



STAR FIELDS

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKERS OF BOSTON, INC.

Vol. 2, No. 6

June 1991

OUR JUNE MEETING...

Thursday, June 13, 1991, 8 p.m.
Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian
Center for Astrophysics

AN AUCTION OF ASTRONOMICAL STUFF and other things will be held at our June meeting. All the proceeds from the sale of donated items and 10% of the sale price of member sold items will benefit the ATMoB. Our Treasurer, Tony Costanzo, will be the auctioneer and Ken Laurie will be the cashier. Please tag or label items you want to sell with your name, your minimum asking price, and any pertinent information about the item so that the auctioneer can use to properly describe it. Similar information would also be useful for donated items. Don't forget your check books folks and let's have everyone participate and make this auction as profitable to you and the club and as much fun as previous ones!

Although a pre-meeting dinner is not scheduled this month, you may still want to gather at 5:45 p.m. at the Changsho Restaurant, located at 1712 Mass Ave. in Cambridge, near Linnean St.

MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS...

Our May meeting was attended by about 63 individuals. The Secretary, Treasurer, Shop Committee Chairman and Observing Committee Chairman gave their usual reports. John Reed and Paul Cicchetti reported on ATMoB/ALCON 91 activities. Mario Motta announced that he will show his LaPaz slides again at the end of the June meeting to those who would like to see the "lay of the land" before taking off on the July eclipse expedition. Tal Mentall, chairman of the nominating committee announced the candidates for election at our June meeting (see page 2). Finally, our speaker, Dr. Han Eitenbroek of the CfA, fascinating account of solar atmospheric phenomena and his studies of them using the Calcium K spectral line.

ATMoB ACTIVITIES...

Members continue to bring astronomy to the public. STEVE MOCK introduced four students from the Cambridge Ridge and Latin school to observing one

recent Saturday night at our clubhouse. MARION HOCHULI and JOHN STANSFIELD have each conducted astronomy sessions for 4th graders at the New Searles Elementary school in Nashua. At Newton's Countryside school, eight year olds were treated to a 'tour of the universe' and sunspot observing by JOSEPH ROTHCHILD.

May's CfA Monthly Observatory Night talk on backyard astronomy by S&T's Alan MacRobert attracted an enormous crowd. DICK KOOLISH and STEVE MOCK, regular observing helpers for these events, were there with their scopes. Steve's equipped his scope with a video camera and showed the crescent moon on the monitor. PHIL ROUNSEVILLE appeared with his Questar and TED POULOS passed out ATMoB literature and talked astronomy with the observers on the roof. BRUNO NARDELLI and BOB COLLARA were also around and about.

ATMoB/ALCON 91 UPDATE...

The early registration deadline for ALCON 91 is rapidly approaching--June 15th. Please register before then! It will save you \$10 and guarantee your meal and room choices.

Planning meetings will be held more frequently now. The dates are all on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.: June 20 and 27, July 18 and 25, and August 1. The June 20th meeting is at Mario Motta's home, 806 Lowell St., Lynnfield, MA (617-334-3648).

Paul Cicchetti, Bob Collara, and Tim Solinski are working on the "How to" sessions--mirror grinding and testing, solar observing, etc. They would like those with solar filters to bring their scopes for daytime observing. They need your participation. Contact anyone of them or John Reed or myself.

Greg Chase will have a sign-up sheet at the June meeting for ALCON 91 registration desk duty. Please help out by signing up for an hour or two. The desk will be just inside the auditorium during program hours so you won't miss any talks. We'd like to have 2 people on duty at most times--one preferably from the AAAAA or Springfield STARS club (they will sign up later). If your not attending the June meeting contact Greg at 617-272-9394 to volunteer a couple hours of your time. Help us out and show the visitors from other parts of the country how well the ATMoB can plan and run a conference.

--Bernie Volz

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

THE ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS will be held at our June meeting. According to the nominating committee, all the current officers are up for re-election except for the Vice President and one Member At Large. The committee's candidates for these two positions are: Vice President, Phil Rounseville and Member At Large, Anna Hillier. Two candidates will be nominated from the floor: Bernie Volz for Vice President and John Reed for a Member At Large. The required member signatures in behalf of each of these candidates have been submitted thus meeting the requirements of the club's by-laws. Therefore, the complete list of candidates for the June election is:

President: Marion Hochuli
Vice President: Phil Rounseville
Bernie Volz
Secretary: Ted J. Poulos
Membership Secretary: Edward J. Los
Treasurer: Anthony Costanzo
Members At Large: Mario Motta
Ann Hillier
John Reed

AN INVITATION TO OBSERVE SATURN with the 18-inch Clark Refractor at the Wilder Observatory, Amherst, MA is being extended by Tom Whitney of the Amherst Area Amateur Astronomers Association. The dates are July 12, 13, 26, 27 and August 23 and 24. For directions and further information call Tom at 413-256-6234. Best times to call:

Mon.-Thur. 6 p.m. - 1 a.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sun. 10 a.m. to midnight.

SEEN AN UNCLAIMED 8mm Clave eyepiece around the clubhouse? Help John Reed find one he misplaced.

A COUPLE OF HST MODEL KITS from Space Craft International are available for \$9 from John Reed. Also those that ordered them can pick them up at the June meeting. An extra 50 cents is needed to cover postage.

AN ATM_oB STELLAFANE SUPPER gathering will be held Saturday night beginning at 5 p.m. in the Pine Island area. Members and their friends are invited to assemble with their own food (or purchased chicken dinners), grills, and table and chairs. Any announcements members want to make can be made at 6 p.m. Dine and chat with fellow ATM'ers--rain or shine of course.
-- Marion Hochuli

A DISCOUNT ON BOOKS purchased from Sky Publishing Corp. is a privilege of ATM_oB membership. The actual discount depends upon the book and can be determined from a price list in the ATM_oB Reference Book always available on the rear table at our meetings. To qualify for the discount, you must be a paid up member and you must order the book(s) by

using a special order form obtainable from the Secretary or Membership Secretary. If you need the form and discount price and are unable to attend a meeting, request them by mail from the Secretary. Please include a SSAE for the reply.

NEW ATM_oB MEMBERS...

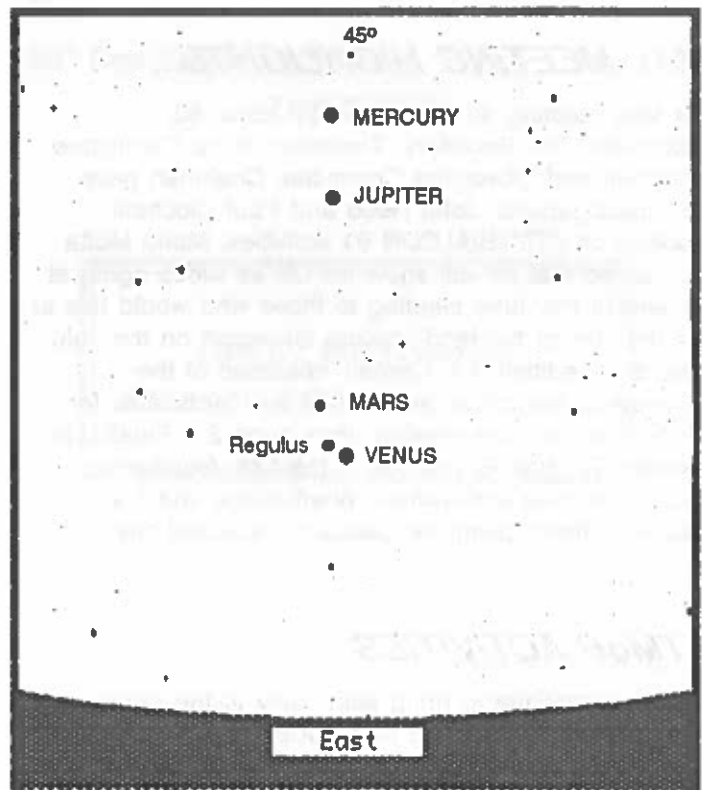
We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members:

Mark Bobrow	Woburn, MA
Erik Kramer	Reading, MA
Marek Kozubal	Winchester, MA
Patrick McAleavey	Watertown, MA
Kevin McCarthy	Lawrence, MA
Arthur G. Swedlow	Littleton, MA
John C. Willett	Acton, MA

Our current membership as of June 1, according to our Membership Secretary Ed Los, is 303 members compared to 298 members last year at this time.

LA PAZ ECLIPSE PHOTOGRAPHERS...

Set up that extra camera with a wide angle lens facing due East. At totality, try to capture the four planets in the eastern sky. The view should look like the chart below prepared for La Paz at 11 a.m. local time on July 11 by Tim Solinski using the program, Voyager 1.2, with his Macintosh computer.



FOR THE CCD ENTHUSIASTS...

If your interested in CCD's for use in amateur astronomy as I am, you should be aware that two excellent new books have just been published on this subject. "Introduction to Astronomical Image Processing" by Astronomy magazine editor, Richard Berry, takes you through the basics of CCD imaging and image processing. Furthermore, whether you have a CCD camera or not, you can try your hand at this technique because the book comes with image files and processing software on disks. All you need is an MS DOS computer with 512K of memory and, preferably, a VGA graphics display.

The second book, "CCD Astronomy" by Christian Bull (an amateur astronomer and an optical engineer for the French Space Agency) is a very readable and complete account of the operation of CCD's, methods of cooling and interfacing them to a computer. Image processing is also very well covered. Both books are published by Willmann-Bell, Inc., P.O. Box 35025, Richmond, VA 23235 (804-320-7016). --Ted Poulos

AMATEUR RADIO ASTRONOMY...

If your interested in getting into this field, check out the July 1991 issue of Science Probe magazine. It has a great "how to do it" article written by Jeffrey Lichtman, President of the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers (SARA). Annual membership in this organization is \$20 and includes a subscription to Radio Astronomy, the monthly SARA journal. Their address is 247 North Linden St., Massapequa, NY 11758.

Incidentally, the April Science Probe has an article on how an ordinary FM radio or TV, tuned to a dead band between 54 and 106 MHz, can be used to detect meteors by suddenly receiving distant broadcast signals refracted from their wispy trails of ionized particles.

ATMoB MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME...

Your annual membership renewal notice form (and the only one you will receive) is on the back page of this issue of *STAR FIELDS*. You will also receive the Sky & Telescope renewal notice shortly after June 7. Please return both forms (including the address label) before the August 24 deadline to assure continuance of your membership and S&T subscription.

Examine your mailing label carefully. Some members have credits from 1991 and these credits are marked on the label. Be sure and make any address changes necessary on the renewal form.

Should you lose both of these forms, send in your check and we will process your renewal.

Students under 21 pay a dues of \$20 (plus the listed price for any optional magazine subscriptions) providing they include a signed statement certifying their educational status.

We apologize to new members who have half-year

memberships and may be surprised by a renewal notice so soon after their joining date. Regrettably, the long lead times for subscription renewals force us to send out notices at this early date. If you have any questions about renewal procedures and policies, please send me a note and I will do my best to give you satisfaction. --Edward Los

MARKETPLACE...

FOR SALE Celestron 8-inch Schmidt Camera with 35 mm film holder. Original price \$750. Asking price \$500. Call Dr. Badri Aghassi, 617-891-5707.

FOR SALE 4-inch Tele Vue Genesis. Four element apo. Brand new. Original price \$1600, asking \$1200 firm. Call Ron Tanguay 617-231-1558

FOR SALE Meade 2045 4-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain, fork mount, setting circles, motor drive, slow motion control, equatorial wedge and tripod. Accessories include carrying case, 5x24 rt. angle finder, and 6 and 25 mm eyepieces. \$800 or best offer. Joseph Gallo, 617-846-9356.

FOR SALE Motofocus for Meade LX5, LX6 and Motodex for 2080/2120 and LX2-6. Both brand new in original boxes, never used. Originally \$175, yours for \$99. Call Eric Burwen, 508-682-7755.

FOR SALE 3.5-inch standard Questar (circa 1972) with cervit mirror, special coating, piggy-back mount, and fully loaded with accessories. Star tests excellent. Interferometric test showed an honest 1/20 wave figure. \$2200. Call Phil Rounseville, 508-250-0217.

COMING EVENTS...

June 20 CfA MONTHLY OBSERVATORY NIGHTS, "A Universe of Illusion: Fun with Gravitational Lenses" by Rudy Schild, CfA, 8 P.M., Phillips Auditorium, CfA, Cambridge, MA. For more info call 617-495-7481.

July 11 Total Solar Eclipse Expeditions

July 18 CfA MONTHLY OBSERVATORY NIGHTS, "Seeking the Shade: The Fascination of Solar Eclipses" by Marion Hochuli.

Aug. 7-9 ATMoB/ALCON 91, UMass, Amherst. Call John Reed 617-272-9394

Aug. 9-10 STELLAFANE, Springfield, VT. Call Dennis DiCicco 508-443-8493

Aug. 21 MT. KATAHDIN DARK SKIES TRIP, Maine's Baxter State Park. Call John Samolyk 617-894-2323

SEPTEMBER STAR FIELDS DEADLINE...

August 29th is the deadline for items to be included in the September issue of *STAR FIELDS*. Mail your contribution to Ted Poulos, 18 Cushing Rd., Brookline, MA 01246.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 1990-91...

PRESIDENT: Marion Hochuli, 603-888-0141
VICE PRESIDENT: Scott Milligan, 508-448-2596
SECRETARY: Ted J. Poulos, 617-566-5127
MEMBERSHIP SEC: Edward J. Los, 603-880-6219
TREASURER: Anthony Costanzo, 508-521-4209
MEMBERS AT LARGE: Mario Motta, 617-334-3648
Bernard Voiz, 508-366-0768
PAST PRESIDENTS: 1989-90 David Aucoin
1987-89 Gary Walker
1985-87 E. Talmadge Mental

COMMITTEES...

OBSERVING: John Reed, 617-861-8031
WORKSHOP: Greg Chase, 617-272-9394

----- Cut here and mail form together with mailing label panel -----

Name: _____
Address: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____

Make checks payable to "Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc." and return to Edward J. Los, 7 Cheyenne Dr., Nashua, NH 03083. Please include the "Sky & Telescope" renewal notice if available.

Deadlines: Aug. 24 for S&T Nov. issue; Sept. 15 for the optional magazine subscriptions for 1992; Dec. 1, 1991 is the end of the ATMoB renewal grace period.

Members receiving S&T through another club may deduct \$18 provided you include the name of the other club.

FIRST CLASS

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: 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.

Club dues Sept. 1, 1991 to Sept 1, 1992	\$35.00	_____
(\$20 for students under 21)		
Astronomy Magazine (optional)	\$14.00	_____
Deep Sky Magazine (optional)	\$ 8.00	_____
Odyssey Magazine (optional)	\$12.00	_____
Telescope Making Mag. (optional)	\$8.00	_____
Tax-Deductible Contribution (optional)		_____
Total		_____
Check No.		_____
Date		_____
S&T Card Enclosed? (Y/N)		_____

THANK YOU!

**REGISTER NOW!
DON'T MISS ATMOB/ALCON 91**

AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKERS OF BOSTON
c/o Edward J. Los
7 Cheyenne Drive
Nashua, NH 03063