



Various members spoke at the July meeting. Topics included annular and lunar eclipse photos, CCD images of Jupiter, and various astrophotographs. New member, Rick Berman, gave a interesting talk on a spectroscope he built and observations and photographs subsequently made with it.

President's Message...

IT IS with regret that I must report that Edward Dougherty has resigned as observing chairman, due to both health reasons and workload. Ed has put in an enormous personal effort to recondition the clubhouse over the past several years, and the ATM's owe him a deep personal debt of gratitude. For those members who have not seen the clubhouse recently, you are in for a pleasant surprise. The clubhouse has never looked cleaner or in better physical shape. The layout has been rearranged, the "pit" has been filled in, we now have a club mirror coating lab, and we have a telescope loaner program in place. Ed had a personal hand in these and many other projects too numerous to list here. He has even thought ahead and left us a detailed list of over 70 projects that need attending to! Again, bravo for a job well done, and a heartfelt thanks from all the ATM's to Ed Dougherty. Hopefully Ed can stay engaged in some of these projects at a lower level of activity.

The title of Observing Chairman was a bit of misnomer, as this job entailed running the clubhouse, and very little to do with observing. Therefore, I have renamed this position to the "Clubhouse Director". I have appointed John Reed and Paul Cicchetti as co-directors, as the workload is too great for one person. Let us all thank John and Paul for agreeing to do this job, and the heavy workload and responsibility that comes with it. I personally have confidence in them that they will handle the position admirably. For all those clubhouse committee members please continue to donate your time, and I know that any new volunteers would be gratefully appreciated by John and Paul.

I have discovered that it IS necessary that the club file yearly with the state of Massachusetts to maintain our tax free status, one report to the Mass Secretary of State (\$15) and a long form (14 pages) to the Attorney General Division of Public Charities (\$35). These filings are due Nov. 1, of every year. Fortunately, we do not need to file federal forms unless we earn more than \$25,000 in any year. (An unlikely prospect). I will make a large pot of coffee and fill these forms one weekend soon #!!\$##!!!&%#!.

Membership Renewals...

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS are due. The June '94 *Star Fields* has a renewal form or contact Membership Secretary, Mark Bruckner for one. Please complete and return the form, with your payment, as soon as possible to Mark

Our September Meeting...

Thursday, September 8, 1994
 Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian
 Center for Astrophysics

"After the Crash" will bring members the latest word on the collision of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter. Kelly Beatty, the Senior Editor of *Sky & Telescope* magazine, will first recap the 15 months of planning and theorizing that preceded the impacts, then relive those whirlwind days in mid-July when all the action took place. In the weeks since, professionals and amateurs alike have come to realize that those events a half billion miles away not only provided a surprising cosmic spectacle but also gave us a firsthand insights on how the solar system continues to evolve. Beatty has covered planetary science and space exploration at *Sky & Telescope* for two decades. He became interested in astronomy and space as a youngster during the earliest flights to the Moon and planets, eventually receiving a Bachelors degree in geology at the California Institute of Technology. He also holds a Master's degree in science journalism, and he is the principal editor of *The New Solar System*.

Please join us at a pre-meeting dinner at the Changsho Restaurant, 1712 Mass. Avenue, Cambridge. Please meet at the restaurant by 6:00 PM.

July Meeting Highlights...

OUR JULY meeting was attended by some 50 members. Ed Dougherty gave the clubhouse report and said activity there had been slow due to inclement weather. Work progressed slowly in June and the clubhouse is still in need of used air conditioners and parts.

President, Mario Motta, requested volunteers to help start a public observatory at Stoneham's recently revived Stone Zoo. He also reported the club will receive a \$200.00 check from NASA, via AAVSO head, Janet Mattei for the star party held for Lynnfield school children last Spring.

Bruckner (his address is on the form and the return address of *Star Fields*). Do it today so you don't forget!!

You may now also purchase CCD Astronomy through the club. Existing subscriptions will simply be extended for 12 months.

If you are subscribing to one or more magazines, please note the deadline dates (on the form) to make sure your subscription will not lapse.

A Deep Sky Organization ...

OCCASIONALLY I receive literature from various astronomy organizations. The following communication may be of interest to some members. - S. Beckwith

The National Deep Sky Observers Society was established in 1976 with two goals: to serve as a clearinghouse for deep sky observers and as a medium to allow people with similar interests to correspond with one another.

The first goal is met through our quarterly journal "*Betelgeuse*". This publication allows members to see their observations printed in a timely manner and distributed internationally to fellow observers. *Betelgeuse* features short articles on observing, NDSOS business and targets observing challenges.

Members also receive "*The Practical Observer*", a quarterly publication which covers techniques and stories relating to observing and astrophotography.

Do you need information about cryptically numbered planetary nebula, galaxies or other obscure deep-sky objects? Our data coordinator can come to rescue!

Members may correspond with each other through the annual membership directory or the Global Astronomy Network. Do you use e-mail? We have an e-mail network through a veteran observer in Maryland.

Membership in the NDSOS is only \$20.00 per year. To join, request a sample copy of *Betelgeuse* or to get more information about our group, contact Alan Goldstein, NDSOS National Coordinator, 1607 Washington Blvd., Louisville KY 40242-3539 or call 502-426-4399 6:00 - 9:00 PM (eastern time) weekday evenings.

Announcements...

I AM saddened to report the sudden and untimely death of Florence Ledford at the age of 66 years, on August 7. She died just two hours after Fritz Ledford returned home from Stellafane in their home of an apparent heart attack. They had been married 49 years, having been childhood sweethearts. The club will miss Florence as she would frequently accompany Fritz to the clubhouse as he and others worked at the building. Our deepest sympathies to Fritz and his family at this great loss. - Mario Motta

A FIRE Pond Observatory tour is being offered to a limited number of ATMob members. The tour is scheduled for one of the following dates: September 13, 14, or 15. Interested members should contact Charlie McDonald to reserve a spot. H: 617-944-6140, W: 617-276-6046.

CLUBHOUSE PICNIC: Our annual clubhouse picnic has been set for Sept. 17, 1994 at 1:00 P.M. Past years have seen a wonderful gathering of friends at this event, and I hope all club members and their families will take the time to come to the clubhouse that day. This would be great way to see for yourself all of the wonderful changes and progress that has occurred over the past year.

THE PUBLISHER of *Odyssey* magazine has offered a 15% discount off of the annual (10 issues) subscription cost to ATMob members (\$19.51). The magazine, a Parents Choice Foundation award winner, is an astronomy and space publication for young people ages 8-14. If interested in subscribing, contact Cobblestone Publishing, Inc. 603-924-7209.

ATMOB APPAREL - Caps, T-shirts, and sweatshirts imprinted with our logo, are available for purchase at meetings and by mail (postage extra). All proceeds go to the ATMob. We offer yellow T-shirts with a blue logo for \$10, gray sweatshirts/blue logo for \$18 and blue and white caps with a blue logo for \$6. - Ted Poulos

THE ATMob welcomes the following new members:

Joseph & Jonathan Leong	Lincoln, MA
Samuel Robbins	Attleboro, MA
Michael Aramini	North Chelmsford, MA
Stuart Holland	Lexington, MA

Clubhouse News...

CLUBHOUSE WORK sessions have been set for Saturday Sept. 24 and Oct. 22 this fall to do some large scale projects before the winter sets in. We need as many volunteers as possible to lend a hand. Volunteers are requested to bring paint brushes, ladders, wheelbarrows and shovels (probably for the post work party gab session...) Please sign up at the September meeting or call John Reed. Please help!!!

THANKS TO David Wray of Winchester who has donated a 17-inch Coultor Dobsonian telescope to the ATM's, it is now at the clubhouse for all members to use. Remember, all club donations are tax deductible.

A BUNK bed is needed at the clubhouse. If you know of anyone who is looking to part with one, please call John Reed.

THE MONTHLY Variable Star Observing sessions will be discontinued. However, the clubhouse will still be open one Friday evening each month for beginners and experienced observers who have other commitments on Saturday evenings. For the latest schedule, leave a message for Ed Los at home 603-884-1586 (home) or 603-884-1586 (work).

CLUBHOUSE SCHEDULE

Sept 3: Clougherty, Green, Fill Johansson
Sept 10: Bruckner, Burrier, Volz, Heller
Sept. 17: Ledford, Chase, Reed, Cicchetti
Sept 24: Beckley, Green, Clougherty, Johannson
Oct. 1: Suslowicz, Burrier, Fill, Ledford
Oct. 8: Milon, Chase, Swedlow, Rounseville

From The Editor...

WE ARE a fortunate group of people. We know the sky. Many times have I pointed out a constellation or planet to a friend who would then respond in amazement "how do you know that?" We have the knowledge that has been lost by our society sometime between the first automobile and the digital watch.

Prior to the invention of calendars, farmers used to plant and reap at the rising of stars and constellations. The flood season of the Nile was heralded by the apparition of Sirius at dawn, and sailors charted a new world by the stars.

Somewhere along our technological march towards bigger, better, faster and stronger, the knowledge of our ancestors slowly left society. Even professional astronomers seldom -if ever- make direct observations anymore. Their time is spent sitting in front of CRT's during an observation run.

None of this is good or bad, it just means we are the lucky ones who know the stars. We are the ones who will always be under familiar skies wherever we are in the world.

We are the ones who will pass this knowledge on.

- S. Beckwith

Keep Looking Up...

TWIN COMETS in the morning sky. Comet Macholz, 1994o, has a twin paralleling it in orbit. In the beginning of September, Macholz, shining at magnitude 7.8, can be found between Lynx and Cancer at the equinox 2000 positions listed below. It's 11th magnitude companion is approximately 48" northeast of Macholz.

Sept. 1 - R.A. 7^h41^m, DEC +42^d30^m
Sept. 3 - R.A. 7^h51^m, DEC +40^d18^m
Sept. 5 - R.A. 8^h0^m, DEC +38^d06^m

COMET NAKAMURA-NISHIMURA-MACHOLZ (1994m) is in Pegasus and shining at approximately 8th magnitude at the equinox 2000 positions listed in below.

Sept. 2 - R.A. 22^h11^m, DEC +12^d06^m
Sept. 4 - R.A. 22^h02^m, DEC +05^d06^m

COMET BORRELLY a 6.8 year periodic comet zips through Orion this month. See page 101 of the September 1994 issue of *Sky & Telescope* for details and a map.

SATURN is in opposition September 1st. With the rings being significantly closed, one might expect a low-key apparition this year. However, Cassini's division was discernible at Stellafane last month as were two belts. So challenge your optics and local seeing conditions and take a look!

SUPERNOVA 1994Y was discovered August 19th in an 11th-magnitude galaxy in Canes Venatici. The supernova is about 30' north and 15" west of the nucleus of NGC 5371 (R.A. 13^h56^m, DEC +40^d30^m).

Summer & Fall Events...

CONNECTICUT STAR Party IV Friday through Sunday, September 9-11, 1994 at Colebrook, Connecticut (northwest of Hartford on the Mass. border). Hosted by The Astronomical Society of New Haven. There will be speakers, vendors, swap tables, door prizes, on sight camping and food concessions... But the emphasis will be on observing and astrophotography. For additional information, call 203-874-4816.

ASTRO-ASSEMBLY. September 30 - October 1. Seagrave Memorial Observatory, 47 Peepoad Rd., North Scituate, RI. Sponsored by Skyscrapers, Inc. This annual event features: talks, swap tables, a lunch grill, a unique Astro-Bake-Off, and a featured evening speaker followed by observing. For additional information, call Conrad Cardano at 401-828-0702.

For Sale...

JMI Motofocus and MotoDec for Meade LX2.3.5.6. Brand new in original boxes, never touched. \$49.00 each. Also, azimuth control system for 8" and 10" Schmidt Cassegrains, \$5.00. Rick: 508-670-2913

4.25" f/26 Schiefspiegler. Professionally made by Lorraine Precision Optics and Dobbins Instrument Co. Finders: Telrad & 6x24. All metal square tube, black inside and out. Great small 'scope. \$625.00, optics only. Also, Celestron Super Polaris mount, dual axis drive. \$500. Duke Briscoe 617-259-9688 or briscoe@world.std.com.

Coming Events...

MONTHLY FRIDAY OBSERVING near the new moon. At the clubhouse. Contact Ed Los at home 603-884-1586 (home) or 603-884-1586 (work).

Sept. 17 **ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC** at the clubhouse. Starts at 1:00PM. Bring your family, friends and telescopes. Grills will be provided.

Sept. 22 **CFA MONTHLY OBSERVING NIGHTS**. "X-ray Satellites: Rocket Scientist Tells All" by Kathryn Flanagan, CFA. 8:00PM, Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Call 617-495-7461 for additional information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 1994-95

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Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston

OCTOBER STAR FIELDS DEADLINE

September 28th is the deadline for items to be included in the October issue of *Star Fields*. Mail or phone your contributions to: Steve Beckwith, 195 Wilder Road, Bolton MA. 01740

How to Find Us...

MEETINGS: Held the second Thursday of each month (September to July) at 8:00PM in Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden St., Cambridge MA.

CLUBHOUSE: The Tom Britton Clubhouse is 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 Rt. 495 to exit 33 and proceed West on Rt. 40 for five miles. Turn right at the MIT Lincoln Lab, Haystack Observing at the Groton town line. Proceed to the farm house on the left side of the road. Since clubhouse attendance varies with the weather, it is wise to call in advance: 508-692- 8708.

FIRST CLASS