

The Astronews



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Astronomical League Membership Proposal

HAS Board

The Board of Directors is recommending that HAS become a member of the Astronomical League. The primary reason is to take advantage of their group liability insurance coverage. Additional benefits would accrue to HAS members as they would become members of the League and in so doing would receive the quarterly publication, The Reflector. In addition, members will become eligible to purchase astronomy-related publications at a 10% reduction with no shipping or handling charges.

The Astronomical League also has nearly 30 observing clubs which interested members may participate in and

(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue:

Club Information	2
President's Message	2
Observer's Notebook	3
Minutes	4
Meteor Log	6
Treasurer's Report	7



Upcoming Star Parties

Public Party	Sep 30	Kahala/Waikele
Public Party	Oct 14	Dillingham
Club Party	Oct 21	Dillingham
Public Party	Oct 28	Kahala/Waikele
Public Party	Nov 11	Dillingham
Club Party	Nov 18	Dillingham
Public Party	Nov 25	Kahala/Waikele

Upcoming Events:

- The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, Oct. 3rd** at the Bishop Museum.
- Bishop Museum's next planetarium show with **Barry Peckham** is Friday, Oct. 6th at 7:00 pm.

President's Message

And then there were only eight. Before the last Astronews even went to print, my last President's Report was outdated. The IAU rejected its own committee's recommendation on the definition of a planet and adopted an alternative that excludes Pluto. I don't think that's unreasonable, but the way the decision was made left much to be desired. We may not have heard the last of this.

Pluto had a good run as a planet, but it's poor Ceres that (if we wish to anthropomorphize) is most to be pitied. Originally hailed as the "missing" planet between Mars and Jupiter when it was discovered in 1801, it was soon demoted to "minor planet," or asteroid, status as more similar objects were found in its vicinity. Then, for a brief shining moment, it regained planetary status, along with a couple of new members, only to have that status yanked away by a few hundred remaining attendees near the end of a conference. Oh well, it should feel better when the Dawn mission reaches it in 2015.

When we live with light polluted skies, it's sometimes hard to remember what it's like to see the sky from a dark site. I was recently on the Big Island. The Moon was out of the evening sky, and our galaxy's center in Sagittarius was prominently placed. The Milky Way was breathtaking, with a prominent central bulge crossed by dark dust lanes. When the sky is so dark, familiar constellations can take on unfamiliar appearances. We usually think of Cassiopeia as a throne, or an M or W. However, to me it looked more like a kite, with fourth magnitude kappa cassiopeiae joining the second magnitude stars nearby to form the body of the kite and the remaining bright stars forming a tail.

(Continued on page 7)

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The **Astronews** is the monthly newsletter of the Hawaiian Astronomical Society. Some of the contents may be copyrighted. We request that authors and artists be given credit for their work. Contributions are welcome. Send them to the Editor via e-mail. The deadline is the 15th of each month. We are not responsible for unsolicited artwork.

Observer's Notebook—October 2006 by Jay Wrathall

Planets Close To the Moon

Times are Hawaii Standard Time









- Oct 2, 23h, M 3.0° SSE of Neptune
(127° from sun in evening sky)
Oct 4, 14h, M 0.45° ESE of Uranus
(150° from sun in evening sky)
Oct 16, 06h, M 1.9° NNE of Saturn
(60° from sun in morning sky)
Oct 23, 19h, M 5.2° SSW of Jupiter
(23° from sun in evening sky)
Oct 23, 21h, M 1.3° SSW of Mercury
(23° from sun in evening sky)
Oct 30, 07h, M 2.9° SSE of Neptune
(100° from sun in evening sky)
Oct 31, 22h, M 0.51° ESE of Uranus
(122° from sun in evening sky)

Other Events of Interest

Times are Hawaii Standard Time

- Oct 6, 14h, Moon at perigee (Only 12.9 hours before full moon. High tides expected)
Oct 6, 17:13h, Moon Full
Oct 16, 18h, Mercury at greatest elongation (24.8° east of the sun in evening sky)
Oct 21, Orionid meteors.
Oct 21, 19:13h, Moon New
Oct 22, 03h, Mercury 3.9° SSW of Jupiter (24° from sun in evening sky)
Oct 22, 10 h, Mars at conjunction with sun (Passes into morning sky)
Oct 27, 07h, Venus at superior conj. with sun (Passes into evening sky)
Sep 27, 14h, Mercury 1.1° NNE of Spica (19° from sun in evening sky)

Planets in October

<p> Mercury is visible in the evening the first three weeks of October.</p>	<p> Venus is too close to the sun to view in October. Reaches superior conj. Oct. 27 and enters the evening sky.</p>	<p> Mars is too close to the sun to be observed in October.</p>
<p> Jupiter shines brightly at magnitude -1.7 low in the southwest evening sky and sets within a couple hours of sunset.</p>	<p> Saturn is visible in the morning sky before sunrise.</p>	<p> Uranus Is well placed for viewing in the evening sky in Aquarius. At Mag +5.8 Uranus may be naked eye visible.</p>
<p> Neptune Rises a little earlier than Uranus. Also well placed for viewing in the evening. Mag +7.9.</p>		<p> The dwarf planet Pluto Still visible in the southern sky (if you have a big enough telescope) in the early evening.</p>

Meeting Minutes

H.A.S. Secretary

The September 5, 2006 meeting of the Hawaiian Astronomical Society was called to order by President Chris Peterson at 7:43 p.m. The meeting was held at the Atherton Halau of the Bishop Museum. In attendance were twenty-five members. Mr. *Antti Pessi*, and *Darwin Bohnet* joined us during this month's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

President Chris Peterson reviewed current astronomy news items: the Smart I European Spacecraft impact on the Moon Sept. 1, 2006, which many of our members tried to view at the recent Kahala and Waialeale star viewing. Also under discussion was the use of "microlensing" techniques to observe extrasolar planets.

Star Party Report—Forrest Luke collected names of volunteers for two upcoming star parties: 9/29-Momilani Elementary, and 10/12 Kamehameha Schools at Camp Erdmann.

Swap Meet—The H.A.S. Swap Meet will take place during the Hawaiian Astronomical Society's November 2006 meeting. Those interested in participating will be able to view and sell items during the latter half of that month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Liability Insurance Coverage The Board has determined that our present insurance coverage has been increasing appreciably. Treasurer, Jim MacDonald has researched and suggests that, H.A.S., its Board of Directors, and our meetings and star parties will be covered by liability insurance at a more reasonable rate than is we currently have by joining The Astronomical League. Discussion regarding this

issue will take place at the October General Membership Meeting and a vote will be taken on those in attendance. All interested members need to attend the October Meeting to voice their opinions.

Tools of the Trade—Paul Lawler demonstrated the new Celestron *Sky Scout Personal Planetarium*. He expressed amazement that it works precisely as advertised.

Less Light Pollution Lottery—Vice President Barry Peckham urged individuals to send their jpeg images and address information about businesses and community entities that employ "good lighting" practices. H.A.S. would like to recognize and commend these entities. Please send your entries to Barry at

<barry@lightbox-telescopes.com>.

Barry related the Woden Optics explanation of central obstruction in reflector telescopes.

Long time member and CCD enthusiast, Jay Wrathall, introduced his "Messier Gallery" website.

<<http://www.jastrow.net/messier>>

Lacy Veach Day—occurs Saturday, October 28, 2006, this year. We are looking for members to come and help out on that day. If you are interested, contact Gretchen West at <gwest002@hawaii.rr.com>.

To Be or Not to Be—Discussion took place over the redesignation of Pluto as a dwarf planet by the International Astronomical League, at their recent August 2006 conference.

NASA Night Sky Network Update—At-Large Member, John Gallagher presented information about the latest

(Continued on page 5)

Molokai Haiku

k. barry peckham

soft cirrus on blue
water noise on a dry hill
light dance in the pool

calling all kid eyes.
see "ghost of a cheerio"
get your faint photons!

universal fans
sweltering in our shelters
want the sun to sink

high in a dark sky
Dumbbell Nebula does well
seen at high power

palms fan Jupiter
king of the gods, in a tree
next stop, horizon

Andromeda is
a princess field of stars
with distant star mist

big scope on a knoll
gathers a crowd in the dark
"wha chu loo keen at?"

here comes 7 sisters
out of Maunaloa town
up into the sky

the scorpion crawls
down south and to Oahu.
stingers in the sea!

put the scope away.
the sky has gotten hazy
or is it my eyes?

swing the scope to south.
sweep up Lagoon Nebula
show the baby stars

Barry

Minutes (Continued from page 4)
Night Sky Network teleconference.
Interested individuals should contact
John for further information.
Rental Scopes—Members are encour-
aged to rent our 6" and 8" scopes,
which rent for \$20 per month.

Scopes for Sale—Bing Fu has a 10"
scope for sale.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:20
p.m. and refreshments were served

Submitted by H.A.S. Secretary,
Gretchen West

Meteor Log—October 2006

by Mike Morrow

The shower of the month, the Orionids, enjoys a new Moon. Checking the Draconids will be difficult. Sporadic rates remain good.

Sunday the 8th thru

Monday the 9th, the Draconids. Radiant 17h28m +54 deg.

Rates run from none to several hundred an hour. This year the full Moon deters checking for activity.

Saturday the 21st, the Orionids. Radiant 06h20m +16 deg.

Rates are variable from about 10 to 20 an hour. Recent video results indicate only a simple large single radiant although in the past visual observers thought the radiant might be multiple. The new Moon is a help. Typical shower meteors are quite fast, sometimes bright, and about half of them leave persistent trains.

If you are interested in observing meteors contact Tom Giguere on Oahu at 672-6677 or write to: Mike Morrow, P.O. Box 6692, Ocean View, Hawaii 96737

AL Proposal (Continued from page 1)

earn certificates. These include the Lunar, Meteor, and Universe Sampler groups which are great motivators for beginners. The Binocular Messier and Deep Sky Binocular Clubs, along with portions of the Lunar Club provide many observing challenges. The list goes on to include Constellations, Asteroids, Messier, Double Star, Caldwell, Herschel 400, Arp Peculiar Galaxies, etc.

The Astronomical League group membership rates are \$5.00 per person per year as opposed to \$25.00 a year for individuals joining on their own. We are proposing to increase our annual dues by \$5.00 to \$20.00 per year to cover this additional expense as members will be receiving benefits directly from the Astronomical League. Our current dues have been in effect since February 1, 2000, and costs have been slowly rising.

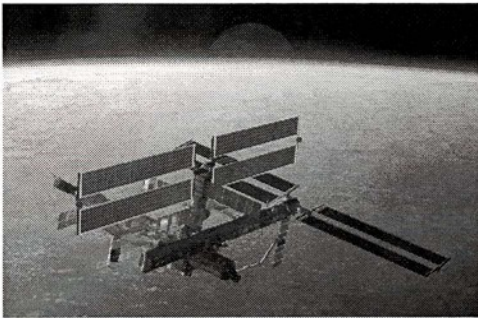
The one aspect of this membership that HAS members need to be aware of is that we will be required to provide the Astronomical League a quarterly listing of HAS members addresses to facilitate distribution of The Reflector. In addition, the Astronomical League indicated that they used to share addresses once every year or two with Astronomy or Sky & Tel magazines, and once with Star-Date, but that is it. There is, however, a standing provision for our members to opt-out of such mailings, if they so wish.

This proposal will be formally presented to the membership for a vote at our next general membership meeting on October 3, 2006, at the Bishop Museum. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the board.

HAS Financial Report as of September 15, 2006

Initial Balance:	\$4,425.36
Receipts:	
Donations	5.00
Dues Received	40.00
S&T Payments	32.95
Telescope Fee	40.00
Total Income:	\$117.95
Expenses:	
Astronews	69.99
Magazine Subscriptions	133.90
Refreshments	9.89
Total Expenses:	\$213.78
Ending Balance:	\$4,329.53

This month the club welcomes one new member. He is **Antti Pessi**. A special thanks to all of those renewing their membership this month. Clear skies to all!



President (Continued from page 2)

I didn't have a telescope with me, but sometimes a dark sky and a pair of eyes are all you need.

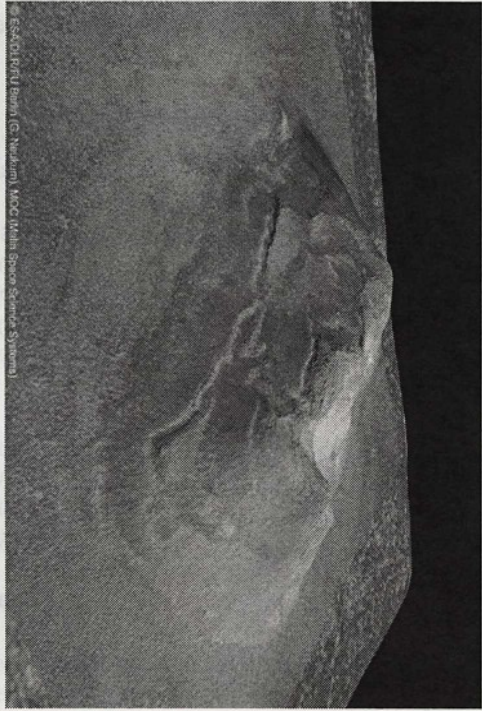
Chris

School Star Parties

Forrest Luke

No school star parties scheduled until spring. If you know of a school that is interested in a school star party, please have them contact Forrest Luke at <luke003@hawaii.rr.com>.

**H.A.S.
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This European Space Agency image of the Cydonia region of Mars taken by the Mars Express spacecraft shows the face is not flying after all.

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SEP 02
PM

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