

The NHAS Observer



Newsletter of the New Hampshire Astronomical Society

Vol. 2016 No. 3

"All the news that fits in print"

March 2016

NHAS March 2016 Business Meeting

The March business meeting was held at St. Anselm College, our President, **John Bishop**, presiding.

The Future Is Now

The Library Telescope Program has been our big public education focus for the past several years, but it is winding down. We need to think about what should NHAS do post-LTP.

Mercury transits the Sun during the daytime on May 9. We have an opportunity for public observing.

Gary Duranko is following up on plans for a New England Fall Astronomy Festival.

Aerospacefest 2016 will take place at the Discovery Center on May 7. We need a coordinator.

We also need coordinators for the summer pot-luck event and for the Benedictine Park observing nights.

The Messier Marathon will be March 11/12, with April 8/9 as a backup.

Some Astro 101 courses have been scheduled:

- March 25: Cosmic Distances, at NEI, 124 South River Road, Bedford
- April 8: Collimation, YFOS
- May 14: Planetary Observing, YFOS

Other courses are welcome, if you'd like to volunteer to give one!

Public Observing

We had a very successful sidewalk Astronomy session in Portsmouth.

Weather has been very bad, and we have had a lot of cancellations.

There was a very successful Cub Scout sky watch.

YFOS

Joel Harris has the C-14 and is working on it. The 16" dob needs cleaning.

Educational Outreach

Four library telescopes are on the way and will need to be modded soon.

Speaker Search

The committee is all set: **Gary Duranko, Robert Wade, and Peter Wolczko**. In May Ben Cook (Harvard Astronomy graduate) will speak on the evolution of galaxies.

More speaker suggestions are welcome!

Scope of the Month

Gardner Gerry presented the AstroTech 115mm f/7 refractor for under \$1300. It has a dual-speed rack and pinion focuser with a camera angle adjuster. Also, it has a threaded connection for a field flattener.

Book of the Month

Ken Charles presented the William-Bell Star Clusters book (2003). This is a companion to *Uranometria*. It has details on both open and globular star clusters.

Astronomy Shorts

Paul Winalski reports that carbon star R Leporis is near maximum brightness and is very impressive.

Marc Stowbridge gave a talk to the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston (ATMoB) on the Library Telescope Program. He got a tour of the photographic plates at Harvard/Smithsonian Astrophysics,

and a tour of the 14" Harvard refractor.

Ramaswamy saw the recent total solar eclipse on a beach on an island off of Sumatra.

Guest Speaker

Joe Deschene: "A Scope for Ian". Joe walked through the process of designing, building, and testing the unique equatorial Newtonian reflector he made for his son, Ian. The scope won 3rd place Optical, 1st place Mechanical, and 1st place Craftsmanship at the 2014 Stellafane convention. The scope was featured in the February 2015 NHAS *Observer*.

The Bottom Line

Starting Balance:	\$18325.34
Deposits/Credits:	
Membership:	153.86
Bank interest:	0.44
Donations:	325.00
Total :	479.30
Accounts/Paid:	
Rackspace Cloud (Mar.):	56.27
Cynic Company LLC (plowing):	228.25
Sky & Telescope:	32.95
Kalmbach Publishing:	13.07
B&H Photo (Zoom Epx4):	236.80
Liberty Mutual Insurance:	1718.00
Total:	2305.27
Net Account Balance:	\$16499.37
Petty cash drawer:	\$100.00
Cash Balance:	\$16599.37

Membership: 149

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Cash Renewals:	0	0	0.00
Cash New:	0	0	0.00
PayPal Renewals:	1	0	28.83
PayPal New:	4	1	125.03
Total:	5		153.86

Current Members: 154

23 Family
101 PayPal

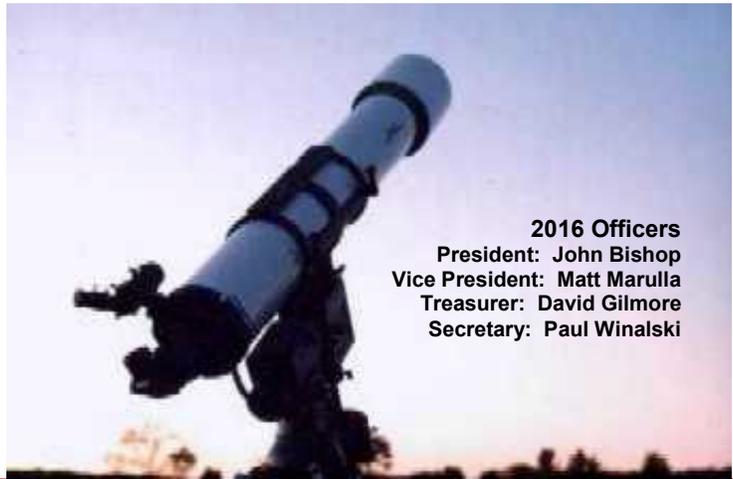
New Members:

Kris Wethington, Derry
Pete Dreyer, Sunapee
Bob Quinn, Nashua
Kathryn Carlsen, Dover

Donations:

Tuftonboro Library 325.00

✧ David Gilmore
NHAS Treasurer 2016



2016 Officers
President: John Bishop
Vice President: Matt Marulla
Treasurer: David Gilmore
Secretary: Paul Winalski

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E-mail articles to the Editor.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS – Notify the Treasurer of changes to postal or e-mail address.

How to Join N.H.A.S.

Write to us:

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 Attn: Treasurer

Send E-mail to:

info@nhastro.com

Use our web site:

<http://www.nhastro.com/>

This month's contributors:

David Gilmore, Paul Winalski

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NHAS Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Spring Messier Marathon	April 1	3:00 PM	Lopez residence, New Boston NH
Discovery Center Sky Watch	April 1	7:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Goffstown High School Sky Watch	April 5	7:30 PM	Goffstown High School, Goffstown NH
Candia Clovers 4H Sky Watch	April 6	6:45 PM	Smyth Public Library, Candia NH
Northeast Astro Imaging Conference	April 7-8		3 Executive Boulevard, Suffern NY
Beech Hill School Astronomy Day	April 7	8:00 PM	20 Beech Hill Road, Hopkinton NH
Hollis Science and Engineering Fair	April 8	5:30 PM	Hollis Upper Elementary School, Hollis NH
Northeast Astronomy Festival	April 9-10		145 College Road, Suffern NH
Coffee House Night	April 9	6:00 PM	YFOS
Rey Center Sky Watch	April 9	8:30 PM	Curious George Cottage, Waterville Valley NH
Daniel Webster College Sky Watch	April 11	7:00 PM	Daniel Webster College, Nashua NH
Kearsarge Elementary School Sky Watch	April 15	7:00 PM	Kearsarge Regional ES, Bradford NH
Sidewalk Astronomy	April 16	6:00 PM	Market Square, Portsmouth NH
Derry Public Library Presentation	April 20	7:00 PM	Derry Public Library, Derry NH

Derry Public Library Sky Watch	April 21	7:00 PM	Derry Public Library, Derry NH
NHAS Monthly Meeting	April 22	7:30 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Astro 101: The Distance Ladder	April 23	6:30 PM	124 South River Road, Bedford NH
Tuftonboro Free Library Sky Watch	April 29	7:30 PM	221 Middle Road, Tuftonboro NH
PMEC Sky Watch	April 30	7:30 PM	66 Brook Hill Road, Amherst NH