

Why Do We Call It?

Mike Morrow

English names for the days of the week come from Norse mythology by way of Anglo-Saxon, and for that reason are often similar to the Roman names, which the Teutonic tribes adapted. The Romans named their days after the sun, moon and planets - Mars, Mercury, Jove (Jupiter), Venus and Saturn, which were named after their gods.

Sunday, the sun's day, is the same in German: Sonntag. But Italian, French and Spanish name it after the Lord's Day.

Monday, the moon's day, is Montag in German (Mond=moon), but the Latin luna, for the moon, survives in Italian, French, Spanish, and in the English "lunatic."

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Upcoming Star Parties

Public Party	Dec 3	Dillingham
Public Party	Dec 10	Kahala/Waikele
Public Party	Jan 7	Kahala/Waikele
Public Party	Jan 21	Dillingham
Cub Party	Jan 28	Dillingham
Public Party	Feb 4	Kahala/Waikele



Upcoming Events:

- The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6th at the Bishop Museum. .Andrea Boattini from Univ. Tor Vergata in Rome will speak on Near Earth Objects.

President's Message

The sky did not look good when I left Peter Mouginis-Mark's Martian impact crater talk at the Planetary Data Center to go home and get my telescope, but I had promised the audience a telescopic view of Mars "weather permitting". I couldn't even see a hint of the nearly full Moon behind the clouds. By the time I returned, the Moon was peeking out. As soon as I spotted Mars, I felt raindrops on my face.

Soon, Paul Lawler joined me. We debated the likelihood of seeing anything and the merits of setting up while the crowd asked questions after the talk. Conditions seemed to be getting more favorable, so Paul set up. With the exception of one brief shower and a few strong gusts of wind, we enjoyed improving skies for the rest of the evening. The seeing was surprisingly good. When the crowd came downstairs, we were able to show them Mars and the Moon. We didn't really need two telescopes for the fifteen or twenty people who showed up, so I never set up. I did loan Paul my polarizing filter to use on the Moon, though, so bringing my equipment did accomplish something.

That was the first time some of those people had seen Mars through a telescope, and probably the only time during this opposition period that most of them will do so. It just goes to show that even the worst looking nights can turn around and make your observing efforts worthwhile.

If you haven't gotten out to see Mars yet, it's still not too late. For about the first week of December, Mars will appear larger in the sky than at its maximum during the next opposition in 2007. It won't drop below 10 arc seconds (generally considered the minimum size necessary to distinguish surface features) until mid-January. Even

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Planets Close To the Moon

Times are Hawaii Standard Time









- Dec 4, 09h, M 2.3° SSE of Venus
(42° from sun in evening sky)
- Dec 5, 19h, M 4.1° SSE of Neptune
(61° from sun in evening sky)
- Dec 7, 08h, M 2.1° SSE of Uranus
(81° from sun in evening sky)
- Dec 12, 13h, M 1.2° NW of Mars
(138° from sun in evening sky)
- Dec 19, 02h, M 3.7° NNE of Saturn
(137° from sun in morning sky)
- Dec 26, 15h, M 3.8° SSW of Jupiter
(53° from sun in morning sky)
- Dec 29, 13h, M 4.9° S of Mercury
(16° from sun in morning sky)

Other Events of Interest

Times are Hawaii Standard Time

- Dec 1, 04:59h, Moon New
- Dec 9, 14h, 3 Juno at Opposition
- Dec 12, 02h, Venus brightest, Mag -4.7
- Dec 12, 03h, Mercury at greatest elongation
(21.1° west of the sun.)
- Dec 14, Geminid Meteors
- Dec 15, 06:14h, Moon Full
- Dec 15, 26h, Pluto at conjunction with sun
(Passes into morning sky.)
- Dec 21, 08:36h, Winter Solstice
- Dec 30, 17:11h, Moon New

Planets in December

<p> Mercury has a fine morning apparition in December and is visible most of the month in the east before sunrise.</p>	<p> Venus shines very brightly in the southwest after sunset. Mag. -4.7.</p>	<p> Mars is fading rapidly to magnitude -0.6. However it is still large enough to see detail on the surface.</p>
<p> Jupiter is visible in the eastern sky before dawn.</p>	<p> Saturn rises in the early evening and can be observed in late evening or after midnight.</p>	<p> Uranus In Aquarius, a little east of Venus in the evening sky. Mag +5.8.</p>
<p> Neptune Near Uranus in the evening sky in the constellation of Capricornus. Mag +7.9.</p>		<p> Pluto reaches opposition this month and is too close to the sun to view.</p>

The November 1, 2005 general membership meeting of the H.A.S. was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by President Chris Peterson. The meeting was held in the Atherton Halau on the grounds of the Bishop Museum. There were twenty-seven members in attendance. We had no visitors this month. President Peterson began by commenting on the close approach and opposition of Mars at this time. Mars appears approximately 80% as large as it did two years ago, although it is situated higher in the sky reaching an altitude of 88°. The dust storms that have been reported are not visible yet in Hawaii. The U.S. Naval Observatory provides a current view of Mars on the internet. However, here in Hawaii, the planet Mars is now visible above the horizon at sunset and all night long. Take the time to go outside and enjoy its color, size and telescopic sights. Enjoy them at home at your leisure or at a star party with members of the club. Do come and join us.

Lacy Veach Day - was held October 29, 2005 at the new Case Middle School complex, on the grounds of Punahou School in Manoa Valley. Board members John Gallagher, Gretchen West, and Steve Huffman manned the club display along with John Sandor and Forrest Luke. Approximately 300 informational handouts for the suburban star gatherings at Kahala and Waialeale were distributed to children and adults attendees, along with November Star maps. Copies of Night Sky magazine were also distributed to interested individuals. John Gallagher wowed passers-by with the NASA Nite-sky generated "Find the Black Hole" game. John Sandor,

Forrest Luke, Gretchen West and Steve Huffman manned the filtered 10 inch Dobsonian and PST solar telescopes which were popular, despite the somewhat overcast conditions for the day.

Club Bumper Stickers - The idea of the creation of a club bumper sticker has been introduced. Members interested in designing a bumper sticker should bring their ideas to the December meeting. It is hoped that 2 color designs will be print ready. The membership will be able to view designs at the January meeting.

2006 Astronomy Calendar - \$7.77 for a Sky & Tel *Celestial Wonders* 2006 calendars available through the club. Contact Jim MacDonald.

T-Shirts - The stock of club blue T-shirts is running low, with sporadic purchases of late. Jim MacDonald reported to membership that we will be ordering shirts in a different color with a new design which will be unveiled at the December meeting.

School Star Party Report - Forrest Luke reported that club members showed the night skies to Kamehameha students on October 25th at Camp Erdmann in Mokuleia. November Star Parties include two school star parties scheduled for November 7th, at Campbell High School and Kauluwela Elementary School. Another school star party is scheduled for Waiialua Middle School on Nov. 9th.

Lecture at Planetary Data Center - The NASA Pacific Regional Planetary Data Center will have a planetary scientist, HIGP, Dr. Peter Mouginitis-Mark of the University of Hawaii as guest lecturer Tuesday, November 8,

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Sporadic rates remain cheerful, but the Geminids are badly moonstruck. Two new moons are good for early December is good and the Ursids enjoy some dark skies.

Tuesday the 6th, the **Phoenicids**. Radiant 01h12m -53°.

This shower has been observed from Hawaii and rates run from about 3 to 100 and hour. If we do get some activity the meteors are slow and moderately bright.

Friday the 9th, the **Monocerotids**. Radiant 06h40m +08°.

Meteors from this very minor drizzle will peak about just after Moon set. This would be a good year to check this minor shower.

Wednesday the 14th, the **Geminids**. Radiant 07h28m +33°.

The maximum this year is forecast of about 6:30 Local time in Hawaii. so between the Moon and the maximum time the shower will not be much as maximum activity should be within 2h20m of the predicted maximum time. Under good conditions hourly rates could reach about 80 to 100 meteors an hour.

Thursday the 22, the **Ursids**. Radiant 14h28m +76°.

Rates are variable but can under good conditions reach about 50 meteors an hour. the maximum is likely to occur between 3 and 6 AM local on the 22nd. The radiant is near Kochab (beta Ursae Minoris) and will rise near dawn as will the Moon.

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

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Tuesday is the day of Tyr, Norse god of war; the French Mardi and Italian Martedì come from Mars, also Roman god of war.

Wednesday comes from Woden, a Norse god; but the Romance languages derive their words from the Roman Mercury, while the Germans call it Mittwoch - midweek.

Thursday is the day of Thor, god of thunder. His Latin equivalent, Jove, accounts for Giovedì (Ital.), Jeudi (Fr.), Jueves (Span.).

Friday is the day of Freya, Norse goddess of marriage. Similarly the Romance languages get their names from Venus, Roman goddess of love.

Saturday is derived from Saturn. Unlike other day names, no god substitution seems to have been attempted, perhaps because the northern European pantheon lacks a clear corresponding figure to Roman Saturn. In Italian it is *Sabbato*, the Sabbath; *Sabado* in Spanish.

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2005. The title of his talk is ***Holes in the Red Planet: Analysis of Martian Impact Craters***. The free lecture takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the Planetary Data Center, Rm. 544 of the POST Building, 1680 East-West Road at U.H. Manoa.

Upcoming Elections- Elections for Board of Directors of HAS takes place at the December 2005 General Membership Meeting on December 6th. The current Board members are running for re-election. We urge anyone interesting in becoming more involved with the club, to put their name in nomination by contacting elections chair Joanne Bogan. All members in good standing and present at the meeting in December will vote.

The World and Astronomy President Chris Peterson shared a recent news article that explained the current appeal of and an upsurge of public interest in astronomy in the middle eastern country of Iran. Chris also shared the news release regarding the May 2005 discovery by the Hubble space telescope of 2 small new moons in orbit around the planet Pluto.

Pierre Schwar Telescope for Sale - Long time member, Mary Miller has decided to part with her 6" rich field Dobsonian telescope created by noted mirror maker Pierre Schwar. Mary's asking price is \$400 or better for the f-5 telescope (signed by the maker).

Virtual Moon Atlas - President Chris Peterson shared a demo of this software available as a free download at URL <http://www.astrosurf.com/avl/UK_index.html>

Short Bites - Vice President Barry Peckham reviewed factors that contribute to a great view at the eyepiece. Weather (seeing & transparency), the

telescope mount, your location and the amount of heat emanating from the surrounding ground area, your eyepiece selection and the quality of your optics and your eyes affect your enjoyment of the night sky.

Nite Sky Teleconference - with Dr. Jania Voss to be held Nov.30.

Telescope Rentals Available to Members- H.A.S. has Dobsonian telescopes and a PST available for rental on a monthly basis. We urge you join us at our dark sky star parties at Dillingham Airfield on the north shore or possibly at the suburban star parties at Kahala Community Park or Waialeale Regional Park, which take place once a month. Participation at the star parties gives you the opportunity to get pointers on and learn more about the use of you telescope rental, get a feel for the kind of telescope you may like to purchase for your own, and enjoy fellowship with others at these get-togethers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Refreshments were served and a few members adjourned to the Planetarium observatory to catch a glimpse of Mars.

President's Report (Continued from page 2) though Mars is shrinking in our telescopes now, it is getting more convenient to view. On the night of our meeting, December 6th, Mars will reach its highest point at 9:48 p.m. A small Mars high in the sky, especially when it won't cost you sleep, can often beat a larger one near the horizon, so don't give up on Mars quite yet.

Chris

HAS Financial Report as of November 15, 2005

Initial Balance:.....	\$4,827.48
Receipts:	
Astronomy Payment.....	102.00
Donations11
Dues Received.....	177.00
S&T Payments.....	230.65
Sky Tools 2 Payments	731.40
Calendar Payments.....	90.70
Total Income:	\$1,331.86
Expenses:	
Astronews.....	160.11
Magazine Subscriptions	102.40
Postage	74.00
Refreshments	4.40
Total Expenses:	\$341.31
Ending Balance:.....	\$4,827.48

We wish to welcome **Greg Barina**, a new member this month. Many thanks to those renewing their membership. As a reminder, please check your membership anniversary date listed on the Astronews address label as a large number of memberships expire at the end of the year. Clear skies to all!

How quickly do we grow accustomed to wonders. I am reminded of the Isaac Asimov story *Nightfall*, about the planet where the stars were visible only once in a thousand years. So awesome was the sight that it drove men mad. We who can see the stars every night, glance up casually at the cosmos and then quickly down again, searching for a Dairy Queen.

- Roger Ebert

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Setting up for a public star party at Bishop Museum's Great Lawn (pay no attention to those fluffy white things)