The Meteor is the official publication of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club, Greenbelt, Md. and is distributed 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 Greenbelt Astronomy Club is a not for profit community based organization with the goal of encouraging public interest in science and education in general, astronomy in particular. More detailed information on our club activities and organization can be found at Greenbelt Astronomy Club. The Editor of this newsletter, Albert T. Sheldon, Jr. Ph.D. can be contacted at: greenbeltastroclub@yahoo.com

Next Greenbelt Astronomy Club Star Party and Meeting
Star parties are scheduled on the first and third Saturday of every month at the James Wolfe Ball fields in Greenbelt. A map is available on the club web site. Hopelessly overcast skies will cause this event to be canceled. You are invited to attend and bring a friend. Since star parties are dedicated to observing the night sky, they will only be held if the sky is clear enough to permit observing. Star parties will not be held if skies are overcast or mostly cloudy.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club occur on the last non-holiday Thursday of every month. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the H. B. Owens Science Center (Map) on Greenbelt Rd. in Lanham, Md. Theme for the meeting is announced in prior communications to the club by email and is posted on the club’s web site. All events and meetings are open to the public with an interest in astronomy.

Astrophotography

Editorial:
In the following editions of The Meteor, club members that have developed, successfully, astro-images of planetary, solar and deep sky objects using various astro-imaging systems and formats, will present their experiences astro-imaging. The editor of The Meteor invites members of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club and persons interested in astro-photography to submit articles describing their experiences. The articles should be written to encourage, enhance and broaden the experiences of the amateur astronomy.

Articles needed!
Editors note: The next several issues of The Meteor will feature articles by Alan Whittemore and Ed Able that describe interesting objects in our night skies.

**Albireo: RA: 19 30’ 55”; DEC: 27 58’ 00”**

SAO 87301; Double Star; Mag3.2; Cygnus

The biggest attraction to this pair is their color contrast. Some observers like to look at this pair slightly out of focus to emphasize the colors. (Turn Left at Orion, Burnham’s Handbook, Web). It is a physical pair in contrast to an “apparent double”. Albireo A is apparently itself a double almost too close for telescopic separation.
What’s Up in our Night Skies

What’s Up for August and September
By
Debbie Fuller

I hope all of you can tear yourself away from the Olympics long enough to take a peek outside to see some stellar Olympics.

Last month we “arced to Arcturus” in the constellation of Bootes. Follow this arc from the handle of the Big Dipper or the tail of the Big Bear (Ursa Minor) to about halfway to Arcturus and look to the left for a half-circle of stars called “Corona Borealis” or the Northern Crown. To some Greeks and Romans, this represented a laurel wreath, which was handed out to the winners of the ancient Olympic games as well as to soldiers who were victorious or exceptionally brave in battle.

The king of beasts in this night sky is Scorpio, the Scorpion, placed up there for killing Orion. Look for the bright red, Antares, star low in the South which is the heart of the scorpion. Follow the curve of the scorpion’s tail down towards the horizon.

The winner of the “Most astronomical objects found in one constellation” is Sagittarius, the tea pot shaped centaur archer. For those of you who caught the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, a beet-red centaur was featured throwing a javelin. A simple pair of binoculars is all you need to see all the several Messier objects as well as look directly into the center of the Milky War. Bonus points will be awarded if you can spot the supermassive black hole at the center of our galaxy!

Coming up in the East is the Summer triangle of Vega, Altair, and Deneb. Cygnus the swan flies South for the Winter along the Milky Way. This triangle will be high overhead in September heading into Fall.

The planets will be hanging out early in the morning. Look for Venus and Saturn close by the moon in the early morning hours.

Astronomical Events

Greenbelt Astronomy Club Star Future Guest Speakers
To be announced

Upcoming Events & Star Parties
Assembled by Albert T. Sheldon, Jr. Ph.D.

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<td>Last year's biggest fund raiser Shuttle Schedule</td>
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<td>September 4 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>October 7 - 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Officers meeting</td>
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The Meteor

For more information about what is in the sky this month, visit Sky & Telescope's Sky at a Glance.

Astronomy News for the National Aeronautic Space Administration NASA

The Business Summary

Board of Directors and Observatory Committees Meeting of Thursday, September 7, 2004
President, Greenbelt Astronomy Club

Agenda for September 7, 2004 meeting of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club's
Officers

- Labor Day Festival
  * Preliminary report of expenses, revenue, etc.
  * Post Mortem (what went well, poorly, etc.; ideas for future)
- Educational outreach committee
  * Appointees
  * Beginners class
- Observatory committee:
  * Status
- Equipment loan policy
- Other business
- Next meeting - tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 7

Star Party Report of <Date, 2004>

Title

By
None provided this month

Greenbelt Astronomy Club Regular Meeting of August 26, 2004
By Valerie Elliott

The members of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club met at 7:30pm on Thursday, August 26, 2004

The meeting was held in the Pit of the Owens Science Center. There were 24 attendees. Minutes recorded by Valerie Elliott.

Club President, Matthew Elliott who dispensed with the reading of the July meeting minutes, called the meeting to order.
Announcements: Beginner's Astronomy Class
The Greenbelt Astronomy Club is planning to offer the Beginner's class this fall. If interested, please contact any club officer. The Education Committee is Deb Fuller and Ron Lee. If you are interested in volunteering, contact one of them or a board member for details.

Business Item: Observatory
Ed Abel of the Observatory Committee reported that the permitting process has been approved for the observatory.

Business Item: Liability Insurance
We now have Liability Insurance with Marsh Affinity Co. We are now looking toward getting equipment insurance with another company.

Business Item: Labor Day Festival
The club is having a booth again this year during the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival as part of our public outreach and as a means of raising more money for the observatory. Club members were asked to volunteer their time to assist in the activities planned for the booth. Activities for children include arts and crafts and adults play the "Test Your Knowledge".

Presentation: The Transit of Venus by Sue Bassett, GAC Member
Club member Sue Bassett talked about her recent trip to Turkey and showed computer digital pictures of the Venus Transit that she saw while she was there. Sue co-ordinated the trip to Turkey in June 2004.

What's Up In The Sky by Deb Fuller
The Olympic Games provided the focus for this month. Deb pointed out the Corona Borealis and it's representation of an olive wreath. Pluto is visible now.

New Business
Caroline Furnace trip will be from Nov. 10 - 14, 2004. Please contact a board member for details.
The Blackwater Falls Star Party is from Sept. 17 - 19, 2004. Please go to the following website for details:
http://www.as.wvu.edu/~jel/astroclub.html or http://www.as.wvu.edu/~jel/KVAS_ASTRONOMY_WEEKEND_2004.html
Spruce Knob was recommended by Carol Beagel for future club star party outings.

Note: Club President Matt Elliott can be reached at grn_matt@yahoo.com or 301-345-7783

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.