

Delaware Astronomical Society

FOCUS -- May, 2005

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NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, May 17, 2005
The Best of Hubble – Dr. John Wood, NASA
Annual Dinner Meeting and Awards Presentations
Lamberti's Cucina, Price's Corner, Delaware

Vol. 50 No. 5

“Constellation Of The Month” and Tom

May, 2005

FROM THE EDITOR – Lee Kaser

If you pay close attention to the Focus and when you receive it, I'm sure you have will noticed that this is arriving early. That's because the May meeting is very important to the DAS and we want to urge you, if you haven't already, to sign up and bring the family to our annual dinner meeting. Billie Westergard talks about the meeting below, and I won't repeat all the same information, but I urge you to fill out the form and come to join us on the 17th. I know you'll enjoy the program and dinner and I look forward to seeing you there. Bring the family and friends for a special treat.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Billie Westergard

The April meeting was very well attended with many students from Robert Karcha's class at Dickinson High School in attendance for the excellent talk by Sara Baird. Sara was cool, calm, and very interested in the subject of her talk 'The Beauty Of Auroras'. Sara will be helping Robert Karcha, one of her former teachers at Dickinson, form an Astronomy Club at Dickinson. One of my DAS goals was to improve the level of interest and involvement of young people in astronomy and the DAS. Thank you Robert and Sara for your help. A goal in progress.

Greg Lee gave another fine talk on our

Sidowski gave a great talk entitled 'Traveling With Your Telescope'. Thank you Tom and Greg.

Our May Dinner Meeting will feature the presentation of the prestigious Luther Porter Award and the Amateur Astronomer Of The Year Award. People from all over the world have been unsuccessful in their attempts to identify the recipients of both awards. However, you, and your guests, can be present for the awards, so what are you waiting for, call Bob Mentzer now to reserve a seat at the dinner. You will also be delighted with our 'Keynote Speaker' Dr. H. John Wood from Goddard Space Flight Center. The title of his talk will be 'The Best From Hubble'. John Wood is the lead optical engineer for the Hubble Space Telescope and a renowned astronomer. This is our big event of the year and all DAS members and guests are encouraged to attend. I had dinner at Lamberti's Cucina a few days ago and the food was excellent. I have done all I can do to make our Annual Dinner Meeting a great success. It can only be successful if YOU attend. Please give me your support. You can call Bob Mentzer at 302-764-1926 to reserve seating at the dinner if you have not already done so. Payment can be made at the meeting, but the DAS will be charged for any no shows, so please be there. Dr. H. John Wood, Optics Lead Engineer on the Hubble Space Telescope from Goddard, (the engineer who fixed the telescope) will be the Keynote Speaker at our Annual DAS

Dinner Meeting. The title of his talk will be The Best From Hubble. Dr. Wood attended Swarthmore College and received his PhD from Indiana. He is an Astronomer and was Assistant Director of Cerro Tololo Observatory in Chile. The Dinner Meeting will be Tuesday, May 17th this year at Lamberti's Cucina, which is located at 1300 Centerville Rd. (adjacent to the Acme Supermarket behind the Prices Corner Shopping Center). Our Banquet Room will be available from 6 to 10:30 P.M. Dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. and the presentation by Dr. Wood will begin about 8:30 P.M. We will announce the winner of the Luther Porter Award and the Astronomer of the Year Award after dinner. I think all of you will like Lamberti's menu, pricing, and facilities very much. Please select from the menu and fill out the Dinner Reservation Form below and return it to Bob Mentzer. This will be a very good dinner meeting and I look forward to a full house. We need your support and attendance!!! Space is limited to 75 people!!!

Due to her U of D commitments Carolyn Stankiewicz has decided to step down as a DAS Board Member At Large at the end of June. I appreciate Carolyn's help and involvement in DAS matters during her tenure. Thank you Carolyn.

I am looking for a DAS member to assume a position as DAS Board Member At Large for a period of two years. If you have an interest in serving as a DAS Board Member please call me at 302-366-0938. This position requires the Board Member At Large to attend Board meetings and to participate in Board decisions and activities voluntarily.

Please use the form following to sign up for the May dinner. We need your support!

MAY DINNER MEETING RESERVATION FORM AND MENU

All Entrees (1, 2, 3, and 4)

INCLUDES: Homemade Italian Bread, Red & White Focaccia, Garden Salad, Soda, Iced Tea, Coffee, and

Hot Tea. Your choice of (3) Appetizers, served Family Style for every (6) Guests in your Party Plus your choice of an Assorted Dessert Tray or a Sheet Cake.

Please Select One of The Following Entrees For Each Person In Your Party:

Ravioli Siciliano – Sliced eggplant sautéed in a garlic white wine sauce with a touch of marinara and chopped tomatoes.

Chicken Marsala – Sauteed in imported marsala wine and topped with mushrooms and sun-dried tomatoes.

Salmon Scampi – Sauteed in garlic and olive oil in a white wine blush sauce.

Elaborate Chefs Salad.

Your Name: _____

Number Of People In Your Party: _____

Entrée Selections: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Cost: Entrée # 1, 2, 3 \$20.50 Entrée # 4 \$11.50

Make check payable to DAS and mail to Bob Mentzer at 605 River Rd., Wilmington, DE 19809-2734 or see Bob at the meeting. All prices include an 18% gratuity plus \$1.00 for the cost of two guest dinners.

Friday, May 13th, 7:30 to 9:00 PM

UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 21, 2005

Rain date Saturday, May 14th

Saturday, June 19th, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

Space Probe Spectrographs – Jerry Truitt;
Constellation – Scorpius – Greg Lee;
Mini talk-The Messier Catalog - Robert Karcha.

No Rain Date

Saturday, July 16th, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

June 25, 2005

-- Picnic at MCAO with a cookout and other activities.

Rain date Sunday, July 17th

Friday, August 12th, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Rain date Saturday, August 13th

DAS STAR PARTIES -- Tom Sidowski

The DAS will hold four observing sessions at the Woodside Hill Creamery in Hockessin this summer. The creamery is located at the intersections of North Star Road and Little Baltimore Road. It's a great place to connect with the public and show a few celestial sights to some folks who never get a chance to view through a telescope. They have good ice cream, too. We'll hold two evening sessions, (star, moon and planet viewing), and two afternoon sessions (solar observing). The evening sessions will end at 9:00 PM when the creamery closes. The scheduled dates, and rain dates, follow. Please note the first is also the May DAS Star Party:

ASTRONOMY DAY – James Morgan

On Saturday, April 16, a group of us, under the capable leadership of Costas Krikelis, put on an Astronomy Day Program for the Brandywine YMCA at Hanby Park. There were about 60 participants and we set up 12 telescopes as well as gave several presentations to the attendees. The night was reasonably clear and we had excellent views of the first-quarter moon, as well as many other bodies, some binocular objects. Billie Westergard participated and set up a telescope. Costas is to be congratulated for a very successful effort. The site, near Arden, is a fairly good observing site and we may consider using it for some other shows.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dan Ayars – Wilmington, DE
Steffen Torres – Middletown, DE
Eric Pitts – Wilmington, DE
David Swartout – Bear, DE

AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKERS SPECIAL

INTEREST GROUP – Bill Hanagan

The ATM SIG generally meets on weekends to discuss and work on many aspects of telescope making. If you are interested in joining this group, please e-mail your name, address, and phone number to me at: HanaganW@attglobal.net using your preferred e-mail account to send the requested information.

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – Bill Hanagan

This group meets monthly at MCAO and other times on 1-2 day notice for photo shoots when weather is favorable. If you are interested in and skilled in this topic, or want to be, and especially if you're thinking of spending money for equipment, you are invited to join and gain and share knowledge and experience. Please send your information to Bill as above (ATM SIG) to be informed of meeting times and dates.

MCAO PUBLIC NIGHTS

The Mt. Cuba Observatory Public Nights continue with interesting programs. You can pick up a schedule when you next come to a meeting - or get the latest updated version off the website at:

www.physics.udel.edu/mcao/public_nights.htm.

USE OUR SAWIN OBSERVATORY!

-- Emil Volcheck

The weather is going to get more inviting and comfortable before long, and we invite you to use the observing capabilities we offer. If you, as a DAS member, are interested in becoming a user of the Sawin Observatory (recently spruced up) and/or the Big Red DOB, please contact Tom Sidowski (239-1844) to arrange for some hands-on training in using the facility.

DAS E-MAIL ON YAHOO --Don Shedrick

This is a restricted e-mail service for use by DAS members for DAS purposes. To use this site, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>; search for delawareastronomicalsociety; and click on the link that comes up. To join, you must have a Yahoo ID and password; if you don't, you can register at this time by following Yahoo's instructions. You will then be allowed to "Join the group" upon clicking in that box. You must then register for the DAS group and add your profile by clicking on "add new profile" and completing the form. When adding or editing your profile, you will need to enter your actual name in the "Real Name" box so you can be identified as a DAS member so Don Shedrick can approve your application to join the DAS group, and everyone will know to whom they are communicating. Finally, specify your desired e-mail address for delivery of messages. Note you may choose to not have your name and email address displayed to anyone other than DAS members who are members of the Yahoo DAS email group. For more detailed instructions, go to the DAS web site under [DAS Resource Links](#).

LOANER TELESCOPES -- Emil Volcheck

If you want to try your hand with a scope and don't have one available, here is a possible solution: You can borrow one of the club's: 1) a Celestron 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain (SCT) or 2) an Orion 6" Dobsonian reflector. The loan is for at least a month (depends on how long the waiting list is). To get on that list, contact me at 610-388-1581.

LUTHER PORTER AWARD -- Warren Jacobs

Billie Westergard has asked me to Chair the committee, and I need others to help select the awardee and help plan the program. If you would like to become more involved with DAS, this is a good opportunity to help us. Please call me at 610-255-5247.

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION NOTICES: If the mailing label on the envelope containing your *FOCUS* is marked with Red Marker, your membership is expiring or has expired.

To continue to receive the *Focus, Sky and Telescope*, and *Reflector*, send the renewal form on the back of this page with your check to:

DAS, c/o Robert Mentzer

605 River Road

Wilmington, DE 19809

Feel free to call any of us with your suggestions and questions.

302-475-2484

ATM and AP SIGs: Bill Hanagan -----

302-239-0949

Friday Night Star Parties: Tom Sidowski 302-239-1844

Light Pollution Strategist; Greg Weaver 302-239-1338

Library Chair: Glenn Bentley ----- 610-869-0706

Ad Hoc Star Parties: Sheila Vincent - --- 302-322-4739

Porter Award Chrman: Warren Jacobs- 610-255-5247

MCAO Web Page: www.physics.udel.edu/MCAO

DAS Web Page: <http://delastro.org/>

Focus Editor: Lee Kaser, Phone 302-995-6251

E-mail: kaserlo@msn.com

DAS CONTACTS

Membership: Any of the following:

President: Billie Westergard -----

302-622-7253

Home ---

302-366-0938

Vice President: John Case -----

302-836-4888

Secretary: Lynn King -----

302-764-8816

Treasurer: Bob Mentzer-----

302-764-1926

Chairman, Observatory Committee and Manager,
Mt. Cuba Observatory: Emil Volcheck--

610-388-1581

Messier Club: Lynn King -----

302-764-8816

Observing: Greg Lee -----

302-762-5358

Archivist: Rene Van Caneghem -----

410-392-3718

By-Laws: Henry Bouchelle -----

302-655-3230

Board Members at-large:

Carolyn Stankiewicz -----

Closing: Some good news about Hubble: The latest is the new NASA Administrator is planning another repair mission to the Hubble Telescope. It looks like we'll have some more opportunities for "The Best of Hubble." I hope to see you at the dinner meeting with Dr. Wood, the man who helped repair the mirror and make it what it is today.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL FORM

If you have questions, call any of the member representatives listed above. Otherwise, just check the appropriate boxes and complete this form. Cut it off (after reading the other side, hopefully) and send it with your check to Bob Mentzer at his address above. The magazine prices are group rates to DAS members. Thanks, and welcome to the DAS if you're just joining us for the first time.

New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Senior/Family
Membership	\$20.00
Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Junior
membership (16/under)	\$10.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sky and
Telescope Magazine	\$33.00
NAME _____	Astronomy Magazine
	\$29.00

STREET ADDRESS _____ Total Submitted ----- \$ _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional, and for DAS use only—we can notify you of special events:

Do you have a telescope? _____ If yes, please describe briefly. _____

Any Comments or Requests? _____