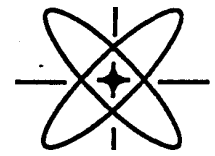


# METEOR WRITE



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

SEPTEMBER, 2009

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## SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Memphis Astronomical Society will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8:00 P.M. on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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

#### **THE GALILEOSCOPE** \* \* **BY Rick Honey**

One of the cornerstone projects of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 is the production high-quality, low-cost, easy-to-assemble refractor telescope kit. This 50-mm-aperture, 25- to 50-power Galileoscope can enable anyone to see the celestial wonders that Galileo first glimpsed 400 years ago and that still delight stargazers today. Ric Honey will demonstrate the assembly and use of one of these telescopes and discuss how it can be used in educational venues.

#### **BREAK** \* \*

**THE MAS SHORT COURSE** \* \* This month marks the beginning of our Short Course in Astronomy. The sessions will continue through August, 2010. The test will be given at the September, 2010 Meeting and those who successfully complete the evaluation will be eligible for the Certificate of Achievement.

**MAS SHORT COURSE SESSION NUMBER ONE: OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE** \* \*  
by William J. Busler.

Dr. Busler will present an overview of the Universe providing a framework for the following

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lectures. Topics include astronomical distance scales; the Milky Way and its contents, including stars, clusters, and nebulae; the range of the human eye; the changing appearance of the Milky Way with the seasons; and other galaxies and their enormous distances from us. Many pictures will be shown of the various objects being discussed.

**SEPTEMBER OBSERVING SESSIONS** \* \* The September Observing Sessions will be held on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 P.M. and on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at our observing site near Lagrange, Tennessee

**SEMI-ANNUAL TENN-ARK STAR PARTY a.k.a. VILLAGE CREEK PUBLIC**

**OBSERVING SESSION** \* \* The M.A.S. will hold another Public Observing Session at Village Creek State Park just west of Memphis in Arkansas on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We will meet at the Park’s Visitor Center at 7:30 P.M. to set up our telescopes. There will be presented a sky map and we will afterwards hold a public observing session. We will need plenty of telescopes; but we will also need just people to help direct the flow of human traffic and to help with the public. If you can come and bring a telescope or just help with the human traffic flow, please call Brenda Harris at 755-6535 or e-mail at bharris-1@comcast.net; or, just sign up at the September General Meeting. The alternate date in case of inclement weather is Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**THE GALLOPING AMATEUR**\* \* *by* Richard Moore.

...*The Fruit Moon*... The full moon of September is called the “*Fruit Moon*”. The full moon nearest the autumn equinox is called the “*Harvest Moon*”, which in most years is the September Moon. Other versions of the rule are the Harvest Moon is the full moon at or after the equinox, which can put it in October. Also, farmers at the climax of the harvest can labour late into the night by the “*light of the silvery moon*”. Here, it rises at about the time the sun sets, both now being roughly on the equator. For a while, it rises at essentially the same time each night. The Full Moon’s markings look like a jack-o-lantern face when tilted to the left just after rising. It is possible that this, orange as it first appears to the harvesters beginning their work, suggested the Halloween Pumpkin. And, as the moon becomes upright on the sky, its markings resemble a lady’s profile and as it tilts to the west to set in the morning they look like a rabbit. These are most striking in the lesser contrast of daylight, when the moon’s “seas” look like parts of the blue sky.

The Sioux Indian saw this as the Dying Grass Moon, while in China it was deemed the most romantic day in China.

**THE PLANETS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2009** \* \* *by* Richard Moore.

| PLANET  | DATE  | R. A. |    | DEC |    | MAG. | RISE |       | SET |       |
|---------|-------|-------|----|-----|----|------|------|-------|-----|-------|
|         |       | h     | m  | o   | '  |      | h    | m     | h   | m     |
| Jupiter | 09/01 | 21    | 30 | -15 | 55 | -2.8 | 06   | 36 PM | 05  | 05 AM |
|         | 09/05 | 21    | 28 | -16 | 04 | -2.8 | 06   | 19    | 04  | 47    |
|         | 09/10 | 21    | 26 | -16 | 14 | -2.8 | 07   | 57    | 04  | 25    |
|         | 0915  | 21    | 24 | -16 | 22 | -2.8 | 07   | 36    | 04  | 03    |
|         | 09/20 | 21    | 23 | -16 | 29 | -2.8 | 07   | 16 PM | 03  | 42    |
|         | 09/25 | 21    | 21 | -16 | 34 | -2.7 | 06   | 51    | 03  | 16    |
|         | 09/30 | 21    | 20 | -16 | 38 | -2.7 | 06   | 31    | 02  | 56    |
| Uranus  | 09/01 | 23    | 43 | -02 | 37 | 5.7  | 06   | 10 PM | 07  | 57 AM |

|       |    |    |     |    |     |    |       |    |    |
|-------|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-------|----|----|
| 09/05 | 23 | 43 | -02 | 41 | 5.7 | 07 | 54    | 07 | 41 |
| 09/10 | 23 | 42 | -01 | 46 | 5.7 | 07 | 34    | 07 | 20 |
| 09/15 | 23 | 41 | -02 | 50 | 5.7 | 07 | 14    | 07 | 00 |
| 09/20 | 23 | 41 | -02 | 55 | 5.7 | 06 | 53 PM | 06 | 39 |
| 09/25 | 23 | 40 | -03 | 00 | 5.7 | 06 | 29    | 06 | 14 |
| 09/30 | 23 | 39 | -03 | 04 | 5.7 | 06 | 09    | 05 | 54 |

**WHAT's UP** \* \* by Richard Moore.

**SEPTEMBER, 2009**

**Visible Constellations**

Cygnus      Aquila      Sagitta      Hercules      Delphinus      Vulpecula  
 Capricornus      Ursa Major      Andromeda      Pegasus

**Good Objects to Observe**

NGC6826    planetary nebula in Cygnus      Saturn Nebula      in Aquarius  
 C30      spiral galaxy in Pegasus      C28      open cluster in Andromeda

**Miscellaneous Notes**

September is month in which the most asteroids have been discovered.