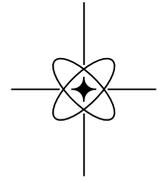


# Meteor Write



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

August 2016

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Year!

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## AUGUST MEETING



The Memphis Astronomical Society will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2016, in the Assisi Hall Science Auditorium on the campus of Christian Brothers University at East Parkway South and Central Avenue. Enter from Central opposite the Fairgrounds. A campus map can be found at [www.cbu.edu/assets/2091/cbumap2014.pdf](http://www.cbu.edu/assets/2091/cbumap2014.pdf). Members are urged to attend and to bring guests. The public is welcome.

## PROGRAM

**WELCOME** \* \* President Bill Busler will greet the members and guests and outline the evening's program.

**BUSINESS** \* \* The minutes of the July Board of Directors meeting will be read by Secretary Richard Townley, and the Treasurer's report will be given by Treasurer Bill Wilson.

**UPCOMING OBSERVING SESSIONS** \* \* The Observing Sessions for August will be announced by Mark Matthews, Vice-President for Observing.

**ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY, Part III: A QUICK AND DIRTY CELLPHONE HOLDER FOR ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY** \* \* by Tom Richardson

Just about everybody has a cellphone with a built-in camera. Your cellphone is probably quite capable of making some impressive astrophotos. Tom will show how to make a cheap and easily-fabricated holder that will allow you to easily make some neat pictures of some of the brighter celestial objects with your telescope and cell phone.

**BREAK:** Time to refresh and mix and mingle. Please talk with our visitors and make them feel welcome!

**THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER (ALL ABOUT SIRIUS)** \* \* by William J. Busler  
Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, as well as one of the nearest, and we know a lot about it. Bill will cover the interesting facts (and fiction!) about the Dog Star, and how astronomers have made the measurements behind the knowledge. Along the way, he will review a lot of material from the Short Course, which will be on the test next month.

### M.A.S. CONTACT INFORMATION

President Bill Busler: [WBusler@aol.com](mailto:WBusler@aol.com)

M.A.S. Web Site: [www.MemphisAstro.org](http://www.MemphisAstro.org)

WELCOME to our newest members, Raquel Stevens and Vijay Krishnamurthy!

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SHORT COURSE TEST: We now have an on-line Study Guide to help you prepare for the test. It's at <http://memphisastro.org/forms/MAS%20Short%20Course%20Lecture%20Guide.pdf>, along with all previous Short-Course presentations. This is a great way to brush up on the earlier talks or see ones you've missed. Also, the Short Course Manual is still available for \$5.00. Start preparing to earn the handsome certificate stating that you are a "Knowledgeable Amateur Astronomer".

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AUGUST OBSERVING SESSIONS: Don't forget about the Observing Sessions!

Saturday, August 6: 8:45 p.m. at Burton's Sugar Farm. Dark-Sky Observing.

Saturday, August 27: 8:15 p.m. at Burton's Sugar Farm. Dark-Sky Observing.

A map with directions will be provided by e-mail on the day of each observing session, along with the appropriate observing list(s). Please print out and bring with you.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS! On Monday, August 21st, 2017, there will be a total eclipse of the Sun. Unlike most eclipses, which tend to be in remote areas of the Earth, this one will pass pretty much all the way across the continental United States. The path of totality passes near St. Louis and Nashville. The M.A.S. is planning an expedition to a site along the path to view this most spectacular of natural events. A committee, which includes Ric Honey (chair), Jeremy Veldman, and John Smith, is working on plans to ensure a successful event. Note that the eclipse occurs on a workday, so it will be necessary to schedule time off in advance. Since the eclipse occurs in the middle of the day, we should be home that same evening.

Don't let this once-in-a-lifetime event pass you by!

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ELECTION COMING UP! No, not that one! At our December meeting, the Memphis Astronomical Society will hold elections for the 10 members of the Board of Directors – 5 Officers (President, Vice-President for Programs, Vice-President for Observing, Secretary, and Treasurer), and 5 Directors. Several members of the Board are retiring at the end of this year, and new people will be needed to take their place.

The duties associated with all the different positions are spelled out in the Bylaws. If you are a member and don't have a copy, please let any current Board member know and we'll get them to you. In addition to the normal duties of each office, Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings, usually on the third Friday evening of each month, and to serve on committees. Members take turns hosting the meetings.

If you would like to perform a real service to the M.A.S., please consider running for the Board. If you're interested, you can contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Ric Honey (chair), Mark Matthews, and Tom Richardson. Remember, you only get out of an organization what you are willing to put into it.