



***September, 2001***

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At the **September 7** meeting...

***Solar Astronomy  
at the  
Prairie View Solar Observatory***

***~ Brian Cudnik ~***

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***Houston Astronomical Society***

***GuideStar***

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**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.

**HAS Web Page: <http://www.astronomyhouston.org>**

**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: 979-732-8861**

# ★★★★★ *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 & Past President ★★★★★★

|  |   |
|--|---|
| President: Kirk Kendrick ..... H: 281-391-3834 | Treasurer: Debbie Moran ..... H: 713-666-9428   |
| Vice Pres: Bill Leach ..... H: 713-863-8459    | Past President: Don Pearce .... H: 713-432-0734 |
| Secretary: Art Ciampi ..... H: 713-665-5008    |   |

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

Liaison responsibility

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| George Dolson ..... 713-721-1560   |                                   |
| Bill Flanagan ..... 713-699-8819   |                                   |
| Howard Leverenz ..... 713-957-8667 |                                   |
| Jay Levy ..... 281-557-4920        | Field Trip and Observing, Program |
| Larry Wadle ..... 281-395-6290     |                                   |

## ★★★★★ Committee Chairpersons ★★★★★★

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Audit ..... Gary Hlivko ..... 713-864-2541           | Program ..... Scott Mitchell ..... 713-461-3020 |
| Education ..... Richard Nugent ..... 713-910-5945    | Publicity ..... Brian Cudnik ..... 713-460-1093 |
| Field Tr./Obsg. .... Steve Grubbs ..... 713-455-5701 | Telescope ..... Darin Palmer ..... 713-223-3123 |
| Novice ..... Warren Wundt ..... 713-697-2960         | 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 ..... 281-443-8773     | 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 ..... Bill Leach ..... 281-863-8459    | 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. |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|

## ★★★★★ 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.

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

## Welcome to New Members!

The Houston Astronomical Society encourages you to join our group of active amateur astronomers and take advantage of the benefits of membership. As a member you'll have access to the club observing site near Columbus, Texas. (You're required to participate in a site orientation meeting before you get the gate lock combination.) The site has concrete pads for setting up your telescope, restroom and bunkhouse facilities, and areas set aside for camping. You'll get monthly issues of the *GuideStar* newsletter, you'll get to vote and to serve the organization as an officer, and you will be supporting the local amateur astronomy community.

## 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 .....              | Don Pearce .....      | 713-432-0734 |
| Lunar & Planetary .....   | John Blubaugh .....   | 713-921-4275 |
| Occultations & Grazes ... | Wayne Hutchison ..... | 713-827-0828 |
| Advanced .....            | Bill Leach .....      | 713-863-8459 |

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# President's Corner

September 2001

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by Kirk Kendrick



Each September, the President announces the nominating committee. As of mid-August, I am still searching for 3 volunteers. I URGE each of you to strongly consider (1) whether you will run for a position of responsibility in the club, and (2) whether you would serve on the nominating committee to find viable candidates for each of our positions of responsibility. Contact Don Pearce (as a nominating committee member) or me...if you are willing to volunteer! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Early in August, I reviewed two articles from Michael Dye...that I'd like to spend the rest of this address giving my personal editorial around. After over 25 years associated with the HAS, I have a lot of passion around both of these areas. If you don't share my views, I urge you to WRITE YOUR EDITOR! Bill Pellerin would love to have a few more contributing "editors" to the "GuideStar". !(Information on how to submit items to the *GuideStar* is on the inside back cover of every issue. – Ed.)

First – Michael and Judy Dye prepare the monthly "GuideStar" mailings (i.e., produce the copies, collate, staple, address, and mail). After many years performing this service, the Dyes have asked to be replaced by the end-of-year. If we are to continue to receive our monthly mailings, we need serious donations of time and/or money on a month-by-month basis to fill this gap. Please see Michael Dye or me if you are willing to help!

And, second – Michael Dye also provided a review copy of his "GuideStar" article discussing the policy for RVs at Columbus observing site. ...Which started me to thinking... **what does the Columbus site mean to me?**

The goal of the various facilities at the Columbus site is to promote site usage...ideally, to promote hands-on Astronomy. Besides a key fee and regular site duty, no charges are made for use of the club's observatory

*Continued on page 6...*

# ***Houston Astronomical Society***

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***Meeting Notice  
For Friday, September 7, 2001***

***Brian Cudnik***

## ***Solar Astronomy at the Prairie View Solar Observatory***

***Our nearest star has a lot to teach us about  
how stars work, and what other stars are like.  
Brian Cudnik will introduce us to the work  
being done at Prairie View and let us know  
what 'ole Sol' has been up to recently.***

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### **Schedule of meeting activities:**

All meetings are at the University of Houston Science and Research building. See the inside back cover for a map to the location.

Novice meeting: ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Across from Room 117

Site orientation meeting: ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Classroom

General meeting: ..... 8:00 p.m.  
Room 117

**See the inside back cover for a map  
and more information.**

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## *President's Message... from page 4*

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equipment. Two 12½” Dobsonians are available for any member to use who completes the site and basic telescope training. The “warm-up” building is provided for all members, and even allows for up to four folk to bunk in a comfortable and dry “common area”. The bathroom is MUCH nicer than the old outhouse we had in the '80s. In addition, the observatory committee has created an area on the eastern side of the site with water, electricity, and BBQ grills in a cleared tent and RV camping zone. Usage of the observing site is included as part of your membership benefits with no added charges.

In the original site plan, the observatory committee allowed for personal observatories or personal (separate) observing areas. Since the '80's, the committee has charged a small annual fee to members taking advantage of this benefit. In recent years, the committee has also charged a fee to members who requested permission to leave their RVs setup at the site because they regularly use them during observing runs. The “fees” typically include additional site duty, monthly fees to cover electricity and supplies, and a yearly usage fee to the observatory committee. This service is NOT for storage of trailers and equipment, but a service for those that use the site regularly to aid their use. We currently have 3 of the RV sites in use by semi-permanent users.

For both personal observatory and RV usage, the fees for added site use have been designed to keep the usage self-supporting by the few involved. Contrary to popular opinion...the goal is NOT to create a KOA, but to promote site usage and astronomy. Also, the goal is NOT to provide a benefit to a few that is inequitable to the rest of the members.

As an RVer who enjoys Astronomy, I prefer to keep my trailer close to my house where I can use it to go “camping” with my family (to Columbus, Brazos Bend, or other suitable dark sites, of course!).

***Clear skies! And, let's go to Columbus to do Astronomy!***

*...Kirk*

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# September / October Calendar:

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Photo by Scott Mitchell

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| <i>Date</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|-------------|-------------|--------------|

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## *September 2001*

|    |           |  |
|----|-----------|--|
| 2  | 4:43 p.m. | Full Moon  |
| 7  |           | HAS Club Meeting   |
|    | 7:00 p.m. | Novice Presentation - U of H   |
|    | 8:00 p.m. | General Membership Meeting U of H                                      |
| 8  |           | Members Observatory Night-Columbus                                     |
| 10 | 2:00 p.m. | Last Quarter Moon  |
| 15 |           | Prime Night-Columbus   |
| 17 | 5:27 a.m. | New Moon   |
| 18 | 7:30 p.m. | Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ.,<br>contact Matt Delevoryas, 713-795-0808 |
| 20 | dawn      | Venus about one half degree from Regulus in East                       |
| 22 | 6:05 p.m. | Autumnal Equinox-Fall begins   |
| 24 | 4:31 a.m. | First Quarter Moon   |
| 27 | 7:30 p.m. | HAS Board meeting, Rice Univ.  |

## *October 2001*

|    |            |  |
|----|------------|--|
| 2  | 8:48 a.m.  | Full Moon  |
| 5  |            | HAS Club Meeting   |
|    | 7:00 p.m.  | Novice Presentation - U of H   |
|    | 8:00 p.m.  | General Membership Meeting U of H  |
| 9  | 11:20 p.m. | Last Quarter Moon  |
| 13 |            | Prime Night-Columbus   |
| 16 | 2:23 p.m.  | New Moon   |
|    | 7:30 p.m.  | Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ.,<br>contact Matt Delevoryas, 713-795-0808         |
| 20 |            | Members Observatory Night-Columbus   |
| 23 | 9:58 a.m.  | First Quarter Moon   |
| 28 | 3:00 a.m.  | Daylight Saving Time ends and Standard Time begins.<br>Set clocks back 1 hour. |
| 31 | 11:41 p.m. | Full Moon  |

***Send calendar events to [JBlubaugh@aol.com](mailto:JBlubaugh@aol.com)  
or call 713-921-4275.***

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# *Observations... of the editor*

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by **Bill Pellerin, GuideStar Editor**

August 13 -- I'm supposed to be out observing right now, but the clouds at my observing site are making that impossible. I missed getting out on the night of August 11/12 to see the Perseids in all their glory -- clouds again. I'm hoping that as the week goes on, the skies will clear up and I'll be able to get out. I have made up my observing list and I'm ready to go.

August 15 -- Clouded out again. I missed the occultation of Jupiter by the moon. I hope you got to see it. I managed to get in some observing during the evening, however, and was excited to be viewing through a 24" telescope. You wouldn't believe how bright M13 is until you've seen it through a large telescope like this one!

## **General comments:**

I mentioned last month that the AAVSO (American Association of Variable Star Observers) publishes a bulletin showing the dates for the expected maxima and minima of variable stars. The bulletin also indicates that there are some stars for which good data is needed. These represent an opportunity to visit some variables that haven't had the attention that they deserve.

If you missed last month's meeting, you missed a good one. Bill Dillon did a super job outlining the opportunities for amateurs to make contributions to science, and talking in some detail about the programs that he's involved in with the Fort Bend Astronomy Club. One opportunity he didn't mention is double star observing. For double stars you're asked to measure the separation of the stars, and the position angle of the pair. This work can be done with a relatively small investment, probably using your existing telescope equipment and a reticle eyepiece. If this sounds interesting to you, consider subscribing to the *Double Star Observer* newsletter ([www.cshore.com/royce/dso/index.htm](http://www.cshore.com/royce/dso/index.htm))



Bill Dillon

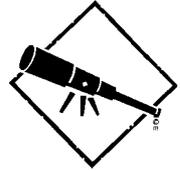
I just finished a book called  $E=MC^2$ , by David Bodanis. The book is about the history of the famous Einstein equation and the consequences of that

*Continued on page 15...*

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# *Observatory Corner*

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*By Michael B. Dye Observatory Chairman*



The HAS Annual picnic is currently scheduled to be held at the Observatory Site on September 8<sup>th</sup> (that is the second Saturday in September). For the last two years I have appointed myself Picnic Chairman and that worked out well, so I am repeating the process and re-appointing myself as 2001 Picnic Chairman. Last years' picnic was rained out. So, I am going to use the successful formula we used in 1999, a pot-luck picnic.

The Observatory Committee will again supply the meat (hamburgers and hot dogs), buns, iced tea and some soda (Coke, Pepsi, etc.). I am asking the membership to attend the picnic and bring a covered dish (salad, vegetable, or desert) large enough to feed at least 8 to 10 people. I will repeat the experiment by not charging any money to offset the cost of the meat, buns or drinks. Donations of course, will not be refused. About the only thing I am asking is that I be contacted by members who will be attending. Please call or E-mail me. My phone is in the front cover of the *GuideStar* and my E-mail address is [mbdye@aol.com](mailto:mbdye@aol.com) or [mbdye@rice.edu](mailto:mbdye@rice.edu).

I would like to publicly thank the anonymous donor who donated \$500.00 to the Houston Astronomical Society. This money was donated so that the HAS could purchase 20 Hubble Light Shields. The Hubble Light Shields were in turn donated to the Oak Ridge Ranch Civic Association so that the Association could participate in keeping the skies dark around the Observatory Site. The Civic Association in turn transferred the Light Shields to the San Barnard Electric Co-op (the electric company out at the Observatory Site) to be installed on lights within the Oak Ridge Ranch properties. It seems like a long way to go to get the job done and I would like to thank all the people involved. Most of all I would like to thank Barbara Wilson who got the project started and the anonymous donor who funded it.

The next item I want to talk about is a problem we are having with a policy that has not yet been determined. There is some concern regarding the use and storage RV's at the Observatory Site. Currently we have room for about

*Continued on page 17...*

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# ***Astronomy 101***

## ***How to Win Friends***

### ***...and Influence People***

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***By Steve Goldberg***

It seems that most folks attending their first star party tend to do something that goes against Star party etiquette. Not that this is intentional, but rather, who knew??? Every now and then it's a good idea to review this subject, lest you find pictures of your self with a red circle and line through it.

The primary goal of star party etiquette is to maintain a dark observing environment. Secondary to that, but just as important is to ensure that everyone has fun. Here are some reminders:

**Plan your arrival:** Try to get to the site BEFORE sunset. This not only allow you time to set up in daylight but keeps you from blinding everyone as you enter the site. If you must arrive after dark, Please remember to douse the lights BEFORE reaching the site.

**Darken the vehicle:** before setting out look for light sources on your wheels. Automakers have this thing that light is good. While this may hold for traffic safety it stinks for astronomy. Possible sources of light are the dome light, trunk lights glove compartment lights (you just can't imagine how bright these will be at a dark sky site till one goes off and people start yelling at you). Turn off or remove all offending lights and you'll be popular in no time. The scourge of astronomy has been the infiltration of DRL'S (daytime running lights). These obnoxious buggers came to us courtesy of Canada where they have been mandatory for quite a few years. Basically they are low power headlights that are on all the time. Turning off the parking brake usually triggers them. On my car I can just lower the brake handle and still move the car without turning them on, but it ain't easy. My solution is to drape a red towel over the lights when I arrive at the site. This obscures them enough that they are not a problem. Reverse (back-up) lights are a pain as well. Try to set up in such a way that you don't have to back up to leave the site, And remember not to leave the car in reverse if it is a standard shift or you'll get a very bright surprise upon starting the car.

*Continued...*

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## ***How to Win Friends... from previous page***

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Plan your departure: If you can't stay for the duration and have to leave early, plan to set up near the exit facing out (see above). Before you leave ask if anyone is shooting pictures and let everyone know your going. Invariably some stray light will find its way from your car, no matter how hard you try, so it's considerate to warn other observers so they can look away. Don't go until you're sure no one is going to be disturbed by your departure.

Plan your stay: try to have all your gear set up and organized before it gets dark. This will help cut down on searches using your red light. If you use a laptop for observing assistance make sure you have a red filter over the screen, even if your application has a night vision mode, as there will be some stray light from the border of the screen. Before it get dark get the lay of the area around the observing site. Sounds kinda silly but, should nature call you don't want to be traipsing about in the brush looking for an appropriate spot in the dark. You could step in a hole or something equally embarrassing and hurt your self.

Also consider the environment. Do not litter. If you carry it in, carry it out. Keep our observing area clean for all to enjoy.

Quiet Please: Star parties are for observing and appreciating the wonders of the sky. Most of like to do this in a quiet, peaceful setting, so leave the boom box home. Conversation should be subdued, avoid shouting across the field.

By following these simple guidelines, you'll ensure enjoyment for all, and people won't dread your arrival.

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## *↻ Want Ads ↻*

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**For Sale: Nexstar 8** - Almost like new! Has JMI electric focuser, JMI Mega Wedge & Kendrick Dew Shield. Asking- \$1725! Contact Bobo (Bennie) Negy Jr. at 281-468-1434 (cell), 281-444-7101 (home), or by email at BOBONEGY@webtv.net

**For sale: Celestron Nexstar 114GT** 4.5 inch goto reflector with all supplied accessories. Used twice - \$300.00. Celestron Advanced Astro Master Digital Setting Circles with all supplied accessories, encoders and brackets for CG-5 GEM. Practically new - \$400.00. See Celestron web site for descriptions. Contact Kris Evans at 281-487-5177 or kre@swbell.net.

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## *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>

**North Houston Astronomy Club** meets at 7:30 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](mailto:bill.leach@nhmccd.edu). Web site: [www.astronomyclub.org](http://www.astronomyclub.org)

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# *Special "Help" Volunteers*

Any member who wants specific information on a subject listed below may call the individual listed. If you have a moderate knowledge of a special subject and would be happy to have others ask you about that subject, let the editor know and your subject, name and phone will be listed in *GuideStar* in the future. Note that we have listed a few possible areas where you might volunteer, but, of course, you are not limited to these. You can also have a specialty which is a sub-group of another. Note that the number of names for any subject is not limited to only one person. Also see the "Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons" on the inside front cover and the "Special Interest Groups Listing article.

| <b>Subject</b>                    | <b>Name</b>                               | <b>Phone</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Asteroids .....                   | Barbara Wilson .....                      | 281-933-1289 |
| Astrometry .....                  | Richard Nugent .....                      | 713-910-5945 |
| Astrophotography .....            | Steve Goldberg .....                      | 713-721-5077 |
| Beginning in Astronomy .....      | Peggy Gilchrist .....                     | 281-558-1190 |
|                                   | Amelia Goldberg .....                     | 713-721-5077 |
| Comets .....                      | Kenneth Drake .....                       | 281-367-1592 |
|                                   | Don Pearce .....                          | 713-432-0734 |
| Computers .....                   | Matt Delevoryas .....                     | 713-795-0808 |
|                                   | Leland Dolan .....                        | 713-529-0403 |
|                                   | Ricardo Palmeira .....                    | 713-669-1409 |
| Cosmology .....                   | Ricardo Palmeira .....                    | 713-669-1409 |
| Deep Sky .....                    | Larry Mitchell .....                      | 281-448-8700 |
|                                   | Barbara Wilson .....                      | 281-933-1289 |
| Double Stars .....                | John Blubaugh .....                       | 713-921-4275 |
| Drawing (Sketching).....          | Scott Mitchell .....                      | 713-461-3020 |
| Herschel Objects .....            | Larry Mitchell .....                      | 281-448-8700 |
| History, Astro'y - General .....  | Leland Dolan .....                        | 713-529-0403 |
|                                   | Ricardo Palmeira .....                    | 713-669-1409 |
| History, Astro'y - Amateurs ..... | Tom Williams .....                        | 713-526-2868 |
| Mathematics, Astronomical .....   | Richard Nugent .....                      | 713-910-5945 |
| Messier Objects .....             | Novice Committee (see inside front cover) |              |
| Photometry .....                  | Open                                      |              |
| Radio Telescopes .....            | John Hiatt .....                          | 713-464-4010 |
| Satellites, Artificial .....      | <open>                                    |              |
| Solar Observing .....             | Larry Mitchell .....                      | 281-448-8700 |
| Spectroscopy .....                | Open                                      |              |
| Thin Crescent Moons .....         | Don Pearce .....                          | 713-432-0734 |
| Variable Stars .....              | Barbara Wilson .....                      | 281-933-1289 |
|                                   | Tom Williams .....                        | 713-526-2868 |
| Video .....                       | Larry Mitchell .....                      | 281-448-8700 |

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## ***Volunteer Opportunity***

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***Needed: Crew for printing, labeling, and mailing of GuideStar on a monthly basis.***

Here's how it works... You'll get, via email, a PDF (Adobe Acrobat) version of the ***GuideStar*** newsletter on or about the 20th of the month. You need a PC and access to a printer for this to work. Your contribution is to:

- Print a 'master' copy of the ***GuideStar*** on your printer.
- Arrange for duplication (printing) of the member copies of the ***GuideStar***
- Assemble and label the printed copies. Recruit helpers for this task.
- Deliver the printed copies to the Post Office for mailing to the membership.

Easy. Training is available from Mike and Judy Dye, who currently do these tasks, but who will be turning over these duties to you before the end of the year.

Here's your chance to make a contribution to the organization, meet and work with your fellow H.A.S. members, and make sure that you get your copy of the ***GuideStar*** before anybody else does!

**Call Mike and Judy to discuss how you can take over this job.**

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## ***Membership Renewals...***

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**Please check the mailing label on your copy of the *GuideStar*.**

It'll tell you when your membership expires. If it expires soon, please send your renewal to the address on the outside cover of *GuideStar*. The dues information is on the inside front cover.

For a regular membership of \$33 you get the opportunity to support an active and growing organization, you get the monthly *GuideStar* newsletter, and you get access to the outstanding H.A.S. observing site near Columbus, Texas, and access to loaner telescopes. It's the best deal in town, we think. Please renew your membership when it expires.

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## ***HAS Web Page***

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

The address is: <http://www.astronomyhouston.org>

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](mailto:goldberg@sccsi.com). (You can click on my name on the HAS home page). Or, you can call Steve Goldberg (WebMaster), at 713-721-5077.

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### ***Observations... from page 8***

knowledge. Most of us know that it is this equation that describes the process by which our friends the stars shine, but few of us know the context of that knowledge. I highly recommend this book if you're interested in history, astronomy, physics, or Einstein.

In this issue we have an article about observing (Star Party) etiquette. It's mostly common sense stuff aimed at trying to optimize the observing experience for everybody. Also, our prez is asking for your help with some club projects. If you haven't helped with some of the work of the organization in the past, please consider doing so. You'll find it rewarding.

***Until next time... clear skies and new moons!***

## ***..Bill***

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***GuideStar deadline***

***for the October issue is September 15***

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# *Observatory Duty Roster*

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by Michael B. Dye, Observatory Chairman

This is the duty list for September, October and November. Some names may have been moved from one month to another to accommodate some conflicts. 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.

|                                   |                              |                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>September Supervisor .....</b> | <b>Allen Gilchrist .....</b> | <b>281-443-8773</b> |
| George M. Dolson .....            | Members Observatory Night    | 09-08-01            |
| Kenneth Drake .....               | Site                         |                     |
| Mark Egan .....                   | Members Observatory Night    | 09-08-01            |
| John Fennel .....                 | Site                         |                     |
| Rusty Fletcher .....              | Members Observatory Night    | 09-08-01            |
| Jean-Marc Follini .....           | Site                         |                     |
| Fred Garcia .....                 | Site                         |                     |
| John Garza III .....              | Site                         |                     |

|                                 |                              |                     |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>October Supervisor .....</b> | <b>Matt Delevoryas .....</b> | <b>713-662-2939</b> |
| Clifton Goldman .....           | Members Observatory Night    | 10-20-01            |
| David Granadino .....           | Site                         |                     |
| Chai S. Heng .....              | Members Observatory Night    | 10-20-01            |
| Gary Hlivko .....               | Site                         |                     |
| Wayne Hutchinson .....          | Members Observatory Night    | 10-20-01            |
| Clayton Jeter .....             | Site                         |                     |
| Stanley G. Jones .....          | Site                         |                     |
| Keith A. Jurgens .....          | Site                         |                     |

|                                  |                           |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>November Supervisor .....</b> | <b>Logan Rimes .....</b>  | <b>713-681-5397</b> |
| Arnie Kaestner .....             | Members Observatory Night | 11-10-01            |
| David Kahlich .....              | Site                      |                     |
| Bill Krell .....                 | Members Observatory Night | 11-10-01            |
| Howard Leverenz .....            | Site                      |                     |
| Jay E. Levy .....                | Site                      |                     |
| Mary Lockwood .....              | Members Observatory Night | 11-10-01            |
| David Herlinger .....            | Site                      |                     |
| Robert C. 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.

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## ***Observatory Corner... from page 9***

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seven (7) RV's to be in use at the Observatory Site at any one time. We (the Observatory Committee and the Board of Directors) have not yet worked out a comprehensive policy about use of RV's at the Observatory Site. To help move our decision along, I am asking for feed back from members. Our Policy options are the following:

- 1.) RV's may be used at the Observatory Site but not stored for any length of time. (like more than 2 weeks)
- 2.) RV's may not be used at the Observatory Site.
- 3.) RV's may be used and a limited number may be stored at the Observatory Site.

Your opinion counts. Please E-mail your response to one the three options above or even an option I didn't consider to [mbdye@rice.edu](mailto:mbdye@rice.edu) or [mbdye@aol.com](mailto:mbdye@aol.com). If you don't have E-mail or feel you want to talk with me about this, feel free to call me in the evenings from 7 PM to 10 PM almost any weekday evening.

The Sunday after the August General Meeting (August 5<sup>th</sup>) Judy and I made an emergency TP run out to the Observatory Site. For the uninformed, a TP run is when we have run out of TP and Paper Towels in the Bathrooms. This is a serious catastrophe of disastrous proportions. Especially if you are the one stuck in the Bathroom without any TP. Anyway, the reason I bring this up is that on our way out there, we took the short cut. Civilization has evidently come to CR-215. We now have a STOP sign at the end of the road and 35-MPH speed limit signs spaced along the road. It seems that the county may have actually graded the road again (it needed it), as it seemed smoother (no washboard effect) than the last time I used it a few weeks ago (except at the corner). Also the Oak Ridge Ranch Estates Sales shack is no longer at the Hatterman Lane Road exit.

For the last few months, I have been inserting a paragraph requesting membership feed back regarding installing computers in the Observatory. I have actually got a response. This gives me hope that members are actually reading my articles. This hope was shattered by a long time member who told me he never reads the *GuideStar*. If you have any ideas about the Observatory Site, including providing some sort of computers for controlling the Observatory Telescopes and maybe for CCD processing. Please contact me at [mbdye@aol.com](mailto:mbdye@aol.com) or 281-498-1703.

Please fill out the appropriate log form when you use the site. Remember we use these forms as attendance records and to report Observatory Site problems such as broken toilets.

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# Logo Sales

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Please note the prices for the books listed below. They are all new and will go fast on a first come, first served basis.

**Observe the Herschel II Guide \$17.00**  
**Observe and Understand the Sun \$14.00**  
**Astronomy, The Teachers Handbook \$12.00**  
**ALPO's Mars Observer's Handbook \$12.00**  
**Observe Variable Stars \$17.00**  
**Observe Eclipses \$17.00**

Orders will be taken for the 16 inch Levy Planisphere. It will sell for \$24.00 prepaid.

The prices all include taxes. **All checks should be made out to HAS** for the correct amount, and mailed to Judy Dye, 12352 Newbrook, Houston TX 77072-3910. If there are any questions, please call. Our phone number is 281-498-1703.

*Judy Ann Dye*

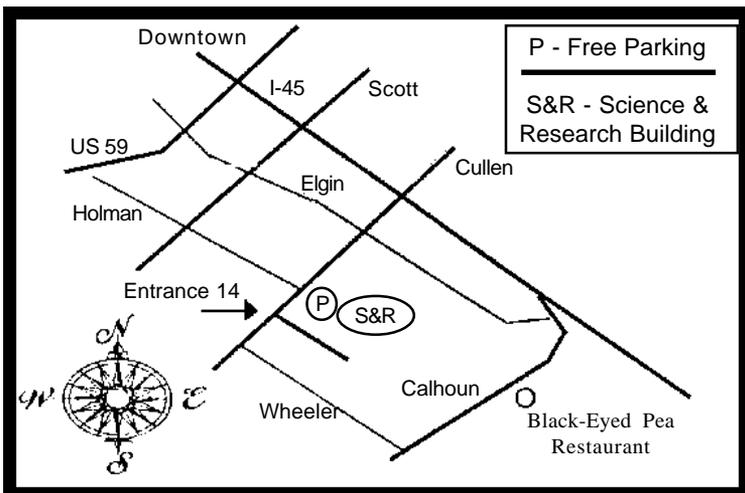
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## Mars

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I would like to make a new T-shirt for Astronomy Day. I need a black and white picture of Mars and a color picture of the same view. You will get them back after the silk-screen is done. Just make sure that your name and address is on the pictures with a separate sheet of paper. Thank you.

*Judy Ann Dye*



### **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 15th 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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## **Houston Astronomical Society**

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