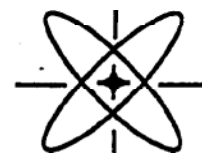


METEOR WRITE



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

January, 2009

VOL.43 NO.1



HAPPY NEW YEAR JANUARY MEETING



The Memphis Astronomical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, January 9th 2009, in the Science Auditorium on the campus of Christian Brothers University at Parkway and Central. Members are urged to attend and to bring guests; the public is welcome.

NOTE THAT THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY, NOT THE FIRST, DUE TO NEW YEARS. CBU will not even be back from break at this time.

PROGRAM

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

BUSINESS * * The Treasurer's Report will be given by Treasurer Bill Wilson and the Minutes of the December Board of Directors Meeting will be read by Secretary Carrie Armus.

ANNUAL NEW-TELESCOPE SEMINAR: The entire meeting will be devoted to helping beginners learn how to set up and use their new Christmas telescopes.

NOTICE: 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!

1. Getting Started With Your New Telescope – Part I – Optics and Telescopes by Richard Moore

Richard will cover the various types of telescope designs, power (magnification), the magnitude scale, finder scopes, and types of mountings.

MAS E-MAIL ADDRESS: info @ MemphisAstro.Org

MAS WEB SITE URL: <http://www.MEMPHISASTRO.ORG>

BREAK * * Time to refresh and mix and mingle.

2. Intermission

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

3. Getting Started – Part II – Finding Celestial Objects by Bill 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.

4. 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.)

NOTICE: 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!

JANUARY OBSERVING SESSION * * The January Observing Session will be held on Saturday, January 24th at 7:30 P.M. at our observing site near Lagrange, Tennessee. Maps and directions will be readily available at the January Meeting.

ELECTION RESULTS * * The M.A.S. Officers and Board of Directors for 2009 are:
PRESIDENT: Richard Moore VICE-PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS): Bill Busler.
VICE-PRESIDENT (OBSERVING): Brenda Harris
TREASURER: Bill Wilson SECRETARY: Carrie Armus

BOARD POSITIONS:

Lee Cole Freddie Diaz Tom Emens
Ric Honey Mark Matthews

THANK YOU TO TOM LAWRENCE AND MARK THOMAS We of the Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Lawrence and Mark Thomas for serving as Directors. We appreciate your service and contributions and hope you will return to the Board in the near future.

WELCOME BACK TO BILL BUSLER, BRENDA HARRIS, AND TOM EMENS ** We welcome back to the Officers and Board of Directors Bill Busler as Vice-President (Programming), Brenda Harris as Vice-President (Observing), and Tom Emens as Board Member.

RAS HANDBOOKS ** The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada Observer's Handbooks are here. If you'd like to have yours before the general meeting on January 9, let me know what times would be convenient for you to pick yours up from me at home. Home is 8625 Chris Suzanne Circle in Cordova; e-mail me or call me (755-6499 home; 827-2843 cell). Some of you have prepaid and others have not. The cost is \$18.45 per book.
Bill Wilson, Treasurer.

GPAC PRESENTS "A UNIVERSE OF DREAMS **

On Friday, January 23, 8 p.m., GPAC will present A Universe of Dreams, a multi-media presentation featuring images of the Hubble Space Telescope. The Hubble Images are accompanied with poetry and prose (Shakespeare to Asimov) narrated by NPR's Neal Conan, with music from early/Celtic music group Ensemble Galilei. Tickets are \$25 - \$35, and we would be happy to extend a 20% discount on tickets purchased by your club members.

THE PLANETS FOR JANUARY, 2009 ** by Richard Moore.

PLANET	DATE	R. A.		DEC		MAG.	RISE		SET	
		h	m	o	'		h	m	h	m
Venus	01/01	20	04	-13	21	-5.0	09	53 AM	08	42 PM
	01/05	22	20	-11	34	-5.1	09	52	08	48
	01/10	22	39	-09	14	-5.2	09	14	08	55
	0115	22	39	-09	14	-5.2	09	45	08	55
	01/20	22	15	-04	28	-5.3	09	28	08	05
	01/25	23	32	-02	04	-5.3	09	18	09	09
	01/30	23	35	-22	24	-4.3	05	07	09	51
Mars	01/01	23	33	05	09	0.7	10	35 PM	11	02 AM
	01/05	11	33	05	11	0.7	10	19	10	46
	01/10	11	32	05	11	0.7	09	59	10	26
	0115	11	32	05	14	0.7	09	59	10	26
	01/20	11	31	05	14	0.7	09	18	09	47
	01/25	11	31	05	23	0.7	08	28	09	26
	01/30	10	37	10	36	0.6.	07	33	08	31

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING **

The December Board of Directors Meeting was held at the home of Lee Cole on Friday, December 19th, 2008. Present were Richard Moore, Lee Cole, Freddie Diaz, and Mark Matthews.

As there was not enough present for a quorum, we could only discuss business.

The Minutes of the November Board Meeting were read by Richard Moore and approved as read.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Richard Moore.

There have been two deposits since then totaling \$134.08:

\$60.00 on December 6 and \$74.08 on December 11

There have been three disbursements totaling \$508.50

\$290.00 to Kalmbach Publishing Company for Astronomy magazine subscription

\$184.50 to the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for Observer's Handbooks

\$34.00 to Kalmbach Publishing Company for one more Astronomy magazine subscription

The current balance is \$1783.53

William M. Wilson, Treasurer

Meteor Write circulation will be 64

In Old Business, the elections were discussed.

In New Business, Richard Moore will present a program on the Christmas Star at the Southaven Library on Monday, December 29th. Freddie Diaz and Mark Matthews will bring telescopes.

The January General Meeting will be the New Telescope Seminar, contingent upon being able to obtain publicity.

The January Board meeting will be at Richard Moore on the 19th.

President Moore adjourned the meeting at 8:31 P.M.

Richard Moore,
Secretary Ersatz.