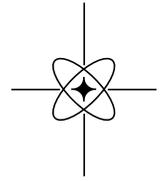


Meteor Write



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.

May 2016

Our 50th Year!

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MAY MEETING



The Memphis Astronomical Society will meet at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 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. 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 April Board of Directors meeting will be read by Secretary Richard Townley, and the Treasurer's report will be read by Treasurer Bill Wilson.

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

USING FILTERS TO IMPROVE VISUAL OBSERVING * * by Tom Richardson
Tom will discuss using optical filters to enhance viewing. Using light pollution filters, light reduction filters, and colored filters to improve planetary detail will be explained, along with how astronomical filters are made and how they work in conjunction with the human eye.

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

RECAP OF THE NEW HORIZONS PLUTO MISSION * * by Richard Townley
Richard will cover NASA's New Horizons mission to the dwarf planet Pluto. He will talk about the scientific instruments aboard the New Horizons spacecraft, elaborate on the discoveries made by New Horizons, and show some of the best pictures ever taken of Pluto.

M.A.S. CONTACT INFORMATION

President Bill Busler: WBusler@aol.com

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

TRANSIT OF MERCURY: On Monday, May 9th, a fairly rare celestial event will occur – a transit of Mercury. A transit is the passage of an inner planet across the face of the Sun. The transit begins at 6:13 a.m. and ends at 1:42 p.m.

Transits of Mercury occur 13 or 14 times per century, always in either May or November because of the geometry involving the inclinations of the orbits of Mercury and Earth with respect to each other. The last transit visible from the United States was in November 2006, but we won't have to wait as long for the next one, which will occur on November 11, 2019. That will be the last one visible from the United States until May 7, 2049.

For more information, go to Sky & Telescope's website:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/observing-news/get-ready-for-may-9th-transit-of-mercury-041320162/>

The Memphis Astronomical Society will set up telescopes in two locations for public viewing of the event:

We will be at the Woodland Discovery Playground at Shelby Farms Park, starting at 9:00 a.m. Trees would obstruct the view and few people would be in the Park at the beginning of the transit, but this is still almost an hour before the midpoint of the event at 9:57 a.m.

Other M.A.S. members will be viewing from the front lawn of the Memphis Pink Palace Museum, 3050 Central, beginning at 10:00 a.m.