



This Month's Meeting...

Thursday, November 9th, 1995
Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian
Center for Astrophysics

ALBERT CAMERON of the Center for Astrophysics will be our guest speaker for the November meeting. His talk "Violence in the Early Solar System: Formation of the Moon and Mercury" will feature computer generated movies of major collisions in the early formation of both the Earth and the planet Mercury, a subject that has occupied much of Dr. Cameron's time over the past 11 years as a specialist in early solar system formation theory. Dr Cameron states that if club members bring in VHS blank tapes with a prepaid mailer and address, he will copy and send members copies of his computer simulations.

Dr. Cameron was born and raised in Canada and obtained his PhD in nuclear physics 1952 from the University of Saskatchewan. The discovery of Technetium lines in S giant stars got him interested in astrophysics, and he became an early pioneer in the theory of stellar nucleosynthesis. Needing more data on nuclear reaction rates, he pursued this research at Atomic Energy of Canada in Chalk River, Ontario. Eventually, he needed elemental abundance data in stars and meteorites, and he became involved with problems of the origin of the solar system as well as star formation. Cameron next moved to NASA at the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, in 1961. His interests since then have ranged widely in astrophysics and the planetary sciences. He then went to Belfer Graduate School of Science at Yeshiva University in 1966, and then to Harvard in 1973 with the creation of the Center for astrophysics. He has researched solar system creation theory since that time. Please join us for a pre-meeting dinner at Changsho's restaurant at 6:00 pm on 1712 Mass. Ave. in Cambridge.

Our October Meeting...

THE OCTOBER meeting was opened by President Mario Motta. Secretary Steve Beckwith read the minutes from the September 1995 meeting and Treasurer Bernie Volz updated the membership on the club's finances. Membership Secretary Mark Bruckner reported 170 members have renewed their membership and requested those who have not done so, to send their renewal forms to him. Mark's address is the same as *Star Fields'* return address.

John Reed gave the clubhouse report and requested volunteers for the the October 14th work party. Work to be done included brush cutting, scraping and painting the barn, some electrical work in the observing field, installation of storm windows and work on the porch. John also said when the cold weather is here, work will shift to projects inside the clubhouse. John pointed out that long time member Ed Knight has once again checked out the furnace and prepared it for cold weather operation.

Mario Motta brought to the club's attention the passing of fellow member and amateur astronomer Dennis Milon. Other members had added their memories of Dennis, including Tal Mentall who related, how in 1975, Dennis phoned him from Rocky Mountain National Park with the exciting news of his discovery of a comet.

Mario announced the establishment of the ATMoB on the World Wide Web. Volunteers were requested to help out at several upcoming star parties. Mario emphasized the need to work within the club to coordinate the star party dates.

Mario noted an upcoming NELPAG meeting on October 29th. Pete Bealo requested anyone knowing the whereabouts of the clubs Dark Skies Association's slides to contact him.

Club Historian Anna Hillier said she would have 20 copies of of the club's history (volume 1) for sale (\$7.00 each) at the November meeting.

Tal Mentall said he saw Venus, twenty minutes after sunset from Mt. Wachusets earlier in the month. Prior to the guest speakers presentation, Mario exhibited several deep sky slides taken from his New Hampshire observatory.

Dr. Rudy Schild, the evenings speaker, talked of gravitational lensing and updated the club on the subject's development since his 1993 talk to the club.

President's Message...

AS OF this month our proud 61 year old organization has joined the computer revolution and goes on-line with our own world wide web page. Our web site is <http://www.jovian.com/atmob>, and I encourage all members with modems to log on and explore our site. We want the site to be as user friendly and useful as possible, therefore leave suggestions for what you would like the web page to have in terms of information and content. Upload

He who has a thousand friends, has not a friend to spare. Dennis was a good friend." - Tal Mentall

material and help create the site! The host computer space for the web page was donated by our member Brewster LaMaccia, and therefore does not cost the club anything. THANK YOU BREWSTER. Brewster will be the sysop for the site (His e-mail address is bwl@jovian.com).

When our club was founded 61 years ago, times were much simpler. The club functioned as a meeting place for people with like interests in astronomy and telescope making, a place for conversation, knowledge transfer, and social bonding among friends. In our more hectic times, with demanding jobs and far flung family commitments, many members cannot make many of the meetings, or get to the clubhouse often. Now, however, with the ubiquitous proliferation of home computers, members can connect over a modem at times of their choosing and remain in contact with club and friends. This will hopefully lead to a greater exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Tips on mirror making, fine points of a lathe usage, mount designs, and CCD images, are only a modem call away 24 hours a day.

Star Fields, our newsletter, is frequently out of date even before it arrives at your home (sometimes it does not get there due to the post office, or you may be away from home). Now messages such as this will become available immediately after written to all members with a simple log-on. Members can share ideas and images. Observations can be posted alerting other members of exciting events happening in the sky. Star party sign-ups could be simplified. On-line chats or a bulletin board could be initiated. A list of favorite astronomical information sites could be listed, the sky is the limit!

The web page advisory staff is Brewster LaMaccia, Bernie Volz, Dick Koolish, and myself, Mario Motta. Please let us know what you would like your web site to do. I wish it to be active and useful for all members, especially for those who cannot make the meetings. Send us your comments, suggestions, and uploads and let the web page be a new vehicle for closer communication.

- Mario Motta

Announcements...

THANKS TO Fye, Los, Volz, Walker, Mentall, Waisbren, and Motta, the Oct. 24 Lynnfield star party was a great success. The star party featured telescopes built by 6th graders of Lynnfield as part of the partnership in Astronomy program. About 200 people attended. - Mario Motta

STARPARTY AT the Barrow's School in Reading. November 15th (November 16th rain date) 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Approximately 50 elementary school students will

attend. Contact Charlie McDonald to volunteer (617-944-6140 (H), 1-800-490-2700 (W)).

Membership Renewals...

IF YOU have not renewed your club membership, please do so today. The back of the July '95 *Star Fields* has a renewal form or contact Membership Secretary, Mark Bruckner for one (his phone number is listed on the last page of *Star Fields*).

Please complete and return the form with your payment, as soon as possible to Mark.

Proposed Bylaw Changes...

THE FOLLOWING changes to the club's by laws have been proposed by the Executive Board. These changes reflect membership feedback given at the June '95 meeting after their proposal in the in the June, 1995 *Star Fields*. These changes will be voted on at the November '95 monthly meeting. Please attend and participate in this important issue.

1. Article V, Section 2, Election of Members, B, New Members

This article currently reads:

Any person desiring to become a member of this corporation shall submit to the Membership Secretary an application for such membership, in such form as shall be determined by the Executive Board, together with payment in full of the dues applicable to the class of membership for which application is made. The Membership Secretary shall submit any such application received to the Executive Board for consideration at its next meeting. Acceptance of any such application by the majority vote of the Executive Board shall constitute election of the applicant to the class of membership for which application was made; in the event of rejection of any such application by the Executive Board, all amounts received from the applicant shall be returned.

Proposed change:

Any person desiring to become a member of this corporation shall submit to the Membership Secretary an application for such membership, in a form as shall be determined by the Executive Board, together with payment in full of the dues applicable to the class of membership for which application is made. The Membership Secretary shall submit all applications received to the Executive Board for consideration at its next meeting. The Executive Board may, by majority vote, accept, reject, or defer any such application.

If the Executive Board does not explicitly act to accept, reject, or defer membership applications at an Executive Board meeting, all membership applications received by the Membership Secretary at least seven (7) days prior to the date of that Executive Board meeting shall be automatically accepted. In the event of the rejection of any membership application by the Executive Board, all amounts received from the applicant shall be returned.

Purpose of the change:

To remove the requirement that the Executive Board vote on all membership applications, but reserve the right to review and reject them.

2. Article V, Section 3, Membership Dues

Add paragraph F. Reduction or Waiver of Dues

In cases of financial hardship, a regular or associate member may apply in writing to the Executive Board for a reduction or waiver of dues. The Executive Board may, at its discretion, reduce or waive the annual dues for that member, for one year at a time. No waiver or reduction shall be granted for optional publications.

Purpose of the addition:

To allow members to remain active in the club in spite of temporary financial hardship.

4. Article VI, Meetings of Members, Section 1, Regular Meetings

This article currently reads:

Regular meetings shall be held on the second Thursday of each month except July and August, unless otherwise provided for by vote at the previous meeting. The following order of business shall be observed at all regular meetings, unless it is set aside by a majority vote of members present.

- A. Reading of the records of the previous meeting.
- B. Business and reports
- C. Unfinished business
- D. Discussions

Proposed change:

Regular meetings shall be held on the second Thursday of each month except July and August, unless otherwise provided for by vote at the previous meeting. The following order of business shall be observed at all regular meetings, unless it is rearranged by a majority vote of members present. No class of business except the program may be eliminated.

- A. Reading of the minutes from the previous meeting
- B. Officer and committee reports
- C. Announcements
- D. Unfinished business
- E. New business
- F. Program

Purpose of the change:

To clarify the current meeting practice, and to more closely conform to Robert's Rules on the suspension of rules.

5. Article VII, Section 2, President

This article currently reads:

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Executive Board and shall be an ex-officio voting member of all committees.

Proposed change:

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the corporation. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Executive Board and shall be an ex-officio voting member of all committees, except the nominating committee.

Purpose of the change:

The president should not be a member of the nominating committee.

6. Article VIII, Executive Board, Section 3, Meetings

This article currently reads:

A regular meeting of the Executive Board may be held at the behest of the President after each meeting of the members of the corporation provided an Executive Board quorum is present. No notice need be given of any such regular meeting and action may be taken on any business coming before the Executive Board at any such regular meeting.

Proposed change:

A regular meeting of the Executive Board may be held at the behest of the President after each meeting of the members of the corporation without prior notice being given. A regular board meeting may also be held at the behest of the President at any time and place determined by the Executive Board, provided only that due notice be given to the members of the corporation at a regular meeting of the members or in the bulletin sent to all members. The Executive Board may take action on any business coming before it at any regular board meeting provided a quorum of the board is present.

Purpose of the change:

To allow the board to meet at a convenient time but still provide for notification of the members.

7. Article XI, Elections, Section 1, Nominations

This article currently reads:

At the regular meeting of the members in April of each year, the President shall propose a list of the names of six members from which the members present at the meeting shall choose by ballot the names of three members to act as a nominating committee to select candidates to fill the places of the retiring officers and members of the Executive Board. ...

Proposed change:

At the regular meeting of the members in April of each year, the President shall propose a list of the names of six members from which the members present at the meeting shall choose by ballot the names of three members

to act as a nominating committee to select a full slate of candidates for the elected positions on the Executive Board. ...

Purpose of the change:

To make clear that the nominating committee must propose a full slate of officers and that they can replace any officer, not just those who choose not to serve any longer.

8. Article XII, Dissolution

This article currently reads:

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees shall, ...

Proposed change:

Upon dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Trustees (the Executive Board) shall, ...

Purpose of the change:

State that the Executive Board is the Board of Trustees.

Clubhouse News...

The October 14, 1995 work session completed the observing area upgrade started in 1994. In review,

- The spreading of 22 cubic yards of loam from MIT added 2500 square feet to the observing field.

- New power distribution with ground fault protection is operational. The old system, after repeated functional failures in wet weather, has been deactivated.

- Sand from the town's spring road sweeping was distributed on the circular drive by Greg Chase to improve its all weather use.

- The seventeen-inch Dobsonian telescope has been repainted and the mount bearings upgraded. A low-profile, helical focuser and a finder donated by Steve Clougherty have been added to the instrument. A low wattage, red light bulb in the open end of the tube has prevented condensation on the mirror for one complete season. A folding table and ladder are now stored in the roll-off hutch with the telescope.

- Tree and shrub trimming continued on the east hedge row. The view of the west horizon is slowly being restored. Brush encroaching on the observing field is being eliminated.

- All new posts, mounts and buildings in the observing field have been painted white for night safety. Rotted posts have been removed. The doghouse is currently not used but has its water tight and its tracks have been wire brushed, and painted with rustoleum as has the 17-inches hutch tracks.

- The side porch framing now has deck boards partially installed to support scaffolding necessary to reach the box beam once four rebuilt columns have been bolted in place.

Porch repair will be followed by inside repairs to the house and barn. Mean while, Thursday and Saturday mirror grinding and Friday and Saturday night observing will continue to be enjoyed.

Paul and John wish to thank each member for contributing time, labor, parts, dues and donations to help accomplish this work.

Special thanks to Paul Cicchetti, Stuart Holland, Dick Koolish, Ed Knight, Ed Los, Dave Wallace, Marion

Hochuli, Steve Clougherty and John Reed for making the past work session a success.
- John Reed

CLUBHOUSE DUTY ROSTER

Nov. 4: John Reed 617-861-8031
Paul Cicchetti 508-433-9215
Nov. 11: Greg Chase 508-957-9926
Steve Clougherty 617-784-3024
Nov. 18: Dave Aucoin 617-891-9650
Steve Mock 617-625-5870
Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Closed
Dec. 2: Art Swedlow 508-486-4734

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 617-942-9426
TREASURER: Bernie Volz 508-881-3614
MEMBERS AT LARGE: Gary Walker 508-785-0352
Dick Koolish 617-646-6086
Phil Rounseville 617-527-1080
Anthony Costanzo 508-521-5382

PAST PRESIDENTS: 1993-94 Bernard Volz
1990-92 Marion Hochuli

COMMITTEES

CLUBHOUSE DIR.: John Reed 617-861-8031
Paul Cicchetti 508-433-9215
OBSERVING: Richard Nugent 508-879-3498
HISTORIAN: Anna Hillier 617-861-8338

Bob Heller 508-433-6536

Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston
c/o Mark Bruckner
283 Woburn St.
Reading, MA. 01867

DECEMBER STAR FIELDS DEADLINE

November 25th is the deadline for items to be included in the November issue of *Star Fields*. Mail or phone your contributions to: Steve Beckwith, 195 Wilder Road, Bolton MA. 01740 508-779-5227 e-mail: Compuserver@71762.2513

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