



President's Message

Getting Around To It.

I recently fixed a problem with one of my telescopes. The fans didn't run. It turned out to be a blown fuse.

This is maybe not so interesting, but when I checked the date on the email I'd printed out that told me how to check the fuse, I discovered that I had printed it out in September of 2014. It had taken me a year and a half to "get around to it". It's not that my life is so busy; there had been plenty of times when I could have checked the fuse in those eighteen months. Instead, I had forgotten it because it wasn't ever pressing.

As President of NHAS, I have tasks to accomplish. The ones that re-occur and are tied to the calendar are pressing enough to be noticed and get done. Slides will get made, meetings will be attended. I worry about the tasks that aren't so pressing and so slide out of memory and thus may never get done (feel free to remind me of such Presidential tasks).

You, too, probably have such tasks. I therefore and hereby give you a 'round tuit' and hope you will use it to do that one little thing you've forgotten about!

* John Bishop

Astro 101: The Distance Ladder, April 23

John Bishop gave an excellent training session on the distance ladder. He took us from Roman soldier paces for a mile, the establishment of the meter, AU, parsec and beyond to measuring

extreme distances with the standard candle, and other techniques. Very informative and above all entertaining.

Thank you, John, for giving the class.

* Pat Adams

NHAS April 2016 Business Meeting

The April business meeting was held at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, our President, **John Bishop**, presiding.

The Future Is Now

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

Mercury transits the Sun during the daytime on May 9. We have an opportunity for public observing at the Discovery Center from noon until the end of the transit.

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

The summer pot-luck will take place on July 16. **Gerry Smith** is coordinating it.

The club will hold members-only observing sessions in Benedictine Park, Bedford, from 7:00-11:00 PM on July 8, August 16, and September 23.

Some Astro 101 courses have been scheduled:

- April 8: Collimation, YFOS
- May 14: Planetary Observing, YFOS

RSVP if you plan to attend so that we have a count.

Other course presenters and course suggestions are welcome!

Sky Watch 101

This is a program that **Steve Rand** is running to train interested NHAS members on how to conduct a public sky watch. Two of seven interested people have already been trained. There will be another training session in May. Steve will send out email on how to sign up.

Membership

New members since March's meeting: **Cindy Andrews, Kathryn Carlsen, Steven Lunahl, Alec Marshall, Patrick Hummel.**

Astro 101/201 Classes

John Bishop will be teaching Astro 101: The Distance Ladder on Saturday April 23, 6:30-8:00 PM at New England Interviewing, 124 South River Road, Bedford NH. The class discusses how we measure distances in outer space.

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!

YFOS

The Messier Marathon went off well.

We are still looking for a correction plate gasket for the C-14.

We will clean the 16" dob's mirror.

It is time to de-winterize the heater and porta-potty.

Book of the Month

Marc Stowbridge presented *Astronomy Now*, a magazine and yearbook from England.

Gizmo of the Month

A pinhole projecting solar finder.

Astronomy Shorts

Larry Lopez broke his observatory computer and had to do imaging with a guide scope.

Rags Gilmore actually got time to do some observing!

Paul Winalski tracked the International Space Station in his 14" scope., and saw details such as the solar panels and some of its shape.

Larry Lopez reminded everyone that the Northeast Astronomy Festival (NEAF) is coming up. It is an amateur Astronomy trade show with lots of vendor exhibits of mounts, cameras, etc. Solar observing takes place outside.

Guest Speaker

R. P. Hale gave a talk on his recent activities in Mayan Archaeoastronomy.

The Bottom Line

Starting Balance:	\$16499.37
Deposits/Credits:	
Membership:	155.03
Bank interest:	0.42
Donations:	892.42
Ramaswamy (LED headlamp):	
	17.00
Subscriptions:	97.00
Total :	1161.87
Accounts/Paid:	
Rackspace Cloud :	60.03
Cornerstones of Science (LTP x4):	977.00
Sky Publishing:	65.90
Kalmbach Publishing:	34.00
Total:	1136.93
Net Account Balance:	\$16524.31
Petty cash drawer:	\$100.00
Cash Balance:	\$16624.31

Membership: 155

	Ind.	Fam.	
Cash Renewals:	0	0	0.00
Cash New:	1	0	30.00
PayPal Renewals:	0	0	0.00
PayPal New:	4	1	125.03
Total:	5		155.03

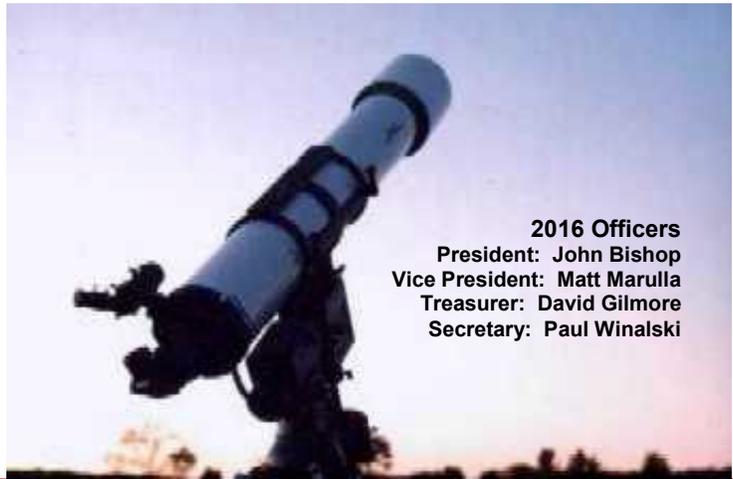
Current Members: 160

25 Family
108 PayPal

New Members:

Patrick Hummel, Manchester
Steven Lundahl, Canterbury
Alec Marshall, The Great Beyond
Cindy Andrews, Rochester
Jim Buck, Loudon

* 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:

NHAS
P.O. Box 5823
Manchester, NH 03108-5823
Attn: Treasurer

Send E-mail to:

info@nhastro.com

Use our web site:

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

This month's contributors:

Pat Adams, John Bishop, David Gilmore, Paul Winalski

New Hampshire Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 5823
Manchester, NH 03108-5823



NHAS Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Dublin Consolidated School Sky Watch	May 2	7:30 PM	1177 Main Street, Dublin NH
Goffstown High School Sky Watch	May 5	8:00 PM	Goffstown High School, Goffstown NH
Discovery Center Sky Watch	May 6	7:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
AeroSpaceFest 2016	May 7	10:30 AM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Coffee House Night	May 7	5:00 PM	YFOS
Rey Center Sky Watch	May 7	9:00 PM	Curious George Cottage, Waterville Valley NH
Transit of Mercury	May 9	6:30 AM	Market Square, Portsmouth NH
Transit of Mercury	May 9	7:00 AM	Belmont High School, Belmont NH
Transit of Mercury	May 9	7:30 AM	Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter NH
Transit of Mercury	May 9	10:00 AM	Hollis Primary School, Hollis NH
Transit of Mercury	May 9	12:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Enfield Shaker Museum Sky Watch	May 13	8:00 PM	445A NH Route 4A, Enfield NH
Belmont High School Aviation Day	May 14	9:00 AM	65 Aviation Way, Gilford NH
Astro 101: Planetary Observing	May 14	6:00 PM	YFOS

Sidewalk Astronomy	May 14	6:00 PM	Market Square, Portsmouth NH
NHAS Monthly Meeting	May 20	7:30 PM	St. Anselm College, Manchester NH
Concord Public Library Maker Fair	May 21	12:30 PM	45 Green Street, Concord NH
Winnacunnet High School Sky Watch	May 24	8:00 PM	1 Alumni Drive, Hampton NH
Rochester Cub Scouts Sky Watch	May 25	6:45 PM	63 S Main Street, Rochester NH
Deerfield Community School Sky Watch	May 31	8:30 PM	66 North Road, Deerfield NH