



FOCUS

DELAWARE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005 - STRUCTURE FORMATION IN THE EARLY UNIVERSE AND THE HUBBLE ULTRA DEEP FIELD – BILLIE WESTERGARD

**What's Up – Cassiopeia -- Greg Lee; Mini talk – Star Hopping -- David Swartout
Mt. Cuba Astronomical Observatory at 8:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEETING AT 7:15 P.M., ALL MEMBERS INVITED

Volume 50, No. 10
NOVEMBER, 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER

The November meeting I will give a presentation as shown above. Before my talk, Greg Lee will present What's Up in Cassiopeia, and David Swartout will present our Mini Talk about Star Hopping.

A big "Thank You" to Dr. Harry Shipman, Greg Lee, and Dan Chester for last month's program. I was tempted to write a few words about October's very fine talks, but in keeping with my philosophy; if you missed it, you missed it. Let's have another full house in November.

All DAS members and others who wish to present a Main Talk or a Mini Talk at a future DAS meeting, which requires the use of POWER POINT, are requested to contact Max Peterson a few days prior to the meeting. You may contact Max at 302-369-6982. This is to resolve any questions about how to set up power point. Please arrive early enough to insure proper function of the equipment prior to 8:00 PM. Slides and overheads should also be checked out and ready to go prior to the meeting start time.

The DAS needs your help. Please consider serving in one of the following positions that will be open after the June 2006 meeting: DAS President and DAS Focus Editor.

The format for meetings this year will be as follows:

Board of Directors Meeting 7:15 P.M.
Program Meeting 8:00 P.M.
Fun and comradery after the meeting.

I would remind everyone that talking to others when someone is trying to give a talk, or has the floor, is very rude and will not be tolerated by this President. Thanks to all of you for your support.

If you would like a tour of MCAO after the meeting, just ask me.

FROM THE EDITOR – Lee Kaser

I hope most of you were outside for the lovely weather we've had in early November. Mars was a bright orange disk in a clear sky, and I could easily count the Seven Sisters from my front yard, which isn't always true in these parts, with the light pollution. It's been nice, but winter may arrive at any time, I'm afraid.

It's nice to see the young members of DAS taking active parts in our programs. Sarah Baird gave a presentation to our members last spring on auroras, which was enjoyed by many, and will be giving a mini-talk next spring. She has taken the position as our youth programs coordinator and has many good ideas. Max Peterson gave a very interesting report to the meeting last month about his summer stay at McDonald Observatory, and he's now agreed to help PowerPoint-challenged presenters with their programs. These two talented young people will make their marks over the next

years in whatever fields they apply their talents, I'm sure. Bob Karcha, our Education Chair, is working to involve more students, also, which is obviously important for our organization as it completes its first 50 years.

While we're talking about meetings, we've had full houses of interested people most months, which is wonderful. We want to keep everyone interested, but there have been problems keeping things on schedule and the meetings have sometimes run pretty late, making the "comradery" Billie Westergard desires hard to achieve because people rush out the door. Part of the problem has been lack of compatibility among computers, projectors, and their users, and Max can help with that. Presenters need to assure that the equipment they need is set up before they get up to talk, and if they have any questions about the equipment and how to use it, a call to Max and/or Emil Volcheck might help a lot when the time comes for the talk. Their phone numbers are in this brochure. Let's try to keep the meetings on schedule.

Finally, another pitch for participation in the Focus. If you have astrophotos, interesting observing reports, ads for astronomical equipment, or other relevant items you might show our members, please send them to me. With the help of Dan Chester, our webmaster, the current issue is posted on the DAS web site, so color photos come out in color the way they should, and I can even use items I can't put in the mailed copies due to lack of space. Help me make this newsletter interesting. Thanks.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 13, 2005 - Christmas Party-Caroline Herschel -- Lynn King (30 minute talk); What's Up – Taurus - Greg Lee; Mini talk – Off Axes Telescope -- David Groski (30 minute talk).

January 17, 2006 - The Messier Objects - Prelude To A Marathon -- Don Surles; What's Up – Auriga - Greg Lee; Mini talk – "Kirkwood-Highway & Asteroid Belt"-- Bob Mentzer.

February 21, 2006 - Astronomy Forum - by Bob Karcha's Dickinson High Astronomy

Club; What's Up – Canis Major - Greg Lee; Mini talk – Extrasolar Planets -- Glenn Bentley.

March 21, 2006; Green Bank Radio Astronomy -- Randall Detra; What's Up – Ursa Major - Greg Lee; Mini talk – Coming Attractions & Astronomical Events for 2006 -- Sara Baird.

March 25, 2006 - The Messier Marathon

April 18, 2006 - Galileo's Satellites -- Hank Bouchelle at Calvin R. McCullough Planetarium; What's Up– Bootes - Greg Lee; Mini talk – The Twin Quasar -- Billie Westergard.

May 16, 2005 - Dinner Meeting with Keynote Speaker Senior Editor Bob Naeye, *Sky & Telescope* Magazine; The Luther Porter Award; The Amateur Astronomer Of The Year Award; Location TBD.

June 20, 2006; The No Spin Space Shuttle -- Mike Borgia; What's Up – Draco - Greg Lee; Mini talk - Degenerate Matter.

June 24, 2006 - Picnic at MCAO with a cookout and other activities.

New Member Tour of MCAO After Each Meeting.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER
LUKE SHOTZBERGER, YORKLYN, DE

MARS VIEWING AT THE SAWIN
--Tom Sidowski

The Planet Mars is at opposition on November 7, 2005. Surface features are clearly visible as the weeks leading up to and after this date is the best time to view the planet for the next two years. To help give everyone an opportunity to observe Mars, for the next few weeks, on every clear Friday night, the DAS will hold an open house at the Sawin Observatory. Early in the month, Mars will not clear the trees until about 9 P.M. but by month's end, it should be visible from the Sawin by 8:00-8:30 P.M. Here's your chance to see the planet Mars thru the club's 12.5" telescope, so plan to come out to one of the Friday night Mars viewing sessions.

STAR PARTIES AT MT. CUBA

--Tom Sidowski

As noted above, Mars was at opposition on November 7th, and it along with nebula, clusters and galaxies will be prime targets at DAS star parties at MCAO this fall. These star parties are primarily for DAS members, family and friends, but in reality we don't turn anybody away. If you want to learn a little more about the heavens, check out other telescopes, get help with that new telescope you recently acquired, or just enjoy the celestial sights, then come on out to a DAS star party at Mt. Cuba. The schedule for upcoming Star Parties follows: (all events are weather-permitting, of course).

December 3rd	Saturday	7:30PM
January 6 th	Friday	7:30PM

DAS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

--Emil Volcheck

In the fall of 2006, the DAS will mark its 50th year of operation. It seems appropriate to have a suitably grand celebration for our being able to hang in there for that long, without being reduced to a small group of old men meeting for lunch, or booze, at a local watering hole occasionally!

To pull together such a celebration, will require participation from some of you. So, this message is an appeal for folks to volunteer to partake in the committee. The initial work will be brainstorming for ideas on what kinds of activities we should try to include in the celebration - then bring a proposed program back to the board and members for approval.

I expect that there would then be follow up by folks (including some members beyond the original group) who would take on the various elements of the proposal and make them happen.

I have agreed to get the process started and will need your help! So, please give me a call (610-793-5156) or email me (emilv@ccil.org) to let me know that you are interested and willing to be part of the first phase of the celebration.

LIBRARY NEWS

--Glenn Bentley

Fall is upon us and Orion is being sighted in the east earlier and earlier. I hope

everybody had a good summer, albeit too short. This month's addition to the DAS Library is a CD entitled Our Solar System and Beyond. This disc does not contain the latest, greatest information on the topic and the material presented is quite dated. It does, however, have lots of classic images of space flight and exploration from NASA's archives of both stills and film clips. I imagine it could best be used as a source of images for someone making a Power Point presentation or for keeping a young astronomer occupied for several hours. Members are invited to stop by the DAS Library after the next meeting to browse our volumes.

ASTRONOMY SOFTWARE – Emil Volcheck
MCAO still has a few copies of the retail versions of Imaginova's "Night Sky Explorer" - an introductory desktop planetarium program - and "Galaxy Explorer" - also an introductory program that lets you explore some 28,000 galaxies from the Tully Galaxy database. Either program can be had for \$8 (or \$9 if you want a copy mailed to you). Just give me a buzz (610-793-5156) or email me (emil@mountcuba.org).

LOANER TELESCOPES -- Emil Volcheck
Fall's mild weather months will be a good time to get out and try your hand with a scope. So, if you are new to the club and/or do not have a scope, you can get the loan of either:

- 1) a Celestron 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain
- 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, promptly, contact Emil Volcheck, 610-793-5156.

MCAO PUBLIC NIGHTS

-- Emil Volcheck

The Mt. Cuba Observatory Public Nights will continue right thru winter! You can pick up a schedule when you next come to a meeting - or get the latest updated version off the website at:

<http://mountcuba.org>.

AWARDS

--Dave Swartout

The DAS is currently soliciting its membership for nominations for both the Amateur Astronomer Award and the Luther Porter Award. Please be aware that Amateur Astronomer Award is awarded to a member of the DAS while the Luther Porter Award is open to the general astronomical community. The 2005 recipients were James Morgan for Amateur Astronomer and Emil Volcheck for the Luther Porter. The awards are presented at the annual dinner meeting held in May. Nominations can be E-mailed to me at microcad@isp.com

SAWIN OBSERVATORY REMINDER

-- Tom Sidowski

DAS members who are interested in becoming users of the Sawin Observatory and/or the Big Red DOB, should contact me at 302-239-1844 to arrange for some hands-on training in using the facility.

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 building your own telescope, please e-mail me at the address below. 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.

SAWIN OBSERVATORY MAINTENANCE

--Tom Sidowski

This past summer, a group of us got together and completed basic maintenance on the club's Sawin Observatory. The outside of the building was painted and the inside was thoroughly cleaned. The observatory was inspected and found to be in good order. It is now ready to be utilized by DAS members who wish to observe the skies with a quality instrument. If you would like to get checked-out as a key holder of the Sawin observatory, just contact me to set up a time.

DAS FORUM/E-MAIL SITE 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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – Put it on your calendar for next month – December 13.

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 next page with your check to:

DAS, c/o Robert Mentzer
605 River Road
Wilmington, DE 19809

Call any of us with your concerns!

DAS CONTACTS

Membership: Any of the following:

President: Billie Westergard ----- home 302-366-0938
Work 302-622-

7347

Vice President: John Case ----- 302-836-4888

Secretary: Lynn King ----- 302-764-8816

Treasurer: Bob Mentzer----- 302-764-1926

DAS/MCAO Advisor: Emil Volcheck---- 610-793-5156

Education Chair: Bob Karcha ----- 302-999-9509

Messier Club: Lynn King ----- 302-764-8816

Observing: Greg Lee ----- 302-762-5358

Youth Coordinator: Sarah Baird ----- 302-292-8950

Archivist: Rene Van Caneghem ----- 410-392-3718
 Board Members at-large:
 ATM and AP SIGs: Bill Hanagan ----- 302-239-0949
 Chairman, Observatory Committee and DAS Monthly Star Parties: Tom Sidowski ----- 302-239-1844
 By-Laws: Henry Bouchelle ----- 302-983-7830
 Light Pollution Strategist; Greg Weaver 302-239-1338
 Library Chair: Glenn Bentley ----- 610-869-0706

Ad Hoc Star Parties: Sheila Vincent - --- 302-322-4739
 Elections Comm. Chair: Costas Krekelis 302-478-9099
 Awards Comm. Chair – David Swartout 302-836-4618
 DAS PowerPoint Adviser–Max Peterson 302-369-6982
 MCAO Web Page: www.mountcuba.org
 DAS Web Page: www.delastro.org
 Focus Editor: Lee Kaser, Phone 302-995-6251
 Fax: 302-995-6805
 E-mail: kaserlo@msn.com

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR 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 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
 Renewal

Senior/Family Membership	\$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Junior membership (16/under)	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sky and Telescope Magazine	\$33.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astronomy Magazine	\$34.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

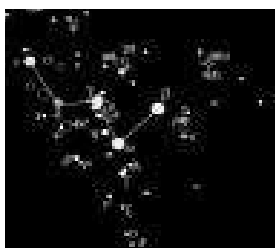
Total Submitted ----- \$ _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional) _____

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

Call us with any questions. _____



Cassiopeia – Do you see what the ancients saw?