

HARFORD COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

AstroViews



Volume 31 Issue 2

February 2005

"Silently one by one, in the infinite
meadows of Heaven
blossomed the lovely stars,
the forget-me-nots of the angels."

Evangeline 1847

Pt. I, sec. 3

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

General Meeting: Saturday, February 26, 2005 7:30pm (19:30)
Public Star Party (Open House), February 19, 2005 at dusk

Club Calendar for 2005

<u>Meeting night</u>	<u>Open House/Public Star party</u>
January 22, 2005	January 15, 2005
February 26, 2005	February 19, 2005
March 26, 2005	March 19, 2005
April 23, 2005	April 16, 2005
May 21, 2005	May 14, 2005
June 18, 2005	June 11, 2005
July 23, 2005	July 16, 2005
August 20, 2005	August 13, 2005
September 17, 2005	September 10, 2005
October 15, 2005	October 8, 2005
November 19, 2005	November 12, 2005
December 17, 2005	December 10, 2005

Meeting time is 19:30 (7:30pm) unless noted otherwise. Dates and times are taken from the HCAS website.

<http://www.harfordastro.org>

Check the HCAS website for other club events.

Regular Agenda:

1. January meeting was canceled due to heavy snow.

Old Business:

Observing by members:

Cathy T: Binoculars, backyard: 11/14/05 :I can find the comet easily, the sky is clear for a change. The comet is moving very fast when you consider that we are lucky to have a clear sky maybe one night a week lately.

11/15/05: The planets looked nice this morning. I think I could see three of Saturn's moons. Venus and Mercury are very low in the sky at daybreak. Mercury is below Venus now. I'm not sure where the clouds just came from. I thought it was supposed to be clear.

Bill G: Binoculars, backyard: Four comet observations to date, 12/15/04, 12/17/04 01/01/05 and 4/09/05. Large fuzzbball to large fuzzbball with tail. See location charts for each date in the e-mail Astro Views.

Larry Armstrong: Just a quick report on the open house we held on January 15, 2005. First: It was cold!! Second: We had a great member turnout to support the event, all of whom were cold. Present were Mark Kregal, George Jones, Joe Manning, Steve Channel and Fran and Larry Armstrong. Unfortunately there was only one member of the public who showed and stayed about an hour even though it was cold. We only set up Steve and Fran's scopes since we didn't anticipate a great public turn out. We had high haze which obscured a lot but we were able to show him Saturn, the Orion Nebula and the comet Machholtz. He was very enthused and may want to become a member of HCAS. We discussed telescopes and viewing, then he left because it was cold. The members stayed until about 8:00 and when no one else came we decided to pack it in. Did I mention that it was cold? Oh well, if we can get even one person per event enthused enough to look into astronomy as an interest, they are worth everything.

New Business:

1. Classes

SPRING 2005 Observation Schedule

Dr. George Thompson

January

Jan 31 (moonless) - Hold orientation session

February

Feb 7 (moonless)

Feb 14 (Moon 2 days before first Quarter)

Feb 21 (Full Moon - No session)

Feb 28 (moonless - moonrise ~10:30 pm)

March

Mar 7 (moonless)

Mar 14 (Moon 2 days before First Quarter)

Mar 21 (NO SESSION - College Closed for Spring Break)

Mar 28 (moon 3 days past Full rises 9:40pm - no session)

April

Apr 4 (moonless) - Daylight Savings Time

Apr 11 (moonless)

Apr 16 (4am session Saturday morning)

Apr 17 (4am session Sunday morning - held only if

session on Apr 16 is clouded out)

Apr 18 (1st Quarter moon - hold only if preceding 1st

Quarter sessions clouded out)

Apr 25 (Full moon - no session)

May

May 2 (moonless)

END SEMESTER

2. Outreach

I will be giving a slide show and an outdoor presentation on Feb. 2nd to a group of cub scouts in Joppatown. There will be less than 12 people so I'll handle it myself. No need for extra scopes for this small group.

Tom

Astronomical League Club Achievements by HCAS Members

Coordinator: Bill Geertsen izar@juno.com)

*****This list needs to be updated*****

!!!Send your info to the coordinator!!!

Telescope Messier Club		
Steve Krall	110(5/99)	Doris Reese 12
Woody Lower	110(5/90)	Ernie Davis 60
Ernie Webb	110(6/91)	Wayne French 2
Larry Hubble	110(5/91)	Lucy Albert 46
Bill Geertsen	110(6/98)	Leo Hepner 68
Richard Hagenston	110(2/90)	Warren Hoover 77
Phil Schmitz	#1650 110(3/99)	
Binocular Messier Club		
Stu Chapman	19	Bruce Wrinkle 79
Cathy Tingler	57	Phil Schmitz #442(1/01)
Frank Varisco	3	
Double Star Club		
Bill Geertsen	#79(4/99)	Andrew Williams 100(6/2000)
Phil Schmitz	#74(3/99)	
Urban Club		
Bill Geertsen	100(4/99)	Phil Schmitz #21(2/01)
Herschel-400 Club		
Bill Geertsen	#267(1/03)	Phil Schmitz #236(10/01)
Deep Sky Bino Club		
Phil Schmitz	#120(3/01)	
Lunar Club		
Phil Schmitz	#258(1/01)	
Caldwell Club		
Phil Schmitz	#8(12/01)	

Phil Schmitz is currently working toward completion of four other certificates and is about to begin an additional four more AL observing programs!!

<<<If you have looked at the Orion Nebula you have a start on the Messier list. Send in your observations!!>>>

March Messier Objects

Between RA 7h 00m and 8h 59mm

M50 RA 07-03 Dec -08-23 Size 15' Mag 5.9 Open Cluster
NGC 2323 SA2K #12

80+/- stars, detached, weak concentration. OC in Monoceros. About 3,000 LY distant. Age about 78 MY.

M47 RA 07-37 Dec -14-29 Size 30' Mag 4.4 Open Cluster
NGC 2422 SA2K #12, 19

30+/- stars, detached, bright, large OC in Puppis. About 1,800 LY distant. Age about 78 MY.

M46 RA 07-42 Dec -14-49 Size 27' Mag 6.1 Open Cluster
NGC 2437 SA2K #12, 19

Very large, not as bright as M47, cluster in Puppis. Looks like a featureless cloud through binoculars. More than 50 stars. This cluster is unique in that it contains a planetary nebula, NGC 2438. About 45" in diameter, it is near the fringe of the cluster. A Deep Sky or UHC filter may make the PN easier to find. About 3,200 LY distant. Age about 300 MY.

M93 RA 07-45 Dec -23-53 Size 21' Mag 6.2 Open Cluster
NGC 2447 SA2K #19

Nice, almost circular cluster in Puppis, about 40 stars. Age about 98 MY.

M48 RA 08-14 Dec -05-48 Size 50' Mag 5.8 Open Cluster
NGC 2548 SA2K #12

80+/- stars, large, detached, concentrated cluster in Hydra. Age about 300 MY.

M44 RA 08-40 Dec +20-00 Size 1.7d Mag 3.1 Open Cluster
NGC 2632 SA2K #6, 12

The famous "Bee Hive Cluster" in Cancer, also known as the "Praesepe". A beautiful, naked eye cluster. More than 50 bright stars in a telescope with low magnification or binoculars. Age about 600 MY.

M67 RA 08-51 Dec +11-48 Size 30' Mag 6.9 Open Cluster
NGC 2682 SA2K #12

Large and obvious in binoculars. A telescope will show more than 75 stars. In Cancer. Age about 3.2 BY.

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 Steve Channel at srcac2@comcast.net and adding your e-mail address to his mailing list.

This issue contains a detailed listing of objects in Orion (which are visible in scopes of 10" or smaller aperture. Many are listed in the AL observing programs. Using the list will get you started on the AL observing-certificate programs.) and comet Macholz observing reports by HCAS members.

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):izar@juno.com, 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

**HARFORD COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 906
Bel Air, MD 21014**

**FIRST CLASS
Address Correction Requested**