



## Our May Meeting...

Thursday, May 12, 1994  
Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian  
Center for Astrophysics

THIS MONTH'S meeting will feature your astrophotos! Please bring a half dozen or so slides to show at the meeting. While the primary focus is astrophotos, you may show any astronomy related photographs (such as from recent ATMoB activities). Hopefully, someone will even have some photographs of the annular eclipse! Call Bernie Volz if you plan to show photographs. Leave a message on the answering machine if he's not home - provide name, number of slides to show, and approximate time to do so.

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.

## April Meeting Highlights...

APPROXIMATELY FIFTY members attended the April meeting and appointed Ted Poulos (chairman), Ed Knight and Ken Launie to the club officer nominating committee.

Ed Dougherty gave a lengthy report on the work-in-progress at the clubhouse that included a status of the polishing room, installation of a fan in the chemical toilet and the renovation of the small observatory. In addition, Phil Rounseville's optic classes have begun as have Eric Johannson and Mike Mattei's talks on observing and drawing Jupiter. Ed also reported that Fritz Ledford has returned two mirror grinding machines to working order.

The possibility of a light pollution exhibit at the Boston Museum of Science was discussed. Anyone interested in working on the exhibit should contact Mario Motta.

Brian Schmidt, the evening's guest speaker from the CFA, gave an interesting talk on the mechanisms of supernovae and how they can be used to measure extragalactic distances.

## President's Message...

AT THE May meeting, the nominating committee (Ted Poulos, Ed Knight, and Ken Launie) will present their recommended slate of officers. You will vote for next year's officers at the annual meeting in June.

Thanks to Ted Poulos, Ed Knight, and Ken Launie for serving on the nominating committee this year.

As per the ATMoB Bylaws, "members shall have the right to offer additional nominations from the floor at the annual meeting, provided only that a suitable written notice, containing the name or names of the person or persons to be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting, and the signatures of at least seven members, is filed with the Secretary not less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the annual meeting."

On a separate note, as one of my last "President's Messages", I'd like to thank all of those members that have helped to make these past two years, at least in my opinion, a great success. Ed Dougherty has done a wonderful job with the Observing Committee. Thanks, in part, to help from the committee members. The clubhouse has never looked better and the activity is just amazing. Steve Beckwith has produced high quality issues of Star Fields (thanks to all of you that contributed material). And, everyone else on the various boards, committees, and who just helped out. Thanks again and keep it up - we're not done yet.

And, as a reminder, please submit the names of members who you feel have provided outstanding service to the club over the past several years to Anna Hillier (18 Spring St, Lexington, MA 02173). We will be placing a plaque with their names (and those of members in future years) at the clubhouse.

## Mario's Monster 'Scope...

I AM quite happy to report that after 3 years of work, my 32-inch telescope is operational. On April 9th, Bernie Volz, Michael Mattei, and Gary Walker helped me set the scope up in my Observatory in Center Harbor, NH. Naturally, it became cloudy that night and there was no observing. The following week, on the 16th, it cleared somewhat, but only enough to see an amazingly bright and overactive aurora that ruined observing. This poor first light did show me fairly good star images however, and I collimated. The 17th was cloudy. Finally, on the 18th, a mostly clear -though not perfect- night allowed "first Light" on the 32-inch mirror.

I am pleased to report that the images were superb! The views of familiar objects, such as the ring nebula were breathtaking, and of fainter objects, such as the trifold or the veil nebula were awesome. Even at higher powers the stars looked fairly good, and faint details were bright and visible. Galaxies look like photographs. The Whirlpool is seen in all its splendor, including the connector band.

The Virgo cluster is my favorite place to wander, where previously seen "fuzzies" are now clearly seen to be galaxies, seemingly thousands of them.

I have some more work to do on the drive system, but it will soon be fully operational. Though I plan next to build a CCD camera, nothing, but NOTHING, beats a real look at a real deep sky nebula with your own eye.

- Mario Motta

## Star Parties...

SATURDAY MAY 14th. The ATMoB will be hosting a star party for an Acton public school 4th grade class and their families at the ATMoB clubhouse. The star party will begin at 8:00PM, so please be there early enough to set up your telescope.

It would be great to see some new faces (both at the star party and at the clubhouse - come see all the progress that's been made)!

FRIDAY MAY, 20th. We need volunteers for a star party at the Museum of Science. The ATMoB has been working with the museum to do a program for children and their parents from the Eggleston Square community. This program will consist of special museum and planetarium programs followed by a star party. We need three telescopes per object (moon, Jupiter, M13, Alcor-Mizar) - a total of twelve telescopes.

The program of events for the guests begins at 6:00PM, so you are requested to be at the Museum of Science at 5:30PM (rain or shine). The star party will start at 9:00PM, weather permitting. If weather does not permit, activities will move to the Skyline Cafe where we'll station a few telescopes to observe buildings and have indoor programs that we need your help with (training for these programs will be done at 5:30, so be on time, especially if the weather does not look promising). The Museum will provide sandwiches and drinks. An update will be available at the May meeting - or contact me. Please help out! We need your assistance to make this a success!

- Bernie Volz

## Executive Board Meeting...

AN EXECUTIVE Board meeting was held April 24th at Mario Motta's house to discuss and approve this year's expenditures and to review the upcoming fiscal year's (June 1, 1994-May 31, 1995) budget.

In attendance were Bernie Volz, Mario Motta, John Samolyk, Steve Beckwith, Peter Bealo, Anna Hillier, Dick Koolish and Ed Dougherty.

Various fund raising activities were discussed including placing commercial advertisements in *Star Fields*.

The board voted to approve the Observing Committee's '94-'95, \$2304 budget requests for the following items: \$358 for the Roll-Off Roof Observatory, \$108.00 for the

16" Observatory, and \$1838.00 for the clubhouse and grounds.

Withdrawing ATMoB membership from the Astronomical League -in order to make better use of the club's revenue- was also discussed. A decision was placed on hold pending further study.

The budget for next year and the present year is in the table below. Please address any questions you may have regarding the budget or any other matters with an Executive Board member.

A very special thanks to Mario and Joyce Motta for once again allowing us to use their home for the meeting and providing post meeting refreshments.

## ATMoB Budget...

Expenditures	94-95	93-94
Meetings	\$590	\$590
Memberships (IDA&AL)	\$700	\$700
Star Fields	\$1800	\$1800
Promotional Materials	\$100	\$100
Officer Expenses	\$400	\$400
Observing Committee	\$2310	\$2310
Misc.	\$300	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6900</b>	<b>\$6720</b>
Revenue	94-95	93-94
Membership (250) Dues	\$6250	\$5000
Member Contributions	\$700	\$1290
Misc. Income	\$1000	\$1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7950</b>	<b>\$7290</b>
<b>Estimated Surplus/Loss</b>	<b>\$1050</b>	<b>\$570</b>

## ATMoB Activities...

ASTRONOMY DAY '94 was a great success with even the rain giving away to clear skies for the evening star party. Talks were given by Rich Nugent, Tanya Vudner, Kevin McCarthy, Ken Fye and Art Swedlow.

Mario Motta and his Partnership in Astronomy kids demonstrated mirror grinding as did Peter Bealo with the assistance of Dave Kelly and son (of the Springfield Telescope Makers) using Kevin's "Desk Top Polisher". Paul Cicchetti, offered young visitors the opportunity to draw the moon using his 80mm refractor and a crater hidden on a wall. Rich Nugent displayed his twenty-inch Dobsonian, Dave Kelly his six-inch Maksutov and Phil Rounseville his six-inch Gregorian telescope. Charlie McDonald exhibited Jupiter/Shoemaker-Levy collision information, Dick Koolish solar eclipse stuff and Ken Fye computerized astrophotos. Our display tables were manned by John Reed, Gary Walker, Bob Collera, Bernie Volz, Cindy and Ed-Dougherty, Ted Poulos, Bill McDonald, Anna Hillier. Additional

support was provided by Ed Los, Ed Budreau, Al Doolittle and Tal Mentall. A very special thanks to our coordinator of this event, John Reed. - Ted Poulos

## Announcements...

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** needed. Here is your chance to become a member of the ATMoB Executive Board and to serve your club in an essential way. You will need a PC to maintain our membership mailing list. If you are interested, call Ted Poulos (617-566-5127).

**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

**JOHN DOBSON** is speaking June 11th at 2:00PM at the Chatham High School. The event is a fund raiser for the Cape Cod Astronomical Society observatory. A limited number of camp sites have been reserved at Nickerson State Park in Brewster for Friday and Saturday nights. Dobson will also be teaching a mirror making class from May 31st to June 24th. The class will meet eight to ten times. There are five spaces left in the class. Phone Jim Carlson at 508-432-4316 to reserve a spot for the class or campsites.

**MANY MEMBERS** will be traveling to Gary Walker's place near Plymouth, NH to observe the annular eclipse on Tuesday, May 10th. If you need directions, please contact Gary, Bernie Volz or John Reed. Also parking is limited, so please also try to car-pool!

## Clubhouse News...

**THE CLUBHOUSE** barn will be cleaned out on Saturday, May 14th. Any or all unclaimed items are subject to being disposed. If you have anything in the barn you don't want to lose, then remove it from the barn by May 14th.

A CCD workshop meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 21st at 7:00PM at the clubhouse. Call Ted Poulos (617-566-5127) a few days before the meeting to confirm date, time and your attendance. Bernie Volz has received most of the CCD chips ordered. Pick yours up at our regular May meeting or on the 21st.

**THE EVAPORATOR** has successfully coated a piece of plate glass. Ed Dougherty displayed the aluminized glass in a frame that he brought to last month's meeting.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Phil Rounsville for donating use of his 3-inch Takahashi for use with the club CCD project.

### CLUBHOUSE SCHEDULE

May 7: Fill, Green, Swedlow, Hopkinson  
May 14: Ledford, Clougherty, Beckley, Burrier  
May 21: Reed, Mock, Walker, Cicchetti  
May 28: Johansson, Chase, Suslowicz, Budreau  
June 4: Clougherty, Rounseville, Volz, Heller  
June 11: Milon, Mock, Bruckner, Ledford

## Spring and Summer Events...

**NERAL SATURDAY**, May 7th at the Schenectady County Community College (New York). The event is hosted by the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers and will feature John Dobson, Dr. John Delano, Dr. Ralph Alpher, Greg Bohemier, and more.

## NELPAG News...

**LAST NOVEMBER** a proposed bill (number H.1652) was filed last November calling for "*Cities and towns to introduce a code for the design and installation of outdoor night lighting, the purpose of which is to ensure that outdoor night lighting fixtures conserve energy and reduce light pollution while providing adequate night-time safety and, utility and security; and to implement this code in the installation of all public lighting fixtures and as a condition of subdivision and planning approvals*".

Due to concern of city and town objections to this proposed wording, NELPAG developed a revised wording with the encouragement of Rep. Jim Marzilli, (who filed the bill) to address only state funding for new and replacement outdoor lighting, which must be full cutoff shielded except for emergency and unusual situations.

According to Marzilli, there is no point in doing anything further at the State House (re: lobbying). Our energies should now be spent on getting people to call or write in support of H. 1652 to constituent members (key point) of state senators and representative sitting on the Energy Committee. Those contacting elected officials should be sure to mention you are interested in supporting representative Marzilli's revised wording of the bill. It's important not to talk astronomy or the night sky. Focus only on night glare, safety for motorist and pedestrians, conservation and aesthetics. The following is a list of Energy Committee members. **SENATORS:** Mark Montigny (Bristol), Thomas Norton (Bristol), Frederick Berry (Essex), Daniel Leahy (Middlesex), Shannon O'Brien (Hampden and Hampshire), James Swift (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire). **REPRESENTATIVES:** Albert Herren (Fall River), John Binienda (Worcester), Frank Cousins (Newburyport), Bill Galvin (Canton), Barbara Gardner (Holliston), Ronald

Gauch (Shrewsbury), Steven Kulik (Western Mass.) Jim Marzilli (Arlington), John Quinn (Dartmouth), John Rogers (Norwood, Westwood, Walpole, Medfield) Dan Valeanti (Marlborough).

### *JUNE STAR FIELDS DEADLINE*

May 21st is the deadline for items to be included in the June issue of *Star Fields*. Mail or phone your contributions to: Steve Beckwith, 195 Wilder Road, Bolton MA. 01740 508-779-5227

## Coming Events...

- May 6 VARIABLE STAR OBSERVING evening 9:30 PM - 10:30 PM at the clubhouse.  
May 14 STAR PARTY 8:00 PM at the clubhouse.  
May 20 STAR PARTY 5:30 PM at the Museum of Science -Bernie Volz (508-881-3614).  
May 27 VARIABLE STAR OBSERVING evening, 10:00 PM - 11:00 PM at the clubhouse.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD 1993-94**

PRESIDENT: Bernard Volz 508-881-3614  
VICE PRESIDENT: Mario Motta 617-334-3648  
SECRETARY: Steve Beckwith 508-779-5227  
MEMBERSHIP: John Samolyk 617-391-9290  
TREASURER: Anthony Costanzo 508-521-5382  
HISTORIAN: Anna Hillier 617-861-8338

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Peter Bealo 603-382-7039  
Anna Hillier 617-861-8338  
Dick Koolish 617-646-6086

PAST PRESIDENTS: 1990-92 Marion Hochuli  
1987-89 Gary Walker

### **COMMITTEES**

OBSERVING: Edward Dougherty 508-458-8857

## 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.

## Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston

**FIRST CLASS**