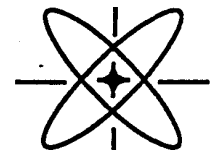


METEOR WRITE



NEWSLETTER OF THE MEMPHIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
A NON-PROFIT, PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION PROMOTING INTEREST
AND EDUCATION IN ASTRONOMY AND RELATED SCIENCES. FOUNDED IN 1953.

April, 2009

VOL.43 NO.4

APRIL MEETING

The Memphis Astronomical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, April 3rd 2009, in the Science Auditorium on the campus of Christian Brothers University at Parkway and Central. Members are urged to attend and to bring guests; the public is welcome.

PROGRAM

WELCOME * * President Moore will greet the members and guests and outline the evening's program.

BUSINESS * * The Treasurer's Report will be given by Treasurer Bill Wilson and the Minutes of the March Board of Directors Meeting will be read by Secretary Carrie Armus.

FROM EARTH TO THE UNIVERSE: The Creation of Pretty Astronomical Images

* * by Amit Kapadia.

This April, Memphis will be hosting "From Earth to the Universe". This is a collection of stunning astronomical images from telescopes around the world, and in space. But how are full-blown color images produced from observational data? Every image in the exhibit is a compilation of various observations with a telescope. These observations are usually black-and-white images representing one wavelength. Combining multiple observations at various wavelengths can create these astonishing images. Amit will step through the process of transforming astronomical data into color images. The Hubble Space Telescope image of the open star cluster NGC 3603 will be used as example.

BREAK * * Time to refresh and mix and mingle.

EDMOND HALLEY * * by William M. Wilson.

Edmond Halley's name is attached to the most famous comet in history, not because he discovered it (he didn't), but because he successfully predicted its return. But that's not all he did. Not by a long shot. Bill will explore Halley's comet connection and much more about this remarkable man and the remarkable people he knew.

MAS E-MAIL ADDRESS: info @ MemphisAstro.Org

MAS WEB SITE URL: <http://www.MEMPHISASTRO.ORG>

APRIL OBSERVING SESSION * * The April Observing Session will be held on Saturday, April 18th at 8:15 P.M. at our observing site near Lagrange, Tennessee. Maps and directions will be readily available at the General Meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL * * The Memphis Astronomical Society is sponsoring and putting on two large media events in April:

FROM THE EARTH TO THE UNIVERSE EXHIBIT: April 1st through April 30th at the Main Public Library. For description see the first talk listed in this newsletter.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT THE LIBRARY * * April 2nd at the Main Public Library. This will begin at 6:30 P.M. with a talk about objects to be viewed and observing by Bill Busler. Afterwards we will hold a public observing session in the parking lot.

SEMI-ANNUAL TENN-ARK STAR PARTY a.k.a. VILLAGE CREEK PUBLIC OBSERVING SESSION * * The M.A.S. will hold another Public Observing Session at Village Creek State Park just west of Memphis in Arkansas on Saturday, May 16th, 2009. We will meet at the Park's Visitor Center at 7:30 P.M. to set up our telescopes. There will be presented a sky map and we will afterwards hold a public observing session. We will need plenty of telescopes; but we will also need just people to help direct the flow of human traffic and to help with the public. If you can come and bring a telescope or just help with the human traffic flow, please call Richard Moore at 737-3278 or e-mail him at wrhgmoores@aol.com ; or, just sign up at the April General Meeting. The alternate date in case of inclement weather is Saturday, May 30th.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER * * The M.A.S. welcomes its newest member: Tim Harris; 487 Susan Circle; Drummonds, Tennessee 38023; 901-835-5374; Tharris@tvmem.com. Please help welcome Tim to the Society and add him to your membership listing.

THE GALLOPING AMATUER * * by Richard Moore.

...April Fools' Day... Originally known as "All Fools' Day", this is not a holiday in own right. As a notable day it is celebrated in many countries on April 1st and is marked by the commission of hoaxes and other practical jokes of varying sophistication on friends, family members, enemies, and neighbors. In other cultures, this is often observed by sending one on a fool's errand where the aim to embarrass the gullible.

The origins are obscure. The modern holiday was first celebrated soon after the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar, although it still referred to someone still adhering to the Julian Calendar that it replaced. In many pre-Christian cultures May Day (May 1st) was celebrated as the first day of summer, signaling the start of the spring planting season. An April Fool was someone who did this prematurely.

In the eighteenth century the festival is often posited as going back to the time of Noah. An English newspaper article published on April 13th, 1789, said the day had its origins when Noah sent the raven off too early, before the waters had receded. He did this on the first day of the Hebrew month that corresponds with April.

In the Canterbury Tales, the Nun's Priest Tale is a tale of two fools: Chanticleer and the fox (March 32nd).

THE PLANETS FOR APRIL, 2009** by Richard Moore.

PLANET	DATE	R. A.		DEC		MAG.	RISE		SET	
		h	m	o	'		h	m	h	m
Saturn	04/01	11	14	07	24	0.6	03	16 PM	05	55 AM
	04/05	11	13	07	30	0.6	02	59	05	39
	04/10	11	12	07	37	0.6	02	37	05	19
	0415	11	11	07	42	0.7	02	17	04	58
	04/20	11	10	07	47	0.7	01	56	04	48
	04/25	11	09	07	51	0.7	01	35	04	18
	04/30	11	08	07	54	0.7	01	15	03	58

WHAT'S UP** by Richard Moore.

APRIL, 2009

Visible Constellations

Leo Crater Ursa Major Leo Minor Hydra

Visible Planets

Saturn... sets in early morning.

Good Objects to Observe

Castor	double star	km ² Persei	double star
M99	Pinwheel Galaxy	M3	globular cluster

Miscellaneous Notes

...*New Moon*... this is the moment when the moon is in conjunction with the sun (strictly, having the same ecliptic longitude as it), passing north or south of it and sometimes eclipsing it. This is popularly confused wrth the Young Moon.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March's Board meeting was held at the home of Ric Honey on March 20, 2009. President Moore opened the meeting at 8:07 P.M. Present were Richard Moore, Bill Busler, Brenda Harris, Bill Wilson, Carrie Armus, Freddy Diaz, and Ric Honey. Lee Cole, Tom Emens, and Mark Matthews were absent. February's minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given. The previous reported balance was \$1982.08. There was one deposit and one disbursement leaving a new balance of \$1839.08. Bill Wilson gave delinquent dues notices to be included with this month's MeteorWrite.

Meteor Write circulation will be 78.

In Old Business, publicity updates were given for the upcoming FETTU exhibit and associated events. There was discussion on setting up the exhibit and the April 2nd observing at the Main Library. Brenda Harris gave reports on sidewalk observing. This past week, Our Lady of Perpetual Hope School asked for help in trying to win the silver level award offered by NASA for daytime astronomy. Although this was very short notice, three members were able to attend on March 20th and help over 330 people participate in sun viewing to qualify the school for the award. Brenda reported on upcoming sidewalk observing events and discussed managing the calendar and volunteer list. There was discussion on the upcoming MAS observing sessions at LaGrange. There was discussion regarding adding our star charts on our website. Bill Busler reported that MAS has not received an invitation to this year's Memphis/Shelby County Science Fair. Bill Wilson reported communication from the Amateur Astronomers of Pittsburgh confirming that they insure their telescope for about \$25,000. Discussion followed regarding the need to insure our telescope, currently kept by Lee Cole, which is very similar to theirs. There was discussion on telescope kits available at galileoscopes.com. Bill Busler reported that the bylaws are complete and current in one file.

In New Business, a new member application from Timothy Harris was read and discussed. Bill Wilson moved to accept Timothy's application. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Welcome, Timothy! Bill Wilson suggested that the MAS recognize Amit Kapadia for all of his hard work in helping to bring the FETTU exhibit to Memphis, and discussion followed on how best to do this. There was discussion regarding possibly moving April 25th's regular observing session to the Memphis Soaring Society's location in Arkansas. Changes needed on the MAS calendar were discussed.

The schedule for April's general meeting was set.

President Moore adjourned the meeting at 9:28 P.M.

~Respectfully Submitted, Carrie Armus, Secretary