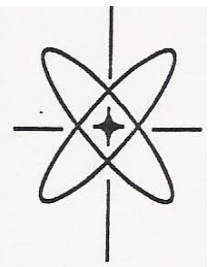


THE METEOR WRITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MEMPHIS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

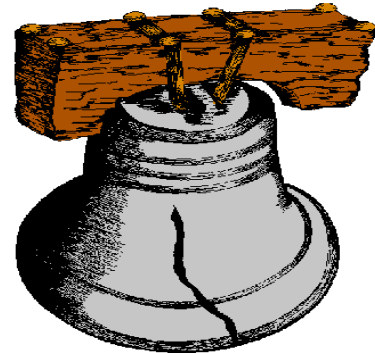
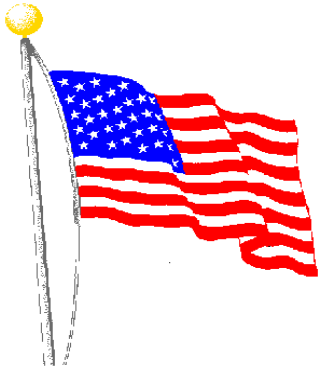
A NON-PROFIT, PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION PROMOTING INTEREST AND EDUCATION IN ASTRONOMY AND RELATED SCIENCES. FOUNDED IN 1953.



JULY, 2009

VOL. 43 NO.7

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



JULY MEETING

The Memphis Astronomical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, July 10th, 2009, in Room 153 of the Science Auditorium in Assisi Hall on the campus of Christian Brothers University at Parkway and Central. Members are urged to attend and to bring guests; the public is welcome.

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE. DUE TO THE FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY FALLING NEAR THE FIRST FRIDAY, WE WILL HAVE OUR JULY MEETING ON THE SECOND FRIDAY, THE 10TH.

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 June Board of Directors Meeting will be read by Secretary Carrie Armus.

THE CROSS ON THE MOON * * by William M. Wilson and Freddy Diaz.

The Lunar Cross (or "X") is a feature sometimes seen near the first-quarter Moon when the Sun's illumination of certain mountain peaks and crater rims is just right. Bill and Freddy will discuss the history of Cross observations, how to observe and photograph this feature, and how to predict its next occurrence.

MAS E-MAIL ADDRESS: info@MemphisAstro.org

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

BREAK * * Time to refresh and mix and mingle.

GLOBAL WARMING: FACT OR FICTION? * * by William J. Busler.

Is “global warming” due to human or solar activity? Is it harmful? Is it even real? How did a scientific study turn into a political point of contention? Bill will discuss the data, theories, and implications of this widely talked about but little understood phenomenon of our times.

JULY OBSERVING SESSION * * The July Observing Session will be held on Saturday, July 18th at 8:45 P.M. at our observing site near Lagrange, Tennessee. Maps and directions will be readily available at the General Meeting

PLANETS FOR JULY, 2009 * * by Richard Moore.

PLANET	DATE	R.	A.	DEC		MAG.	RISE		SET	
		h	m	o	'		h	m	h	m
Saturn	07/01	11	14	07	09	0.9	11	19 AM	11	57 PM
	07/05	11	15	07	02	1.0	11	04	11	42
	07/10	11	16	06	51	1.0	10	47	11	23
	0715	11	18	06	41	1.0	10	29	11	05
	07/20	11	20	06	29	1.0	10	12	10	46
	07/25	11	21	06	18	1.0	09	54	10	28
	07/30	11	23	-	05	1.0	09	37	10	09

COSMIC CHUCKLES * * *by* Richard Moore.

Snakes’ Favorite Public Officials... Public Serpents.

WHAT’S UP * * by Richard Moore.

JULY, 2009

Visible Constellations

Serpens	Libra	Ophiuchus	Scorpius
Hercules		Lyra	Sagittarius
			Cygnus

Visible Planets

Saturn... low in the west.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June's Board meeting was held at the annual picnic on June 21, 2009. Vice-President Bill Busler opened the meeting at 8:31 P.M. Present were Bill Busler, Brenda Harris, Bill Wilson, Carrie Armus, Freddy Diaz, Tom Emens and Mark Matthews. Richard Moore, Lee Cole, and Ric Honey were absent. May's minutes were read and approved with one correction to the balance in the checking account. The correct balance at that time was \$1824.81. Bill Wilson gave the treasurer's report. The previous reported balance was \$1824.81. There were two deposits totaling \$92.50 and two disbursements totaling \$282.95, leaving a new balance of \$1634.36.

In Old Business, Brenda Harris reported a good turnout at Village Creek's Spring Star Party. Our application to join the Night Sky Network was approved. Brenda Harris was named our NSN coordinator, and she has already received some materials. On June 18, 2009, several members enjoyed a teleconference on black holes with Dr. Eliot Quataert from UC Berkley. The next teleconference, *Rocks and Ice in the Solar System*, will be held on July 14, 2009. Shelby Farms has requested that we schedule a program or observation. They can have a ranger stay late and will publicize if there is a special event to show. In the sidewalk observing report, Brenda reported that we are working on more neighborhood plans. The next scheduled event is at Southaven Public Library on June 24 at 10:30 A.M.

In New Business, Bill Busler reported the current postage rates for mailing the Messier Guides and suggested revisions to our current rates. Tom Emens moved to accept the rate changes with one amendment. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The new shipping rates will be \$2.75 for a single guide and \$4.00 if both are purchased together. There was discussion on necessary revisions on our website. Tom Emens moved that the map, member listing and new member application be permanently removed from the website. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The Board expressed appreciation for Ric Honey's ongoing work in maintaining the MAS website. Bill Wilson reported that the post office box rental is about to expire. After discussion, Tom Emens moved that we renew the rental for the upcoming year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

After discussion on the new member application process, a new member application from Nadine Yeager was read and discussed. Tom Emens made a motion to accept Nadine's application. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. A second new member application from Thomas Ernst was read and discussed. Bill Wilson moved to accept the application. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Welcome Nadine and Thomas!

Brenda reported 56 RSVPs for the picnic and submitted receipts for reimbursement for picnic supplies in the amount of \$89.00.

The program was set for July's general meeting.

Vice-President Busler adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.

~Respectfully Submitted, Carrie Armus, Secretary