thompson

The attendees have gone home and the vendors have packed up their wares. After 18 months of intense planning and preparation, the 2003 Astronomical League Convention has come to a close. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this convention a success. All of the people below were valuable participants and we could not have accomplished what we did without every single one of them. The outpouring of support and the good-natured teamwork exhibited all through-out the process were inspiring and far outweigh any stress or strife that might have been experienced.

In the midst of wrapping up details and giving final reports, I take this opportunity to acknowledge two important figures who have been dedicated to this process from beginning to end. First, I want to thank ALCON Chairman Mike Benson for having the vision to bring the convention to Nashville. He took on an enormous task and had it not been for his courage, and confidence in the collective abilities of the BSAS, we might never have had this remarkable opportunity to bring together such a fantastic group of experts and amateurs.

Second, but as keenly vital, is the participation of BSAS President Joe Boyd. Undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with, Joe Boyd has made it clear that he expects great things from all of our club members. Woodrow Wilson once said that we "are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement." Joe Boyd embodies this spirit and if we heed his clarion call, there is no telling what we may accomplish.

Although I have only been a member of the BSAS for a short while, I have been deeply impressed and inspired not only by the extensive knowledge that many of BSAS members possess, but also their willingness to share this knowledge for the good of others and the promotion of astronomy. I feel privileged to be a part of this group and can't wait to see what the future holds for the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society.

BSAS Volunteer workers at the ALCon 2003

Cary Allyn	Laura Butts	John Green	Perry Leaming	Bob Rice	Mark Stengel
Rocky Alvey	Audrey Cermak	Mike Green	Jim Lyne	Larry Rivers	Pam Thomas
Steven Balay	Tony Campbell	Bill Griswold	Mary Rae Lyne	Brock Schippers	Lloyd Watkins
Kathy Benson	Herbert Corwder	John Gurski	Judith Luna	Rachel Schippers	Gary Wilkerson
Ronnie Boone	Sykes DeWitt	Powell Hall	Ken Mayor	Chuck Schlemm	Wally Wilson
Mary Boyd	Doug Dickerson	John Harrington	Ron McClendon	Donna Schot	Evelyn Wright
Spencer Buckner	Tim Farris	Bill Hayden	Tom Murdic	Greg Selah	Gary Yarnall
Judy Butler	Mike Fitzpatrick	Gary King	Lonnie Puterbaugh	Nancy Selah	Maryam Yoon
Bob Butts	Philip Graham	A.G. Kasselberg	Terry Reeves	Larry Southerland	

Upcoming Events, 2003

8/6	Daytime Astronomy Programs, 10-11:30 am, 1-2:30 pm, Warner Park Nature Center
8/7	BOARD MEETING, 7:30 pm at Jefferson Square Condominiums
8/16	Public Stargaze, 9 - 11 pm at Long Hunter State Park
8/21	BSAS MEETING, 7:30 pm at Dyer Observatory
8/23	Public Stargaze, 8-11 pm at Edwin Warner Park model airplane field
9/4	BOARD MEETING, 7:30 pm at Jefferson Square Condominiums
9/18	BSAS MEETING, 7:30 pm at Dyer Observatory
9/26-28	TNSP 2003 at Camp Nakanawa near Crossville, TN
10/2	BOARD MEETING, 7:30 pm at Jefferson Square Condominiums
10/16	BSAS MEETING, 7:30 pm at Dyer Observatory
11/6	BOARD MEETING, 7:30 pm at Jefferson Square Condominiums
11/8	BSAS sponsored Night Sky program, 10 am at Warner Park Auditorium
11/8	Total Lunar Eclipse Stargaze, 515-915 pm at Adventure Science Center
11/20	BSAS MEETING, 7:30 pm at Dyer Observatory
12/4	BOARD MEETING, 7:30 pm at Jefferson Square Condominiums
12/13	Public Stargaze, 7:30-9:30 pm at Edwin Warner Park model airplane field
12/18	BSAS MEETING, 7:30 pm at Adventure Science Center

August 1 – August 31, 2003

- 8/5 FIRST QUARTER
8/7 BSAS Board at Jefferson Square Condos, 7 p.m.
8/11 FULL MOON, Perseids meteors
8/12 Conj. Moon & Uranus
8/13 Conj. Moon & Mars
8/14 Greatest e. elongation of Mercury; Public night at Dyer Observatory 8 p.m.
8/18 Venus in superior conjunction
8/19 LAST QUARTER
8/21 BSAS MEETING, 7:30 p.m. at Dyer Observatory
8/22 Conj. Jupiter & Sun; Public Night at Dyer Observatory, 8 p.m.
8/23 Conj. Moon & Saturn; Summer Star Party at Warner Park, 8 p.m.
8/27 NEW MOON; Earth & Mars nearest.
8/28 Conj. Moon & Mercury; Mars at opposition; Scout Night at Dyer Observatory, 7 p.m.
8/30 Private Star Party, Natchez Trace site
- 9/3 FIRST QUARTER
9/4 Board Meeting, 7:30 p. m. at Jefferson Square Condominiums
9/7 Conj., Neptune & Moon
9/9 Conj., Uranus & Moon; Moon & Mars, occultation
9/10 FULL MOON; Mercury at inferior conjunction
9/18 LAST QUARTER; BSAS meeting, 7:30 p. m., at Dyer Observatory
9/19 Conj., Moon & Saturn
9/23 Autumnal Equinox; Conj., Moon & Jupiter
9/24 Conj., Moon & Mercury
9/25 NEW MOON
9/26-28 TNSP 2003 AT CAMP NAKANAWAH
9/26 Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown; Mercury at gr. western elong. (i. e. in morning sky)

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