



**STAR
FIELDS**

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMATEUR TELESCOPE
MAKERS OF BOSTON

Vol. 4, No. 7 July 1993

OUR JULY MEETING...

Thursday, July 8, 1993, 8 p.m.
Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian
Center for Astrophysics

OUR ANNUAL SHOW & TELL is the main activity at this month's meeting. Members making presentations are:

- Gary Walker "CCDs, Pushing the Envelope"
- Tal Mentall WHDH-TV's May 8 Urban Update video featuring amateur astronomy and shot at the clubhouse.
- Ed Dougherty "CCD Resolution"
- Ted Poulos "A Poor Man's CCD Imager"

Everyone presenting has been contacted for time requirements and will be kept to their requested time!

Please join us at 5:45 p.m. for a pre-meeting dinner at the Changsho Restaurant, 1712 Mass Avenue, Cambridge.

JUNE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...

Some 52 members and guests attended the June meeting. Among our guests was Dr. Philip Morrison and his wife, Phyllis. Ted Poulos conducted the meeting in the absence of both the president and vice president. Ed Dougherty gave the report for the Treasurer who was also absent. He and John Reed filled us in on the reconstruction efforts at the clubhouse. John Samolyk reported that we have 294 members and reminded everyone that membership renewal time is here again. By unanimous vote of the members present, the nominating committee's slate of executive board candidates was elected. A brief discussion about holding an auction at our July meeting showed that there was little interest in holding the event at this time. Gary Walker announced that Sky Publishing will publish a new magazine on CCD imaging. Anna Hillier provided refreshments. Our speaker, Elizabeth Cavicchi, showed us how the artistic atmosphere of the time may have

influenced Galileo's drawings and how his work influenced later artistic expressions.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER...

Thanks to everyone for electing the Executive Board to another term. I'm sorry that Ted Poulos will not be on this year's board; he's done a fantastic job on Star Fields and other Secretary duties over the past three years (thanks Ted!). His successor, Steve Beckwith, has some big shoes to fill, but I'm certain Steve will do a great job!

The Executive Board of '93-'94 is:

- President: Bernie Volz
- Vice President: Mario Mott
- Secretary: Steve Beckwith
- Membership Sec.: John Samolyk
- Treasurer: Tony Costanzo
- Members-at-Large: Peter Bealo
Anna Hillier

On behalf of the entire membership, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the efforts of a few members. In particular, Ed Dougherty who has done a superb job in organizing the Observing and Clubhouse committee. Without his hard work and dedication, we would not now have the level of activity at the clubhouse on Saturdays (many Saturdays, we have over 30 members in attendance!). And, without his efforts, we would not have been able to rearrange the clubhouse (its looking great!) and get the Maksutov observatory operational.

In addition to Ed, John Reed and Paul Cicchetti are to be thanked for their hard work on the construction at the clubhouse. John, I'm sure Monty has quiet a few things she'd like for you to do at home!

Please take a moment when you next see Ed, John, or Paul to express your personal appreciation for their tireless efforts and dedication. -- Bernie Volz

THINGS YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW...

CCD ASTRONOMY is the name of a new quarterly magazine to be published by Sky Publishing in the Spring of '94. The publication's editor will be Dr. Larry Marshall and the assistant editor, Dennis di Cicco. The subscription price is \$20, but if ordered before November 30, 1993, the price is \$18. To order using your VISA or MasterCard phone 1-800-253-0245, X5.

—Gary Walker

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR ATMOb MEMBERSHIP! The June issue of *STAR FIELDS* included your renewal form. Fill it out and send it along with a check for your dues to our Membership Secretary, John Samolyk. If you are continuing your subscription to Sky & Telescope, include their renewal card. Deadline is July 31, 1993. Also don't forget to complete the ATMOb opinion survey printed on the back of the membership renewal form. Let your executive

board know your of interests and how you feel about our meetings and clubhouse affairs.

A VARIABLE STAR EVENING will be held at the clubhouse from 10 - 11 p.m. on Friday, July 23. Beginners are specially welcome. For additional information, call me at 603-880-6219.--Edward Los

SPACE DAY, a celebration of astronomy and aeronautics sponsored by the Hayden Planetarium, will be held at the BMOS on Saturday, July 24. The ATMob will have a display table set up from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Museum's Atrium and assist in a evening star party from 8:30 - 10 p.m. Some of you have already signed up to participate in this event, others can do so at the July meeting.

THE SECOND ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY class conducted by Ed Dougherty and Dennis Milon is scheduled for Saturday, July 10 at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse. After a very short blackboard session, its out under the stars for some picture taking. Bring the necessary gear: scopes, cameras, T-adaptors, and some 400 ASA Ektachrome film. -- Ed Dougherty

ATMoB T-SHIRT DELIVERY. Those who ordered and paid for T-Shirts, can pick them up at the July meeting or I will hold them until our paths cross and delivery can be made. Those who have ordered, but not paid must pick up their T-Shirts at the July meeting otherwise they will go on sale to others. A few large and extra large shirts are still available. --Ted Poulos

SKY WATCHERS is a feature article on amateur astronomy by Sharon McAuliffe. It is in the August issue of OMNI magazine.

WHAT'S THE BIG BANG by another, more majestic name? According to a June 11 article in the Boston Globe brought to our attention by ATM'er Charlie McDonald, the AAS has announced a contest to come up with a new name for the theory we now call the 'Big Bang.' Astronomer and science writer, Timothy Ferris, dreamed up the idea and will expound on it in the August issue of S&T. He finds the current term "misleading, ugly and trivializing." It was originally used as a putdown in 1950 by Sir Fred Hoyle, the British cosmologist who espoused the Steady State theory. Carl Sagan, who along with Ferris and 20/20 host Hugh Downs will judge the contest. The winner (no prize, just

fame and glory) will be announced at next January's AAS meeting. Calvin and Hobbes, the cartoon characters have already submitted their entry in a recent strip. Calvin renamed the Big Bang the "Horrendous Space Kabloolie." If you have a better idea, submit it to S&T Big Bang Challenge, Box 9111, Belmont, MA 02178.

SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS...

CONJUNCTION '93. July 16-18, Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center. This annual event has become one of the most unique and intimate amateur conventions, featuring great speakers, lively conversation, good camping, and fairly dark skies. This year's keynote speaker is Dennis di Cicco. Contact Rich Sanderson, Box 54, Monson, MA 01057, 413-267-5283.

STELLAFANE. August 13 & 14, Breezy Hill, Springfield, VT. The keynote speaker this year is amateur astronomer and astrophotographer, Donald Parker. Advance registration by mail is \$12 and at the gate \$15. Stellafane, P.O. Box 50, Belmont, MA 02178.

STARCONN '93. Sept. 11, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. This annual one day event is conducted by The Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford and will feature this year Donald Parker, amateur planetary observer, as keynote speaker and will include exhibitors, vendors, swap tables, and a star party. For more info write: Starconn '93, P.O. Box 2271, Hartford, CT 06145.

ASTRO-ASSEMBLY. Oct. 1 & 2. Seagrave Memorial Observatory, 47 Peepload Rd., North Scituate, RI. Sponsored by Skyscrapers, Inc. amateur astronomers, this annual event features, talks, swap tables, lunch grill, unique Astro Bake-Off, a featured evening speaker followed by observing.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

This is the last issue of *STAR FIELDS* I will edit. The task now falls to our new Secretary, Steve Beckwith. I've enjoyed bringing you this newsletter over the past three years and want to thank all of you who have contributed information, cartoons, and articles. I hope even more of you will submit material to Steve--I know I plan to. --Ted Poulos

ATMoB ACTIVITIES...

PARTNERSHIP IN ASTRONOMY projects were presented to the Lynnfield Middle School 5th graders on May 27 by JANET and MIKE MATTEI, MARIO MOTTA, GERALD DYCK, and GEORGE EAST. This was the result of a NASA grant to Janet Mattel of the AAVSO to develop a program to promote astronomy to grade school students. The Lynnfield school is one of the schools in the pilot program. After the projects were described and procedures handed out, the 150 students and their parents were treated to telescope views of the moon, planets, and other objects. A big thanks goes to DICK KOOLISH, TAL MENTALL, ED LOS, KEN FRYE, ERIC REINES, and BERNIE VOLZ for helping out with



the Star Party.

A BRAND NEW MICROWAVE OVEN was donated to the clubhouse by TAL MENTALL. He even included 24 packages of microwaveable popcorn so folks could try out the new oven. Thanks very much Tal, this is a gift that everyone attending the clubhouse will always appreciate.

AN ATMoB PICNIC. Please join us on Saturday, September 18 for the renewal of our annual ATMoB picnic at the clubhouse. Bring grills, food, and drinks and join other members for an afternoon and evening of fun. More details will be forth coming in the September STAR FIELDS, but mark your calendar now.

-- Bernie Volz

SOME SENIOR CITIZENS of The Georgian home in Jamaica Plain learned a little about astronomy from TAL MENTALL on the first day of summer. Tal talked to them and answered their questions for about an hour. He handed out literature, demonstrated a C5 SGT, and showed them the video of his appearance on Urban Update.

THE JUNE CLUBHOUSE WORKDAY went pretty well. BILL MacDONALD, MARK McKEEVER, BERNIE VOLZ, and GREG CHASE worked on various tasks in the afternoon, including painting and scraping.

JOIN IN ON THE JULY 10th clubhouse workday starting at 1 p.m. In addition some scraping and painting left to be done, there are plenty of other odds and ends to do.

--Bernie Volz

WHAT ONCE WAS...

by Ishan Anand

Once a week, every Saturday to be exact,
The ATMs run the clubhouse with tremendous skillful
tact.

It's not an easy job that's for sure,
For the conditions are primitive and poor.
The clubhouse is always a mess,
To whom this and that belongs to, no one will
confess.

The abundance of Sky & Tel's in the attic,
Makes everyone erratic.

The TV set never works,
Inside it, an anti_Star Trek monster lurks!
Pizza is our staple food.

Tense is the mood;
Against us the clouds conspire,
Covering every celestial object of our desire,

The weather man is never right,
"Turn off that \$@%# white light!"

It's terribly cold outside,
But it's colder yet inside.

The ATM clubhouse is not a shack,
But a few basic amenities it does lack:

The bathroom could be warmer,
The tap water could be purer,
The bookshelves more organized,
The task list prioritized.

They say that's all going to be changed,
The whole clubhouse will be rearranged.
The plan's been laid out now, it's all been done,
Conditions will be better for every one!
The move is on, "Fix the clubhouse make it better,
We're following the plan to the letter!"
When this better day arrives,
We'll all lead better lives.
Then all these problems over what everyone does,
Will be remembered as "What Once Was".

NEW MEMBERS...

We extend a cordial welcome to the following two new members:

Paul Arms	Burlington, MA
Jim Suslowicz	Lowell, MA

ATMoB MEMBER PROFILE...

TED POULOS, outgoing ATMoB Secretary, hails from the Chicago area where as a teenager he learned astronomy by reading books from the local library, making a monthly 30-mile train trip to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago to see the latest sky show, and sending 25 cents each month to S&T to obtain the magazine's current issue. Ted developed interests in other sciences too, particularly chemistry and had quite a laboratory in his basement. It's a wonder he is here today since, like most boys, he loved to experiment with rocket fuels. A chemist by training, his past experience has been as a project manager for a company that made computerized optical emission spectrographs used for chemical analysis. He now does technical writing as a consultant from his home in Brookline. In 1982, Ted built a backyard an 8 x 8 ft. observatory with a 6 ft. wood ribbed and fiberglass dome to house a C8. His favorite objects to observe are globular clusters. Loving hi-tech things, he longs for a completely computerized scope equipped with a CCD imaging system. Ted's hobbies, in addition to astronomy, are: electronics, computers, bicycle riding, and reading books on science. He has been an ATMoB member since 1981 and, as secretary for the past three years, has enlarged the club's 'bulletin' into the STAR FIELDS newsletter. To satisfy an innate passion to share science with others, he volunteers at the Hayden Planetarium and is an Exhibit Interpreter at the Museum of Science.

ASTRO-TRIVIA...

GALILEO'S TELESCOPE had an aperture of 16 mm and a focal length of 960 mm for a f/ratio of 60. It used a diverging lens for an eyepiece that produced a non-inverted image and a 20X magnification. The field of view was about one degree, but only about one-third of the field could be seen at one time--9 arcminutes.

MARKETPLACE...

FOR SALE 10", f/10 Galaxy mirror with enhanced coating and Novak cell, 2-1/4" cervit diagonal, curved spider diagonal holder, 2" short Novak R&P focuser. Lot price \$500. Steve Mock, 617-625-5870.

FOR SALE 4.5", f/4.5 Chicago Optical Newtonian reflector, with motorized equatorial mount, Telrad, and 25 mm eyepiece. \$300. Ted Poulos, 617-566-5127.

COMING EVENTS...

- July 10 ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY CLASS, 7 p.m., ATMoB clubhouse.
- July 10 CLUBHOUSE WORKDAY, 1 p.m.
- July 15 CIA MONTHLY OBSERVATORY NIGHTS, 8 p.m., Phillips Auditorium, CIA, Cambridge, MA. For more info call 617-495-7461.
- July 23 VARIABLE STAR EVENING, 10 p.m., clubhouse.
- July 24 SPACE DAY and STAR PARTY, BMOS (see page 2)
- Thru '93 ORION RENDEZVOUS: A STAR TREK

EXECUTIVE BOARD 1993-94...

- PRESIDENT: Bernard Volz, 508-881-3614
- VICE PRESIDENT: Mario Motta, 617-334-3648
- SECRETARY: Stephen Beckwith, 508-851-9678
- MEMBERSHIP SEC: John Samolyk, 617-391-9290
- TREASURER: Anthony Costanzo, 508-521-5382
- MEMBERS AT LARGE: Peter Bealo, 603-382-7039
Anna Hillier, 617-861-8338
- PAST PRESIDENTS: 1990-92 Marlon Hochuli
1989-90 David Aucoin
1987-89 Gary Walker

COMMITTEES...

- OBSERVING: Edward Dougherty, 508-458-8857
- CLUBHOUSE: -- Open --

FIRST CLASS

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY, Hayden Planetarium, For more info call 617-723-2500.

SEPTEMBER STAR FIELDS DEADLINE...

August 25th is the deadline for items to be included in the September issue of *STAR FIELDS*. Mail or phone your contribution to Steve Beckwith, 139 Patrick Rd., Tewksbury, MA 01876.

HOW TO FIND US...

MEETINGS: Held the second Thursday of each month (September to July) at 8 p.m. in Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden St., Cambridge, MA. Parking available on the grounds.

CLUBHOUSE: The Tom Britton clubhouse is open every Saturday from mid-afternoon to late evening. It is the white farmhouse on the grounds of MIT's Haystack Observatory in Westford, MA. Take Rt. 3 north from Rt. 128 or 495 to exit 33 and proceed west on Rt. 40 for 5 miles. Turn right at the MIT Lincoln Lab, Haystack Observatory sign at the Groton town line. Proceed to the farmhouse on the left side of the road. Since clubhouse attendance varies with the weather and other activities, it is wise to call ahead: 508-692-8708.

AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKERS OF BOSTON
c/o John Samolyk
65 Court Street
Medford, MA 02155