



The Celestial Observer

*Newsletter of the North Shore
Amateur Astronomy Club*

June, 2010

From the President

The June 4th NSAAC business meeting venue is:

- 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM: Chinese buffet dinner at the China Blossom restaurant for those members that chose to attend (cost is \$18.95 for the buffet)
- Drive to Veasey (10 to 15 minutes)
- 8:00 to 9:00 PM: Presentation (Veasey Memorial Hall-Pingree meeting room) by Nanette Benoit on the “Wise Mission” plus a question and answer session
- 9:00 PM to 9:20 PM: Monthly NSAAC business meeting
- Refreshments

NSAAC does not have a business meeting in July. The August business meeting will have an equipment and book swap from 8 to 9 PM instead of a speaker.

Thanks to the presentation by Michael Deneen, I now have a list of bright stars to point out to people attending star parties that have exoplanets (I will add the list of “easy exoplanets” to our website). My favorites are Upsilon Andromedae and 55 Cancri, because these stars have exoplanets that are in the “habitable zone” (possibility of life on other planets).

Our Young Astronomers Program (YAP) continues to grow each year. This year we awarded seven telescopes to budding astronomers. On clear weeknights this Summer and Fall, look for NSAAC email announcements of observation sessions at Veasey that are geared to helping the YAP winners use the telescopes and find Messier objects. Our website has monthly observation lists of Messier objects and the best and brightest NGC objects. Additional observation lists will be added to the website in the coming months.

Enjoy the summer and I hope to see you at an observation session.

If you have questions or comments email me: jefoy_at_comcast.net.

*James Foy,
President*

Young Astronomer Program



On April 24th we awarded seven telescopes to our 2010 Young Astronomer Program winners. This year’s winners are:

Gregory Deane from Lawrence. Gregory aspires to work for NASA. He finds black holes, dark matter, and dark energy to be most fascinating. He has attended public observing night at Merrimack College on



several occasions and learned of our program there. (Pictured: Gregory and Deborah Deane)

Ben Wilson from North Hampton, NH. Ben aspires to be an astronomer. He realizes there is a lot of study involved, and that observing is only a small part of it. Ben learned of the YAP program through his dad who had done business with Tony Costanzo’s Astronomy Shoppe. (Pictured: Ben, Jolynn and Thomas Wilson)





Daritsa Germosen from Lawrence. Daritsa's interest in astronomy was sparked by her 6th grade teacher. Then she was hooked after attending an NSAAC star party at the Bruce Elementary School. She learned of the program through her school. (Pictured: Daritsa and Dabelba Germosen)

Benjamin Miller from Framingham. Benjamin learned of the YAP program and our club through his rabbi whose telescope had been repaired by our clinic. He has done school projects on Saturn and the Hubble Space Telescope, and is going to be Edwin Hubble in his 5th grade wax museum. (Pictured: Benjamin and Linda Miller)



Grace McDonough from Lynnfield. Grace learned all the planets at age four when her interest in astronomy first started. It has remained her primary interest as she's grown and when Pluto was reduced to dwarf status she did a presentation to help explain why. Grace learned of the program by finding the NSAAC website. (Pictured: Michael, Grace and Lisa McDonough)

Caiden Kumar from Ipswich. Caiden writes that his interest in astronomy began at the remarkable age of two! His interest really took off last summer while observing Jupiter near opposition. Most recently he likes to track sunspots and CMEs at spaceweather.com. Caiden learned of the NSAAC and YAP by attending an Ipswich Audubon program hosted by NSAAC. (Pictured: Marianne Kuzujanakis, Caiden Kumar, Sanjay Kumar)



Dhruv Srivastava from Andover. Dhruv's interest was sparked by a variety of sources including books on galaxies, and television shows on dark matter and energy. He hopes to discover an exoplanet some day. Dhruv also learned of NSAAC and YAP by visiting the Merrimack Observatory. (Pictured: Aseem, Dhruv & Seema Srivastava)



Congratulations to all our Young Astronomers and new members to our club! I'd like to thank Jim Foy, Dave Leclerc, Jim Bastable, Ron Sampson, and Bryan Stone for helping out on the awards day.

The program went over budget this year and has grown to the point that we must seek outside funding to continue. We will be working on acquiring a grant for the 2011 program.

Kevin Ackert

NSAAC Welcomes Our New Members:

Gregory Deane of Lawrence, MA
Ben Wilson of North Hampton, NH
Daritsa Germosen of Lawrence, MA
Benjamin Miller of Framingham, MA
Grace McDonough of Lynnfield, MA
Caiden Kumar of Ipswich, MA
Dhruv Srivastava of Andover, MA

*Jim Bastable,
Membership Director*

Minutes of the NSAAC Business Meeting, May 7th, 2010

President Foy called the May Business Meeting of the NSAAC to order at 9:00 PM. There were 7 members present plus 6 Board members. There was an official quorum.

Secretary:

The minutes of April business meeting were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer:

Treasurer gave an abbreviated report.

Membership:

No new members

Early Meeting Announcements:

Open forum on the agenda after New Business

Committee Reports:

Young Astronomers Program:

Seven telescope awards were presented at the YAP ceremony. The program went a bit over budget. After the Board determines how much over budget was spent for the program, the amount will be put on the website and in the newsletter. At the next business meeting the club members will be asked to vote on funding the over budget amount. The telescopes were presented Saturday afternoon April 24th. The YAP committee thanks all those members who showed up early Saturday morning to assemble the scopes and for the presentation and setup with the young astronomers.

Merrimack College:

Merrimack had two good days. A school group of 12 opened the observatory one evening and 8 or 10 people came a second night. No change in the lock situation; the security police have been very good about coming quickly to lock up.

Salem State:

Salem was open 2 nights with 10 guests one night and 9 guests the other night.

Star Party Committee:

The upcoming star parties are:

Monday, May 10th, High Plains School, Andover, MA

Saturday, June 19th, IRWS, Topsfield, MA, astronomy campout for kids, rain date, June 26th.

Tuesday, June 29th, Wenham, MA Public Library, rain date, Thursday, July 1. Brewster will give the presentation and several scopes will be needed

Saturday, October 2nd, Amesbury School

Saturday, October 16th, IRWS Topsfield, Fall Program

Tuesday, June 29th, Wenham Public Library, Wenham, MA, rain date, Thursday, July 1st

Request from Chelmsford Land Trust for star party in June

Telescope Clinic:

No involvement.

News, Correspondence and Upcoming Activities:

No information

Old Business:

John Tulick has renewed the club's permit to use the dark park for the coming year. He has sent an electronic copy to

Jim Foy. Members that want to use the dark park should request a permit from Jim Foy or Kevin Ackert via email.

New Business:

Dennis Gudzevich led a discussion of whether we should join the Astronomical League. For a club membership they want 95% participation of members. However, the club can put up \$10 and at least 5 club members can pay \$7.50 and have membership in the league. This information will be put on the list server and members interested in joining the Astronomical League should contact Dennis.

President Foy indicated that he has put two young astronomers nights on the calendar due to the bad Weather so that we can have alternate dates. He will use the list server to indicate whether or not the event will take place.

President asked for more pictures to be sent in for the newsletter and the website.

The Entertainment for the evening was an engaging talk by former President Michael Deneen on Exoplanets. The club thanks Michael for this very interesting talk.

Board Meeting is set for Monday May 17, 7:30 PM. at VMP

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

John Hobbs, Secretary NSAAC

2010 Membership Dues

At the time of this printing there are 32 members who have not yet paid their 2010 dues and are now past due. Membership status will be changed to "Former Member" following the June board of directors meeting. Paying your dues is now easier than ever via PayPal. Click the link below to be taken to the PayPal payment page for NSAAC.

To pay your dues via PayPal click here: http://www.nsaac.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=63

- Membership dues for 2009 are \$20.00
- If you joined the club after October 31, 2009, your dues are not due until March of 2011. If you are unsure of when you joined and whether you owe, check with me before paying.
- **If none of your information or club options have changed, you do not need to include a renewal form with payment.** If your info has changed, please download a renewal form from our website.

- If you pay with cash at a meeting, attach a note to your check with your name on it, or, write your name on the bill. Cash payments with no name attached will not be accepted.
- If you send your payment via US Mail, the address is NSAAC, c/o Veasey Memorial Park, 201 Washington St., Groveland, MA 01834-2007
- Questions about dues can be sent to [treasurer at nsaac.org](mailto:treasurer@nsaac.org)

*Kevin Ackert,
Treasurer*

Star Party News

Star Parties are running in full force for the spring and summer sessions.

Harrington School (Chelmsford) Star Party Report:

The crowd turned out to be twice the estimated size (about 80 3rd grade students + parents instead of 40). Brewster LaMacchia did an outdoor presentation on the solar system, and scopes were provided by Jim Bastable, Patrick Amoroso, and Dan Smoody. Despite the rather long lines, the clear skies provided excellent observing of Venus, Mars, and Saturn

Trahan School (Tewksbury) Star Party Report:

Ted Blank gave a presentation which included the scale of the universe, why we see different constellations at different times of the year, and finished with the distance to the moon and what they might see in the scopes to night. There were about 25 students and the same number of parents. Scopes were provided by Ted Blank, Jim Foy, Kevin Ackert, and Pat Amoroso.

High Plain Elementary School (Andover) Star Party Report:

Monday night's star party at High Plain Elementary School in Andover saw about 150 4th grade students and parents turn out. After Brewster LaMacchia's presentation on Venus, Mars, and Saturn, attendees were treated to views of those three planets by volunteers from NSAAC and ATMoB. Assisting with scopes were ATMoB members Dave Wilbur, Scott Chizzo, and Neil Flemming. NSAAC was represented by Jim Foy, Fred Sammartino, Bryan Stone, Dan Smoody, and Ted Blank. Afterwards several members of both clubs went to the local Chili's to discuss the astronomical nature of beverages, finally heading home as they closed up at 11PM.

See the minutes of the May business meeting for the list of up coming star parties.

The Star Party Committee would like to thank all the members who have supported our star party effort and look forward to your continued participation in the coming months.

*John Hobbs,
Star Party Coordinator*

Getting to Veasey Memorial Park

From Interstate 95 north, take the Route 133 west (54B) exit, and follow it into Georgetown Center. Go straight through the light, now on Route 97N. Go about 1.5 miles and take a left onto Salem Street (Tea Garden Restaurant at this intersection). Stay on Salem Street and turn left onto Washington Street. VMP is down a bit on the right.

Directions to all of the NSAAC observing sites are available on our web site's "About" page at:

<http://www.nsaac.org/about.htm>

E-Mail Listserve

If you have email access and are an NSAAC member in good standing, you may want to subscribe to the email notification system that Lew Gramer established for the Club in 1996. This is a "members only" system that places you in contact with other members for late breaking news concerning spontaneous observing activities, outings, tech talk, etc. You can subscribe by emailing your request to the address below. Your message should look like this:

To: majordomo at nsaac.org

Subject: Email list (you can put anything here)

Body: subscribe NSAAC *Full-Name* <*email-address*>

To remove yourself from the email list, or to temporarily suspend delivery from the list or access your other options, please use our "Subscriber Settings" Web page:

<http://lists.nsaac.org/mailman/listinfo/nsaac#subscribers>

Contact Information

For more information about the club and its activities, contact James Bastable, Membership Director, email: [membership at nsaac.org](mailto:membership@nsaac.org) or Jim Foy, President, e-mail [president at nsaac.org](mailto:president@nsaac.org).

Our club web site is: <http://www.nsaac.org>.

The *Celestial Observer* is edited by Leor Zolman. Feedback, and member contributions are welcome. Contact: [newsletter at nsaac.org](mailto:newsletter@nsaac.org).