

Houston Astronomical Society

GuideStar



.....
January, 2005

At the January 7 meeting...

Tom Williams **HAS**

The Amateurization of Astronomy in Britain and the United States

Amateur astronomers have always felt the need for a journal in which to publish their results, a venue for meetings in which to discuss those results, and a means for coordinating improvements in techniques for carrying out their work, while also providing for the socialization of newcomers to the field. In two case studies, this talk will explore the paths along which such organizations have developed. In Britain, as professional astronomers appropriated the Royal Astronomical Society for their own purposes, several failures of amateur organizations preceded the successful formation of the British Astronomical Association (BAA). Within a few decades after its foundation, the BAA's specialized observing sections and credible journal, admired by professional and amateur astronomers alike, served as a model for at least three failed attempts to form a similar organization in the United States. What emerged in the United States instead were five separate specialized observing associations, most of which legitimately claim international status, and the nationwide Astronomical League devoted to recreational astronomy. This talk will consider the different paths taken in the amateurization of astronomy in the Britain and the United States, and how those paths were influenced by the professionalization of astronomy in both countries.

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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.

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.

Site orientation meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Classroom 121

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

See last page for a map and more information.

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: Steve Sartor	H:281-370-3544
Vice Pres: Bill Leach	H: 281-893-4057
Secretary: Brian Cudnik	H: 832- 912-1244
Treasurer: Bill Flanagan	H:713-699-8819
Past President: Kirk Kendrick	H: 281-633-8819

Additional Board Members

Steve Goldberg	713-721-5077	Liaison responsibility
Don Pearce	713-432-0734	
Jay Levy	281-657-4920	Field Trip and Observing, Program
Kenneth Miller	936-931-2724	

Committee Chairpersons

Audit	Don Selle	281-391-5470
Education	Richard Nugent	713-524-1993
Field Tr./Obsg.	Kenneth Miller	936-931-2724
Novice George Stradley	281-376-5787	
Observatory	Michael Dye	281-498-1703
Program	John Blubaugh	713-921-4275
Publicity	Joe Khalaf	713-660-8219
Telescope	Mike Hamlin	281-489-2926
Welcoming	Susan Kennedy	281-376-3262
	Hannah Lange	832-715-7833

Ad-Hoc Committee Chairpersons

Historian	Leland Dolan	713-688-0981
Librarian	Peggy Gilchrist	281-443-8773
Logo Mds Sales	Judy Dye	281-498-1703
Long Range Plan	Bill Leach	281-893-4057
Parliamentarian	Kirk Kendrick	281-633-8819
Publ. Star Party	Richard Nugent	713-524-1993
Rice U. Coord.	Matt Delevoryas	713-666-9428
Schedule Obs'v'ty	Steve Goldberg	713-721-5077
Texas Star Pty	Steve Goldberg	713-721-5077

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.
 Dr. Lawrence Armendarez, U. of St. Thomas

Dues and Membership Information

Annual Dues:Regular	\$36.00
Associate	\$6.00
Sustaining	\$50.00
Student	\$12.00
Honorary	None

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 \$32.95/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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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

Other Meetings...

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://www.fbac.org>

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. Web site: www.astronomyclub.org

My New Rule: 5 Hours and OUT

by *Bill Pellerin, GuideStar Editor*

You've all had this experience. You buy something and it doesn't work right. And, despite your best efforts you can't seem to *make* it work right. Examples of things that have done this to me: Apple IPOD, telescope mount encoders, and software (lots of software).

My IPOD would not accept downloads from my computer. I don't know why; all other USB devices worked fine. I consulted the web page, updated drivers, re-installed software, did Google searches, and so on. After I did all that, it still didn't work. "That's it," I said, and I took it back and got something else (a Sony MD recorder/player -- that works great).

I expect that the IPOD problem could have been fixed, but after spending about 5 hours on the problem, without resolving it, I gave up. I have had similar experiences with other products, and have developed the 5 hour rule --

*"If I can't make it work
in 5 hours it's OUT."*

There are exceptions -- sometimes there's no available alternative product, or sometimes I'm very keen to use the product that's been giving me trouble. So, the rule can bend a bit if necessary. Some things are not worth resolving (example: a printer problem that didn't really affect my ability to print what I want -- more of a quirk than a malfunction). Some things are not worth 5 hours of effort, so I move on more quickly.

A related rule -- avoid things that have a high potential of requiring significant effort to make work. Software is in this category. I don't know why, but it seems that there are always little glitches in software. One software package that I purchased consumed nearly 100% of my CPU time, so, needless to say it didn't run. The manufacturer didn't admit to the problem, but issued a patch about a month later that fixed the problem. Don't these people test this stuff?

I hope all your stuff works. Really, I do. We don't need more frustrated people in the world than we already have.

Feel free to adopt the 5 hour rule for yourself. I don't hold a copyright on this idea and if it helps you deal with life's little frustrations, all the better.

Membership Renewals...

Please check the mailing label on your copy of the *GuideStar*, or check your email if you get an electronic 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 page 2.

Membership in the Houston Astronomical Society is one of the great bargains in Astronomy. For a regular membership of \$36 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. (You must attend an orientation, given monthly, to use the site.) And, after two months of membership you can borrow, at no charge, one of the Society's loaner telescopes. It's the best deal in town, we think. Please renew your membership when it expires.

Thanks!

Houston Astronomical Society

General Membership Meeting

Friday, December 3, 2004

University of Houston

Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 8:16pm and was followed by the President's welcome.

There were 0 new members and 1 visitor present.

The announcements were as follows:

- Steve Sartor stated that a raffle will be held in March to raffle off a 6-inch f/8 Criterion telescope, mounted on an equatorial mount with a motor drive.
- Steve Sartor awarded the A.L. Binocular Certificate, dated 10/07/04, to Robert Rogers, who observed more than 50 objects with binoculars.
- Judy Dye displayed the featured Logo Sales items, including the Moon Calendars and the Observer's Handbook 2005. She also announced the H.A.S. banquet, to take place on February 26. The "usual banquet schedule" will be followed, and the event will be at the usual place (West Loop Marriott); the cost is \$28 per person.
- John Savage gave an Observatory Presentation featuring the donation of four "Freetalk" radios to the Observatory (each has a 4-mile radius).
- Kent Francis announced an estate sale. A deceased member's equipment will be sold; interested people should call Roger Howard (713-248-8006) if interested.
- Leland Dolan announced the Jupiter occultation by the Moon on December 7.
- Don Pearce gave the comet report (go to <http://encke.jpl.nasa.gov> for more details on each comet) for the following comets:
 - Comet Machholz (C/2004 Q2)
 - C/2004 K4 (LINEAR), rises 3 am, is 15-deg. high at dawn.
 - 78P/Gehrels, an evening object.
 - C/2004 Q1 Tucker, an evening object.
 - C/2004 T4 (LINEAR), an evening object.
 - C/2004 Q4 (NEAT), an all-night object
 - Don also mentioned that he would be following a new format: if the comet is brighter than 10th magnitude, he will give details; otherwise he will just mention the comet and its magnitude.

Don Pearce introduced John Blubaugh who introduced Mr. Kelly Taylor, who gave a talk entitled: "Industrial Light Pollution: How We Got Here from There"

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

January/February Calendar:



Photo by Scott Mitchell

Check the web site:
www.astronomyhouston.org
Webmaster: Bob Rogers
siteworkerbob@hotmail.com

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

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 siteworkerbob@hotmail.com.

Date Time Event

January

3	11:46 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
7	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - UH
	8:00 p.m.	General membership meeting - UH
		Tom Williams - "The Amateurization of Astronomy in Britain and the United States"
8	(tentative)	Prime Night-Columbus
10	6:03 a.m.	New Moon
15	(tentative)	Members Observatory Night- Columbus
17		Saturn at opposition
	12:58 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
25	4:32 p.m.	Full Moon

February

2	1:27 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
4	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - UH
	8:00 p.m.	General membership meeting - UH
5	(tentative)	Prime Night-Columbus
7	1:20 a.m.	New Moon
12	(tentative)	Members Observatory Night- Columbus
15	6:16 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
23	10:54 p.m.	Full Moon
26	evening	HAS Banquet - West Loop Marriott

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

Special "Help" Volunteers

Any member who wants specific information on an astronomical topic may call special help volunteer (listed in most issues of the *GuideStar*). 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.

At the HAS meeting, please remember to park across from Entrance 14 because of the construction in the parking lot of the Science and Research bldg.

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GuideStar deadline

for the February

issue

is January 15

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Observations... of the editor

by Bill Pellerin, GuideStar Editor



I am reasonably adept at using some of my personal devices. I drive the car every day, use the VCR on a regular basis, do computer work most of the day, and so on. Some of my stuff, though, gets used rarely, and not often enough for me to develop the skills that I should have to operate it properly.

So it is with my computerized German equatorial telescope mount. Take my word for it; it is a very nice piece of equipment with all the requisite drive motors and electronics necessary for it to find any object in the sky at my command.

As I told you last month I will be doing stellar photometry soon and I need to use a tracking mount to do the imaging, and the go-to functionality of the mount is helpful, too. So, one of the milestones in my journey is to be sure I know how to set up and use the mount. The requisite tasks include setting up the mount, connecting and initializing the electronics, polar aligning the mount well enough that objects don't 'trail' during my exposures (which will be short, relatively speaking), and connecting the laptop computer to the mount electronics.

So it was that I got the mount out a few weeks ago (at full moon, but no matter), and set it up. Fairly quickly I discovered that the 'button' battery that retains the settings of the electronics was dead. The electronics had no idea what the date and time was, where it was, or the type of mount it was being used with. The mount safety limits ("don't move past this point, or the telescope will slam into the mount") were long forgotten along with the desired slew rate and all other parameters.

Fortunately, I had a spare battery on hand. I took the electronics apart and quickly realized that it wasn't obvious how to remove the existing battery from its holder. The instruction manual gave no advice in this regard. I examined the battery holder for some time, and decided how the battery clip HAD to work. So, I pried out the old battery and installed the new one. No problem. The electronics would now remember its settings.

The electronics will 'talk to' a GPS receiver at startup to get location and date/time information. After finding the adapters that are necessary to make this work, I was able to make the electronics acquire the requisite information from the GPS. I had anticipated a bit of a fuss with this, but it worked just fine.

Next, I hooked the computer to the mount electronics. I had to pilfer a RJ cable splicer connector from the bedroom telephone to hook this up. I hadn't tried this combination of things before, even though I had been successful making it work with a previous version of my astronomy software. Again, this worked right away. No fiddling around with the connectors / software / mount electronics was necessary.

After dinner I had a great time cruising the skies with this setup. I didn't do any imaging because my goal was to successfully set up and use the mount and telescope.

If you get a new telescope for the holidays, understand that it's going to take some time to figure out how to use it effectively. This is going to be true whether the telescope is a Dobsonian without electronics, or a highly computerized instrument. Give yourself time to figure it out. Remember that the universe has been waiting a long time for you to look at it. It can wait a bit longer.

As I complete the *GuideStar* for January, we are entering the Christmas / New Year's holiday week. Like most of you (I'd guess), I've gotten a bit behind on getting things done, the *GuideStar* included. Christmas weekend is at full moon, so deep sky observing is not possible. Try some 'shallow sky' observing, instead; you'll like it.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the pages of the *GuideStar* in 2004, and I look forward to your continuing contributions in 2005.

Last month, our on-line version of the *GuideStar* was 14 pages long; there's no 'penalty' for adding pages to the on-line version. Our mailed version was only 12 pages, however. This is for two reasons -- The material for the last two pages did not arrive in time for the mailed version, and 12 pages is the maximum number of pages that can be mailed without paying extra postage. You do yourself a favor (freshest material) and the HAS a favor (saving money) by getting your *GuideStar* copy from the HAS web site (www.astronomyhouston.org).

I wish each of you clear skies, with plenty of opportunities to enjoy them, for 2005.

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

..Bill

Thomas R. Williams, Houston, Texas

Biography of Tom Williams, our January speaker

Tom Williams is a native of California who attended high school and college in Tempe, Arizona. He worked as a chemist and manager for the Shell Companies for 36.5 years before retiring in 1992. Fascinated with astronomy since his early telescopic glimpses of Saturn and the Ring Nebula in Lyra at the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, Tom's early attempts to make a telescope in high school and college were followed by about ten years as an arm chair astronomer. Then in 1967, he joined the Fairfield County Astronomical Society in Stamford, Connecticut where he became very active as an observer of comets and variable stars. He has served on the council of the American Association of Variable Star Observers in various capacities for over twenty years including three terms as its president.

Since his retirement from active employment, Tom has completed a PhD in History at Rice University and is now practicing history by editing for the Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers to be published by Kluwer Academic Press in late 2004. He is also the AAVSO Historian, and plans to write a history of that organization in time for its centennial in 2011. Also, Tom presently serves as the chairman of the American Astronomical Society's Historical Astronomy Division. Further background is available at <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~trw/> which, unfortunately, has not been updated for a few years.

🌀 *Want Ads* 🌀

For Sale: Celestron SPC-80, 80 mm refractor telescope with a 9 mm eyepiece. It has an equatorial mount with RA and DEC drive motors and hand control that operates on 9 volts DC. Includes a 9 volt regulator that enables an input voltage of 12 volts DC. It's all mounted on an orange colored wooden tripod whose height is adjustable. The equatorial mount has a bubble level. I bought it all new for over \$1500. back in the early 90's, so would like at least \$300. I live in Clear Lake City, 281-488-2540, jwink38223@aol.com, Thanks, Jerry Winkler

For Sale: Nextar 9 1/4 GPS w/XLT Coating. A fine Celestron NexStar 9 1/4 GPS and accessories for sale. This includes the NeXRemote software and cable, 120V AC adaptor, 50mm finder, 1 1/4" visual back and star diagonal, and 40mm E-lux eyepiece that comes with the scope. Will included a 2" visual back, 2" TeleVue "EverBright" diagonal with 1 1/4" adaptor, and "AstroZap" dew shield. Asking \$2000.00 for all the items above; price negotiable.
Call Clayton @ 281-573-1337

For Sale: Parks 8" F-7 Newtonian reflector This high resolution planetary telescope has superior optics. Scope includes: fiberglass tube assembly, eyepiece, 1 1/4"-2" rack and pinion focuser, "Parks" finder scope, and German equatorial mount on portable pier. Interested in the planets, their moons and ours.... view them in detail with this beautiful scope. Price: \$500.00 Call Clayton at: HM. 281-573-1337 Cell 713-569-7529 WK 713-945-5637

For Sale: Astronomical Camping Trailer. 1985 Starcraft Nova (pop-up). 24' long when set up. Has a King size bed on one end, a Double size bed on the other end, and the table folds down to sleep a couple of kids. (or short adults) I bought this camper new, it has ALWAYS been stored indoors and is in EXCELLENT condition. Comes with air-conditioning (roof mounted) a small heater that helps some, electric refrigerator, porta-potty, clothes closet and lots of storage space. The interior lights are set to operate on red, white, or both. The porch light is red. \$2500.00 Steve Sartor steve@sartor.com I know I have a picture somewhere, but can't locate one. Come see it!

For Sale: Meade" model # 41 RA Drive Corrector. This unit includes 110v power cord, 12v power cord (operates telescope in the field), and adjustable speed hand controller. Price: \$55.00 Call Clayton: 281-573-1337

For Sale: Edmund Mag 6 laminated star atlas. I laminated the charts myself and added 3 rings. Includes charts only, no introductory text pages. Includes 12 full page charts, and 3 enlarged charts (Orion, Virgo cluster, Sagittarius). \$15. Contact Richard at RNugent@wt.net

For Sale: Meade ETX 90EC Telescope, and Meade tripod. Used once. Includes Autostar controller. Paid \$850 new 6 months ago – no time for a new hobby. Includes all original boxes and manuals, and carrying case for scope and tripod. Before I put it on eBay, I'd like someone local to enjoy this scope. I'll take \$500 or any reasonable offer. Contact Bill at beley8@houston.rr.com.

Observatory Duty Roster

by Michael B. Dye, Observatory Chairman

This is the duty list January, February and March. 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.

January Supervisor Kirk Kendrick 281-633-8819
George M. Dolson Site
Kenneth Drake Members Observatory Night 01-29-05
Victor Flores Members Observatory Night 01-29-05
Fred Garcia Members Observatory Night 01-29-05
David Herlinger Site
Wayne Hutchinson Site

February Supervisor Robert Rogers 281-460-1573
Clayton Jeter Site
Stanley Jones Members Observatory Night 02-12-05
Keith Jurgens Members Observatory Night 02-12-05
Arnie Kaestner Site
David Kahlich Site
Robert Kuna Members Observatory Night 02-12-05

March Supervisor Robert Rogers 281-460-1573
Roger Lee Site
Jay Levy Site
Mary Lockwood Members Observatory Night 03-12-05
Robert Menius Site
John Missavage Members Observatory Night 03-12-05
Larry Mitchell Members Observatory Night 03-12-05

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.

Texas Star Party, 2005

If you're thinking about going to the Texas Star Party next year (and you *should* be thinking about going), you need to get your name in the drawing for room reservations. There's more demand for accommodations than there is supply of accommodations. The event is great!!! One week of observing, vendors, speakers and informal meetings with fellow astronomers.

Register NOW at.
<http://www.texasstarparty.org>

Your advertisement is WANTED

Send your buy/sell/trade ads to the editor of the *GuideStar* for inclusion in the next issue. There's no charge for publishing non-commercial ads. Help yourself by disposing of unused equipment, and help others by giving them a good deal on equipment they can use to enjoy the night sky.

HAS Logo Sales

If you are interested in any of the club merchandise items (t-shirts, golf-shirts, sweatshirts, books, and other merchandise) please attend the next meeting or contact Judy Dye at 281-498-1703. To reduce Logo Sales inventory many items are being sold at reduced prices.

The list of available items appears regularly in the *GuideStar*.

HAS 2005 BANQUET

at

West Loop Marriott

1750 West Loop South @ San Felipe

Diamond Room 123

February 26, 2005

DR. PATRICIA REIFF - FEATURED SPEAKER

Surround Yourself with Science:

Using Immersive Theater to Experience Earth to Space Science.

AGENDA

6:30-7:30 -- Registration & Cash Bar

7:45 -- Meal

8:30 -- Featured Speaker

All area clubs invited

HAS, FBAC, NHAC, JSCAS, ASSET

Dinner choices

London Broil

Chardonnay Basil Chicken

Vegetarian Plate

Price of meals will be \$28 each.

Houston Astronomical Society

Attn: Judy A. Dye - CHAIRMAN

12352 Newbrook

Houston TX 77072-3910

281-498-1703

judyadye@aol.com

Committee Chairman: Judy Dye,

Committee Members: Michael Dye, Hannah Lange

Dr. Pat Reiff

DR. REIFF joined the Rice faculty in 1976. She has been involved in space plasma physics research for over thirty years, with interests principally in magnetospheric convection, magnetosphere - ionosphere coupling, plasma particle populations and acceleration mechanisms, the aurora, and solar influence on the magnetosphere and ionosphere. She has been involved in plasma data analysis for a number of spacecraft including the Apollo and Atmosphere Explorer missions, the Dynamics Explorer Mission, the Polar and Global Geospace Science Missions and the ESA Cluster spacecraft mission. In 1994 she received a grant from NASA to create interactive real-time exhibits of space science data for museums and schools, with current terrestrial weather, space weather, and solar image data taken from the internet. She has over 70 refereed publications and has served on advisory committees for the National Science Foundation, NASA, the National Academy of Science, Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Universities Space Research Association and the Association of American Universities.

Dr. Reiff is currently working with the IMAGE and Cluster missions, and is a member of the Center for Integrated Space Weather Research. She has also worked for more than 25 years in public outreach, and is the PI of several outreach programs funded by NASA, including "Museums Teaching Planet Earth" and "Immersive Earth". She is the author of several popular educational CD-ROMs, "Earth Update" and "Space Update".

Houston Astronomical Society Annual Banquet

February 26, 2005

Name: _____ Home phone number: _____
Address: _____ Work phone number: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of people in your party: _____ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Club affiliation: [] HAS [] FBAC [] NHAC [] JSCAS [] ASSET

Names of persons in your party:	Choice of entrée:
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____

Dinner choices (mark the number of each meal)

London Broil _____
Chardonnay Basil Chicken _____
Vegetarian Plate _____

Total number of meals: _____
Total Due: (# of meals x \$28.00) _____

*Dinner includes Chef's
choice of dessert, coffee
or tea, gratuity, tax,
And parking.*

Make checks payable to Houston Astronomical Society.

Mail this form to:

Houston Astronomical Society
Attn: Judy Dye, Banquet Chairman
12352 Newbrook
Houston TX 77072-3910
281-498-1703
judyadye@aol.com

Dress Code: Business Casual to Semi-Formal

Observatory Corner



By Michael B. Dye Observatory Chairman



This year marks the 16th year I will be the Observatory Chairman for the Houston Astronomical Society Observatory Site. When I took this job from John Hyatt (actually he was so happy to give the job to me that he couldn't see straight) back in 1990, the single phrase of wisdom that he gave me was "start looking for your replacement now." At the time he said this, I didn't quite understand what he was talking about. I do now. The Observatory Committee is made up of one Observatory

Chairman (elected) and up to about 13 volunteers who assist the Observatory Chairman in taking care of the Observatory Site. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have helped me take care of the Observatory Site over the last fifteen years. Without the assistance of these people the society would not have the marvelous location that we have.

We (meaning 'I') still don't have a date for the Annual Observatory Meeting. I will announce the meeting date at the January Meeting and try to have Bob Rogers post it (the date) on the web site. When the date is set, the meeting will consist of a review of the previous year (2004) accomplishments or failures, going over goals for 2005, and a walking tour of the Observatory Site. The meeting will start about 2 PM and shouldn't last more than 3 to 5 hours (including the walk). Members are invited to come observe and participate. If you are interested, please contact me.

The Observatory Site hosted Boy Scout Troop 211 from the City of Bellaire. Kirk Kendrick was the Observatory Committee representative for the weekend. The scouts arrived at the Observatory Site about 9 PM on Friday November 19th and left at 9 AM on Sunday November 21st. They got to set up in the dark. The bad news is that this was the weekend that it rained all weekend. Including while they (the scouts) were trying to set up camp. Kirk reported that there were about 30 boys and 10 adults. The Scouts installed a buried cable from the Satellite dish to the Metal Building (located east of the Observatory). The Scouts were able to observe the skies for about an hour and a half on Saturday evening when there was a short break in the clouds. Bob Rogers, Jerod Kendrick and Kirk Kendrick opened the Observatory and were able to show the scouts a few nebulous objects using the F-5.

The Society continues to benefit from members who shop at Randalls and now Kroger's. For this we (the Society) thanks 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 want 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 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.

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. Parking is NOW across from Entrance 14, by the stadium.

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.

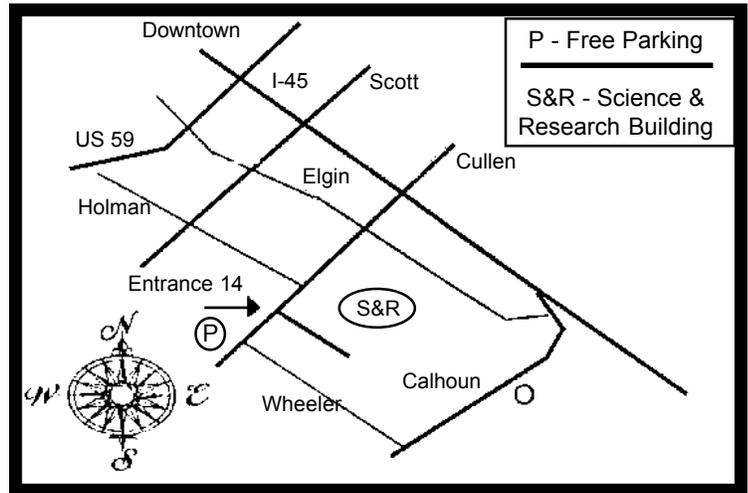
GuideStar Information

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 by 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 text, MS-Word 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.

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Houston Astronomical Society

Meeting

January 7, 2005

7:00 Novice & Site Orientation

8:00 General Meeting

University of Houston



Houston Astronomical Society

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