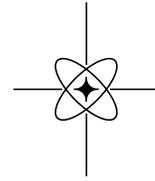


# Meteor Write



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.

February 2017

Our 51<sup>th</sup> Year!

Vol. 51, No. 2

## ***FEBRUARY MEETING***



The Memphis Astronomical Society will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2017, 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.

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!** We need everyone to come to this meeting to assist beginners in setting up and using their new telescopes. This is an excellent opportunity to perform a valuable public service!

## **PROGRAM**

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

**BUSINESS** \* \* The minutes of the January Board of Directors meeting will be read by Secretary Richard Townley, and the Treasurer's report will be read by Treasurer Sarita Joshi.

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

### ***New-Telescope Seminar***

The entire meeting will be devoted to helping beginners learn how to set up and use their telescopes, such as those recently acquired as Christmas presents.

**PART I – Optics and Telescopes** \* \* by William J. Busler

Bill will cover the various types of telescope designs, power (magnification), the magnitude scale, finder scopes, and types of mountings. He will also go over how to set up and use various types of telescopes.

**INTERMISSION:** During the break, knowledgeable M.A.S. members will individually assist visitors in setting up their telescopes.

#### **M.A.S. CONTACT INFORMATION**

President Ric Honey: [Ric@MemphisAstro.org](mailto:Ric@MemphisAstro.org)

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

**PART II – Finding Celestial Objects \* \* by William J. Busler**

Bill will demonstrate the use of sky maps in finding and learning the major constellations and locating important celestial objects. He will then cover how to use your telescope to find the Sun, Moon, and planets, naked-eye stars and deep-sky objects, and a few other interesting objects which are located near easily-found stars.

**NOTE:** During the meeting, January sky maps and set-up directions will be distributed.

**AFTER THE MEETING:** Weather permitting, we will proceed outside to the parking lot, where once again, knowledgeable M.A.S. members will individually assist visitors in locating celestial objects with their own telescopes. (In case of inclement weather, we will hold an informal question-and-answer session.)

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**TELESCOPE WINNERS \* \*** At the December meeting, we received a number of essays from people vying for the Dona Packer telescope. We will present that telescope to the winner at the January meeting.

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**JANUARY OBSERVING SESSIONS:** Mark your calendars (or high-tech devices)!

Saturday, February 18: 7:30 p.m. at Burton’s Sugar Farm. Dark-Sky Observing.

Saturday, February 25: 7:30 p.m. at Burton’s Sugar Farm. Dark-Sky Observing.

A map with directions will be provided by e-mail on the day of the observing session.

Don’t forget to bring a printout of your M.A.S. Observing List for January.

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**EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS:** Maintaining the distribution lists have become quite a task and we are exploring what we *hope* will be a better way for everyone. Please let us know if you are not getting an email notification that you think you should. We currently send out the Meteor Write about a week prior to the next meeting and our Go/No Go Notice for observing sessions by 3:00 pm the day of the observing session. Thanks in advance for your patients.

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**M.A.S. YouTube Site:** All previous Short-Course presentations are now available on line. This is a great way to brush up on the earlier talks or see ones you might have missed.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MemphisAstronSociety>

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**NOTE:** Copies of the M.A.S Short Course Manual, as well as our handbooks, *An Amateur’s Guide to the Messier Objects (Volumes I and II)*, will be available for purchase at the meeting, for \$5.00 each.

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