

"Whats Up": - Greg Lee
"SunDials": -Bob Mentzer

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Hank Bouchele

Thanks to the folks who presented at the October meeting! It turned out great. It is amazing to think about how much talent there is among us.

Coming up in a few months is another chance for a mini-talk night. Give it some thought!

This month's meeting gives us the chance to hear Bob Mentzer's talk on sundials. Those of you who have been members for a while, or have otherwise had a chance to hear one of Bob's talks, know that you are in for a treat.

Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda– Hank Bouchele

More than we can possibly cover in one meeting, but items we need to think about sooner or later:

- (1) DAS Anniversary
 - (2) Astronomy Course?
 - Lead instructor
 - Location
 - (3) Awards
 - Statements of purpose
 - Amateur Astronomer of the Year
 - Luther J. Porter Award
 - Committee chair
 - (4) Youth outreach
- List of radio stations for meeting cancellation alerts
- Status of DAS Banner

OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK ORDERS - Bob Mentzer

The 2007 Observers Handbook are in. Pick yours up at the meeting or contact me. I also have several extra copies that can be purchased by contacting me. Cost is \$16.50.

STAR PARTIES AT MT. CUBA – Tom Sidowski

The schedule for DAS star parties at Mt. Cuba for the remainder of 2006 are as follows:

Saturday	November 18th	7:30 pm
Friday	December 15th	7: 30 pm

LIBRARY NEWS – Glenn Bentley

I have been reading Deep Sky Companion: The Caldwell Objects by Stephen James O'Meara, of Sky and Telescope fame. The original idea for a list of deep sky objects not included in Messier's, came from noted British astronomer Patrick (Caldwell) Moore. His list of 109 objects was originally published in Sky and Telescope in 1995. Moore's initial premise was to get amateurs to expand their horizons with a "Messier-sized" list that took them to the next level of observational skills. The Caldwell Objects is the second book in a series being published by Sky Publishing. The first book of the series was devoted to the Messier objects. The book includes objects in the southern skies and is oriented from north to south. O'Meara has put together a superb book, with all the pertinent data on each object, easy to follow directions and sketches of the nebulae, galaxies, star clusters etc. His observation skills are apparent on each page. The Caldwell Objects is, unfortunately, not as yet in the DAS library collection, but with Christmas fast approaching, it is on my list (checked twice).

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH -- WELCOME

ANDREA HANNA

KENNETT SQUARE PA

LOANER TELESCOPES -- Emil Volcheck

Spring'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
- 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, promptly, contact Emil Volcheck, 610-793-5156 or 302-654-6407.

MCAO PUBLIC NIGHTS -- Emil Volcheck

The Mt. Cuba Observatory Public Nights continue year round! In addition to learning about many aspects of the heavens, you'll have a chance to visit and view our all-digital full-dome planetarium! 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>.



DAS Astrophotography Special Interest Group (AP SIG) -- Bill Hanagan

The DAS Astrophotography Special Interest Group meets on Friday nights at 7:30 PM every other month at Mt. Cuba regardless of weather. The SIG also meets for photo shoots scheduled on 1-2 day notice to synchronize with the weather.

The monthly meetings are informal and typically include the presentation of astrophotos taken by the members along with an extended question and answer period. Objects commonly photographed include constellations, auroras, lunar eclipses, and planetary photos, as well as a wide variety of deep-sky objects such as nebulae, galaxies, star clusters, etc. The topics discussed cover the entire gamut of astrophotography, from how to get started with a minimum of equipment, to polar aligning your telescope, all of the way to the fine points of using auto-guiders and post-processing digital images.

If you are interested in joining the AP SIG, just email your name, address, and phone number to me at hanaganw@comcast.net.

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.

DAS AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKING SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (ATM SIG)

-- Bill Hanagan

The DAS Amateur Telescope Making Special Interest Group meets on evenings and weekends according to the availability of the members and the particular projects that are underway. The general range of activities of the ATM SIG includes all manners of telescope making, mirror making, and the making of accessories for telescopes and observing.

Anyone interested in joining us should email their name, address, and phone number to me at hanaganw@comcast.net.

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 Delaware astronomical society; 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 Tree Light Spectroscopy- Barlow Bob

What do you observe on a snowy holiday season?

Observe colored Christmas lights through any nebula filter. You will notice that certain color lights disappear, when viewed through a nebula filter. These types of filters only allow certain waves of light to pass through, blocking other waves. You can also observe the orange Hanukkah Menorah lights

Hold a holographic diffraction grating in back of the nebula filter and you will see the spectrum of the incandescent colored lights, a sodium / mercury street light or fluorescent light. You will notice that certain spectrum emission lines disappear.

If you impress Santa, he may leave the TV 102.

ASTROPHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH - Bill Hanagan



This photo was taken with an 8" Celestron f/6.3 Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope (SCT) unguided on a "new" CG-5 equatorial mount. Without guiding, it was necessary to make several exposures and select the sharpest one for use, as several images were obtained with elongated stars and double images due to the limits of the mount. A Canon 20D DSLR camera was positioned at prime focus to record a 60 second exposure. No dark frame or flat frame processing was applied, which illustrates the very low noise of the CMOS sensor in the 20D. The contrast in the lower range, darker details was increased using the levels adjustment in Photoshop Elements 2.0 to make the fine structure of the nebula more visible without losing detail in the bright region around the trapezium. There was no adjustment or enhancement of any one color channel over another.

ScopeBuggy for Sale - Bob Miller

I have a brand new ScopeBuggy in its unopened shipping box (won it at the Texas Star Party) which I would like to sell to recoup my shipping cost. Best offer over \$40 takes it. Advertised in S&T at \$265. bobmiller@dol.net.

Bob Miller
430 Orchard Road
Newark, DE 19711

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 below with your check to:

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

Or give it to Bob at a meeting. Thank you.

Call any of us with your concerns!

DAS CONTACTS

Membership: Any of the following:
 President: Hank Bouchelle----- 302-429-4013
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DAS MEMBER CLASSIFIED ADS

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 given on page 5. 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
Junior membership (16/under) \$10.00
Sky and Telescope Magazine \$33.00
Astronomy Magazine \$34.00
The Night Sky (Bi-monthly. recommended
for new members) \$18.00

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

Total Submitted -----

\$

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional) _____

Any Questions? Call us.
