



Club News

October, 2002

John Kocijanski, Editor

Jim McKeegan, President
John Kocijanski, Vice President
Bud Wertheim, Treasurer

The club needs a new secretary

The duties of the post include keeping minutes of meetings and observation sessions as well as possibly helping out with the newsletter. Anyone interested? We really need to fill this position and your contribution will be much appreciated.

High Point Scientific will be having a Televue/Vixen Day next month. The following is their announcement from their website. (<http://www.highpointscientific.com/>) An inquiry was made to see if our club could attend and set up a booth for promotion purposes but we were told the day is exclusively for Televue and Vixen. They may have an Astronomy fair in the future that we are welcome to attend.

SAT. Oct. 26 2002 come down and meet Al Nagler, and see all of the Tele Vue and Vixen products, Door Prizes, Food, Solar Observations and Star Party after the show. 10:00AM to ?

If anyone is interested in car pooling to this contact John at kocis@catskill.net or 791-5240.

The observation session held on September 7th was held. Eleven people participated. The highlight of the evening was a spectacular aurora. There were two periods of activity that were witnessed between 9:00 and 9:30. The aurora extended at times to close to the zenith. Red and green coloration was easily seen as well a pillared appearance. An informal comparison of three short tube telescopes was also done.

An Orion short tube 80, Celestron short tube 80, and a Televue 76 were compared. The Orion and Celestron are essentially the same telescope. Bud Werthheim brought the Celestron 80. John Kocijanski brought the Orion 80. Jim McKeegan and Mark Rosengarten brought their Televues. The Orion and Celestron 80s performed well but could not hold a candle to the Televue 76. The Televue gave much

sharper and clearer views. Comet Hoenig was also observed. It was found first by Mark's Televue 76 and then was viewed in a Celestron C8. It was found in Ursa Major. It appeared as a hazy oval glow with no real tail. Uranus was also seen. It appeared as a small green-blue disk. Other objects that were observed were: the galaxies M31, M32, M33, M110, and NGC 7331; the globular star clusters M13, M22, and M15; the planetary nebula M57, M27, and M76; the open clusters M6 and M34; and the double stars Almach, Albireo, and Gamma Delphini.

Al Gutsche brought his Questar but he observed from the parking lot and we couldn't do a comparison test easily. We're sure his images were as good as any of the other small scopes.

Ten members participated in the observation session on September 28th. A few students from Greg Erickson's Astronomy class at Sullivan County Community College attended as well. At around 8:00 we witnessed the International Space Station fly over followed by the Progress supply capsule. Progress is a robotic Russian cargo vessel. Both flew through the Summer Triangle and passed into the Earth's shadow going to the northeast through Andromeda. Two members brought new telescopes to the session. John Barbarite brought his new Meade LX200 12 inch schmidt cassegrain go to scope. It gave us great views of M13 and Uranus. John Kocijanski brought his Orion Skyquest 4.5 inch dobsonian reflector. It impressed all those who looked through it with clear views with good contrast. Some of the objects viewed through it were M27, M57, M22, M52, and the Double Cluster in Perseus. Alvin Schultheis brought his Celestron C14 schmidt cassegrain. It gave fantastic views of M15 and the galaxy NGC 7331. A search for the magnitude 14 galactic cluster called Stephan's Quintet using it was inconclusive though. Jim McKeegan brought his Kodak digital camera on a tripod and was taking wide field images of Sagittarius, M45, and the Summer Triangle. Greg Erickson

brought the club's telescope. M31 was viewed through it. Mark Rosegarten submitted the following impressions of the night.

September 28, 2002 7:30 PM - 10:15 PM

Got to the Walnut Mountain site just after dark. Nice crowd showed up for this one, including some students. The kids really enjoyed the views through the scope. Got Shorty the C5 set up and well-polar aligned and started looking. I had the f/6.3 focal reducer/corrector in all night. I used the Ultima 35mm to find the objects and then used the 13mm Nagler to observe them. M13 sparkled like diamond dust, M26 showed itself to be almost insignificant (Oh, Messier, how did you find this?), M11 was spectacular. No other words can describe this amazing object. M8 was the best I have ever seen it, the center lane completely visible with amazing contrast. M16 showed itself as an irregular square of nebulosity with darkness in the middle and a nice star cluster at the head. M15 resolved a little, a nice, compact glob. I tried in vain to find M72...I think by then that the 9V battery I had meant to change a month ago was starting to die. I found M73 (a trio of faint stars) while searching for M72. NGC7009 (Saturn Nebula) was nice and bright, lobes readily apparent. M2 showed as a nice, bright yet unresolved glob. I finished with M57 (the Ring was nice tonight), the Double Double (stunning in the 3-6 zoom) and Albireo (gorgeous as always). One of our club members (Jim M.) had his Kodak DC4800 and was taking time exposures of the sky. Got some good ones of the Sagittarius and Cassiopeia regions. This camera has adjustable ISO settings, f/ settings and up to 16 seconds of exposure time. I have one of these cameras too, and I will have to try doing some of these shots. John K. brought his C8 and we had a nice view of M76 (Little Dumbbell), NGC7662 (Blue Snowball), Uranus and many other objects. Alvin brought his C14 and treated us to gorgeous views of globs, faint galaxies with dust lanes clearly visible and maybe

even Stephan's Quintet.

In the beginning of our session, the International Space Station flew overhead, followed by Progress 9. Progress seemed to be at a slightly lower orbit than the ISS, because it hit Earth-shadow at an earlier RA than the ISS did. It was a very impressive sight. John B. had his Meade 12 there, but his battery died about the same time mine did. Brian D. was there with a nice set of binoculars...M31 was simply stunning. Even though I packed it in early, I felt it was a good solid night of observing. Next club session is next Saturday. The long-range forecast is calling for storms then...I hope not!

Oh, and a huge, enormous thank you to Alvin for convincing me to take my C5 off of Astromart this summer. I almost made an enormous mistake. :)

Mark

The October club observation sessions are on the 5th and 26th. The session on the 26th occurs on the same date as the Highpoint Scientific Vixen/Televue Day. They are advertising an observation session that evening as well.

There is a selection of books to borrow. Below is a listing of what is currently available. If you want to borrow a book the email John at kocis@catskill.net or call at 791-5240 and it can be brought to the next observation session or indoor meeting.

1. Starware: The amateur astronomer's ultimate guide to choosing, buying, and using telescopes and accessories by Philip Harrington 1994
- on loan
2. Sky Atlas 2000: 26 star charts covering both hemispheres by Wil Tirion 1982
3. Atlas of the Night Sky: Complete series of Northern and Southern Hemisphere epoch 2000.0 star maps, detailed analysis of 88 constellations, moon maps, observing planets, observing aurorae, meteors, comets by Wil Tirion and Storm Dunlop 1984
4. Sky and Telescope Observer's Guide: The Deep Sky: An introduction

to deep sky observing by Philip Harrington 1997

5. The Universe from Your Backyard: A guide to deep sky objects from Astronomy Magazine by David Eicher 1988

6. Star-Hopping for Backyard Astronomers by Alan MacRobert 1993

7. The Observer's Sky Atlas: With 50 star charts covering the entire sky by Erich Karkoschka 1990

8. Photo-Guide to the Constellations: A self teaching guide to finding your way around the heavens by Chris Kitchin 1998

9. NGC 2000.0: A listing of all 7,840 objects in Dreyer's New General Catalogue of Nebulae and Clusters of Stars as well as all 5,386 objects in his Index Catalogue and Second Index Catalogue edited by Roger Sinnott 1988

10. How to Use an Astronomical Telescope: A beginner's guide to observing the cosmos by James Muirden 1988 **-on loan**

11. Usborne Spotter's Guide to the Night Sky: A beginner's guide to the night sky 1992

12. Constellation Guidebook: A guide to the constellations and the objects that are in them by Antonin Rukl 1996

13. The Messier Album: A listing and description of all Messier objects and the story of Charles Messier by John Mallas and Evered Kreimer 1980

14. Life Science Library Planets: Information about the planets and the solar system by Carl Sagan and Jonathan Leonard 1966

15. Life Nature Library The Universe: Information about the universe and cosmology by David Bergammi 1971

16. Burnham's Celestial Handbook: An observers guide to the universe beyond the solar system , three volumes by Robert Burnham 1978 – **two sets are available - one set on loan**

17. Astronomy for Amateurs: A guide to Astronomy and observing by James Muirden 1968

18. Atlas of Deep Sky Splendors: Information and descriptions of Messier and NGC objects by Hans Vehrenberg 1983

19. Exploration of the Universe: A college level textbook by George Abell, David Morrison, Sidney Wolff 1987
20. And There was Light: The Discovery of the Universe by Rudolf Thiel 1957
21. The Universe and Eye: Making Sense of new science by Timothy Ferris 1993
22. The Edges of Science: Crossing the boundary from Physics to Metaphysics by Richard Morris 1990
23. Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes Volumes 1 (The Solar System)and 2 (The Stars) by Rev. T.W. Webb 1962
24. Amateur Astronomy: A guide to astronomy and observing by Patrick Moore 1968
25. Comets: The Swords of Heaven: Information and history on comets by David Ritchie 1985
26. Mathematics in Western Culture: Information on Kepler's Laws, Newton, calculus, relativity by Morris Kline 1959
27. Disturbing the Universe: An autobiography by Freeman Dyson 1979
28. The Telescope and the World of Astronomy: A guide to Astronomy and observing by Marvin Riemer 1967
29. Sphereland: A fantasy about curved spaces and an expanding universe by Dionys Burger 1969
30. We Are Not Alone: the continuing search for extraterrestrial intelligence by Walter Sullivan 1993
31. Basic Astronomy: A guide to all aspect of astronomy by Peter Van De Kamp 1952
32. Einstein's Space and Van Gogh's Sky: Physical reality and beyond by Lawrence Leshan and Henry Margenau 1982
33. Catalogue of the Universe: Information and descriptions of various astronomical objects by Paul Murdin, David Allen, and David Malin 1980
34. Laboratory Exercises in Introductory Astronomy: A college level lab book by Charles Huffer and Richard Marasso 1967

35. A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes by Stephen Hawking 1988
36. 3-D Star Maps: A view of the universe in three dimensions with 3D glasses by Richard Monkhouse and John Cox 1989
37. Observe the Herschel Objects: A guide to 400 objects selected by the members of the Ancient City Astronomy Club for advanced amateurs by the Ancient City Astronomy Club 1996
38. Sky and Telescope's Caldwell Card: Featuring the 109 deep sky gems in Patrick Moore's Caldwell Catalog 1996
39. The How and Why Wonder Book of Stars: A guide to Astronomy for children by Norman Hoss 1975
40. Turn Left At Orion: A Hundred Night Sky Objects To See In A Small Telescope And How To Find Them by Guy Consolmagno and Dan Davis 1989 – **on loan**

New books to the list:

41. Steven Hawking's Universe by John Boslough – an introduction to the most remarkable scientist of our time – 158 pages – 1985
42. Astronomy with Binoculars by James Muirden – 170 pages – 1984
43. The Cambridge Photographic Atlas of the Planets by GA Briggs and FW Taylor – 255 pages – 1982
44. The Telescope and The World of Astronomy by Marvin Riemer – 229 pages – 1967
45. Time Warps by John Gribbin – 205 pages – 1979 – Is time travel possible?
46. Cosmic Ecology by George Seielstad – 169 pages – 1983 – The view from the outside in.

In addition to books, there is a selection of Stardate audio CDs to borrow. Stardate is a short radio program concerning some aspect of astronomy broadcast each day on various NPR stations. Stardate is produced by the McDonald Observatory at the University of Texas at Austin. Each CD has each of the daily programs for that month on it. Below is a listing of what is currently available. If you want to borrow a CD the email John at kocis@catskill.net or call at 791-5240 and it can be brought it to the next observation session or indoor meeting.

1. 1998 – October, November , December
2. 1999 - April – May, September – December
3. 2000 - January – May, September – December
4. 2001 - January – March, May, September- December
5. 2002 - January, February, March, April, May

Our club telescope is also available to be loaned out to members. It is an eight inch Meade reflector on an equatorial mount. Contact John at kocis@catskill.net or gerickson@sullivan.suny.edu if you are interested in borrowing it. You can also call John at 791-5240. It is currently on loan.

A computer with astronomy software has been donated to the club for members to use. It is a Power Macintosh 6100 with a monitor, CD player, keyboard, and mouse. The planetarium programs Voyager 2 and Starry Night Backyard are installed on it. It also has the satellite tracking program Orbitrak installed that allows you to plot the paths of earth orbiting satellites on a star field created with the Voyager 2 program with instructions for use. There are also various tutorial programs that are viewed with Hypercard Player or Hyperstudio Player on different subjects in astronomy as well as other miscellaneous astronomy programs. There is also a collection of various astronomical images on it that can be viewed as a slide show. A CD version of an Astronomy textbook is also available to use with it. It also comes with a dot matrix printer in case you want to print out a star chart. Contact John at kocis@catskill.net or call at 791-5240 if you want to borrow it. It can be brought to an observation session or indoor meeting. It is currently on loan.

Midevening Observing Highlights for October

The Milky Way stretches across the sky from southwest to northeast. Cygnus can be found almost directly overhead. The Great Square of Pegasus is rising high in the east. To the northeast of the Great Square the constellation of Andromeda can be seen and just above its center is M31, the Andromeda Galaxy. The Double Cluster (NGC 869 and NGC 884) in Perseus can be seen rising in the northeast below Cassiopeia. Sagittarius is setting in the southwest. The bright star Capella is rising in the east. The bright star Fomalhaut is

in the southern sky. The variable star Mira is low in the southeast. The Big Dipper is low on the northern horizon. The Orionid meteor shower peaks on October 21st. Meteors can be seen from October 2nd through November 7th. The radiant is in the east-southeast near Orion's "club". The progenitor of this shower is Halley's comet. A full moon will interfere with the meteors this year.

Full moon is on October 21st and new moon is on October 6th.

Observations and Photographs

This is a new section of our newsletter for members to submit their own observations and photographs. If you are interested in submitting an observation or photograph please contact John at kocis@catskill.net.

The following photos were taken by Mark Rosengarten at our 9/7 observing session.

The group that evening.



Bud Wertheim and John Kocijanski with his Celestron SPC-8





John Barbarite and his Meade ETX 105



Mark Rosengarten and his Televue 76



d u B

Bud Wertheim and Brian Deis with his very large binoculars

BARLOW BOB'S CORNER

Barlow Bob is a member of the Rockland Astronomy Club.

THE BOTTOM OF HEAVEN

A LITTLE GIRL AND HER FATHER WALKED IN THE EVENING, FASCINATED, SHE LOOKED UP AT THE STARS, BUT MADE NO COMMENT. "WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?" HER FATHER ASKED AND THE LITTLE GIRL REPLIED, "IF THE BOTTOM OF HEAVEN IS SO BEAUTIFUL, HOW WONDERFUL THE OTHER SIDE MUST BE".

FROM GUIDEPOSTS, MAY 1964

Observation schedule for the Fall and Early Winter:

October:

Observation 10/5

Observation 10/26

November:

Observation 11/2

Observation 11/30

December:

Observation 12/7

Observation 12/28

All observing dates are on Saturdays.

Please join us and bring friends. All our observation sessions are open to the public and all are welcome.

Remember, the more people who come to our observation sessions the more people we can expose to the wonders of astronomy.

Sessions may be cancelled due to poor weather conditions. Please check your weather reports before coming. Directions to the park are on our website.

<http://www.catskillsastro.org>