METEOR

METEOR is the official publication of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club and is distributed monthly as a privilege of membership. Articles and other contributions are welcome. Membership in the Greenbelt Astronomy Club is open to anyone interested in astronomy. The club meets on the last non-holiday Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm EDT at the Owens Science Center. The address of the Editor is: 58-D Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

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Smaller Publication

Due to the ending of the Editorship as the Secretary of the Goddard Astronomy Club, METEOR is now back to being a single organization publication, as it was when it first started in February, 1993. Because the Goddard Astronomy Club has a constitutional rule that allows a person to hold office for only two years in a row, I have become ineligible for the office of Secretary; therefore cannot be Editor this year on behalf of the Goddard Astronomy Club. METEOR will continue as the official newsletter of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club.

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Greenbelt Astronomy Club

The monthly meeting of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club was held on Thursday, May 28th at 7:30 pm EDT at the Owens Science Center. The big success of the Astronomy Day events was mentioned. Larry woods showed videos of Mars and the comet SL-9 Jupiter impacts made with the Hubble Space Telescope. Russ Waugh showed members his Video taken at the recent Astronomy Day event on May 6th. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd.

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Astronomy Day 1995

Astronomy Day was held on Saturday, May 6th as planned and, as usual, it was a big success. Several displays were set up for public viewing. Among them was the results of Project Orion, a light pollution study that was recently published in the Washington Post Horizon magazine, other light pollution posters, a meteorite collection, and a light pollution adorama. A free planetarium show and a Star Party was also given for the public. Mirror grinding techniques were shown, and a drawing of several nice door prizes also took place. There were several members of both the Goddard Astronomy Club and Greenbelt Astronomy Club that helped out or brought their telescopes. The weather was nearly perfect; so it was a good time for all who attended this annual national event at the Owens Science Center.

Special thanks go out to the Owens Science Center staff for their help and support in making this event a big success, and to the Goddard Astronomy Club members who helped, notably Don Haxton, Howard Dew, Bob Dutilly, Keith Evans, Jeff Guerber, and Fred Shuman. Also to Greenbelt Astronomy Club members Russell Waugh, Doug Love, Eileen Campbell, Frank Coorsen, Bob Hall, Charlie Goldman, Sue Bassett, Lynne Gilliland, and Wayne Warren, and to Forrest Hamilton from the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore (sorry if I missed anyone).

Again, we had some generous donations of door prizes. From Ritz Camera came a pair of 7-15x35 binoculars, George Cliba donated a 12x40 telescope and an astronomy book, Lynne Gilliland donated a French Star Finder, the NASA Visitor's Center at GSFC donated several posters, MMI Corp. of Baltimore four Moon maps, and Russ Waugh on behalf of the club an Asimov book on astronomy.
All this aid and generous support helped to make this years' Astronomy Day a special event for all those who attended. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it a big success.

Northway Fields Star Party

Another Northway Fields Star Party was held on Wolfe Field on Saturday, May 20th starting at 8:30 pm EDT. Greenbelt Astronomy Club members Bob Hall, Lynne Gilliland, George Gliba, and Charlie Goldman showed up and brought telescopes. Bob brought a nice 5-inch JSO Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope from Japan. This telescope has fine optics, and is better than any American SCT that I have ever looked thru. Charlie Goldman had his Celestron 8-inch Ultima telescope. Lynne was there with George and his 4-inch f9 refractor with a Jaegers objective.

We looked at many nice double stars, but Jupiter stole the show. Charlie and Bob were trying out various color filters to try and get the best view of the belts. When the seeing got good, the belt that remains from the comet SL-9 hits last Summer was just visible. Lynne Gilliland also saw a shadow transit of one of the moons. Charlie was the lucky one to see a -2 magnitude meteor zip under the planet Mars, which showed little detail in the telescopes.

It was a fine night for a Star Party. The next planned Public Star Party at the Northway Fields is scheduled for June 3rd at 8:30 pm EDT. Bring a telescope and a friend along.

Mason-Dixon Star Party

The sixth annual Mason-Dixon Star Party is scheduled for the weekend of June 23rd at Spring Valley County Park, in York, Pennsylvania. There will be camping available. The registration cost after May 31st is $15.00 per person.

Events include several talks starting Friday evening; on Saturday during the day, and Saturday evening. A Swap Table will go on from 9:00 to 11:00 am EDT. A telescope judging contest will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 pm EDT. There will also be solar observing with a telescope set up with a Daystar H-alpha filter if it is clear. Of course, there will be a Star Party both nights if it’s clear. The skies are not great, with 6th magn. being the naked-eye limit, but allows some fairly good views of the Milky Way, deep-sky objects, and meteors.

Universe '95

For those that can't spend the weekend out of town, the Universe '95 event at the University of Maryland should be good. There will be several noted speakers giving talks on different astronomical subjects, as well as displays, and a Star Party at the Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor's Center, Saturday, June 24th. See below for more details.

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<tr>
<th>General Admission</th>
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<td>Weekend Pass (Saturday and Sunday)</td>
<td>$30 each</td>
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Although advanced registration is suggested for Universe '95, it will be possible to register at the event.
President's Column
by Russ Waugh

Three in a row! No, not stars in Orion's belt but 3 years of good weather for Astronomy Day. "Thank you" to all members and guests who helped out on Astronomy Day. We attracted about 100 visitors who seemed delighted with the activities.

Most impressive, of course, were the splendid views of the night sky provided by you and your telescopes. I was glad to see that we had a good variety of telescopes, including both home-made and commercial ones. One member of the Science Center staff told me how impressed she was with the club members' attitudes. She described how patient and enthusiastic everyone was in explaining things to the visitors and answering their questions.

To my surprise and delight, the mirror-grinding exhibition was popular with a number of young people. After I left for a short time and came back, I discovered they were teaching each other how to rough grind a mirror!

George's meteorite display was attractive and informative. Lynne's light pollution display was appealing (except it's a shame that we even need such a display).

Thanks to Frank Coorsen for taking many photographs of Astronomy Day for our scrapbook.

We gave away quite a few door prizes, including a telescope and a Cosmic Star Finder donated by George and Lynne; moon maps donated by MMI Corporation; posters donated by NASA; a book donated by the club; planetarium tickets donated by the Owens Science Center; binoculars donated by Ritz Camera. Our thanks to all the donors.

I recently returned from a meeting of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society. Among other things, I heard about a new telescope installed on the roof of the Museum of Science in Boston. All of which points out the great interest among the public for telescopes and the things we can see through them. I urge you to continue to support our star parties, as well as our efforts to establish a permanent observatory.

Russ Waugh