



## STARE FIELDS

Newsletter of the  
Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston  
Including the Bon Bon Astronomical Club  
Established in 1934  
In the Interest of Telescope Use & Abuse

Vol. 22, No. 4A April Fools 2010

## This Month's Meeting...

Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 at 8:00 PM  
Phillips You2Can Auditorium  
Harvey-Smite Center for Abysmal Science  
*Cars will be towed from CFA lot during the meeting.*

This month's meeting will feature famous scientist and food connoisseur Dr. J. Reed, PhD, ACE, Maj-sorta RET, Master Chef of the American Culinary Institute of Bailey Hill, and "PeaPa" to his grandkids.

Complex sugar molecules were discovered in a giant donut shaped powder cloud circling the Milky Way's galactic center. The absorption spectrum of the powder cloud shows strong lines of theobromine and caffeine.

Dr. Reed will discuss how hypervelocity chocolate chip cookies are being flung out of the cloud, and have been found to be only half baked. The rest are baked to a crisp by Dark Energy. This could be the missing Dark Matter cosmologists are seeking. The new theory is that we are all made of chocolate chip cookie dust.

Please join us for dinner with our speaker at 7:48 PM at the Yumshu Restaurant located at 1712 Massachusetts Ave. in our fair city, Cambridge, MA.

## President's Message...

I am so tired of having yet another speaker cancel that I have decided to make all of the monthly meetings Member Nights. Starting at the next meeting and continuing through the next year the theme will be astro-comedy. At the end of each meeting we will vote on the best joke of the evening. This should make for short meetings allowing more time to enjoy our club bon bons.

Clear and Sweet Skies.  
~ *The President* ~

## March Meeting Minutes . . .

The March meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston including the Bon Bon Astronomical Club featured Dr. Phil R, Professor of Physics Emeritus of MIT speaking on "How Spherical, Coma and Chromatic Aberrations Combine to make the Perfect Optics."

Bored with giving academic lectures on collimating Newtonian and Cassegrain telescopes, Dr. Phil. decided to buy the defunct Polaroid Company to produce a brand new line of "perfect" telescopes.

At the meeting, potential ATMoB stockholders were presented his pitch for the light path to the future.



Dr. Phil describing his Aberrant Combination Principle

His new design uses lenses and mirrors to combine aberrations to perfection. The "Philperbolic" design is not diffraction limited and has amazing optical performance far superior to Ritchey-Chretien and Gregorians. It eliminates the need for collimation thereby reducing setup time.

Production has started at his new facility in Westford.

During the applause, audience members broke out into a classical Gregorian chant:

"Starlight Starbright  
I wish I had a Philperbolic tonight."

Bored by the rambling presentations by the club officers, members drifted to the rear of the auditorium to feast on tiny Bon Bons supplied by the Lint Chocolate Cartel.

Art S. gave a reading of his new book, "Bad Puns for a Cloudy Night". The membership awarded him a 5-groan applause.

~ *Al. A. Bye, Secretary* ~

## Clubhouse Report . . .

The April 1<sup>st</sup> Dark Adaptation Training session for “A members” took place as scheduled under the Full Moon. The major item accomplished was a group learning session that was enjoyed by all.



The next session started in earnest for those that needed individual dark adaptation training. Our intrepid instructor, Mike M. schooled our members in the fine points of achieving maximum relaxation.



Mike demonstrates the proper technique



Members that have completed the certification

~ The Committee - JR, Steve C, and David P ~

## Clubhouse Saturday Schedule

April 1 - 30	Closed – Due to Rain
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## Website Additions . . .

This month the board of the amateur Tinscope Makers of Boston heard a presentation of exciting new changes to the club's website by webmaster Jeremy Jaynes. Members will not have the convenience of on-line membership renewal by simply providing their credit card information. Renewal will be automatic so that members no longer have to worry about missing one of our electronic newsletters.

A further boost to club revenues will be provided through a contract with a consortium of astronomy companies who will provide advertisements for the website and monthly e-mailed product updates to all members. Extra payment will be received for each commercial product that a member includes in his equipment list or mentions in a posting, and the members themselves will share in these payments depending on the amount of equipment listed. Equipment purchases will be greatly simplified: one click on a product reference will initiate a shipment of the product to their membership address of record and debit and credit card. Members who provide their cell phone numbers will receive an extra benefit because their locations can be tracked by means of triangulation from nearby cell towers. If the cell companies detect a concentration of Tinscope Makers at any site, however remote, then manufactures can dispatch product sales teams to these sites so that the amateurs can "test drive" the latest in equipment offerings. Other vendors can take advantage of this mechanism to provide sale of coffee, hot dogs, and Nutty Bars at observing sites.

Associate webmaster Richard Rutowski provided assurance that all membership information, credit card numbers, and phone numbers will be held with the same level of confidentiality provided by major retailers. To maximize convenience, all membership renewals henceforth will use the credit card mechanism. Furthermore, any member not maintaining a high enough level of purchases through the website will be considered a deadbeat who does not support the manufacturers who make our hobby possible. These deadbeats will be dropped from the membership rolls.

~Chief of “Prevention of Information Services” ~

## Newsletter Corrections . . .

April 2010 Stare Fields: “I plead the 5th on the grounds of possible self incrimination.”

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**April Stare Fields deadline**

**Friday, April. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Email articles to Al. A. Bye at  
secretary@atmob.org**

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Stare Fields is a parody of Star Fields and any relation to persons living or deceased is purely coincidental.