



Sky Watch

Issue #8-07
August

The Newsletter of the Brevard Astronomical Society

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Summary of July meeting:

- 1) Presentation by Andy Wheeler on his portable Home made $\pm 0^{\text{th}}$, 8" Telescope. It was built in 2000(?), and he traveled with it to France. Thanks Andy!
- 2) John Powell showed us more of his awesome photographs.
- 3) **Amended BAS By Laws were approved by 2/3 majority and declared approved. Mark Jones to post updated By Laws on BAS website and file with the State of Florida.**

Upcoming BAS Meetings & Agenda:

August 15 - Roy Uyematsu - Measuring Variable Stars with CCD Equipment

Moon Phases:

New: Aug 12th
Full: Aug 28th



What's in the Sky in August?

"Weather permitting", August promises great vistas of the Milky Way for star gazers. July was largely a bust for observing due to poor weather. In fact, it was the 4th wettest July on record in Central Florida according to local sources (Orlando news). So, let's hope that August will finally yield some clear skies for observing.

The main event for August is another Lunar Eclipse August 28th. The viewing will be somewhat limited to us in Central Florida this time around. The eclipse penumbra starts at **4:20 am**; yes, that's **am**. As a result, 1) you will need to get up pretty gosh darn early and 2) unfortunately the sun will rise during total eclipse. The "good news" story is that with the weather we have been having, a morning eclipse provides us the best chance of clear skies! The eclipse will be to the west with the sun rising east so make sure you scope out (pun intended....) your best viewing position the night before. Pre-planning will be important and valuable when you wander out into the dark at 4am.

In the August evening, The Summer Triangle begins to rise earlier for viewing the ever popular M57 and Albireo. There are two globulars and one open cluster in the summer triangle if you want to hunt a few Messier objects. The open cluster M29 in Cygnus is a pattern of a dozen or so blue white stars just off E-SE center of the northern cross. Its five hottest stars are all giants of spectral class B0.



(Open Cluster M29)

The globulars M56 in Cygnus and M71 in Sagitta are faint as is the Veil Nebula (Cygnus) and the planetary nebula Dumbbell M27 in Vulpecula. Oscar Sifuentes sent out a Messier list for Aug. by e-mail, with the following website: <http://www.seds.org/messier/xtra/12months/m-jul.html>

Sagittarius is ever present South in the August evening, and provides "lots" of Messier and NGC objects to view, up and overhead through the constellation Scutum. If you remember my statement from July, August is the month to "get serious" observing the delights of the Milky Way above, and catch up on the one's we missed in July!

PLANETS:

Jupiter continues to be the reigning planet in the sky in August, and begins to head toward the SW earlier in the evening, but transits during prime time in the evening. The asteroid **Vesta** is "still out there" and will pass 0.4 deg north of Jupiter on the 29th. **Neptune** & **Uranus** rise at 9:30pm and 10pm respectively in the by mid August, and transit near 4am to the south, but will not be visible after the 15th or so as the moon begins it's waxing phase toward full on the 28th. **Mars** rises approx 1am, so it is about 40 deg above the east horizon in Aries. **Mercury** is still barely visible before dawn to the E-NE but reaches superior conjunction with the sun on August 15th.

Upcoming BAS Star Parties:

John Powell's house (aka Camp Zylor) on Saturday **11 August**.

BAS Outreach News:

The outreach events have been minimal, but to be expected this time of year. It will pick back up in September again when school starts. The only event on the docket I believe is the Erna Nixon Park in November.

There is still discussion about an Astronomy Day of sorts in September, but not sponsored by BCC. This will be discussed further at the August 15 BAS meeting.



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Notes from the BAS Secretary:

Thanks to BAS

Unless you are willing to stay up until the hours between 12 and 5 am July has not been a good month for star gazing. So this would be a good opportunity to give thanks to my fellow BAS members for all the good times and memories.

We did have a star party on July 14th at John Powell's house in St. Cloud. Members attending were Gary and Jennifer Scott, Dave Guibert, me and our host John. The weather was very cloudy with thunderstorms all day which caused our turnout to be low which in turn caused me not to bring my telescope, (big mistake). It seems Mr. Powell can control the sky over camp Zyxlor and he brushed away the clouds by 10pm. As we waited for John to work his magic there were discussions on eyepieces, collimation of SCTs, and imaging. We watched and learned as John imaged and processed the Cocoon Nebula and the double star Albireo. Another lesson learned, always bring your scope! We could have been doing visual while John was processing. Even though this was a gray day the night was a success. **John has invited us to his house for a star party on 8/11/07.**

Notes cont:

This has been a busy year for BAS with many outreach events and star parties. These are the members I wish to thank and acknowledge for their hard work and dedication. Gary Scott, Mark Jones and Bill Manley for leading our club and the fine work Bill does on the Sky Watch News Letter. John Norczyk, Jan and Don Ferguson for all the fun times [and hard work] in the observatory. Wyck Hoffler for his words of encouragement and making an adapter for my digital camera. John Powell for his instruction on computers and imaging. Gordon Schafer for his knowledge of eyepieces. Dave Guibert for showing up at all of our star parties and Oscar Sifuentes for his work on all the outreach events and the many interesting things he sends out to club members.

Through our outreach events this year we have touched the lives of over 2500 people, not to mention the hundreds of people Jan, Don and John have that visit the observatory every month. In a short time BAS has provided me with many new friends and a lifetime of memories.

John Small

Thank You John.....

That's it; short newsletter this month. Have a good month and lets all cross our fingers for clear skies.

Bill M

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