



STARE FIELDS

Newsletter of the Amateur Tinyscope Makers of Boston
Including the Bon Bon Astronomical Club
Established in 1934
for the Enjoyment of Fine Candy and to Abuse
Telescope Makers and Users

No. 3 April 2000

This Month's Meeting...

Thursday, April 1st, 2000, at 8:00 PM
Phil's Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian
Center for Astrophysics

TOM AND Ray Magliozzi (a.k.a. "Click and Clack - The Upset Brothers") will be this month's guest speakers. Their talk will be titled "Road Knock and Good Alignment". Tom and Ray will discuss common alignment problems, such as pulling to the left, shaking, and rear end sag. They have also created an intriguing "puzzler" for us to solve. The winner will receive a free weekend at the clubhouse, all expenses paid. Plan to attend and try your luck!

Join us and our most excellent speakers for dinner at 5:45 PM at the Clang Cho Restaurant located at 1712 Mass Ave. in our fair city, Cambridge.

President's Message...

I HAVE asked Dana Scully and Fox Mulder from X-Files to investigate the strange happenings at the clubhouse. It seems that at the last Messier Marathon, STEVE SPOCK's scope started to spin and rock while bright lights beamed out of the tube and eyepiece. At the same time loud rock music boomed from the rocker box. Steve was speechless for several minutes. Others present had trouble deciding whether this was good or bad.

Scully and Mulder are also investigating the disappearance of several club members who came to the clubhouse to observe on a recent new moon Saturday night. Clubhouse Committee members on duty that night, TOM WEREWOLFE and JIM SUSLOWITS, were asked if they noticed anything unusual. "I didn't see nothing," said Werewolfe. "If they didn't sign in then they weren't here," was Suslowits' statement. Scully and Mulder suspect a Y2K bug might have something to do with these

strange events. I will keep you informed as to the outcome of their investigation.

-Joseph Slothchild-

March's Minutes...

THE MEETING of the Amateur Tinyscope Makers of Boston, including the Bon Bon Astronomical Club, was opened by President JOSEPH SLOTHCHILD. Our speaker was club member RONALD C. MACDONALD, who spoke to us about the latest in telescope fashion: the Risqué Look. In his ongoing effort to raise enough money so that all school libraries in the state of Massachusetts will have a complete set of books on astronomy, Ronald has been modeling telescopes in several local newspapers and in *Modern Maturity Magazine*. Now he is working for the popular *Red Light Magazine*, a magazine for astronomers who care about their scope's appearance. Ronald told us that he was the force behind the upcoming change in the name of the magazine to *Pink Light Magazine*, since pink, as Ronald explained to us, "...is more masculine looking in low light situations. Red tends to reflect a telescope's harsher tones." While describing several new looks, Ronald noted that he is particularly fond of a two-piece pull-down equatorial mount camisole with spaghetti straps in a quiet pink. Ronald is well known in the industry as single-handedly revolutionizing observation fashion. The next issue of the magazine will feature Meade's and Celestron's creative vision for slenderizing masks for planetary observing.

Just before the business meeting began, the club officers ate all of the cookies and soda, and then left. The rest of the meeting was therefore canceled.

-Eileen Mires-

Historian Report...

THE COMPLETE history of the ATMob is now available in a 24-volume matching CD set, bound in leather. (Corinthian leather is available at a small additional cost.)

Read by Club Historian ANNA HOLIER, the set contains the minutes of every meeting since 1934. The entire set can be purchased for \$299.99. Cassettes containing individual years can be purchased separately for \$25 each.

-Anna Holier-

Clubhouse Report...

SATURDAY OPEN CLUBHOUSE SCHEDULE

April 1	Tom Werewolfe	Jim Suslowits
April 8	CLOSED	NO ADMITTANCE
April 15	Tom Werewolfe	Jim Suslowits
April 22	CLOSED	NO ADMITTANCE
April 29	Tom Werewolfe	Jim Suslowits
May 6	CLOSED	NO ADMITTANCE

THANKS GO to TOM WEREWOLFE and JIM SUSLOWITS for their great devotion to the club. They have been in charge of the clubhouse every weekend for the past month, and are asking to continue into April. According to Tom and Jim, the weekends have been very quiet, not many visitors. Oddly though, several members have recently been reported missing by their families. Their last whereabouts were said to be the

clubhouse. However, there is no record of them in the sign-in book.

At our last workparty a truly exciting event occurred. Renovation was being done on the third floor in order to repair water damage from a leak in the roof. While working, ART SWEATLOW noticed an odd stain on the wall. On closer inspection from a side angle it appeared to be a glow-in-the dark image of John Dobson. Upon hearing the news, Dobson Disciples MARIO MATTER and GARY WALKIN immediately set up a shrine there to honor the great cosmologist. Mario plans to show slides of the shrine at the next meeting. -John Reade-

New Mirror Grinding Rules...

JOHN READE has decided that something must be done to help members who struggle while pushing glass for 12" mirrors. The machine shop (which isn't used that much anyway) is going to be converted into a weight lifting room. Work is already underway. Exercise equipment has been purchased and is now being installed.

The new rules state that before a member can start work on any large mirror, a mini 14-week crash course on body building, with an emphasis on upper body strength, must be taken. It will be offered at the clubhouse only on Tuesday nights. John will personally conduct the course in his special tight-fitting leopard-style leotard. No cameras please. White lights only. Assistants are needed. -Bobbie Coalara-

Treasurer's Report...

FOR THE month of March, we had \$7.30 in revenue and \$17,136.86 in expenses for a net loss of \$17,129.56 for the month.

As of March 31, 2000 our assets were:

Checking Account	\$17,130.56
Income	\$7.30
Expenses	
Weight Room Equipment	\$17,111.86
Spandex Leotard	\$25.50
Total Assets at month end	\$1.00

-Bernie "That's All" Folks-

Annual Fenway Park Star Party ...

ONCE AGAIN the Red Sox are allowing our club to use Fenway Park on Saturday, April 1st, as a venue for a star party. With the ability to hold 35,000, it is our largest outreach program for the public. It offers the opportunity for viewing the night sky through a telescope to all of the schools who were unable to have their own starparty this year.

I will start off the evening by giving a 30-minute talk and slide show. Visitors will then line up at the scopes for viewing. Many volunteers are needed for this event, so contact me if you can help out.

Amateur astronomer and Boston Mayor Tom Menino has once again been successful in enacting a ruling allowing the city of Boston to turn off all non-essential building and street lights on April 1st from 6pm until midnight. Plan to arrive early to

avoid traffic delays. Red Sox players will be on hand to help us set up on the field before the crowd arrives. -Rich Nugint-

Telescope Fashion News...

USING HIS new set of pastel filters in his recently completed filter wheel, MARIO MATTER was finally able to image a gamma ray burster. Taking Ronald C. MacDonald's fashion tips seriously, Mario is currently having his 16" f/4 fitted for proper evening attire, complete with black shoes. On order are a mohair pedestal sweater, fuzzy caps to cover those awful glaring chrome knobs, and a see-through spider.

Another Voice Will Be Heard...

BELL ATLANTIC has received numerous complaints that people are just plain tired of hearing James Earl Jones' voice ("Welcome to Bell Atlantic") everywhere. Searching for another scholarly baritone voice, Bell Atlantic talent scouts happened to attend the December ATMob meeting. After hearing TALLY MENTALLY's "T'was the night before Christmas...", the scouts knew they had found the sound they were looking for.

NASA denies claim of astronaut sex...

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - NASA denied a French astronomer's claim yesterday that shuttle astronauts conducted test trysts to find optimal positions for sex in zero-gravity. "We are not, have not and do not plan to conduct any sex experiments," said NASA spokesman Ed Campion. Author Pierre Kohler, a French astronomer who has converted himself into a cosmic affairs commentator, said in his new book, "The Final Mission", that NASA astronauts have tested the limits of stellar sex with space agency support. Kohler cited documents posted on the Internet by a US researcher, saying they describe how scientists and astronauts assessed the possibility of weightless intercourse. NASA said the story and the documents are false. (Reuters). From the *Boston Globe*, February 24, 2000.

For Sale or Wanted...

For Sale: ALL KINDS of optical stuff: telescopes, eyepieces, filters, observing chairs, binoculars, etc. Also for sale: warm coats, hats, boots, shoes, gloves, eyeglasses, and other used clothing. Call Tom Wolfe or Jim Suslowits.

For Sale: SLIDES OF the new John Dobson shrine. Contact Mario Matter.

ATTENTION

Next April Fool's *Stare Fields* deadline is
March 1, 2001

email articles to club secretary Eileen Myers at
starleen@ma.ultranet.com

Ridiculous and really stupid ideas from members are always
welcome.
