



October, 2003

At the October 3 meeting...

Annual All-Clubs Meeting

Houston Museum of Natural Science

NASA in Search of a Mission

(see inside for agenda and directions)

Houston Astronomical Society

GuideStar

HAS Web Page: <http://www.AstronomyHouston.org>

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

★★★★★ **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** ★★★★★★★★★★

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Bill Flanagan 713-699-8819	Liaison responsibility
Don Pearce 713-432-0734	Telescope Loaner Program
JayLevy 281-557-4920	Field Trip and Observing, Program
Christopher Mendell 281-488-8906	
Steve Sartor 281-370-3544	

★★★★★★★★★ **Committee Chairpersons** ★★★★★★★★★★

Audit Matt Delevoryas 713-666-9428	Program John Blubaugh
Education Richard Nugent 713-524-1993	Publicity Joe Khalaf 713-660-8219
Field Tr./Obsg. Kenneth Miller	Telescope Clayton Jeter 281-573-1337
Novice George Stradley 281-376-5787	Welcoming Marg Nunez 713-529-2549
Observatory Michael Dye 281-498-1703 Hannah Lange 832-715-7833

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

Historian Leland Dolan 713-688-0981	Publ. Star Party Marg Nunez 713-529-2549
Librarian Peggy Gilchrist 281-443-8773	Rice U. Coord. Matt Delevoryas 713-666-9428
Logo Mds Sales Judy Dye 281-498-1703	Schedule Obs'v'ty Steve Goldberg 713-721-5077
Long Range Plan Bill Leach 281-893-4057	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.

Table of Contents

4	Observations of the Editor	11	Astronomy Day Committee
5	Meeting notice		Want Ads
6	October/November Calendar	12	Picnic Rescheduled
7	(un)Fasten Your Seatbelts	13	Observatory Corner
8	Eldorado Star Party	15	Astronomy Day
9	Telescope Loaner Program	16	Minutes of September
	School Star Party	18	Observatory Duty Roster
10	Regional All-Clubs Meeting		

Check the web site:

<http://www.astronomyhouston.org>

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 Leach	281-893-4057
Comets	Don Pearce	713-432-0734
Lunar & Planetary	John Blubaugh	713-921-4275
Occultations & Grazes ...	Wayne Hutchison	713-827-0828
Advanced	Bill Leach	281-893-4057

Observations... of the editor

by *Bill Pellerin, GuideStar Editor*

I have to take back everything bad I've said about observing Mars. Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to see Mars on several occasions, with different telescopes, and all the views I've had have been outstanding. At the September 5th H.A.S. meeting Leland Dolan announced that Syrtis Major would be on the meridian at 10:00 p.m. on the 6th, and so it was. It was a very nice view of the red planet.

So, now onward. Mars is still well positioned and worth seeing. I'm sure we'll have several telescopes pointed at it for Astronomy Day observing (October 4). If you haven't already signed up to help with the event, you should. It's likely to be a big one this year (if the weather cooperates), with the hoopla of Mars still fresh in everybody's mind.

If you're reading this because you picked up a copy of the *GuideStar* at the Astronomy Day event, we want you to know that we'd be delighted to have you join the Houston Astronomical Society. Meeting information is in this (and every) *GuideStar*, and the club has an observing site near Columbus, Tx that's available to you for the cost of membership – one of the world's last, true, bargains.

As I write this (September 20) it's cloudy outside with on-and-off rain and it doesn't seem likely to change in enough time to do some observing this evening.

I got a copy of Michael Lemonick's new book, *Echo of the Big Bang*, and I look forward to reading it. He's the science writer for Time magazine, and very good at putting words together to tell a story. Also, I got a book called *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Sun*, by Jay Pasachoff. Jay is the author of the *Peterson Field Guide to the Stars and Planets*, one of my favorite books because it contains so much information in such a small book. The 'sun' book is definitely not an introductory book to the Sun, despite what the title might lead you to believe.

Continued on page 12...

Houston Astronomical Society

Meeting Notice
For Friday, October 3, 2003

Annual All-Clubs Meeting

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Beyond Columbia:

NASA in Search of a Mission

Tony Freemantle & Mike Tolson, Houston Chronicle

This month's all-clubs meeting is at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in Hermann Park, just south of downtown Houston.

Parking is available in the parking garage near the museum. A map to the museum is located at the Houston Museum of Natural Science Web site:

<http://www.hmns.mus.tx.us/>

Note: There is no site orientation or novice meeting this month.

October/November Calendar:



Photo by Scott Mitchell

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
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October 2003

2	2:09 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
3	8:00 p.m.	General membership meeting Houston Museum of Natural Science
4	3:00 p.m.	Astronomy Day—George Observatory
10	2:28 a.m.	Full Moon
18	7:31 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon Members Observatory Night - Columbus
		HAS Picnic (rescheduled from September)
25	7:50 a.m.	New Moon Prime Night-Columbus
26	3:00 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time ends and Standard Time begins. Set clocks back 1 hour.
31	10:25 p.m.	First Quarter Moon

November 2003

7	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H.
	8:00 p.m.	General membership meeting U of H.
8	7:13 p.m.	Full Moon
16	11:15 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
18	before dawn	Leonid Meteor Shower Peaks
23	4:59 p.m.	New Moon
30	11:16 a.m.	First Quarter Moon

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

(un)Fasten your Seatbelts

by Patrick Barry and Tony Phillips

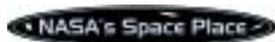
The “fasten seatbelts” light turns off, and you get up to ask the stewardess for a pillow; it’s going to be a long flight. Only a kilometer ahead in the cloudless sky, a downward draft of sheering winds looms. When the plane hits these winds, the “turbulence” will shake the cabin violently and you could be seriously hurt.

You don’t know about those winds, of course, and neither does the pilot. Today’s weather satellites can’t see winds in clear skies: they rely on the motion of clouds to infer which way the winds are blowing.

”Believe it or not, their best indication of wind sheer right now is warnings from aircraft that have gone through it ahead of them,” says Bill Smith of NASA’s Langley Research Center.

But a new satellite technology being pioneered by NASA and NOAA could improve this shaky situation. It’s called GIFTS, short for Geosynchronous Imaging Fourier Transform Spectrometer. GIFTS is an infra-red sensor that can detect winds in cloudless skies by watching the motions of atmospheric water vapor. Water vapor is mostly invisible to the human eye, but it reveals itself to GIFTS by the infra-red radiation it absorbs.

Smith is the lead scientist for EO-3, a satellite designed to test out this new technology. Slated for launch in 2005 or 2006, EO-3 will carry GIFTS to Earth orbit where it can produce 3-dimensional movies of winds in the atmosphere below.



EO-3, carrying the GIFTS instrument, will be in a geosynchronous orbit for extended monitoring of large regions of our planet and enabling observation of weather patterns at higher resolution than possible with existing geostationary satellites.

Continued....

Space Place... from previous page

These wind data will not only improve safety, but also help the airlines save money. Knowing the winds along a flight route allows airlines to adjust the plane's fuel load accordingly, thus reducing the weight that the engines must lift. Saved fuel means saved money and less pollution.

GIFTS can help planes avoid another potentially lethal problem, too: Ice forming on their wings. If a cloud contains "supercooled" water droplets whose temperature is below freezing, those droplets will form ice on the wings of planes that pass through it. By looking at about 1700 different frequencies of the light coming from clouds, GIFTS can measure the temperature of the cloud top and determine whether it contains water droplets that could cause aircraft icing. With information from GIFTS in hand, pilots can simply avoid clouds that appear dangerous.

Once EO-3 demonstrates the accuracy of GIFTS, airlines will be able to capitalize on this potential to make flying a cheaper and safer experience.

Learn more about the GIFTS instrument and other advanced technologies being tested on the EO-3 mission at nmp.jpl.nasa.gov/eo3. Kids can go to The Space Place to play a data compression game related to EO-3 at spaceplace.nasa.gov/eo3_compression.htm.

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Eldorado Star Party

October 22-25, 2003

X-Bar Ranch, Sonora, Texas

www.eldoradostarparty.org

Telescope Loaner Program

You can only imagine how busy our telescope loaner program has been with Mars as our nearby neighbor. It's been extremely busy.

I invite you to check out and borrow one of our fine telescopes of your choice. If it's not available, I'll place your name on the waiting list. You may borrow the scope for 2 months. The price is right.

Donations of any scope accessories are always welcome (eyepieces, Barlow's, finders, star atlas, red flashlight's, etc.). At the moment as chairperson, I really have the need for a folding type 2-wheel dolly to be able to tote the scopes around, being we no longer have a designated parking lot at the University of Houston campus.

One last thought, I'd like to thank several people who also help to make this program work so well: George Stradley, John Missavage, Leland Dolan, Bill Flanagan, and Steve Goldberg. Thanks guys. You are always so very thoughtful.

Cloudless nights.... always,
Clayton L. Jeter "Telescope Loaner Chairperson"

Email: stonebloke@aol.com

Home: 281-383-1337

Work: 713-945-5637

School Star Party for October

Once again Clifton Middle School (off 290) is hosting a star party for their students and family on Friday, Oct 17th at 7:30pm. Clifton M.S is located 6001 Golden Forest which is crosses Antoine near Pinemont. We need volunteers with and with out scopes for these eager students. please contact Marg. if you will be able to help out. Post party refreshments at Fahita Willie's as usual. Call or Email Marg for more details. 713-529-2549
Marg10@flash.net.

3rd Annual Houston Regional Astronomy Meeting Friday, October 3, 2003

Houston Museum of Natural Science Herzstein Hall

(Host: Houston Astronomical Society)

(The museum is closed to the public -- plenty of parking)

- 7:30 PM Registration, Refreshments, Door Prize Registration
Astronomy Day T-Shirts (\$10 & \$15)
- 8:00 PM Video
- 8:01 PM Call To Order, Welcome Kirk Kendrick, HAS
- 8:04 PM Introduction of Astronomy Barbara Wilson,
Day Committee 2003 HAS, GO, HMNS
- 8:08 PM Introduction of the Societies, .. Bill Leach,
Clubs and Logo Presentations KWC, HAS, NHAC
- 8:13 PM Astronomy Day Activities Keith Rivich, FBAC
- 8:15 PM Astronomy Day Volunteers Cynthia Gustava, FBAC
- 8:17 PM Speaker Introduction Scott Mitchell, HAS
- 8:20 PM Speaker Presentation

Beyond Columbia:

NASA in Search of a Mission

Tony Freemantle & Mike Tolson, Houston Chronicle

- 9:20 PM Speaker Recognition Paul Downing, NHAC
- 9:22 PM Door Prizes Ed & Eleta Malewitz, JSCAS
J. C. & Geraldina Reina, NHAC
- 9:29 PM Break Announcement Bill Christian, ASSET
- 9:30 PM Break Punch, Coffee,
Cake and Camaraderie
- 10:00 PM Planetarium Show James Wooten, HMNS, HAS
- 10:30 PM Final Words, Adjournment . Kirk Kendrick, HAS

Astronomy Day 2003 Committee

Bill Christian Astronomical Society of Beaumont Coordinator
South East Texas

Paul and Liz Downing North Houston Astronomy Club .. Promotions

Betty Glass Houston Museum Regional Meeting Host
of Natural Science

Cynthia Gustava Fort Bend Astronomy Club Astronomy Day Manager

Bill Leach Houston Astronomical Society Regional Meeting
North Houston Astronomy Club Coordinator
Kingwood College

Ed and Eleta Malewitz Johnson Space Center Displays, Outdoor
Astronomical Society Programs

Robert McMillan North Houston Astronomy Club .. T-shirts, Treasurer

Scott Mitchell Houston Astronomical Society ... Regional Meeting
Program

Juan Carlos and North Houston Astronomy Club .. Astronomy Day Speakers
Geraldina Reina

Keith Rivich Fort Bend Astronomy Club Astronomy Day Manager

Barbara Wilson Houston Museum Challenger Center
of Natural Science Coordinator
Houston Astronomical Society

☞ Want Ads ☞

For Sale - Meade 8" Schmidt Cassegrain LX3. 4 eyepieces, 1000 Oaks solar filter, Lumicon off axis guider, other accessories. Will sell whole outfit for \$750 Call Wayne Hutchison at (713) 827-0828.

H.A.S Picnic Rescheduled to October 18, 2003

The HAS Picnic was rained out in September, so the event has been rescheduled for October 18, 2003.

Burgers and Hot Dogs are being provided, but if you want to contribute some other items contact Michael Dye (mbdye@aol.com or mbdye@rice.edu or 81-498-1703) to coordinate.

Observations... from page 4

When my wife, Lori, and I go out for an early-morning walk we can see Orion reasonably high in the eastern sky with Sirius, the dog star, trailing behind. This can only mean that fall and winter are coming. The evenings have been a bit cooler, so getting out to observe is a more comfortable experience.

Having just suffered through a rained-out observing weekend, I'm looking forward to cool, clear, and long winter nights of being under the sky.

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

..Bill

Observatory Corner



By Michael B. Dye Observatory Chairman



First, the Picnic report. For those of you that didn't make the Picnic on September 20th, I have a big surprise for you, it rained. About 15 people actually showed up. That number includes five of us who stayed overnight. Ken Miller got up early (07:23 am) and started mowing the grass in anticipation of the event. About 8:30 Ed Szczepanski came out and made breakfast for all of us and then he started mowing the pad area. All the mowing was completed about noon when we started

having doubts about the weather. So we retired to the Observatory and checked the cloud pictures out using our newly installed Satellite Internet connection (more about this later). The more we looked, the worse the clouds (and rain) looked. About 13:04 we made a collective decision that there wasn't a chance of the weather getting any better. Ken posted this info on his web site (www.raftermranch.com) and we tried to call as many people that we could to spread the word that the picnic was off.

The rain continued. By 4:30 PM, we had about 14 or so people at the site and we made a collective decision (another one) to move the 'picnic' to Shobel's and have dinner there. About 10 of us left at 5 PM and went to Columbus. We collected two more people on the way and 12 of us made it to Shobel's for dinner. Those lucky people were Ken Miller, Bob Rogers, Charles Hudson, Ed Szczepanski, Quentin Hines, Hanna Lange, Susan Kennedy, Dan Kennedy, Ralph Overturf, Loretta Overturf, Judy Dye and me.

Subject to someone coming up with a better idea, I am planning to reschedule the picnic to the next Members Observatory Night, which is October 18th. Let's use the same system as last time and register your RSVP at a special page at the Ken Miller web site (www.raftermranch.com).

Now for the fun stuff. We have a satellite dish with an Ethernet port output donated by Stratos Global Communications. This unit was installed on the weekend of September 13th and 14th. Don Selle and Brett Maiwald

Observatory Corner... from previous page

accomplished the installation. Currently we have a D-Link wireless port supplying Internet access to the site. I know the system works because Ken, Bob and I were all using it (the wireless access port) at the same time while we were in the Observatory. The satellite antenna is a three-foot dish located about six feet from the southwest corner of the Observatory. The top of the antenna is only about seven feet off the ground and points south at a satellite in geosynchronous orbit (also geostationary in this case). The antenna is not obstructing any part of the sky. Plans are at this time to replace the small D-Link wireless box with a stronger Cisco box. More information will be forthcoming as I get it.

Once again we get to thank Ed Szczepanski for another donation and repair to the Observatory Site. This time it is a new toilet for the East side of the bathroom. For those of you who may have noticed, the tank top to the toilet in the East bathroom has been missing for the last few years. The previous toilet was installed a few years ago because the original toilet leaked. Shortly after it (the toilet) was installed, the tank top broke. The broken tank top in of itself was not a problem, the problem was that when the toilet set cover was up and the toilet flushed, the flush handle was stuck in the down position and caused the tank to continuously drain. This despicable state of disrepair was allowed to continue until about the second weekend of September, when Ed went to McCoy's and bought a new toilet and he and Bob Rogers installed it. Once again I would like to thank Ed for a job well done.

The Society continues to benefit from members who shop at Randalls and now Kroger's. For this we (the Society) thank you. Please link your Randalls card to the Houston Astronomical Society so that the society can benefit from the 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. If you shop at Kroger, we now have a card available (at the General Meeting) that you present at the cash register when you check out. We can thank Joe Khalaf (Publicity Chairman) for his efforts in getting the cards.

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.

Astronomy Day 2003

Brazos Bend State Park
George Observatory

Saturday, October 4
3:00-10:00 PM

Indoor & outdoor presentations start at 4:00 PM

Observing:

Daylight: Sunspot and prominence viewing

Night: Moon, Mars, galaxies and nebulae

36-inch telescope viewing

Challenger Center flight simulations

Face painting, astronomy buttons and information

Dozens of telescopes to view from

State park entrance fee-\$3/person

For more information GO TO:

http://users2.ev1.net/~earthlings/Astronomy_Day_2003.htm

Or for questions E-mail Bill Leach at astrobil@flash.net

Sponsors:

Astronomical Society of Southeast Texas

Fort Bend Astronomy Club

George Observatory

Houston Astronomical Society

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society

Kingwood College

North Houston Astronomy Club

Minutes of the H.A.S. General Membership Meeting 05 September 2003

President Kirk Kendrick called the Meeting to order at 8:10pm. He gave a brief welcome and introduction to the club. He mentioned the changes in parking (now available across the street) and will get clarification and more information.

There were 4 new members and approximately 5 visitors to the club.

Steve Sartor shared information about the Lands' End shirts and highlighted the several members that have worn / modeled them to / for the evening's meeting. Another set of shirts from another company will be ordered and modeled.

The H.A.S. celebrated its 48th anniversary this evening, and two members who have been members for 43 and 45 years were recognized.

Ed Preston shared the status of the nomination—the nominating committee was presented and the rules were stated...a call for people to serve was made.

Bill Leach passed out a clipboard for nametags, i.e. those members who do not have a nametag and want one can sign the clipboard. He also announced Astronomy Day on Saturday, October 4:

- ⇒ Website: www.astronomyday.com
- ⇒ The H.A.S. is hosting the third annual Houston Regional Astronomy Clubs Meeting at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on October 3.
- ⇒ The speaker for this meeting, and that for Astronomy Day, are to be determined.
- ⇒ George Stradley will host a H.A.S. information table, and needs help.
- ⇒ Judy Dye has volunteered for Food Distribution and needs help.
- ⇒ For the 15-minute outdoor presentations, they need six speakers, and three have been found—three more are needed. Also, telescopes are needed.

Leland Dolan shared the fact that small scopes are well suited for viewing Mars in the coming week since Syrtis Major will be visible Saturday night at 10pm local time on the Martian CM.

Continued....

Minutes... from previous page

Michael Dye announced the annual picnic at the Observatory on September 20, 2003.

Steve Goldberg mentioned that the speaker for the November meeting will talk about photography from the Space Station.

Don Pearce gave his monthly Comet Report

- C2001Q4 (NEAT) is in the constellation of Dorado, with an apparent magnitude of 12.1 (as of August 22); it is running $\frac{1}{2}$ magnitude fainter than predicted. The comet is ascending north, toward a May 2004 perihelion with an apparent magnitude of 1. Currently for Houston, the comet rises at 4:23am local time, transits at 7:02am with a maximum elevation of 7 degrees.
- Comet C2002 T7 (LINEAR) has an apparent magnitude of 12.2 and is in Auriga, brightening as it approaches a December 13 Earth closest approach, 1.5AU from the sun with an apparent magnitude of 8.7. The comet reaches perihelion on April 22, 2004 and is expected to reach the 1st magnitude, but is poorly placed for Northern Hemisphere observers. The comet is running brighter than predicted, and if this continues, may be brighter than Q4.
- Comet C/66B (Du Toit) has an apparent magnitude of 12.3 and is in the constellation of Lupus moving eastward. The comet reached perihelion on August 22 at a distance of 1.22; its closest approach to Earth was on August 23.

Judy Dye promoted Logo Sales; she announced the availability of the R.A.S. beginner observers book, \$16. People interested in purchasing this book will need to pay in advance.

With the All Clubs Meeting Starting at 8pm at the HMNS, go to the H.A.S. website for more information.

Don Pearce introduced the evening's speaker, Pete Nolan, who gave a talk entitled "Mesozoic Mass Massacre Mysteries".

Bill Leach introduced a special guest, the president of the Astronomical Society of Southeast Texas, Bill Christensen.

Door prizes were awarded.

Adjourned at 10:09p.m.

Observatory Duty Roster

by Michael B. Dye, Observatory Chairman

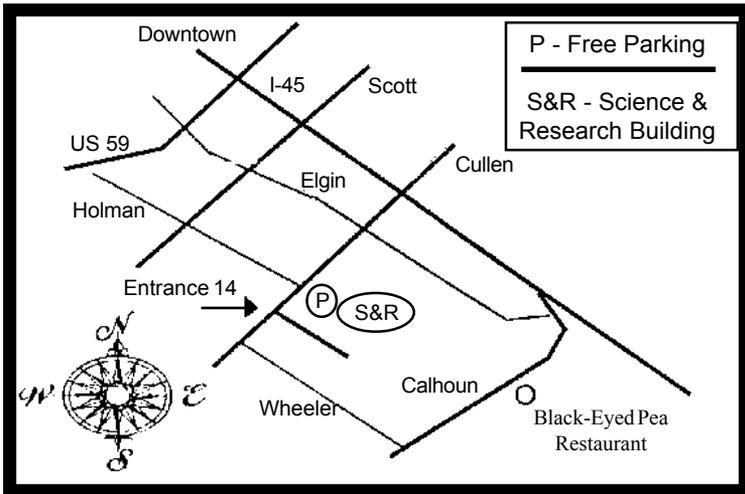
This is the duty list for September, October and November. If you are listed in this roster, please be sure to contact your supervisor for any information that you may need and the date and time to be at the site. You may change from site duty to open house or from open house to site duty by pre-arrangement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

September Supervisor	Allen Gilchrist	281-443-8773
Arnie Kaestner	Site	
David Kahlich	Site	
Larry Karasevich	Site	
Robert Kuna	Members Observatory Night	09-20-03
Jay Levy	Site	
Mary Lockwood	Members Observatory Night	09-20-03
Christopher Mendell	Site	
Kenneth Miller	Site	
Larry Mitchell	Members Observatory Night	09-20-03

October Supervisor	Logan Rimes	713-681-5397
Debbie Moran	Site	
Ben Negy	Members Observatory Night	10-18-03
Johnny Norris	Site	
Richard Nugent	Members Observatory Night	10-18-03
Ralph Overturf	Site	
Don C. Pearce	Members Observatory Night	10-18-03

November Supervisor	Logan Rimes	713-681-5397
Margaret Nunez	Site	
Sim Picheloup	Members Observatory Night	11-15-03
Scott Poteet	Members Observatory Night	11-15-03
Leonard Raif	Members Observatory Night	11-15-03
Henry Schneider	Site	
Larry Wadle	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. at the University of St. Thomas. 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 via email BillP10566@aol.com. 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.

Editing & Production: Bill Pellerin, 713-880-8061; FAX: 713-880-8850;
 Email: Billp10566@aol.com

Reproduction and Mailing: Anne Hallman & Hannah Lange

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