



the BARNARD STAR

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BARNARD ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY

MEETING NOTICE: The regular meeting of the BARNARD ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY will be held **Thursday, March 11th** at Jones Observatory on Brainerd Rd. The observatory doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Refreshments and social hour begin at 7:00 p.m. The program will be presented at 7:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting at 8:30.

PROGRAM: Bill Burgess will give a talk on how to select the right eyepiece and filters for the best viewing experience. He will have items on hand for those interested in purchasing.

Planned Activities to Enjoy The Wonders of Astronomy—

Celebrating Amateurs Who Are Professional in Knowledge

“Giving amateurs their due: The term ‘amateur’ is often used negatively as a synonym for ‘unskilled.’ Not here! In astronomy, the word remains true to its Latin root, amator, meaning ‘lover.’ Amateur astronomers spend countless hours under the starry sky purely for the love of it. Many become as skilled at telescope observing or astrophotography as any professional—often more so.”

Discovering the Joy of Astronomy

“The joy of astronomy comes from finding your way around the starry sky and understanding what you see.” –
The Editors, SKY AND TELESCOPE MAGAZINE

The Barnard STAR is the official publication of the Barnard Astronomical Society.



Mourning the Increasing Loss of Dark Night Skies in Our Cities

“There is no more important task for the modern amateur astronomer than to fight the steady growth of light pollution in urban areas. Already we are witnessing the tragedy of the first generation of city children who might never see the beauty of a dark night sky.”

--Director, Observatory, Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Note: BAS endorses outdoor lighting restriction efforts by the International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) and also by local organizations such as Save Roane Starry Skies (SRSS) at The Tamke-Allan Observatory, Roane State College, Harriman, TN.

Technical Areas of Specialization within BAS for Member Participation

Large Aperture/Dark Sky/Deep Space Optical Astronomy at Several Regional Dark Sky Sites

For more information, contact David Witt or Victor Rogers.

Astrophotography

For more information, contact David Hanon or Dr. Gary Caldwell

Radio Astronomy at a Fully Functional Radio Telescope Observatory Outside of Cleveland, TN

For more information, contact Bill and Melinda Lord, Bill Seymour, or John Mannone.

Sidewalk Astronomy—“Chattanooga Out of This World” Challenging Optical Viewing of The Earth’s Moon and The Inner Planets for the General Public from Downtown Locations Surrounded By Bright City Lights

For more information, contact Tom Adkins, Joe D’Agostono or Dr. Gary Caldwell.

BAS FEBRUARY MEETING

Program

Ralph McConnell gave an excellent presentation, “There Must Be A Better Way” at the regular monthly meeting on February 11th at the Jones Observatory. There were 17 members and one visitor present.

The first part of the program traced the history of the Dobsonian Telescope design. He began with the “father of modern amateur telescope making”, Russell Porter and the early low-dollar pipe mounts. Ralph brought in the story of John Dobson, a former monk, who had the altruistic view that “our only reason for being is to show the sky to the people.” Dobson achieved early fame not only with his pioneering mount design but also for founding the well-known San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers. The Dobsonian Mount went through several evolutions as seen at the Riverside Telescope Making Conferences from 1971 through 1978. Ralph traced the development through various manufacturers such as Coulter Optics, which built the Odyssey brand. Important early publications such as “Telescope Making Magazine” and later the Dobsonian Owners Bible were discussed.

The second part of the program, and the basis for the title, dealt with Ralph’s desire to improve on the factory mount for his Meade Lightbridge Dobsonian which he brought to the program for demonstration. Using metal machining and parts resources at his place of business as well as a woodworking shop in his basement at home, Ralph showed how he was able to create his own beautiful custom designed mount. Even more ingeniously, he fabricated a precise tracking system for the telescope using a selection of off the shelf electronic and mechanical parts. As he led the audience through the trial and error construction process, Ralph’s outstanding creativity became very apparent. BAS is fortunate to have persons with this kind of talent.

Thanks, Ralph, for showing how an innovative amateur astronomer can start with an idea and do something very special to greatly increase enjoyment of a prominent commercial product.

The Basics**The World's Largest Telescopes****Telescope, Observatory, Aperture (m./in.)****Reflectors**

Keck I & II W. M. Keck Observatory Mauna Kea, Hawaii, 9.82/387 each

Hobby Eberly, Mt. Fowlkes, Texas, 9.2/362

Subaru, Mauna Kea, Hawaii, 8.3/327

Antu; Kueyen VLT units; Cerro Paranal, Chile, 8.2/323 each

Refractors

Yerkes 40 Inch, Yerkes Observatory, Williams Bay, Wisconsin, 1.01/40

36 Inch, Lick Observatory, Mt. Hamilton, California, 0.89/35

33 inch Meudon, Paris Observatory, Meudon, France, 0.83/33

Potsdam, Potsdam Observatory, Potsdam, Germany, 0.8/31

Schmidt

2m, Karl Schwarzschild, Tautenberg, Germany, 1.34/53

Oschin 48 Inch, Mount Palomar, California, 24/49

United Kingdom, Royal, Siding Spring, Australia, 24/49

Kiso, Kiso, Japan, 1.05/41

(Note: the list includes only operational instruments in 1999 and not those being planned, presently under construction, or in testing phase.)

Ref: Atlas of The Universe; Patrick Moore

If you have high speed internet or DSL, You and I can do a video chat with SKYPE. You may have seen this used on TV "news" shows and talk shows. You can ask me about the history of Jones Observatory and The BAS. We can talk about observing, celestial navigation, and telescopes, plus repairs and set up of your telescope. You will be able to look through my telescope at the planets and the Moon using my camera. Maybe even have a conference with many of my NASA friends and astronomers. My friend in Austin, TX. and I do this every week. I have also done this for class rooms in Walker County, where it was projected with a video projector. That is a lot of fun. They use to call this distance learning.

If you are using a Windows pc, you will need a microphone, speakers, and a webcam. Download SKYPE from <http://www.skype.com/>. If you have a MAC then you are already set with ICHAT. My user names are below in my signature. I am also on the PR China's QQ and it is very fast if you can get on. QQ is used world wide only with a PC. If anyone has QQ I can give you my ID # if you wish to use it. You will need to call me on one of my phones listed below first to turn on my ThinkPad. Anytime my MAC is online, I will be waiting for your call. I am on right now.

Have fun, Bobby

--

Bobby Thompson

Retired from everything, but life and collecting
checks:) IBM, UTC, & Walker Schools

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March Program

Since he was a small boy Bill Burgess has been building telescopes and enjoying astronomy. He designs and builds great astronomical telescopes, binoculars, and accessories which he sells through his business Burgess Optical with his wife Tammy.

Bill will share with us how to select the right eyepiece and filters for the best viewing experience. He will have items on hand for those interested in purchasing.

Telescope Project

We would like to start a group within the Barnard Astronomical Society for those interested in building telescopes. We have had a donation to the club of two mirrors and some parts to build two telescopes. If you are interested in helping with these, or in building your own telescope, let us know.

Bill & Melinda Lord 423-478-9043

www.tnSkyNet.com

Telescope Loaner Program



I think I have just been volunteered to be the chairman of the loaner program. The telescopes pictured are ready to be borrowed. As pictured from left to right is the Drake 6" RV6, Seymour Edscope 6", and Cordell's beautiful 6" ATM telescope. They all will have powers of ~ 48x and 96x. 48x is good for easily finding those sky fuzzes and looking at the whole Moon. 96x will give you more detail in clusters, Moon, and planets.

The max power of these scopes is ~ between 200x and 300x but these powers are not fun. These scopes are not for photography.

The scopes are located at my house in Chickamauga, and you can borrow one at the next meeting for 30 days with a \$25 deposit, an ID, membership in BAS, and a signed contract of responsibility. This program is for you to learn how to use a telescope and to see if you would like to buy a telescope. Also the scope must be brought to star parties. Our new member, Jason, has already borrowed one. I have 3 more in the works. I will be glad to teach you how to use it. Contact me at 757-303-6177 or bobby-thompson@utc.edu

Bobby Thompson





In Memoriam

The following email was forwarded to us by Bobby Thompson

Dear BAS members,

Ralph Buice was one of the kids that hung out at the observatory and a member of BAS. He helped with the MoonWatch Team and ran the satellite tracking program on the IBM 704 computer at TVA for the team. Ralph kept the younger guys entertained at Jones, Hal, Bill, Tommy and others with mystery stories and puzzles. Later he helped me write the new constitution for the BAS. We were friends and when I was in Atlanta he would take me to his latest find in gourmet food, his hobby.

As University students we had great New Years Eve parties at Tommy Atkins house until we were thrown out by his parents. :) Then it was my house with Ralph as one of the entertainers. :) Ralph was an amateur racketeer, but Tommy was the best launcher at New Years Eve. We still have reunions of us guys that hung out at Jones Observatory, which last year was at Ralph's new and first house. His career was at Fernbank Science center in all types of work positions.

To Friends of Dr. Ralph L. Buice, Jr:

Some of you may not yet know that Ralph passed away unexpectedly this past Tuesday evening, and I am very sorry to be the bearer of such startling and sad news.

I spoke with Ralph's brother Rick late this afternoon and learned that the services will be held this Saturday, February 27 at the Winkenhofers Pine Ridge Funeral Home located at 2950 North Cobb Parkway, Kennesaw, GA

30144. This is in Cobb county in north metro Atlanta and easily accessed from the Barrett Parkway exit (west) off I-75 just north of the I-75/I-575 merger. A map and directions can be found at the funeral home's website (http://www.winkenhofepineridgefuneralhome.com/dm20/en_US/locations/71/7132/index.page?)

The phone number of the funeral home is 770-422-7299. Visitation will be from 11:00 am until 12:45 pm, with the service itself starting at 1:00 pm. Ralph will be buried in Chattanooga with his parents and sister at a later date.

Rick would very much appreciate your forwarding this message to anyone else you think would want to know about the loss of Ralph.

Best wishes,

Hal McAlister

Pictures from Boy Scout Star Party March 5th









CERN and "CLOUD" Standards

CERN is a world leading research organization both in terms of the work that it does and the scope of involvement that it has with other research organizations. One of the best practices that CERN is doing is evolving. They are evolving from a grid environment to more of a private cloud environment. The other best practice is that they are allowing their end user organizations — other research organizations that they collaborate with, and even smaller, virtual organizations — they are allowing those end users to, in effect, choose what type of applications they use and what kind of environments they run. So, the notion of building a core infrastructure as a service that is a stable, shared resource, and then expanding out services beyond that and give end users choice is, I think, a best practice that they are at the forefront of.

Just to follow up [what about] having one standard for cloud computing? There is, of course, increasing globalization, but do you see that different countries are going to do it different ways — and different countries and organizations and governments are going to do it different ways? It is the age-old question of innovation versus standardization. If history is a lesson, we will end up with standards. Many of those will be defacto standards. Many of those will then be codified by various government agencies or regulators, but that process takes time. In the in between, the market is not going to wait and people are attempting to design as open a system as they can architect. I think CERN is a good example of that. If you look back to what they did and their role was in helping the Internet develop and standards develop there. They have a slightly different role when it comes to cloud computing — more of a user than an advocate, per se — but the need to develop and use open products in a platform computing case.

Cloud computing is a style of computing, not a technology, per se. The opportunity for the government could not be bigger in the sense that they can share vast amounts of resources across departments and get a whole new cost structure and level of responsiveness to their business users.

It is important to keep in mind. Cloud is not a silver bullet, but the opportunity is huge and the starting points are really private clouds. What we are seeing with the various system integrators is the need to build these private clouds and build increasingly shared resource pools that abstract the complexity of the various scientific agencies and the present standards already in use.

Stay Tuned! and Good Seeing!

TELESCOPES WANTED

We want everyone in our club to have access to a great telescope. Our plan is to refurbish telescopes so that we can loan them to astronomers without scopes of their own. If you have a telescope or accessories you are no longer using, please let us have it. We promise someone will use it and treat it with care and respect. Of course you can have a receipt for your tax write-off and every penny is welcome if you would like to donate money so we can buy or fix up a telescope.

Contact Gary Caldwell, Adam Krause or Bill Lord if you have a donation, we will happily come to your door to pick up your unwanted telescope. Sponsorship information will be posted on the web and in the Barnard Star.

Officers

President.....	Bill Lord
Vice-President.....	David Witt
Secretary.....	Bill Seymour
Treasurer.....	Melinda Lord
STAR Editor.....	Steve Ramey
Webmaster.....	Ed Sunder
Star Party Chairman.....	Victor Rogers
Outreach Coordinator.....	John Mannone
Program Committee Co-Chairs.	Robert Coulter and Bill Lord
Member-at Large.....	David Witt

January Minutes

Bill Lord presented a meteorite sample in an attractive plastic case to the evening speaker, Ralph McConnell.

Melinda Lord reported a balance of \$1,332 in the BAS bank account.

Bobby Thompson gave interesting details of the final construction steps for the new planetarium at the Walker County Science Center.

David Witt talked about the upcoming Star Party, Friday March 5th and Saturday, March 6th during the Boy Scout Jamboree at Camp Columbus. It is hoped that there will be a strong presence by BAS members with their telescopes.

Everyone is reminded of the Public Nights at the Jones Observatory on Sunday nights during the school year.

BAS members asked Bill and Melinda about their plans for continuing their astronomy hobby when they move to Iowa. There is not a club in their town, but there is one approximately 30 miles away in Iowa City where the University of Iowa is located. Bill said that the Physics Department there has already expressed interest in having him and Melinda assist in starting a Radio Astronomy program.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Seymour,
 BAS Secretary

REMINDER- Your annual BAS dues are now due on the anniversary of your membership in accordance with the adopted amendment to the by-laws. The due date appears below your name on the address on the front of this newsletter. If your expiration date says "Overdue" or if you don't agree with the date shown, contact Melinda Lord to resolve discrepancies. The current dues rates are as follows: REGULAR \$15.00, REGULAR ASSOCIATE \$7.00, JUNIOR \$8.00, JUNIOR ASSOCIATE \$5.00. Your Sky & Telescope or Astronomy subscription will continue to be handled as in the past. When you receive your subscription reminder card, submit it to:

Melinda Lord
 354 N West Cir NW
 Cleveland, TN 37312-1011

Along with the group subscription rate of \$32.95 for Sky and Telescope, or \$34.00 for Astronomy. **Note the increased rate for Astronomy. This was effective July 31, 2005**

DEADLINE- All articles and other materials for publication in the next STAR are due no later than Wednesday, March 31st. The following media are acceptable: hard copy, disk (IBM), video tape (VHS), prints, or e-mail to stramey@catt.com and attach a file or mail to:

Steve Ramey
 109 Sioux Trail
 Ringgold GA 30736

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ALSO ACCEPTABLE.

BARNARD ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST

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Graziadei, Charles	167 Crystal Ter SE, Cleveland, TN 37323	(423) 472-1656
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Ramey, Tedra	109 Sioux Tr. Ringgold, GA 30736	(706) 937-4528
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Westman, Carl	802 Susan Carol Lane, Chattanooga, TN 37421	(423) 954-1939
Wilson, Charles	4201 Gann Store Rd, Hixson, TN 37343	(423) 877-5042
Witt, David	4503 Cove Lane, Chattanooga TN 37415	(423) 877-6505



ORION ACRES

Once a month, weather permitting, members of the Barnard Astronomical Society gather at Orion Acres to marvel at the beauty of the heavens, to share the brotherhood that comes from the numinary experience of observing the countless wonders of the nighttime sky.

Members of the BAS encourage everyone who's interested in participating in the "star parties" to contact the association to verify dates, times and directions. (Orion Acres is a dark sky observing site located near Palmer, TN on the Cumberland Plateau, about 1.5 hours driving time from Chattanooga.)

*For more informaiton see The Barnard Astronomical Society web site:
bas.chattanooga.net.*

Orion Acres — "Where heaven meets the earth"

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Members of the Barnard Astronomical Society set up for one of the club's most memorable star parties, June 16-17, 2007. Excellent "seeing" and clement temperatures were enjoyed by all.