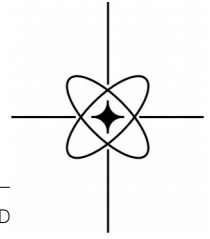


Meteor Write



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.

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MARCH MEETING



The Memphis Astronomical Society will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 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. Members are encouraged to attend and to bring guests. The public is welcome.

PROGRAM

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

BUSINESS * * The minutes of the February 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 March will be announced by Mark Matthews, Vice-President for Observing.

VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS * * by Chris Maloney

Many amateur astronomers know of the eclipses of Algol, or the 5 day cycle of Delta Cephei, the most famous Cepheid variable star. But did you know that *thousands* of variable stars can be observed with small telescopes? Adding some of these to your nightly program can be fun and challenging. What is more, progress in astronomy and astrophysics has always rested, in large part, on the contributions of amateurs. Come learn more about these fascinating objects and how amateurs like you collaborate with professionals to deepen our understanding of the cosmos.

M.A.S. Contact Information

President Ric Honey: ric@memphisastro.org

M.A.S. Web Site: www.memphisastro.org

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

SUPERNOVA 1987a 30TH ANNIVERSARY * * by Jeremy Veldman

The supernova of 1987 (SN 1987a) occurred in the Large Magellanic Cloud and was the closest observed supernova since Kepler's supernova in 1604. 30 years of observation and study by modern astronomers have provided much insight into core collapse supernovas. Of particular interest, the event confirmed the existence of neutrinos by direct detection and the observation of gamma rays from the decay of radioactive nuclei of heavy elements. Learn more about the awesome power of Type II Core Collapse Supernovas and what we've learned from SN 1987a.

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

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

Saturday, March 25, 7:30 p.m. at Village Creek State Park.

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