

The Skyscraper

Vol. 34 no. 5

The monthly publication of



Amateur Astronomical Society
of Rhode Island

47 Peepthead Road
North Scituate, RI 02857

www.theskyscrapers.org

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See back page for directions to
Seagrave Observatory.

Submissions

Please submit items for the newsletter by
May 15 to Jim Hendrickson, 1 Sunflower
Circle, North Providence, RI 02911 or
email to jim@distantgalaxy.com

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The Skyscraper

May 2007

75TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET & MEETING MAY 5, 2007

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of
Skyscrapers (May 5, 1932 - May 5, 2007), a
banquet is being held on Saturday, May
5, 2007, 5:30 pm, at the Cafe Romanzo in
Coventry.

Where

Café Romanzo

495 Washington Street (Rt. 117)

Coventry, RI 02816

821-8720

Schedule

5:30pm Appetizers and Dinner

Cash Bar

Appetizers: Cheese Table • Bruschetta • Stuffed
Mushrooms

Dinner (served): Fresh Garden Salad* • Penne Pasta
with Pink Vodka Sauce • Chicken Kiev • Smashed
Potatoes • Green Beans Almandine

Dessert Pastries* (miniature pastries made on the
premises) • Coffee, Tea

* The salad and desserts are being served family style (all-you-can-
eat).

8:00pm Meeting & Presentations

(members unable to attend the banquet are invited to arrive at
this time for the abbreviated May monthly business meeting and
special program.)

- Installation of new officers
- "Skyscrapers at 75" produced by Gerry Dyck
- "Skyscrapers - An Historical Perspective" by Dr.
William Penhallow

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President's Message

Dave Huestis, President

By the time you read this note the deadline for purchasing banquet tickets will have already passed. I hope to see many of you in attendance as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Skyscrapers' founding. Even if you cannot attend the banquet, don't forget that at 8:00 pm we will conduct a brief business meeting, which will include the installation of our newly elected executive board and trustees, followed by our special program..

My congratulations to those elected to office. I think president-elect Glenn Jackson has a great group of dedicated members to help him guide the society through the next two years.

And since this is my last presidential announcement, I would like to thank those members who served Skyscrapers on the executive board during the last two years: Ted Ferneza, Mercedes Rivero-Hudec, Allen Schenck, Jerry Jeffrey, Jim Brenek and Joel Cohen. Thank you to the board of trustees (Richard Arnold, Tracey Haley, Bob Horton and Jack Szelka) who kept the property in great condition, and for managing our public open nights. Ted also deserves special mention for managing our star party calendar. And, he deserves many kudos for two very well run AstroAssembly conventions. Thank you to every officer for your input and support.

Thank you to Dolores Rinaldi for her continuing efforts providing refreshments for our members every monthly meeting, and organizing our July Cookout

and our December Holiday Party. And many thanks to Jim Hendrickson for his excellent job as newsletter editor and webmaster. The Skyscraper and our web site have received much praise from everyone who has seen them.

Jim has also greatly assisted me in preparing for the publication of our 75th anniversary book summarizing our history. Jim is the production designer and layout artist for this book highlighting Skyscrapers achievements. It is expected to be published in time for AstroAssembly.

And finally, I saved the best for last: my first vice-president, Glenn Jackson. If I could have gone to a store called Vice-Presidents R' Us, I could not have chosen a more qualified person to assist me during my two-year term as president. He was always there when I needed him, and I valued his counsel tremendously. Glenn is going to be a great president for the Skyscraper organization. I wish him all the best success.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Skyscrapers as your president these last two years. Thank you to all the members who have contributed to our society's success. And I am especially proud to have been part of this organization's 75 anniversary. I look forward to the next 25 years.

Keep your eyes to the skies!

David A. Huestis
President/Historian, Skyscrapers, Inc.

Stellafane 2007

Glenn Jackson, President-Elect

The 2007 Stellafane Convention will be held on Friday & Saturday August 10 & 11, 2007. This convention is the premier event in New England. A program and registration will be published in May at the following web site: <http://www.stellafane.com/convention/>. Several members of Skyscrapers will be attending, some will be camping, others will be staying at local hotels and bed and breakfasts. Now is the time to start making your plans.

About the Stellafane Convention

The Stellafane Convention is a gathering of amateur telescope makers. The Convention was started in 1926 to give amateur telescope makers an opportunity to gather to show off their creations and teach each other telescope making and mirror-

grinding techniques. All telescopes, commercial and homemade are welcome. If you have made your own telescope, they strongly encourage you to display it in the telescope fields near the Pink Clubhouse. If you wish, you can enter your homemade telescope in the mechanical and/or optical competition.

There are also mirror-grinding and telescope-making demonstrations, lectures on telescope making and the presentation of awards for telescope design and craftsmanship. In addition, they have a great program of speakers going on Friday night and all day Saturday, with a special featured speaker on Saturday night.

Weather permitting this is a great observing site and many scopes will be set up all night on both Friday and Saturday nights. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own telescope and participate in the all night observing sessions.



MAY 2007

5
SATURDAY

5:30PM **75th Anniversary Banquet**
Cafe Romanzo

8:00PM **Meeting & Presentations**
Cafe Romanzo

12
SATURDAY

8:00PM **Mars Phoenix Presentation & Public Observing Night** Seagrave Observatory

19
SATURDAY

8:00PM **Public Observing Night**
Seagrave Observatory, weather permitting

24
THURSDAY

8:00PM **Executive Committee Meeting**
Seagrave Observatory, all members welcome



Rick Lynch and trustee Bob Horton hang the Skyscrapers sign over the entry to the Alvan Clark dome in the ante-room during a work session on Saturday, April 00. The ante-room has been repainted and is being reorganized as a museum to the history of Skyscrapers and Seagrave Memorial Observatory. Photo by Tom Barbish.

A Couple of Astronomical Highlights for May

Dave Huestis

I am hoping that by the time you read this column the weather will have vastly improved. We have had to cancel many of our Saturday public observing nights at Seagrave Observatory this past Winter and early Spring due to absolutely horrendous weather. December and January were actually quite nice compared to what came afterwards.

First the snow, then rain on top of that, and then a fast freeze, creating an impassable "glacier" on our property. A little melt, then more snow and ice and then more rain and then mud. Though astronomical Spring arrived on March 20, Mother Nature has yet to receive notice as I write this column in mid-April!

Once the warmer weather settles in and hopefully clear skies return, May will provide a few astronomical events of interest to the casual stargazer.

First up is the annual Eta Aquarid meteor shower. This year it peaks a couple of hours before dawn on the morning of May 6. The constellation Aquarius, from where the meteors will appear to originate, will be very low in the southeast sky when the shower peaks. That's the area of sky on which you want to focus your attention.

Normally about 15-20 meteors per hour can be seen during this shower's maximum activity, but

unfortunately a bright waning Gibbous Moon, about halfway between Full and Last Quarter, will prevent all but the brightest of these meteors from being observed.

Due to this limited observing scenario, I wouldn't begin to observe until around 3:00 am. The Sun rises at approximately 5:30 am locally.

This display of shooting stars (particles stripped off Halley's Comet) enters our upper atmosphere nearly head-on at 41 miles per second. This high-speed collision results in forty percent of the meteors leaving long persisting dust trains. They are swift and yellow in color.

All month that bright beacon high in the western sky after sunset will be our closest planetary neighbor, Venus. On the 19th a thin crescent Moon will be within one degree (two Full Moon diameters) of Venus, providing a great opportunity to capture a wonderful sky picture.

Don't forget to visit Seagrave Memorial Observatory on any clear Saturday night for a tour of the heavens. Visit our web site for additional information: www.theskyscrapers.org.

Keep your eyes to the skies.



1.

Minutes of the meeting, Thursday evening, May 5th. 1932. Ladd Observatory. 8 p.m.

At the invitation of Prof. Charles H. Smiley of Brown University, a group of persons interested in forming an astronomical society, met at the Ladd Observatory. Prof. Smiley acted as temporary chairman.

The following officers were elected:

President. Rev. John G. Crawford.
Vice-President. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Morpeth
Sec'y.-Treasurer. Maribelle Cormack.

The name of the organization was chosen by vote. It was decided to call it THE SKYSCRAPERS, and to append the phrase, amateur astronomical society of Rhode Island.

The purpose of the organization was defined - to bring together for mutual benefit persons really interested in astronomy, either as teachers, craftsmen or laymen.

The annual dues will be \$2.00 payable at the June meeting. There will be no initiation fee.

Meetings will be held once each month, on the first Monday and the first Wednesday alternately. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 6th. Place to be announced.

Both Brown University and the Park Museum have offered their facilities to the group.

A membership committee was appointed, to pass on new members. Prof. Smiley, Chairman; Mr. Philip G. Newmarker; and Miss Genevieve Fogarty.

BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
May 2, 1932

Mr. Philip G. Newmarker,
107 Atlantic Avenue,
Lakewood, R. I.

My dear Mr. Newmarker;

We are planning to have a small group at Ladd Observatory on the evening of Thursday, May 5, 1932, to discuss the organization of Rhode Island Amateur Astronomers. If it is convenient, I shall be very glad to have you come to this preliminary meeting to help with the plans.

We expect to meet about eight o'clock and hope to complete the principal arrangements in two hours or less.

Some of the problems to be solved are: the best way to start the organization to be sure of getting people with a genuine interest in Astronomy; the age limit for active membership (if any); and the general character of the future meetings.

Yours very sincerely,

Charles H. Smiley
Charles H. Smiley

2.

Persons desiring membership are requested to send their names and reason for desiring to join the group to the secretary, Miss Cormack, at the Park Museum.

The secretary was instructed to send a notice to the newspapers and editorial page.

The question of sending letters to the heads of departments in science in the high schools was discussed.

Regular members must be over 20.

Associate members under 20 may be admitted by special consent. They will not have power to vote. Dues will be \$1.00.

A program committee was appointed. Mrs. E.H. Morpeth, Chairman; Mr. John L. Euart; and Mr. Paul Eberhart.

Members were invited to look through the telescope at Venus and Jupiter.

It was announced that the Observatory would be open early Sunday morning (3.00 A.M.) May 15th. when Saturn will be visible.

The meeting adjourned at 10.30.

Clouds from Top to Bottom

By Patrick L. Barry

During the summer and fall of 2006, U.S. Coast Guard planes flew over the North Pacific in search of illegal, unlicensed, and unregulated fishing boats. It was a tricky operation – in part because low clouds often block the pilots' view of anything floating on the ocean surface below.

To assist in these efforts, they got a little help from the stars.

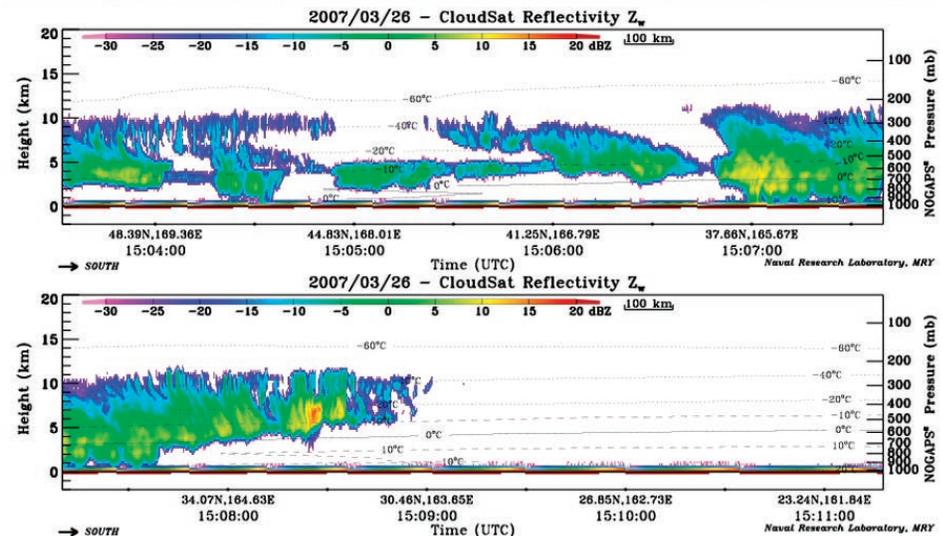
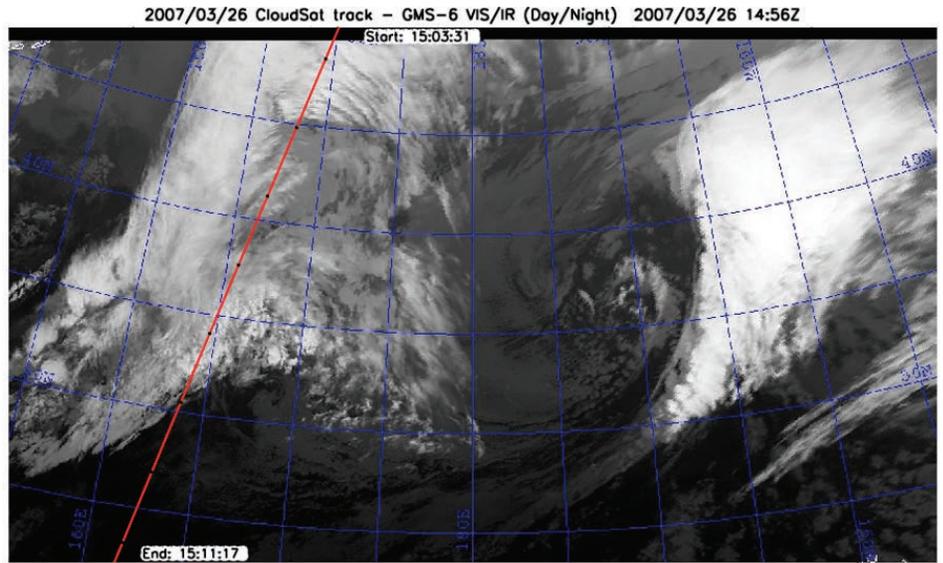
Actually, it was a satellite – CloudSat, an experimental NASA mission to study Earth's clouds in an entirely new way. While ordinary weather satellites see only the tops of clouds, CloudSat's radar penetrates clouds from top to bottom, measuring their vertical structure and extent. By tapping into CloudSat data processed at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Monterey, CA, Coast Guard pilots were better able to contend with low-lying clouds that might have otherwise hindered their search for illegal fishing activity.

In the past, Coast Guard pilots would fly out over the ocean not knowing what visibility to expect. Now they can find out quickly. Data from research satellites usually takes days to weeks to process into a usable form, but NASA makes CloudSat's data publicly available on its QuickLook website and to users such as NRL in only a matter of hours – making the data useful for practical applications.

"Before CloudSat, there was no way to measure cloud base from space worldwide," says Deborah Vane, project manager for CloudSat at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

CloudSat's primary purpose is to better understand the critical role that clouds play in Earth's climate. But knowledge about the structure of clouds is useful not only for scientific research, but also to operational users such as Coast Guard patrol aircraft and Navy and commercial ships at sea.

"Especially when it's dark, there's limited information about storms at



A CloudSat ground track appears as a red line overlaid upon a GMS-6 (a Japanese weather satellite) infrared image. CloudSat is crossing the north-central Pacific Ocean on a descending orbit (from upper-right to lower-left) near a storm front. The radar data corresponding to this ground track (beginning in the center panel and continuing into the lower panel) shows a vertical cloud profile far more complex than the two-dimensional GMS-6 imagery would suggest. Thicker clouds and larger droplets are shown in yellow/red tones, while thinner clouds are shown in blue.

sea," says Vane. "With CloudSat, we can sort out towering thunderclouds from blankets of calmer clouds. And we have the ability to distinguish between light rain and rain that is falling from severe storms." CloudSat's radar is much more sensitive to cloud structure than are radar systems operating at airports, and from its vantage point in space, Cloudsat builds up a view of almost the entire planet, not just one local area. "That gives you weather information that you don't have in any other way."

There is an archive of all data collected since the start of the mission in May 2006 on the CloudSat QuickLook website at cloudsat.atmos.colostate.edu. And to introduce kids to the fun of observing the clouds, go to spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/cloudsat_puz.shtml.

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

April Meeting Notes

Mercedes Rivero-Hudec, Secretary

April 6, 2007, Seagrave Observatory

Featured speaker: **Dr. M. Darby Dyar** from the Department of Earth and Environment at Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts gave a presentation entitled "Mars Exploration: Past, Present and Future." Dr. Dyar's presentation covered all missions to Mars, including those which have failed. Presently, the MERs (Mars Exploration Rovers) "Opportunity" and "Spirit"



are among the most recent NASA-sponsored exploration projects. As we all know the rovers have exceeded their lifetime expectations and keep on providing us information about Mars' chemistry and mineralogy by way of indirect methods, e.g. Mössbauer spectroscopy. The MSL (Mars Science Laboratory) belongs to the near future: it will be launched in 2009 and will reach Mars in 2010. MSL will also gather information about Mars' chemistry and mineralogy, but in contrast to the rovers, direct measurement methods will be used. Dr. Dyar is involved in the design of a laser that MSL will use to vaporize a small patch from the surface of rock samples, thus exposing underlying material for subsequent chemical analysis.

Business meeting: The business meeting was called to order by **President Huestis** at 9:20 p.m.

Secretary's report: Approved as posted in the March issue of The Skyscraper.

Treasurer's report: Approved as posted in the March issue of The Skyscraper.

Trustees' report: **Bob Horton** reported that the Observatory Committee met on March 31. • **Rick Arnold** mentioned that they are conducting an inventory, and that there is approximately 25% of propane left in the tank. • **Tracey Haley** announced that smoking is restricted to the cement pad, and that member **Chris Chapman** donated a computer for the 16-in Meade.

Monthly speaker: **First vice-president Glenn Jackson** reminded us of the 75th anniversary banquet on May 5, and announced that Dr. Lisa Kaltenegger, from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, will talk

about the search for extrasolar planets at the June meeting.

Librarian's report: A new book, "Pluto and Beyond" by Anne Minard (2007), was donated to the library.

Historian's report: **President Huestis** mentioned that beginning in May The Skyscraper will highlight the history of the organization. He also mentioned that he is still working on the 75th anniversary's commemorative book, and thanked **Rick Lynch, Al Hall** and **Steve Hubbard** for contributing ma-

terials for the book.

75th anniversary: **President Huestis** announced the next committee meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 12 at the observatory.

Old business: The pending motion to admit **Lee Carpenter** into the membership was passed.

Election results: President – Glenn Jackson • First vice-president – Steve Hubbard • Second vice-president – Kathy Siok • Secretary – Nicole Mechnig • Treasurer – James (Jim) Crawford, • Trustee – Jerry Jeffrey • Members-at-large – James (Jim) Brenek and Joseph (Joe) Sarandrea; Richard (Rick) Arnold withdrew his nomination (there had been a tie between Joe's and Rick's votes – most likely the first tie in the history of Skyscrapers!)

New business: **Mark Bronson's** (Canada), **John Biafore's**, and **Dave Rose's** applications to the membership were introduced; they will be voted on at the June meeting under old business. • **President Huestis** presented the 2007-2008 budget as approved by the Executive Committee on February 28. Vice president Glenn Jackson moved to approve the budget and Member-at-large Jerry Jeffrey seconded it. The motion will be voted on at the June meeting.

Good of the organization: **Glenn Jackson** reminded us that April 21st is National Astronomy Day; **Joe Sarandrea** will coordinate activities at the observatory. • **Al Hall** mentioned that members of the Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford, Connecticut, attended the science fair, and suggested Skyscrapers get involved with Rhode Island's fair. Al also made available his machine shop to members inter-

ested in telescope making. • **Dolores Rinaldi** requested that those interested in having a vegetarian meal at the banquet let her know. • **Bob Napier** mentioned that the hands-on CCD workshop will be rescheduled. • **Rick Lynch** gave a short presentation about his most recent trip to Nevada.

President's announcements: Next Executive Committee (current and recently-elected board members) meeting at 4:00 p.m., April 14 at the observatory. • Reminder about the banquet and meeting on May 5.

Adjournment: The business meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting

Mercedes Rivero-Hudec, Secretary

April 6, 2007, Seagrave Observatory

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by **president Huestis** at 4:20 p.m.

Topics: Main reason for meeting: smooth transition between the outgoing and the newly elected Executive Committee (EC) officers. • **New members:** about twenty new members joined the Skyscrapers the last couple of months; member **Stan Steliga** is making name badges for them. • **New EC officers:** will start their term at the close of the May meeting. • **Next EC meeting:** **president-elect Glenn Jackson** (currently first vice-president) will hold the first meeting for the new EC on Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the observatory. Purpose: to brainstorm ideas; Glenn would like to address the membership at the June meeting. • **Public nights:** member **Dolores Rinaldi** proposed to show movies when the weather prevents observing. • **Cookout:** member **Dolores Rinaldi** proposed that people bring their own chairs for the cookout, so that the chairs in the meeting room remain indoors. • **Slide projector:** **first vice-president-elect Steve Hubbard** proposed the slide projector is taken down. • **Parking and seating:** several proposals were presented to alleviate crowdedness in the parking lot and meeting hall. **Trustee Robert (Bob) Horton** proposed to park excess cars at the North Scituate Community Center and shuttle members to the observatory. **Secretary Mercedes Rivero Hudec** proposed to direct people to the front of the meeting hall where there are usually empty seats; she also proposed to arrange chairs stadium style. •

North Scituate Community Center: member **Dolores Rinaldi** proposed that meetings are held at the community center, December through April. • Inventory: trustee **Bob Horton** mentioned that there are several items (e.g. eyepieces and a film-hypering kit) that the club is no longer using. What to do with them? • Reminder: Girl Scouts workshop on May 20 at Bryant University. • Thank you: president **Huestis** thanked everybody, especially Glenn Jackson – “Couldn’t have done it without his help.”

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

EC officers present: D. Huestis, G. Jackson, T. Ferneza, M. Rivero Hudec, A. Schenck, J. Jeffrey, and J. Brenek.

N.B.: After the meeting was adjourned, president Huestis treated the meeting attendees to a variety of pizzas. Thank you for everything, Dave!

Executive Committee Meeting

Nichole Mechnig, Acting Secretary

February 28, 2007, North Scituate Community Center

President Dave Huestis called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. local.

First order of business was the Trustees: **Bob Horton** spoke about the Observatory Committee Membership Guidelines and how they would like to start limiting the number of keys that are being given to the

members. Some questions were raised that not all members have keys to all telescopes. The committee said that they were willing to reevaluate the way that the guidelines were written.

The next meeting for the observatory committee will be this March 31, 2007.

Lunar eclipse will be this Saturday at Tasca field. **Vice President Glenn Jackson** is in charge. He has asked that if the club was going to be closed to the public that it is to be closed to the membership as well. It was decided to close the Observatory due to the forecast of heavy rain, possibly causing flooding of the Observatory grounds.

The AstroAssembly budget was presented by **Ted Ferneza** and detailed the budgeted expenses and estimated income based on three separate attendance scenarios. Two new lines were created for the budget, Misc. Supplies at \$100.00 (napkins, trash bags etc.) and \$100.00 to Fri. evening and Sat. morning Foods. It was mentioned that it would take place again the last weekend in Sept. 28-29.

Annual Budget for the fiscal year 2007-2008 was presented by **President Dave Huestis**. Only a few minor changes were made. A unanimous vote was cast by the board members for the acceptance of Dave’s proposed budget for the fiscal year. This budget will be presented to the membership during the monthly April meeting. The membership will be voting on this budget in June due to the fact that the May business meeting will be an

abbreviated one.

The 75th anniversary party/meeting tickets are being sold at this time. Members need to buy tickets no later than a week before the May banquet meeting. Please see **Dolores Rinaldi** for the tickets. Also she showed the eboard some really cool mementos for this occasion. **Joe Sarandrea** and **Jack Szelka** are selling baseball caps, t-shirts and collared shirts for this special 75th anniversary year.

Al Schenck reported on the society’s finances and asked what was the eboard willing to do to make sure that the club had a continued prosperity. Al has looked into a money market account with Capitol One. He and **Dave Huestis** will sign the papers and transfer our savings to this new account. The old savings account will remain open with whatever amount is required for a minimum balance.

President Dave Huestis is working on a couple of astronomical field trips for the spring. More information will be forthcoming when the arrangements are complete.

Skyscrapers elections are scheduled for April. **Bobby Napier** will present the Nominations Committee slate at the March meeting, March 2. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. **Dave Huestis** was asked to bring extra ballots to the April meeting for those who may have forgotten to bring theirs.

Actual vs. Budget: Fiscal Year 2006-2007

April 1, 2006 thru March 31, 2007

Category	Expenses	
	Actual 2006-2007	Budgeted 2006-2007
Electric	167.26	150.00
Propane	49.86	120.00
Printing(non AA)	8.98	120.00
Newsletter postage	13.26	55.00
Domain Name	0.00	25.00
Subscriptions	60.00	70.00
Grass Mowing	140.00	150.00
Incorp. Fee	20.00	20.00
Trustee Expense	242.80	500.00
Refreshments	390.48	450.00

Property Insurance	2322.00	2537.00
Other	0.00	50.00
Pres. Discretionary Fund	125.00	150.00
Cookout	503.13	650.00
Permanent Port-a-John	130.00	270.00
AstroAssembly	2,667.68	*2,570.00
Non-budgeted Items		
(Membership Approved)		
Bell Special Meeting	99.59	300.00
Clark Governor	300.00	300.00
Bell Book	802.50	0.00
	\$8,042.54	\$8,487.00

Category	Income	
	Actual 2006-2007	Budgeted 2006-2007
Dues	4,872.00	3,550.00
AstroAssembly	5,187.15	*3,475.00

Star Party Donations	495.00	650.00
S&T sales	698.12	0.00
Other Donations	284.57	150.00
Cookout	441.00	455.00
non budgeted		
interest income	70.87	0.00
Bell Book	750.00	0.00
	\$12,798.71	\$8,280.00

* These numbers were derived using scenario #2 (110 attendees) of Ted Ferneza’s proposed Astro Assembly budget, which will be introduced at the April meeting. The expense and income for the Grille and Banquet are included in these projections.

Operating Budget Proposal: 2007-2008

Dave A. Huestis, Glenn Jackson

This budget proposal by President Dave Huestis and President-elect Glenn Jackson will be discussed and voted on at the June monthly meeting. Why June and not May? We will have only an abbreviated business meeting in May (to install newly elected officers and trustees) due to our 75th anniversary banquet and presentations.

The columns are self explanatory. We have included the actual expense and income totals per category for the fiscal year 2006-2007. The proposed budget expense and income numbers appear under the 2007-2008 column. (Our fiscal year runs from April 1 thru March 31).

There are also two, one-year only, non-operating expense categories to be approved concerning our 75th anniversary.

The executive board unanimously approved this proposed budget and recommends its approval by the membership.

Expenses		
Category	Actual 2006-2007	Budgeted 2007-2008
Electric	167.26	170.00
Propane	49.86	120.00
Printing(non AA)	8.98	120.00
Newsletter postage	13.26	55.00
Domain Name	0.00	25.00
Subscriptions	60.00	70.00
Grass Mowing	140.00	150.00
Incorp. Fee	20.00	20.00
Trustee Expense	242.80	500.00
Refreshments	390.48	450.00
Property Insurance	2,322.00	2,537.00
Pres. Discretionary Fund	125.00	550.00
Cookout	503.13	650.00

Permanent Port-a-John	130.00	180.00
Astro Assembly	2,667.68	*2,570.00
Special Programs Refreshment Fund	0.00	120.00
	\$6,840.45	\$8,287.00

Income		
Category	Actual 2006-2007	Budgeted 2007-2008
Dues	4,872.00	4,170.00
Astro Assembly	5,187.15	*3,475.00
Star Party Donations	495.00	650.00
S&T sales	698.12	0.00
Other Donations	284.57	150.00
Cookout	441.00	490.00
Interest income	70.87	0.00
	\$12,048.71	\$8,935.00

These numbers were derived using scenario #2 (110 attendees) of Ted Ferneza’s proposed AstroAssembly budget, which will be introduced at the April meeting. The expense and income for the Grille and Banquet are included in these projections.

Non Operating Budget Expenses to be Approved

The funds for these two expenses will be withdrawn from the Skyscrapers savings account when needed. These are a one-year only budget expense. The money budgeted for the 75th anniversary book is a guess-timate based upon an order of 100 books at \$30 each, plus a buffer for any additional expenses incurred to produce it.

On the income side we will recover most if not all of this expense when the book is sold upon its publication.

The MISC category is also a one-year category only for our 75th celebration. This amount can be used for items that may be purchased for or that will benefit our members during this milestone year. It is an expense category only. We do not expect to derive any income from this category.

Expenses		
Category	Actual 2006-2007	Budgeted 2007-2008
75th Anniversary Fund		
75 Year Book	0.00	4,000.00
Misc.	0.00	500.00
	\$0.00	\$4,500.00

Income		
Category	Actual 2006-2007	Budgeted 2007-2008
75th Anniversary Fund		
75 Year Book	0.00	4,000.00
Misc.	0.00	0.00
	0.00	\$4,000.00

Spring Double Stars: Corona Borealis

Glenn Chaple

It's time to come out of hibernation! After two months of intense cold weather here in the Northeast, mild temperatures are returning. Celebrate spring with a visit to one of the season's loveliest constellations, Corona Borealis. The Northern Crown is home to a splendid collection of double stars. Here are ten of the most noteworthy.

Struve 1932 CrB magnitudes 7.3 and 7.4, separation 1.6 arcseconds. Neat pair of yellowish twins, located one-third of the way between alpha Coronae Borealis and epsilon Bootis. Use 100X or more for a clean split.

eta CrB (Struve 1937) mags 5.6 and 6.0, sep 0.5". Fast-moving binary pair with a period of 41.6 years. Requires at least an 8-inch scope, high magnification (200-300X), and optimum seeing conditions.

Struve 1964 mags 7.9 and 8.1, sep 15.3". Faint, but pretty, duo situated in the same low-power field as zeta CrB (see below).

zeta CrB (Struve 1965) mags 5.0 and 5.9, 6.3"

A beauty! Components seem white to bluish.

gamma CrB (Struve 1967) mags 4.0 and 5.6, sep 0.7". Like eta CrB, a close binary (P = 91 years) that requires high magnification and steady skies. A challenge for a 6-inch telescope.

Struve 1973 CrB mags 7.6 and 8.8, sep 30.5". To find this relatively faint pair, scan an area slightly north of a point midway between kappa and zeta CrB.

Otto Struve 302 CrB mags 7.2 and 10.4, sep 29.1". In small-aperture scopes, you may need averted vision to pick out the faint companion. You'll find this double midway between rho and Kappa CrB.

sigma CrB (Struve 2032) mags 5.6 and 6.5, sep 7.0". Like zeta CrB, a showpiece double. This very slow-moving binary (P ~ 1000 years) sports colors that appear somewhat yellowish.

nu CrB (Struve I 29) mags 5.4 and 5.6, sep 360.8". Very wide - best seen in binoculars or low-power rich-field telescope. Component stars seem decidedly yellowish.

H V 38 CrB mags 6.4 and 9.8, sep 31.7". Plotted on some atlases as 23 Herculis (the home constellation for this star before the IAU redefined constellation boundaries in the 1930's), this pair is located a little over a degree south of nu CrB.

Treasurer's Report

4/1/2007 - 4/23/2007

Al Schenck, Treasurer

INFLOWS	
Uncategorized	0.00
Anniversaryinc	1,024.00
dues	
Contributing	611.00
Family	370.00
Regular	440.00
Senior	50.00
TOTAL dues	1,471.00
magincome	
Astronomymaginc	68.00
skytelmagincome	197.70
TOTAL magincome	265.70
Starparty	112.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	2,872.70
OUTFLOWS	
collation	100.00
membersubscriptions	
Astronomymagexp	68.00
Skytelexp	164.75
TOTAL	232.75
membersubscriptions	
Utilities	
Electric	7.60
TOTAL Utilities	7.60
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	340.35
OVERALL TOTAL	2,532.35

Account Balances as of 4/23/2007

Bank Accounts	
capital one	100.13
Checking	6,559.05
Savings	15,653.22
TOTAL Bank Accounts	22,312.40
Cash Accounts	
Cash Account	0.00
TOTAL Cash Accounts	0.00
OVERALL TOTAL	22,312.40

Directions to Seagrave Memorial Observatory

From the Providence area:

Take Rt. 6 West to Interstate 295 in Johnston and proceed west on Rt. 6 to Scituate. In Scituate bear right off Rt. 6 onto Rt. 101. Turn right onto Rt. 116 North. Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.

From Coventry/West Warwick area:

Take Rt. 116 North. Peeptoad Road is the first left after crossing Rt. 101.

From Southern Rhode Island:

Take Interstate 95 North. Exit onto Interstate 295 North in Warwick (left exit.) Exit to Rt. 6 West in Johnston. Bear right off Rt. 6 onto Rt. 101. Turn right on Rt. 116. Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.

From Northern Rhode Island:

Take Rt. 116 South. Follow Rt. 116 thru Greenville. Turn left at Knight's Farm intersection (Rt. 116 turns left) and follow Rt. 116. Watch for Peeptoad Road on the right.

From Connecticut:

- Take Rt. 44 East to Greenville and turn right on Rt. 116 South. Turn left at Knight's Farm intersection (Rt. 116 turn left) and follow Rt. 116. Watch for Peeptoad Road on the right.
- Take Rt. 6 East toward Rhode Island; bear left on Rt. 101 East and continue to intersection with Rt. 116. Turn left; Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.

From Massachusetts:

Take Interstate 295 South (off Interstate 95 in Attleboro.) Exit onto Rt. 6 West in Johnston. Bear right off Rt. 6 onto Rt. 101. Turn right on Rt. 116. Peeptoad Road is the first left off Rt. 116.



47 PEEPTOAD ROAD
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