



September, 1999

At the September 3 meeting...

NASA

***What's NASA up to?
Find out at the September 3
meeting.***

Houston Astronomical Society

GuideStar

Starline - 281-568-9340

Houston Astronomical Society presents *Starline* -- a recorded message of Society events and astronomical happenings. This service is updated regularly, so call often to keep up-to-date on Society functions, new comets and more.

H.A.S. Web Page: <http://spacsun.rice.edu/~has>

Schedule Changes & Up-To-Date Information

See the GuideStar's Monthly Calendar of Events to confirm dates and times of all events for the month, and call Starline for any last minute changes.

Observatory Site Telephone: 409-732-8967

★★★★★ *The Houston Astronomical Society* ★★★★★★

The Houston Astronomical Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section 501 (C) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society was formed for education and scientific purposes. All contributions and gifts are deductible for federal income tax purposes. General membership meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

★★★★★★★★★ Officers and past president ★★★★★★★★★★

President: Don Pearce H: 713-432-0734	Treasurer: Bill Flanagan H: (713) 699-8819
Vice Pres: Kirk Kendrick H: 281-391-3834	
Secretary: Matt Delevoryas H: 713-795-0808	Past-President: Allen Gilchrist H: 281-558-1190

★★★★★★★★★ Additional Board Members ★★★★★★★★★★

Jay Levy 281-992-2708	Liaison responsibility
Bill Leach 713-863-8335	Field Trip and Observing, Program
Bill Molinare 713-664-3261	Observatory, Welcoming
Bill Pellerin 713-880-8061	Education, Telescope
Barbara Wilson 281-933-1289	Audit, Publicity (shared)
Mike Dye 281-498-1703	Novice, Publicity (shared)
	Observatory Director

★★★★★★★★★ Committee Chairpersons ★★★★★★★★★★

Audit Orv Wiens 281-391-2995	Program Scott Mitchell 713-461-3020
Education Bill Leach 713-863-8459	Publicity Michael Cubstead 713-307-0270
Field Tr./Obsg. Kenneth Drake 281-367-1592	Telescope Clayton Jeter 281-383-1337
Novice Sancho/Spore 281-379-4726	Welcoming Marg Nunez 713-529-2549
Observatory Michael Dye 281-498-1703	

★★★★★★★★★ Ad-Hoc Committee Chairpersons ★★★★★★★★★★

Historian Leland Dolan 713-529-0403	Publ. Star Party Marg Nunez 713-529-2549
Librarian Peggy Gilchrist 281-558-1190	Rice U. Coord. Matt Delevoryas 713-795-0808
Logo Mds Sales Judy Dye 281-498-1703	Schedule Obs'v't'y Steve Goldberg 713-721-5077
Long Range Plan Don Pearce 713-432-0734	Texas Star Pty Steve Goldberg 713-721-5077
Parliamentarian Kirk Kendrick 281-391-3834	

★★★★★★★ Special Interest Groups & Help Committees ★★★★★★★★

These are now listed on the inside of GuideStar (not every month). See the Table of Contents

★★★★★★★★★ Advisors ★★★★★★★★★★

Dr. Reginald DuFour, Rice Univ.	Dr. Lawrence Pinsky, U. of H.
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★★★★★★★★★ Dues and Membership Information ★★★★★★★★★★

Annual Dues: Regular \$33.00	Student \$5.00
Associate \$5.00	Honorary None
Sustaining . \$50.00	

All members have the right to participate in Society functions and to use the Observatory Site. Regular and Student Members receive a subscription to *The Reflector*. Regular, Student, and Honorary Members receive *The GuideStar*. Associate Members, immediate family members of a Regular Member, have all membership rights, but do not receive publications. Sustaining members have the same rights as regular members with the additional dues treated as a donation to the Society. *Sky & Telescope* mag \$29.95/year, *Astronomy* mag \$29/year -- see club treasurer.

Membership Application: Send funds to address shown on outside cover of *Guidestar*. Attention - Treasurer, along with the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Special Interests in Astronomy, Do you own a Telescope? (If so, what kind?), and where you first heard of H.A.S.

Table of Contents

4	The President's Message	13	Other Meetings
5	Meeting notice		H.A.S. Web Page
6	September/October Calendar	14	Observatory Duty Roster
8	Announcements		
9	Nominating Committee Announced		
11	Observatory Corner		

Call the Starline, 281-568-9340 for updates and changes

Welcome to New Members!

June new members

James B. Cotter, Thom Fay, Beverly Maurice, Robert May, Rebecca Rehmeyer, Jonathan Sims, Tambrey Sims, Larry Sims, William Stewart, Sharon Stewart, Allen Stewart, George C. Stradley, Dave Straub, Fossier Thomas, Raymond Valle

July new members

Ralph E. Brogdon, Christopher S. Burroughs, Lauren Burroughs, Allyson Burroughs, Ron Copeland, Manuel Cruz, Nathan Hoskins, Ruben Huerta, Thomas Martin, Mike Matassa, Jerry McBeth, John D. Missavage, Justin Pan, Harry C. Portwood, Beth True, Charles True, Michael E. Wendt

Special Interest Group Listing

Any member who wants specific information on a SIG listed below may call the listed individual. Also, see the "Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons" on the inside front cover and the "Special Help Volunteers" listing (not in every issue).

Advanced	Bill Flanagan	713-699-8819
Comets	Kenneth Drake	281-367-1592
Lunar & Planetary	John Blubaugh	713-921-4275
Occultations & Grazes ...	Wayne Hutchison	713-827-0828

The President's Message



Chasing the Shadow:

My wife, Ann Nette, and I woke up on Wednesday, August 11th, to a steady drizzle and (of course) total overcast in Strasbourg, France. Our original plan had been to proceed northward about 25 miles along the Rhine River valley to the center line of the total solar eclipse. Meteorological reports, however, seemed to indicate that it was clearing from the west, and some groups were heading to an area slightly west of Metz. After a rendezvous with some friends from San Jose, California, we decided to head to an area just south of Saarbrucken, Germany, on the center line. The idea was to get on the other side of the Vosges Mountains, and if it was indeed, clearing from the west, increase our chance of success.

At about 10:45 am (partial was to begin about 11:15 a.m. with totality to begin at 12:30 p.m., local time) we were just south of the designated area when it appeared that to the north and west the overcast was getting thicker and it began to rain harder. At that time we stopped and made a fateful decision to reverse course and head southeast, because it was obviously clearing in that direction. As we raced back across the Vosges, our prospects and spirits improved. Finally, just after first contact, the Sun and Moon broke through the clouds and we stopped, set up and enjoyed seeing the advancing lunar disc marching across the Sun. Just as we (along with thousands of others parked along the dreaded A-4 tollroad) began to feel smug about ourselves, I noticed a thick bank of nimbus clouds to our southwest, seemingly moving to the northeast. As the clouds once again covered our targets we once again, with our now hugh entourage, migrated to the southeast, as it appeared the new group of clouds tailed off towards the east. One problem we had now was that we would be sacrificing totality time as we moved away from the center line, a trade we would gladly make for clear skies! Finally we exited the A-4 at Saverne and headed towards our starting location of Strasbourg! We found a good location in a parking

Continued on page 7...

Houston Astronomical Society

***Meeting Notice
For Friday, September 3, 1999***

NASA

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has several planetary missions in progress and has been involved in the deployment of some new space telescopes this year. Find out what's going on at this month's meeting.

Schedule of meeting activities:

Novice meeting: 7:00 p.m.

Jose Sancho and Susan Spore began a new year of novice programs in January. This year the Novice committee will work with you to complete the Messier list. Please bring your Messier (and any other) observation records with you to the June meeting.

Site orientation meeting: 7:00 p.m.

General meeting: 8:00 p.m.

See the inside back cover for more information.

Sept./Oct. Calendar:



<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
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September

2	6:18 p.m.	Moon at Third Quarter
3		HAS Club Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H
	8:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting U of H
4	2:53 a.m.	Lunar occultation of 64 Orionis (m5.1), see July GS, p. 18
		Prime Night-Columbus
9	8:55 p.m.	New Moon
11		Members Observatory Night-Columbus
14	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ., contact Bill Leach, 713-863-8459
17	3:06 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
23	6:30 a.m.	Autumnal Equinox - sun enters southern celestial hemisphere, fall begins.
25	5:52 a.m.	Full Moon

October

1		HAS Club Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H
	8:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting U of H
	11:03 p.m.	Moon at Third Quarter
2		Members Observatory Night-Columbus
9	6:34 p.m.	New Moon
		Prime Night-Columbus
12	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ., contact Bill Leach, 713-863-8459
17	10:00 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
23	2:00 p.m.	Jupiter at opposition
24	4:03 p.m.	Full Moon
31	2:00 a.m.	Standard Time begins, Daylight Saving Time ends. Set clocks back 1 hour.
	6:05 p.m.	Moon at Third Quarter

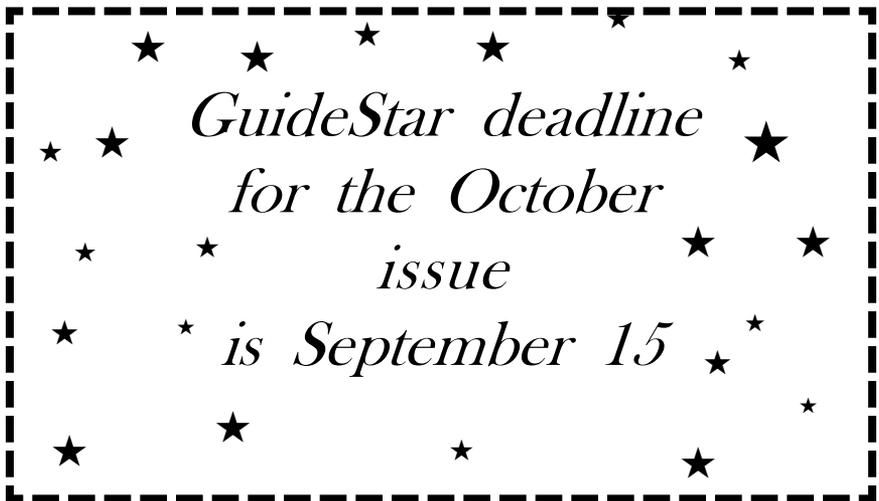
Send calendar events to JBlubaugh@aol.com or call 713-921-4275.

President's Message... from page 4

lot, set up with cameras and filtered binoculars, and again were foiled by encroaching clouds. We finally made our stand at 12:25, the N-4 being clogged with vehicles, five minutes or so before totality was due to begin. We had a clear hole for the next 2 minutes, and then just about a minute or two before totality, the Sun and Moon were totally covered, ruining our view of the climatic event! It got dark for a minute or so, our only evidence of the event we had traveled almost 6,000 miles to witness. Luckily, we spent another 8 days traveling through Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and France, ending up with a fabulous "grand tour" of Paris.

Clear skies and le croissant lunaire

Don Pearce



Announcements

Member's Telephone Directory

It's that time again! Time for the Member's Telephone Directory by Zip. The purpose of this directory is for carpool and event planning.

If you would like a directory by name that will be available too.

Contact Marg. Nunez at 713-529-2549 or Marg10@flash.net to receive one or the other. If you would not like your name and phone number listed (no addresses will be given) please let me know by the September meeting.

Our newest member

There is a new "star" in this galaxy. The name given to this star is Anthony Joseph Sancho-Spore, son of members Jose Sancho and Susan Spore. Coming in at +7 lbs, he, mom and dad are all doing fine. CONGRATUALTIONS! (from the H.A.S. Web page... go there to see a photo of Anthony)

Looking for your submission...

The *GuideStar* is always looking for a few good submissions. I encourage you to write an article for the newsletter. Pass on some of your good ideas, write an essay about a nice night under the stars, discuss a technical issue, whatever.. The information on how to submit articles is on the inside back cover.

Nominating Committee Announced

By Michael Dye, Nominating Committee Chair

At the last Board of Directors meeting (like in July), the board as a group appointed the slowest to duck board members to the Nominating Committee. (as in couldn't think of an excuse not to serve). Sense I was the slowest, I got to be Chairman (just what I need, another job). Since the By-laws call for a five member committee and we only had four at the time, I was authorized to see if I could find victims to help fill out the ranks. I was lucky, this activity only took two tries.

The members of the 1999 Nominating Committee are:

Michael B. Dye - Chairman	281-498-1703
Bill Leach	713-863-8459
Bill Molinare	713-664-3261
Bill Pellerin	713-880-8061
Marge Nunez	713-529-2549

You may have noticed that I listed the entire committee's phone numbers. Also it seems to be a little lopsided in "Bill's". This is because if you know someone (including yourself) that you think could help the Houston Astronomical Society by being on either on the Board Of Directors, as an Officer or a Director at Large, or as a committee chairman, please call one of the people listed above and ask that member be listed on the Ballot.

The following list shows the positions that are open on the Board of Directors..

President	Don has said he will not run
Vice President	
Secretary	
Treasurer	Bill has said he will not run.
Director at Large (five positions)	
Observatory Director (Chairman)	

Continued...

Nominating Committee... from previous page

The following elected committee chair positions are also open.

Audit	Program
Education	Publicity
Field Trip & Observing	Telescope
Novice	Welcoming

The Nominating Committee members will also be calling various members of the Society to see if those members are interested helping the Houston Astronomical Society remain an effective organization for the promotion of amateur astronomy. Most of the jobs do take some time and effort to accomplish. Especially all the Committee Chairmanship jobs. The one advantage is that the Chairman of a committee can select other HAS members to also be on the Committee and help with the task that the committee has. The Observatory Committee is an example of how this system works and there is no reason that the same process cannot be used with the other committees. In the past, we have had trouble with the various committee's because the members elected to those positions did not know what to do. This year I am here to tell you that we have job descriptions (I will try and have the Web Master list them on the Web Site) for each chairmanship and members who will help the elected chairman set up their committee's in order to make them (the committee) work correctly. Remember the elected Chairman can (and should) select other members to help him/her to accomplish the committee goal.

We need to spread the workload around. We just can't keep electing and re-electing the same members each year. After a while they get burned out.

Please help the Houston Astronomical Society continue as a strong organization into the next Century.

Observatory Corner



By Michael B. Dye Observatory Chairman



I have some good news from Randalls. The membership managed to spend \$4,460.36 at Randalls ending 31 March 1999. I am in doubt about the date. I already have a letter indicating that our balance as of 31 March 1999 was \$1,993.99. I believe the date should be 30 June 1999. Anyway we received a computer generated form letter from Randalls (dated 27 July 1999), in which we were informed that we will be receiving a check for \$44.60 within two weeks. My congratulations to all

those who spent their hard earned money at Randalls and listed the Houston Astronomical Society as their charity of choice.

If you have a Randalls card, and have not done so, please have it coded for the Houston Astronomical Society. Our number is #6618. The Society gets 1 percent of the gross sales that members spend at Randalls. Randalls totals up the amount spent each quarter and will send us a check if the amount goes over \$2,500.00, otherwise the total roles over to the next quarter or zeros out at the end of the calendar year. So please link your Randalls card to the Houston Astronomical Society so that the society can benefit from this Randalls program. Our number is #6618. This is very easy to do, just go to the Courtesy Booth and tell the person there what you what to do.

I am will start advertising early for this years Annual Picnic. The picnic is currently scheduled for October 9th. This is Prime Night at the Observatory Site and also a week before Astronomy Day at the George Observatory. The Picnic Chairman has not yet been appointed but it will most likely be myself. I am going to try a different approach this year. We are going to have a Pot Luck Picnic. The Observatory Committee will supply the meat (hamburgers and hot dogs), buns (also hamburger and hot dog), Ice Tea and maybe some soda (Coke, Pepsi, etc.). I am asking the membership to attend the picnic and bring a covered dish of some sort (Salad, vegetable, or desert) large enough to feed at least 8 to 10 people. I am experimenting with not charging any money to offset the cost of the meat, buns or drinks. Donations of course, will not be refused.

Continued...

GuideStar, Page 11

Observatory Corner... from previous page

On the organizational side of this activity, I have drafted my wife, Judy, and talked Peggy Gilchrist into working as my telephone committee. Sometime in September they (Judy and Peggy) will be calling the membership to see who will be attending the Picnic. We need a fairly accurate count in order to know how many Hamburgers and Hot Dogs to buy and what covered dish will be provided. I have also got Ed Szczepanski's agreement to be the Cook for this event using our recently installed Bar-B-Q grills. This is a free event so please plan to attend and join in the fund, festivities and observing at the Observatory Site. We will also try and have some activities such as Horse Shoes, Badminton or anything else we think of provided the weather isn't too hot. Please plan to attend. If you wish to volunteer to help, please E-mail me at mbdye@aol.com.

I am running an informal poll. If you have an opinion on whether the Society should provide some sort of computers for controlling the Observatory Telescopes and maybe for CCD processing. Also any other ideas in the same category. Please contact me at mbdye@aol.com or 281-498-1703.

Please buy HAS Logo merchandise and help me get my den back. We have very nice HAS Logo thermal mugs, T-shirts and other nifty stuff (including some very nice pictures). All at very reasonable prices. We are running a special on the Thermal Mugs this month, \$5.00 each or two for \$10.00. I have three cases of these suckers in my Den. Please buy some. I have Girl Scout Cookies scheduled to fill the Den sometime in late February to early March and I need the room. Come and see Judy at the Logo Table at the next General Meeting and buy lots of good stuff.

***Please fill out the appropriate log form
when you use the site.***

Remember, we use these forms as attendance records

Other Meetings...

Brazosport Astronomy Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Planetarium of the fine Arts Center at Brazosport College. Call Steve Lamb for program details (409) 297-3984

Fort Bend Astronomy Club meets the third Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the First Colony conference Center. Novice meeting begins at 7:00, regular meeting begins at 8:00. Web site: <http://rampages.onramp.net/~binder/>

Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society meets in the the Lunar and Planetary Institute on the 2nd Friday of each month. Web site: <http://www.ghgcorp.com/cbr/jscas.html>

Northside Astronomical Society meets at 8:00 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month in the Teaching Theatre of the Student Center at Kingwood College. Call 281-312-1650 or E-mail bill.leach@nhmccd.edu.

HAS Web Page

The Houston Astronomical Society Web page has information on the society, its resources, and meeting information.

The address is: <http://spacsun.rice.edu/~has>

Want your astronomy work and name on the Internet for the whole world to see? Have some neat equipment? Pictures in film, CCD, hand drawings or video format are all welcome on the page. Do you have an idea to improve the page? I'm listening. Send me Email at goldberg@sccsi.com. (You can click on my name on the HAS home page). Or, you can call me, Steve Goldberg (WebMaster), at 713-721-5077.

Observatory Duty Roster

by Michael B. Dye, Observatory Chairman

This is the duty list for September, October and November. If you are listed in this roster, please be sure to contact your supervisor for any information that you may need and the date and time to be at the site. You may change from site duty to open house or from open house to site duty by pre-arrangement with the Site Supervisor for that month. Changes between months require Observatory Chairman coordination.

September supervisorHoward Leverenz 713 957-8667

Margaret Nunez	Site		
Buster Wilson	Members	Observatory Night	09-11-99
Barbara Wilson	Members	Observatory Night	09-11-99
Warren Wundt	Members	Observatory Night	09-11-99
W. Charles Barnes	Site		
Don Bates	Site		
John Blubaugh	Site		
Ron Carman	Site		

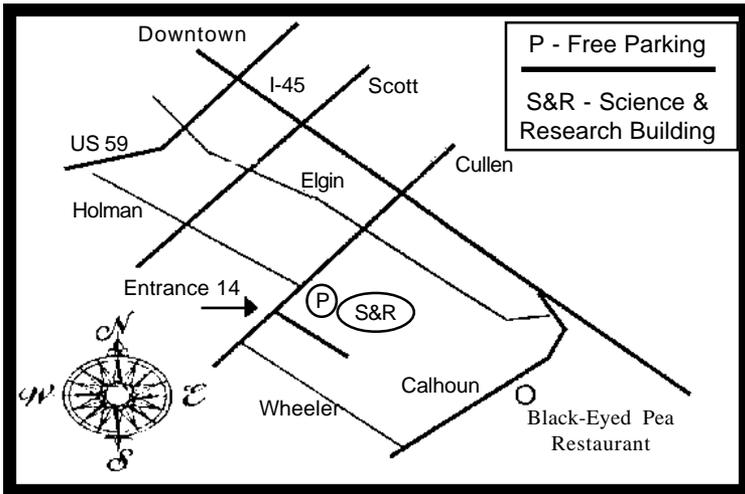
October supervisorLogan Rimes 713 681-5397

John Chauvin	Site		
Art Ciampi	Members	Observatory Night	10-02-99
Brian Cudnik	Site		
Mickey Davis	Members	Observatory Night	10-02-99
George M. Dolson	Members	Observatory Night	10-02-99
Kenneth Drake	Site		
Mark Egan	Site		
John D. Fennell	Site		

November supervisorDana Lambert 281-933-4627

Jean-Marc Follini	Site		
Fred Garcia	Members	Observatory Night	11-27-99
John Garza III	Site		
Clifton Goldman	Members	Observatory Night	11-27-99
David Granadino	Members	Observatory Night	11-27-99
Michael Gumler	Site		
David Herlinger	Site		
Robert Menius	Site		

Please remember that Site work can be done anytime and does not have to be done just before Members Observatory Night. Contact your Site Supervisor for details. Names are selected for Site Duty using the current Alphabetical listing for Observatory Key Holders. If any member knows of a conflict please call me before your name is listed.



General Membership Meeting

The Houston Astronomical Society holds its regular monthly General Membership Meeting on the first Friday of each month, unless rescheduled due to a holiday. Meetings are in Room 117 of the Science and Research Building at the University of Houston. A Novice Presentation begins at 7:00 p.m.. The short business meeting and featured speaker are scheduled at 8:00 p.m. Also typically included are Committee Reports, Special Interest Group Reports, current activity announcements, hardware reviews, an astrophotography slide show by members and other items of interest.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting is held on dates scheduled by the board at 7:00 p.m. in Room 106 of the Space Science Building at Rice University. Call StarLine for Board Meeting information. Information provided to GuideStar will be published. The meetings are open to all members of the Society in good standing. Attendance is encouraged.

GuideStar Information

The H.A.S. *GuideStar* is published monthly by the Houston Astronomical Society. All opinions expressed herein are those of the contributor and not necessarily of Houston Astronomical Society. The monthly Meeting Notice is included herein. *GuideStar* is sent via bulk rate mail to Regular, Student, and Honorary Members of H.A.S., selected individuals and recent visitors to the General Membership Meeting. Contributions to *GuideStar* by members are encouraged. Electronic submission is helpful. Submit the article in ASCII text, MS-Word (preferred), or WordPerfect format on an IBM format floppy or via AOL (BILLP10566). Mail copy to the address shown on the outside cover or to the editor at 256 East 5th Street, Houston, TX 77007. Copy must be received by the second Friday of the month for inclusion in the issue to be mailed near the end of the same month. Or, bring copy to the General Membership Meeting and give it to the Editor, or phone to make special arrangements.

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AOL: BILLP10566; Internet: BILLP10566@AOL.COM

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Houston Astronomical Society

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