



Our January Meeting...

Thursday, January 12, 1995
Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian
Center for Astrophysics

OUR JANUARY meeting will feature ATMob member presentations, as has been the custom for a number of years now. Every year we are all very much surprised and fascinated by the very high caliber and quality of projects, photos, CCD images undertaken by members of the ATM's of Boston. We have a large number of talented individuals in our organization, and it is always amazing to see what we are up to.

If you would like to give a brief talk, please notify me (Mario Motta 617-334-3648) before the meeting so I may arrange the schedule for the evening. Let me know what the title of your talk will be, the time you need (please be concise), and any audiovisual aids you will require. If your working on something special, even if its in development, share it with your members in the club. If you have some great astrophotos or CCD images, now is your chance to make others envious.

Editors note: Kevin McCarthy has already volunteered to give a talk on fabricating Schmidt cameras.

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.

December Highlights...

THE DECEMBER meeting was opened by President Mario Motta wearing his Bolivian "Ski" hat. The Secretary's report was presented by Steve Beckwith and the Treasurer's report by Peter Bealo. Membership Secretary, Mark Bruckner announced that 39 names have been dropped from the roster. Membership now stands at 238 (209 full members, 6 student and 23 senior). The clubhouse report was presented by Paul Cicchetti. The Reading Star party was clouded out in November and December and

is now scheduled for January 5, 1995 (Thursday) with a January 10th back-up date.

Janet Mattei of the AAVSO thanked the ATMob for the much appreciated assistance with the Lynnfield star parties. Tanja Vudler Casale brought a stack of thank you letters from parents/students for the club's participation at the Bridge Elementary School star party. She also brought refreshment goodies for the meeting.

Tal Mental's reciting of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was followed by his rendition of the "The Christmas Song" (This December tradition is now in its tenth year - thanks Tal.).

The evening talks, "Tales form the November 1994 Solar Eclipse" were opened by Dan Green, who, with Steve O'Meara participated in the Overseas Adventure travel tour to Bolivia. Dennis diCicco followed with an excellent slide show of both the fact finding trip and eclipse expedition which Sky&Telescope/Scientific Expeditions provided for about 150 people. Our new member, Chris Hallas' series of outstanding totality pictures complemented the other presentations.

Mario Motta and Bernie Volz then presented the saga of the "civilized tour" of the high altitude plane that culminated in a clear view of totality.

Many refreshments were on hand following the meeting. Kevin McCarthy spearheaded an "old fashion cryogenic ice cream social" by making ice cream using liquid nitrogen.

A VHS record of this meeting will be made available at the clubhouse courtesy of Paul Cicchetti.

President's Message...

I WAS recently notified from the office of the Mass. Secretary of State, that in November 1986, we were sent a notice (to a Watertown address) that our incorporation status was suspended for lack of yearly filings! After a number of phone conversations, I was able to convince the state that we never received the notice as our address had changed, thus avoiding the need to reincorporate, and all the incredible hassles that would entail (including jeopardizing our tax free status). To reinstate our original incorporation will ONLY require filing the yearly incorporation report (list of officers, etc.) for the last 10 YEARS. This will cost the club \$15 /year (\$150) and a \$40 penalty, for a total of \$190. I have obtained all the necessary forms and will send this in the first week of January. Though a decided pain in the you know where, It will be a lot simpler than actually starting all over again, will not jeopardize our tax free status, and allow us to keep our original name.

When my term is over, I will hand down a list of "Things that must be done" such as filing reports, etc. so that we need not ever go through this again.

- Mario Motta

The Year in Review...

WELL, 1994 was quite the year for astronomers. Especially, those of the ATMoB! Here are just a few of the year's highlights:

BOSTON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

Many members attended the Lowell Lectures on Astronomy in the early spring. Presented each year at the Museum of Science, these informal lectures link the professional and amateur communities and are well worth attending.

"Astronomy Day" was celebrated at the Boston Museum of Science on April 16th. Many club members spent the day at the museum explaining, demonstrating and lecturing so that the public could share in (at least for one day...) our love of astronomy. The evening star party was the culmination of the event and was a great success!

ANNULAR ECLIPSE

On May 10th, the Sun was eclipsed by the Moon! The shadow cone passed high over Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to produce a spectacular annular eclipse. Many club members enjoyed the event, taking up positions along the center line. Some shared the view with children at local schools, coaxing principals into letting the kids take a look. An annular eclipse, so close to home, WOW! But, the best was yet to come.

THE GREAT CRASH

July proved to be one of the best months ever for astronomers. July 16th...Jupiter! The encounter with comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 was one of the most spectacular events of our lives. Coinciding with the 25th anniversary of the 1st manned lunar landing and "Space Week", Jupiter's cloud deck was marred by numerous impacts from the shattered comet. No one expected the black smears that were visible in even the smallest of telescopes! The ATMoB was present at the Museum of Science, several days after the impacts began, for the Space Week celebrations. Our telescopes at the Friday evening star party allowed hundreds of people to view the impact scars as Jupiter rotated them into view.

CONVENTIONS

In early August, many members attended the annual Stellafane gathering at Springfield, Vermont. A cold, raw Friday evening gave way to a crystal clear Saturday. Many of the attendees enjoyed the mirror making demonstration under the tent on Saturday morning as well as telescope displays, swap tables and lectures. After the evening ceremonies, which included a memorial to the late Walter Scott Houston, the observing began. The spectacular views under the dark Vermont skies left many observers counting the days until next year's convention.

A group of ATMoB members were spotted at the Conjunction in early September. This annual event, held in Northfield, Ma. is one of the area's best kept secrets! About 100 people attend this gathering to hear lectures during the day and observe well into the night. The event is well organized and should be a "must" for local enthusiasts.

TOTAL ECLIPSE

Although the Motta-Voltz eclipse expedition did not get funding for the transport of the 32" 'scope to Bolivia in November, they were successful in observing the event. Their report was presented at the club's December meeting!

LOOKING AHEAD

1994 has now passed on and a new year dawns! A sincere Thank You to those of you who have given up your time to help the club to introduce the public to the excitement that is amateur astronomy. No one yet knows what astronomical wonders 1995 will bring! Perhaps a bright comet or meteor storm! Perhaps a distant supernova or just a nice pairing of the Moon and a planet or two! Remember the wonder of astronomy... it's locked in almost everyone you meet! Please take the time to share your knowledge and expertise with your friends, neighbors and coworkers. Help them to experience the thrill of discovering the universe. Happy New Year and happy observing!

-Rich Nugent

A Grateful Public...

THE FOLLOWING are letters received from Tanja Vudler Casale following last November's successful star party she held for students of Lexington's Bridge School:

Dear President of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, I would like to compliment the wonderful folks from your association that came to the Bridge School in Lexington on the evening of November 14th to share their knowledge, telescopes and enthusiasm with the children and parents of the school.

It was an inspiring night and your members couldn't have been more generous. I was amazed at how comfortable the children felt with the telescopes! They asked so many questions. Your club certainly deserves a great big thanks from all of us. My children and their friends now have seen Saturn and its rings and even Triton, the largest of Saturn's moons. The views of the craters on our moon were spectacular! The children and parents really seemed to enjoy the slide show and narration of the solar eclipse as seen from Bolivia last month by one of your members. Thanks so much! Linda Plunket - a grateful parent

Dear astronomers, thank you for bringing your telescopes to Astronomy Night. I had a good time.

-Katie Shafer

Editors note: If you have the February '95 issue of Sky & Telescope handy, turn to page 100 and you will find a Bridge Elementary School student's drawing of the Shoemaker-Levy 9 and Jupiter event.

Announcements...

A SPEEDY recovery to Dennis Milon who is recovering in his Maynard home after suffering a stroke over the holidays. We hope to see you on your feet soon.

A STAR Party will be held at the clubhouse Saturday, February 4th for the Boston Junior Chamber of Commerce. Members are asked to help out by bringing their telescopes and/or expertise and giving our visitors a tour of the sky. The party begins at sunset.

MANY THANKS to Paul Cicchetti, Greg Chase, Scott Milligan, John Reed, Art Swedlow and especially Gary Walker in their much needed help in assembling the 16-foot dome on my now operational observatory. Their assistance on some frigid weekends helped me beat out mother nature's first winter punch. - Steve Beckwith

TWO STAR parties on February 6th and 7th have been requested by the Fisher Elementary School in Lexington, MA. Approximately 350 kindergarten to fifth grade students are expected to attend. The large number of students dictates the need to split the event into two nights of observing and also requires a lot of help from the amateur community.

Marybeth Johnson (of the Fisher School), is coordinating this activity. If you would like lend a hand, please contact either her (617-862-3955) or Tanja Vudler Casale (617-862-0771) who will forward your name to Marybeth.

PALEONTOLOGISTS HAVE reported that after the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet impact, absolutely no dinosaurs exists on that Jupiter. As expected, this assertion will surely be contested by other members of the scientific community.

I WOULD like to thank Phil Rounseville for his assistance in the making of my six-inch, f/5 mirror. Phil's patience with the club's knife edge tester and his expert advice on grinding and figuring helped me win second place for small Newtonian optics at Stellafane last summer. I will bring the instrument to the January meeting. I now challenge Dick Koolish to complete either one of his mirror projects in time for this year's Stellafane.

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

Keep Looking Up...

A NEW belt generated by last summer's Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet impact has appeared in the southern hemisphere of Jupiter. Jupiter rises two hours before the sun at the beginning of January and should be reasonably positioned in the sky for you late night/early bird observers.

Clubhouse News...

WEATHER CAN be tricky during January. The following Saturday night roster shows the person to contact to check on questionable clubhouse openings due to weather. Closings can be determined by calling the clubhouse (508-692-8708).

CLUBHOUSE DUTY ROSTER

Jan. 7:	Steve Mock	617-625-5870
	Greg Chase	508-957-9926
Jan. 14:	Paul Cicchetti	508-433-9215
	John Reed	617-861-8031
Jan. 21:	Phil Rounseville	617-527-1080
	Bob Collara	617-275-9482
Jan. 28:	Dave Aucoin	617-891-9650
Feb. 4:	Art Swedlow	508-486-4734
	Fritz Ledford	508-386-7028
Feb. 11:	Richard Burrier	508-448-5059
	Eric Johannson	508-667-0137

WE ARE still in need of wall lamps and a bunk bed for the clubhouse. Please contact John Reed or Paul Cicchetti if you can donate these items to the club.

For Sale...

THIRTY-INCH diameter pyrex glass. Thickness of 3 Three and seven eighths inches thick. Perfect for that first mirror project. Asking \$1800.00. Kevin McCarthy 603-382-7121.

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).

Jan. 19 CFA MONTHLY OBSERVING NIGHTS. "Irresistible Pull: Searching for the Great Attractor" by Somak Raychaudhury, of the CFA. 8:00PM, Phillips

Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.
Call 617-495-7461 for additional information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 1994-95

PRESIDENT: Mario Motta 617-334-3648
VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Bealo 603-382-7039
SECRETARY: Steve Beckwith 508-779-5227
MEMBERSHIP: Mark Bruckner 617-648-4426
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CLUBHOUSE DIR.: John Reed 617-861-8031
Paul Cicchetti 508-433-9215
OBSERVING: Richard Nugent 508-879-3498
HISTORIAN: Anna Hillier 617-861-8338

FEBRUARY STAR FIELDS DEADLINE

January 30th is the deadline for items to be included in the February issue of *Star Fields*. Mail or phone your contributions to: Steve Beckwith, 195 Wilder Road, Bolton MA. 01740 508-779-5227

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