



## STAR FIELDS

Newsletter of the  
Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston  
Including the Bond Astronomical Club  
Established in 1934  
In the Interest of Telescope Making & Using

Vol. 26, No. 6 June 2014

### This Month's Meeting...

Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 8:00 PM

Phillips Auditorium

Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics

Parking at the CfA is allowed for the duration of the meeting

### History Of the ATMoB



On March 26th, 1934 (80 years ago) the ATMoB was officially founded. At the time the club consisted of a mere 23 members. How far we have come to be what we are today. Our history is long, and interesting and important to pass on to new members. This month's meeting will be a chance to do just that. Three long time members have agreed to talk to the club about some of the more important aspects of our past. Anna Hillier will give a talk titled "Our Quest for the Perfect Clubhouse." John Reed will talk about the past thirty years since we acquired our then "dark sky site" in rural Westford, MA. Paul Valleli will talk about the involvement by ATMoB members in Project Moonwatch, a program whereby amateurs were tasked with tracking artificial satellites before the days of optical tracking stations. Come hear and see the history of your club. There will be many posters with pictures from our past as well as a celebratory cake at the end of the meeting.

Please join us for a pre-meeting dinner discussion at [Changsho, 1712 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA](#) at 6:00pm before the meeting.

### President's Message...

It seems like it was not so long ago I was writing my first ATMoB Presidents message for the newsletter. And here we are – two years later – and I'm writing my last. Time has a funny way of passing at such different apparent rates and for me this time has passed very quickly. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve the club in this capacity although I must admit I was a bit hesitant to accept the position. When Virginia Renehan first approached me on the matter I said no. A little arm twisting brought me around, however, because frankly even though I was not too keen on the idea I felt that as a long time member I had a responsibility to accept. This club, and all clubs like us don't run themselves. It takes a lot of work from people that volunteer their time and effort to make the running of our club go as smoothly as it does. As a long time member one should be aware that some sort of service to the club is important. As a very long time member (I first joined in 1974) I felt inwardly that accepting the position as President was something I had to do. So I accepted and am so glad I did.

Of course the running of the club would not be possible without the help of so many others and for them I am grateful and would like to take this time to highlight those who have done so much. Al Takeda has done a wonderful job with the newsletter, without much fanfare but I know, having done this task myself in the past, that a lot goes into it every month. I am grateful for the detailed minutes that appear in each month's issue thanks to the diligent effort of our secretary Sidney Johnson who meticulously records the events of the meeting and highlights of the speaker's presentation. Tom McDonagh has done a stellar job as Membership Secretary with his upbeat presence at each meeting making new members feel so welcome and his tireless online and personal interaction with members new and old. I am extremely grateful to the work done by Nanette Benoit as our treasurer who has handled our financial assets with such ease and kept our records and reports in such neat order. I want to also thank all the other board members for their efforts and for being at all the board meetings without complaint and responding promptly to email based requests on my part to resolve issues that didn't warrant waiting for board meetings. You all were great and I thank you.

Of course there are non board members that are so important to the club as well. The clubhouse committee John Reed, Steve Clougherty, and Dave Prowten and the many members who they solicit for help and without whom the clubhouse would not look as good as it does. Next time you go up there and grass is mowed, the snow removed, the facilities working and the cupboards filled it is them that must be thanked. I extend my gratitude as well to the observing committee - Bruce Berger, Glenn Chaple and Bernie Kosicki whose efforts to keep the members looking up are so important. And I can't forget the Special Events Committee – Eileen Myers, Nina Craven, Julie Kaufman and the members they solicit to help them out with

picnics, New Years Eve parties and other special events that are enjoyed by so many.

Lastly I want to extend one more note of thanks, first to all the members who attend our many public outreach events and star parties and secondly to Virginia Renehan the force behind this important facet of our club and the person who got me here in the first place. As star party coordinator she does so much for the club in such an unassuming way. She coordinates the many public events we are involved with, presents an outward face of the club to the public, and her ideas and perspectives on club related issues have always been solidly rooted in what is important and best for the club Thank you Virginia – for your tireless efforts and for twisting my arm two years ago when I was hesitant. I have enjoyed my time as President and look forward to continuing to help out the club in some form or another in the future.

~ *Michael Hill – President* ~

## May Meeting Minutes . . .

*Editor:* Not received by date of publication.

~ *Sidney Johnston, Secretary* ~

## Annual Meeting Notice . . .

**Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Meeting for the members of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston.**

ARTICLE VI, Section 2 of the Bylaws; "Annual Meeting - The first regular meeting of the members in June of each year shall be the annual meeting for the election of officers and the hearing of the annual reports."

The 2014 Nominating Committee, (Chair Bruce Tinkler, Steve Clougherty and Dick Koolish), has proposed a slate of nominations to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June. The nominees are:

President: Neil Fleming  
Vice President: Glenn Chaple  
Secretary: Sidney Johnston  
Treasurer: Eileen Myers  
Membership Secretary: Tom McDonagh  
Member at Large: Bruce Tinkler  
Member at Large: Dan Winchell

Per Articles IX of the ATMoB Bylaws: Members shall have the right to offer additional nominations from the floor of 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.

## Membership Report . . .

Membership count as of May 29, 2014 is at 319 individuals.

Please welcome our newest and returning members: Rosemary Folsom, David Holbrook, Sean Brown, Steve Pinner, James DeCamp, Michael Deneen and Jai Gupta.

The club's fiscal year begins June 1st. The membership renewal period begins at this time. Please renew today! Many members' subscriptions to S&T and Astronomy magazine are tied to their last renewal date. You can avoid interruption of subscription delivery by renewing now! Please follow the instructions outlined below:

On or after June 1st, please log into the [www.ATMoB.org](http://www.ATMoB.org) website using your email on record with the club as your login ID.

If you cannot access the website or have forgotten your password, please contact me via email at [membership@atmob.org](mailto:membership@atmob.org).

Once you have successfully logged in, click the "Your Details" tab found on the top right portion of the page.

In the middle of the page, click on the "Renewals" tab.

Click on the “Renew your membership” tab and follow the instructions.

One can pay using PAYPAL or personal check. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or issues.

New members on record in 2014 are not required to renew at this time.

Our communication lifeline includes the ATMOB-Announce and ATMOB-Discuss mailing lists as well as our fantastic newsletter. Please refer to these tools for up to date information on club openings, events and interesting astronomy related discussions. Contact me with questions regarding accessing these options at: [membership@atmob.org](mailto:membership@atmob.org).

The Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization. Donations are gladly accepted and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the club during your estate and tax planning this year. Many companies make matching contributions at an employee’s request. It is a simple way to make your donation go twice as far.

~ Tom McDonagh – Membership Secretary ~

## Clubhouse Report . . .

May 2014



John Blomquist working on the telescope adapter plate. \*

Warm 65 degree F. cloudy conditions met 17 members who donated their time to continue our monthly Clubhouse repair program. Thanks to: John Blomquist, Steve Clougherty, Karl Dean, Joe Henry, Eric Johansson, Dick Koolish, John Maher, Eileen Myers, Dave Prowten, Cheryl Rayner, John Reed, Dean Shaddock, Art Swedlow, Al Takeda, Bob Toop, Bill Toomey and Sai Vallabha.

As one group tackled the transition from winter to spring maintenance duties, the other tackled observatory and stowage cleanup tasks. The “Shed” electrical upgrade, repair and maintenance were tackled by Joe H., Steve C, and Dave P. This included reinstalling the repaired ramps (for moving heavy telescopes) onto new accessible racks. Excess project lumber was moved from the porch to the far barn. The seasonal swap of mowers and snow blowers was performed between the metal

shed and far barn and snow shovels were shifted to the barn loft. The barn was cleaned by the team led by Bob T. and John R. The clamshell observatory cleanup and mount testing was continued by John M’s team. The 17” hutch was tended to by Sai V.’s team.

Al T. and John B. fabricated a tripod adapter plate for an Alt/Azimuth, GoTo Celestron C5 Schmidt-Cassagrain telescope (donated to the club by Lou Cohen’s wife).

After lunch the lawn was push mower cut by Cheryl R., Dave P., Steve C. and John R.

Lunch was prepared by Chef Cheryl, salad master Sai, and presented by Eileen M., Art S., Dick K., and several who passed too close to that activity.

As darkness fell, all of the observing pads seemed to be filling with telescopes. 11:30 pm came and went with that morning’s work still showing fruit. The skies cooperated and the observing session continued into the early morning.

The next work party is scheduled for June 14, 2014 starting at 10 am. Repair of the field outlet boxes damaged during the winter, installation of a new mount in the clamshell observatory and continued repair of the evaporator room floor are in need of your help. Please join us.



The Clubhouse parking area filled with packer material. No more mud! \*

~ Clubhouse Committee Directors ~

~ John Reed, Steve Clougherty and Dave Prowten ~

### Clubhouse Saturday Schedule

June 14	Dave Prowten and Al Takeda <b>WORK PARTY # 6</b>	
June 21	Brian Leacu	Phil Rounseville
June 28	George Paquin	John Small
July 5	Joe Henry	Cheryl Rayner
July 12	Bill Robinson and Rich Burrier <b>WORK PARTY # 7</b>	
July 19	John Maher	Glenn Meurer
July 26	<b>Clubhouse Closed</b> <b>STELLAFANE CONVENTION</b>	
August 2	Henry Hopkinson	Eileen Myers

## Astronomy Day 2014 . . .



Julie Kaufmann (right) showing the visible Sun. \*

On Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> the ATMoB, in collaboration with the Dexter Southfield School, held its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Astronomy Day at the Clay Center Observatory.

While observing between the clouds, members with solar telescopes allowed the kids and their parents to safely view the Sun in both white light and in Hydrogen-alpha wavelengths. Phil Rounseville and Brian Leacu showed the sun with a white light Mylar filter setup. Al Takeda used a Herschel-Wedge to also view the sun in visible light. Phil Levine used a Hydrogen-alpha telescope to view the Sun's prominences. Dick Koolish manned the Telescope Advice Table and answered many equipment questions.



Al Takeda (right) showing the Sun. Photo by Bruce Tinkler using Al T's camera.

Thundershowers forced us to retreat into the building where a few of us continued to answer questions about telescopes and astronomy.

Inside, Eileen Myers set up glass and grit and some of her own equipment to demonstrate mirror making and how a telescope works. Bruce Tinkler brought and displayed his supply of beginner astronomy material and answered general questions about astronomy.



Eileen Myers (right) showing kids how to grind a telescope mirror. \*

Thanks to all of the members that made this event a success. Thanks to Julie Kaufmann, Dick Koolish, Brian Leacu, Phil Levine, Eileen Myers, Robert Phinney, John and Monique Reed, Phil Rounseville, Al Takeda, Bruce Tinkler, Joe Wolfe. My apologies if I missed anyone.

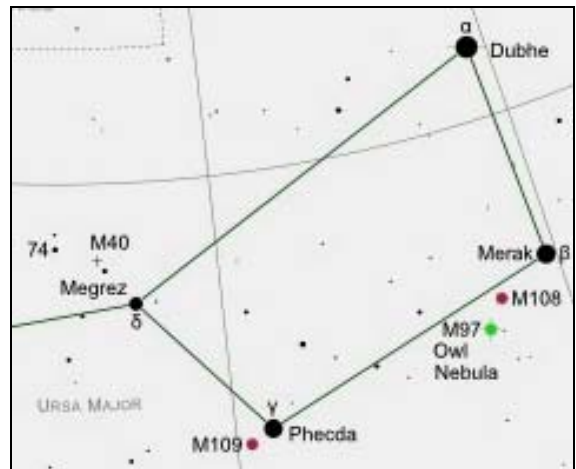
~ Submitted by Al Takeda ~

## Sky Object of the Month . . .

June 2014

M 97 (NGC 3587), the "Owl Nebula"

Planetary Nebula in Ursa Major



freestarcharts.com

Last month, we paid a visit to the spiral galaxy M108. I promised to feature its neighbor, the planetary nebula M97, this month. Did you take a sneak peek? I don't blame you. Just  $\frac{3}{4}$  degree southeast of M108, M97 can be glimpsed in the same low-power field. Their seeming nearness is an illusion. M108 lies some 45 million light years distant, while M97 is ensconced within the bounds of our Milky Way Galaxy at a distance of around 2000 light years.

Like M108, M97 was discovered by Messier's contemporary Pierre Méchain in 1781. Described as one of the fainter of the Messier objects, M97 can nonetheless be glimpsed with small aperture scopes. I first saw its ghostly 10th magnitude, 3.3

arcminute-wide form with a 3-inch reflecting telescope and magnifying power of just 30X.

In 1848, Irish astronomer William Parsons, the 3rd Earl of Rosse, studied M97 with his colossal 72-inch reflecting telescope (the "Leviathan of Parsonstown"). He noted and sketched a pair of dark circular areas within the nebulosity that gave M97 the appearance of an owl's head, hence its modern-day nick-name the "Owl Nebula." Fortunately, you won't need Parson's Leviathan to see the Owl eyes. With patience and a magnification of 138X, I once captured fleeting glimpses with a 10-inch reflector. The limiting magnitude that night was about 5. From a dark-sky site, a smaller scope should be able to do the trick.



M97 photo by Mario Motta, MD

~ Glenn Chaple – Member at Large ~

## For Sale . . .



Orion 8XTi Intelliscope 8" f6 "push-to" dobsonian FOR SALE. Excellent condition.

Includes Intelliscope digital setting circles to guide you to deep sky objects and planets, Red dot finder, 2" to 1 1/4" eyepiece adapter, Orion Sirius 25mm Plossl and Orion cover.

\$350.00 delivered to June ATMoB meeting or mutually agreed upon pickup spot.

Cash or paypal only please.

pbealo@comcast.net



Televue 15mm plossl \$60.00

Televue 20mm plossl \$60.00

Both in excellent like-new condition with end caps. No boxes. I'll be at June ATMoB meeting. Cash or paypal only.

pbealo@comcast.net

~ Submitted by Peter Bealo ~

Editor: \* Photos by Al Takeda unless otherwise noted.

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**July Star Fields DEADLINE**  
**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Email articles to Al Takeda at  
[newsletter@atmob.org](mailto:newsletter@atmob.org)

**Articles from members are always welcome.**

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**POSTMASTER NOTE:** First Class Postage Mailed June 10, 2014

Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc.  
c/o Tom McDonagh, Membership Secretary  
48 Mohawk Drive  
Acton, MA 01720  
**FIRST CLASS**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD 2013-2014**

PRESIDENT: Mike Hill (508) 485-0230  
[president@atmob.org](mailto:president@atmob.org)

VICE PRES: Neil Fleming  
SECRETARY: Sidney Johnston (978) 505-9169  
MEMBERSHIP: Tom McDonagh (617) 966-5221  
TREASURER: Nanette Benoit (978) 290-2802

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Glenn Chaple (978) 597-8465  
Eileen Myers (978) 456-3937  
Nina Craven (617) 448-8285

PAST PRESIDENTS:  
2010-12 Bernie Kosicki (978) 263-2812  
2006-08 Virginia Renehan (978) 283-0862

**COMMITTEES**

CLUBHOUSE: John Reed (781) 861-8031  
Steve Clougherty (781) 784-3024  
David Prowten (978) 369-1596

OBSERVING: Bruce Berger (978) 387-4189

NEWSLETTER Al Takeda [newsletter@atmob.org](mailto:newsletter@atmob.org)

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

STAR PARTY COORDINATOR:  
Virginia Renehan [starparty@atmob.org](mailto:starparty@atmob.org)

**How to Find Us...  
Web Page [www.atmob.org](http://www.atmob.org)**

**MEETINGS:** Held the second Thursday of each month (September to July) at 8:00PM in the Phillips Auditorium, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 60 Garden St., Cambridge MA. For INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATION see [www.atmob.org](http://www.atmob.org) and check your email on the ATMOB-ANNOUNCE list.

**CLUBHOUSE: Latitude 42° 36.5' N Longitude 71° 29.8' W**

The Tom Britton Clubhouse is open every Saturday from 7 p.m. 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 Observatory at the Groton town line. Proceed to the farmhouse on left side of the road. Clubhouse attendance varies with the weather. It is wise to call in advance: (978) 692-8708.

**Heads Up For The Month . . .**

**To calculate Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) from Universal Time (UT) subtract 4 from UT.**

- Jun 13 Full Moon
- Jun 19 Last Quarter Moon (Moonrise at midnight)
- Jun 21 Summer Solstice
- Jun 24 Venus 1.3 deg. N. of Moon
- Jun 27 New Moon
- July 4 Pluto at opposition
- July 5 First Quarter Moon (Moonset at midnight), Mars 0.2° S. of Moon
- July 7 Saturn 0.4° N. of Moon