



**April, 2000**

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*At the April 7 meeting...*

**James Wooten**

of the Museum of Natural Science Planetarium

***Conjunction, Junction,  
What's My Function?***

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***Houston Astronomical Society***

***GuideStar***

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**Starline - 281-568-9340**

Houston Astronomical Society presents *Starline* -- a recorded message of Society events and astronomical happenings. This service is updated regularly, so call often to keep up-to-date on Society functions, new comets and more.

**H.A.S. Web Page: <http://spacsun.rice.edu/~has>**

**Schedule Changes & Up-To-Date Information**

See the GuideStar's Monthly Calendar of Events to confirm dates and times of all events for the month, and call Starline for any last minute changes.

**Observatory Site Telephone: 979-732-8861 (New!)**

## ★★★★★ *The Houston Astronomical Society* ★★★★★

The Houston Astronomical Society is a non-profit corporation organized under section 501 (C) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society was formed for education and scientific purposes. All contributions and gifts are deductible for federal income tax purposes. General membership meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

### ★★★★★ Officers ★★★★★

President: Don Pearce H: 713-432-0734	Secretary: Bill Leach H: 713-863-8459
Vice Pres: Barbara Wilson H: 281-933-1289	Treasurer: Gene Horr H: 713-468-2157

### ★★★★★ Additional Board Members ★★★★★

Liaison responsibility

Bill Flanagan .....	713-699-8819	
Howard Leverenz .....	713-957-8667	
Jay Levy .....	281-992-2708	Field Trip and Observing, Program
Debbie Moran .....	713-666-9428	
Warren Wundt .....	713-697-2960	
Mike Dye .....	281-498-1703	Observatory Director

### ★★★★★ Committee Chairpersons ★★★★★

Audit .....	Gary Hlivko .....	713-864-2541	Program .....	Margaret Nunez .....	713-529-2549
Education .....	Richard Nugent .....	713-910-5945	Publicity .....	Mark Egan .....	281-265-1497
Field Tr./Obsg. ....	Kenneth Drake .....	281-367-1592	Telescope .....	Darin Palmer .....	713-223-3123
Novice .....	John Garza, III .....	409-441-1476	Welcoming .....	Bill Leach .....	713-863-8459
Observatory .....	Michael Dye .....	281-498-1703			

### ★★★★★ Ad-Hoc Committee Chairpersons ★★★★★

Historian .....	Leland Dolan .....	713-529-0403	Publ. Star Party .....	Marg Nunez .....	713-529-2549
Librarian .....	Peggy Gilchrist .....	281-558-1190	Rice U. Coord. ....	Matt Delevoryas .....	713-795-0808
Logo Mds Sales .....	Judy Dye .....	281-498-1703	Schedule Obs'v'ty .....	Steve Goldberg .....	713-721-5077
Long Range Plan .....	Don Pearce .....	713-432-0734	Texas Star Pty .....	Steve Goldberg .....	713-721-5077
Parliamentarian .....	Kirk Kendrick .....	281-391-3834			

### ★★★★★ Special Interest Groups & Help Committees ★★★★★

These are now listed on the inside of GuideStar (not every month). See the Table of Contents

### ★★★★★ Advisors ★★★★★

Dr. Reginald DuFour, Rice Univ.	Dr. Lawrence Pinsky, U. of H.
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### ★★★★★ Dues and Membership Information ★★★★★

Annual Dues: Regular .... \$33.00	Student .....	\$5.00
Associate .... \$5.00	Honorary .....	None
Sustaining . \$50.00		

All members have the right to participate in Society functions and to use the Observatory Site. Regular and Student Members receive a subscription to *The Reflector*. Regular, Student, and Honorary Members receive *The GuideStar*. Associate Members, immediate family members of a Regular Member, have all membership rights, but do not receive publications. Sustaining members have the same rights as regular members with the additional dues treated as a donation to the Society. *Sky & Telescope* mag \$29.95/year, *Astronomy* mag \$29/year -- see club treasurer.

Membership Application: Send funds to address shown on outside cover of *Guidestar*. Attention - Treasurer, along with the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Special Interests in Astronomy, Do you own a Telescope? (If so, what kind?), and where you first heard of H.A.S.

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***Call the Starline, 281-568-9340 for updates and changes***

## **Welcome to New Members!**

The Houston Astronomical Society welcomes the following new members:

Debra Atkinson, Ed Burdzinski, Brian Davis, John Fletcher, Jim & Barbara Foerster, Gary Kunz, Marcin Lenart, Don McManus, Richard Parker, Bill Pottorf

## **Special Interest Group Listing**

*Any member who wants specific information on a SIG listed below may call the listed individual. Also, see the "Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons" on the inside front cover and the "Special Help Volunteers" listing (not in every issue).*

Advanced .....	Bill Flanagan .....	713-699-8819
Comets .....	Kenneth Drake .....	281-367-1592
Lunar & Planetary .....	John Blubaugh .....	713-921-4275
Occultations & Grazes ...	Wayne Hutchison .....	713-827-0828
Advanced .....	Bill Leach .....	713-863-8459

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## *Observations... of the editor*

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**by Bill Pellerin, GuideStar Editor**

Does it seem to you that the sky is more likely to be clear around full moon? It seems so to me... Last night (March 18th) had a nearly full moon in the sky, and the evening sky was clear. We had some friends visiting with their kids and they wanted to see something so we looked at Jupiter (nice alignment of the Galilean moons), Saturn, M42, M35, and (of course) the moon. Seeing the real rings of Saturn for the first time is a thrill (I remember doing this, myself).

If you're not coming to the monthly meetings, you're missing some fine presentations by H.A.S. members and by special guests. Scott Mitchell gave us an outstanding presentation in March on evidence (or lack thereof) for a lost civilization.

As our calendar shows, daylight savings time begins in April. I hate it. The effect is that it gets dark later (so I'm obliged to start my observing later). In the summer it also means that it's hot later into the evening. If you're a golfer or have some other outdoor activity that you want to pursue after work (and before dark), I suppose it's a good thing... I'd just as soon that the powers-that-be would leave the clock alone!

You'll note, elsewhere in this issue, that we're obliged to elect a new Novice chairperson. This is an outstanding opportunity for someone (YOU) to get involved with the society and to have a significant impact on newcomers to the hobby. Give it some thought... having served on the nominating committee I know it can be difficult to get volunteers to staff the society positions. Call the prez' (phone number on inside front cover) if you'd like to put your name in nomination for this position. Help us out!

*..Bill*

# ***Houston Astronomical Society***

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***Meeting Notice  
For Friday, April 7, 2000***

***James Wooten***

***of the Museum of Natural Science  
Planetarium***

***“Conjunction, Junction, What’s My  
Function?”***

***This topic covers the upcoming  
alignment of the planets on 5-5-00 and  
how to observe it.***

**Schedule of meeting activities:**

All meetings are at the University of Houston Science and Research building. See the inside back cover for a map to the location.

Novice meeting: ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Across from Room 117

Site orientation meeting: ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Classroom

General meeting: ..... 8:00 p.m.  
Room 117

**See the inside back cover for a map  
and more information.**

# April/May Calendar:



*Date Time Event*

## April

1		Prime Night-Columbus (see special note for April 2 <sup>nd</sup> )
2	2:00 a.m.	Standard Time Ends, Daylight Saving Time begins. Set clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night April 1 <sup>st</sup> (observers loose 1 hour).
4	1:13 p.m.	New Moon
7		HAS Club Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H
	8:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting U of H
11	8:30 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
18	12:41 a.m.	Full Moon
	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ., contact Bill Leach, 713-863-8459
26	2:32 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
29		Members Observatory Night-Columbus
30		Texas Star Party begins-Ft. Davis

## May

3	11:13 p.m.	New Moon
7		Texas Star Party ends-Ft. Davis
10	3:01 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
12		HAS Club Meeting (on <i>second</i> Friday of May)
	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H
	8:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting U of H
16	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ., contact Bill Leach, 713-863-8459
18	2:34 a.m.	Full Moon
20		Members Observatory Night-Columbus
26	6:56 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
27		Prime Night-Columbus

Send calendar events to [JBlubaugh@aol.com](mailto:JBlubaugh@aol.com)

or call 713-921-4275.

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# ***HAS Logo Sales***

*by Judy Ann Dye*

If you are interested in any of the following items and would like to place an order, please contact me (Judy Dye) at 281-498-1703, or send a check for the items requested to 12352 Newbrook, Houston Texas, 77072-3910. Below is the current list of logo items for sale:

Grey Hooded Sweatshirt (M to XL) .....	\$25.00
22 Ounce Thermal Cup .....	\$5.00
Observe Messier .....	\$4.00
Observe Comets .....	\$7.00
<b>2000 Observer's Handbooks (NEW!) .....</b>	<b>\$ 14.00</b>

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## ***Election Notice***

In accordance with our by-laws, there will be an election at the May General Membership Meeting for a new Novice Chairperson to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of our Novice Chair, John Garza, III . John has had to resign due to business reasons and we appreciate the job he has done this year.

**The May meeting will be on the second Friday in May (the 12th) to avoid a conflict with the Texas Star Party. We hope to see you there!**

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## ***Southern Skies Star Party***

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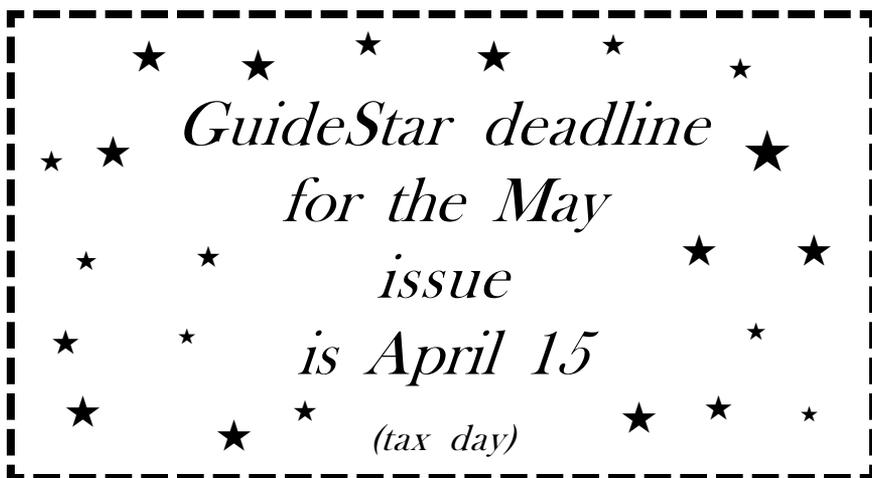
The fifth consecutive SSSP will be held this year on June 24 - July 1. We stay at resort lodgings in Bolivia at the shores of Lake Titicaca, and view the Southern hemisphere from an excellent observing site. Excursions to ruins of Tiwanaku, islands on the lake, city of La Paz, and extension trip available to Macchu Picchu. Cost is \$1,649, which includes two meals/day, lodgings, and airfare from Miami. For more information, contact Scott Mitchell (713) 461-3020 or at [starscm@aol.com](mailto:starscm@aol.com)

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## ***Membership Renewals...***

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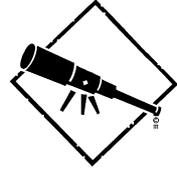
Please check the mailing label on your copy of the *GuideStar*. It'll tell you when your membership expires. If it expires soon, please send your renewal to the address on the outside cover of *GuideStar*. The dues information is on the inside front cover. ***Thanks!***



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# *Observatory Corner*

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*By Michael B. Dye Observatory Chairman*

We now have a Pay Phone installed at the Observatory Site again. The new phone number is 979-732-8861. We were not able to get our old phone number back. Also it seems that the gods that control telephones are changing the Area Code for Columbus and we are part of the change. I would like to thank Lil and Robert Ingram of Pay Phone Management for all their efforts in getting our phone set up. I would also like to thank Gary Hlivko who was instrumental in connecting (if you will excuse the bad pun) us together.



It took about five days of intense work on Lil's part in order to install what seemed to be a simple phone out in the middle of nowhere (our Observatory Site). The first major problem was the location of the Observatory Site in the first place. Even though we (the Society) knew and the local telephone installer knew, it seems that Ma Bell in its infinite wisdom had no idea where our Observatory Site was. The main problem was the address. The addresses we had for the Observatory Site did not exist in the Ma Bell Computers. Next we first tried identifying the Site by its old phone number. No record of any such number. It took us a day to find this out. Next I got on Web and did some research in Colorado County and then called the County Judge, who sent me to the 911 Controller who sent me to the Ma Bell 911 controller located here in Houston. When I called this person, she was of course out of the office for the day but luckily had a backup person who I then called. This person seemed to be quite knowledgeable about the problem we were having and was able to get things rolling. But our problems were not over yet. We now had someone in the Ma Bell organization that knew that we existed, our problem was with Bell Private (evidently this activity controls Pay Phones) who still had not gotten the word. Another day of phone calls follows. This was solved through the simple system of Lil Ingram setting up a conference call with the Ma Bell 911 controller in Houston, Bell Private in San Francisco and Lil here in Houston.

Bell Private now knew where we were located in the great state of Texas and issued us a work order to install in line at the Observatory Site. Our problems were not over yet. We tried to get our old phone number back. Another day of fruitless telephone calls and E-mails. It turns out our old number was in effect owned (or controlled) by an old member who was not available to sign the necessary paperwork. Sense we were trying to get this thing install the following Wednesday

*Continued...*

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## ***Observatory Corner... from previous page***

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(March 8<sup>th</sup>) (we had had to slide two days from the original time frame of Monday the 6<sup>th</sup>), we decided to skip the old phone number and go with what we could get.

I showed up bright and early on March the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Observatory Site to await the arrival of the telephone installation group. This would happen in two parts. First the Pay Phone Management group would show up with the phone and install it. Then on or about the same time a member of the local telephone company would show up and make the pair hot. About 10:30 the Pay Phone Management people showed up in two trucks. About noon they finished mounting the phone on the wall and after a short course in how to open a phone they left. This was about noon. I stuck around until about 2 PM and never did see the Teleco man but he must have done something, because the phone worked. The weather for this activity was of course typical; it rained and sprinkled the whole time. I left the Observatory Site about 2 PM with the phone tested and working. Again I wish to thank Lil and Robert Ingram of Pay Phone Management and Gary Hlivko of the HAS for their help in getting the Observatory Site a new telephone.

I am changing the Combination again. It seems that through no fault of his own, one of our members was robbed and one of the items taken was the new combination change that I had just given him. I am going to send out the new new combination before the end of March, so everyone should have the new combination change by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you have a Randalls card, and have not done so, please have it coded for the Houston Astronomical Society. Our number is #6618. The Society gets 1 percent of the gross sales that members spend at Randalls. Randalls totals up the amount spent each quarter and will send us a check if the amount goes over \$2,500.00, otherwise the total roles over to the next quarter or zeros out at the end of the calendar year. So please link your Randalls card to the Houston Astronomical Society so that the society can benefit from this Randalls program. Our number is #6618. This is very easy to do, just go to the Courtesy Booth and tell the person there what you what to do.

For the last few months, I have been inserting a paragraph requesting membership feedback concerning installing computers in the Observatory. I have actually got a response. This gives me hope that members are actuating reading my articles. If you have any ideas about the Observatory Site, including providing some sort of computers for controlling the Observatory Telescopes and maybe for CCD processing. Please contact me at mbdye@aol.com or 281-498-1703.

***Please fill out the appropriate log form when you use the site.  
Remember we use these forms as attendance records.***

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# ***Minutes of the General Meeting of the Houston Astronomical Society***

**March 3, 2000**

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## ***Secretary's Draft***

1. The meeting was called to order by President Don Pearce at 8:12 PM and the following general announcements were made:
  - a. The general meetings of the membership are in this room, room 117, at 8:00 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, except for May and September when the meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month.
  - b. The novice meeting is across the hall in room 116 at 7:00 PM preceding the general meeting.
  - c. The site orientation meeting is in room 121. All members must attend this meeting in order to use the 18-acre observing site in Columbus, Texas by yourself.
2. There were 113 members and 4 guests present.
3. The following new members were introduced:  
Debra Atkinson, Ed Burdzinski, Brian Davis, John Fletcher, Jim & Barbara Foerster, Gary Kunz, Marcin Lenart, Don McManus, Richard Parker, Bill Pottorf
4. The following guests were recognized:  
David Ford, Ed Locke, Steve Ostlind, Cindy Shachelford
5. The President reviewed the types of telescopes available to the membership at the observing site: C-14, 12.5 in. f/5, 12.5 in. f/7, and two 12.5 in. Dobsonians.
6. The President announced the following membership benefits:
  - a. The *GuideStar* newsletter, whose editor Bill Pellerin was introduced.
  - b. Discount prices for society members on *Sky & Telescope* (\$29.95) and *Astronomy* (\$29.00) magazines was announced.
  - c. The Starline (281-568-9340), a service offering various recorded

*Continued...*

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## ***Minutes... from previous page***

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- astronomy messages, was also announced.
- d. The HAS website is also available and WebMaster Steve Goldberg was introduced.
  - e. Marg Nunez and Bill Leach of the welcoming committee were introduced.
  - f. The program with Randall's grocery stores was announced and members were asked to register for nonprofit organization number 6618.
7. The annual society banquet will be held on March 18, 2000 at the Westwood Country Club with a cash bar opening at 7:00 PM. Bill Molinare, chairman of this effort, explained the details for the "Millenium Banquet".
  8. The program for the evening was *Archaeoastronomy and the Quest for the Lost Civilization* by Scott Mitchell member of the Houston Astronomical Society. This fascinating and informative program lasted for 63 minutes.
  9. Marg Nunez presented the speaker with a certificate of appreciation and a picture of the Orion Nebula donated by a H.A.S. member.
  10. Richard Nugent asked for volunteers for a star party at Walnut Bend Elementary School.
  11. Leland Dolan, Society Historian, show some slides of past lunar eclipses.
  12. President Don Pearce asked for donations for refreshments. All were invited to stay after the meeting for refreshments and door prizes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 PM.

***HAS Secretary: William W. Leach  
March 3, 2000***

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## *Other Meetings...*

**Brazosport Astronomy Society** meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Planetarium of the fine Arts Center at Brazosport College. Call Steve Lamb for program details (409) 297-3984

**Fort Bend Astronomy Club** meets the third Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the First Colony conference Center. Novice meeting begins at 7:00, regular meeting begins at 8:00. Web site: <http://rampages.onramp.net/~binder/>

**Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society** meets in the the Lunar and Planetary Institute on the 2nd Friday of each month. Web site: <http://www.ghgcorp.com/cbr/jscas.html>

**North Houston Astronomy Club** meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month in the Teaching Theatre of the Student Center at Kingwood College. Call 281-312-1650 or E-mail [bill.leach@nhmccd.edu](mailto:bill.leach@nhmccd.edu). Web site: [www.astronomyclub.org](http://www.astronomyclub.org)

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## *HAS Web Page*

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The Houston Astronomical Society Web page has information on the society, its resources, and meeting information.

The address is: <http://spacsun.rice.edu/~has>

Want your astronomy work and name on the Internet for the whole world to see? Have some neat equipment? Pictures in film, CCD, hand drawings or video format are all welcome on the page. Do you have an idea to improve the page? I'm listening. Send me Email at [goldberg@sccsi.com](mailto:goldberg@sccsi.com). (You can click on my name on the HAS home page). Or, you can call me, Steve Goldberg (WebMaster), at 713-721-5077.

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# ***Observatory Duty Roster***

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*by Michael B. Dye, Observatory Chairman*

This is the duty list for April, May and June. Some names were moved from one month to another to accommodate some conflicts. If you are listed in this roster, please be sure to contact your supervisor for any information that you may need and the date and time to be at the site. You may change from site duty to open house or from open house to site duty by pre-arrangement with the Site Supervisor for that month. Changes between months require Observatory Chairman coordination.

**April Supervisor ..... Logan Rimes ..... 713-681-5397**

Charles Foyt .....	Site	
Clifton Goldman .....	Members Observatory Night	04-29-00
David Granadino .....	Site	
Michael Gumler .....	Site	
Chai S. Heng .....	Members Observatory Night	04-29-00
Gary Hlivko .....	Site	
Clayton L. Jeter .....	Members Observatory Night	04-29-00
Stanley G. Jones .....	Site	

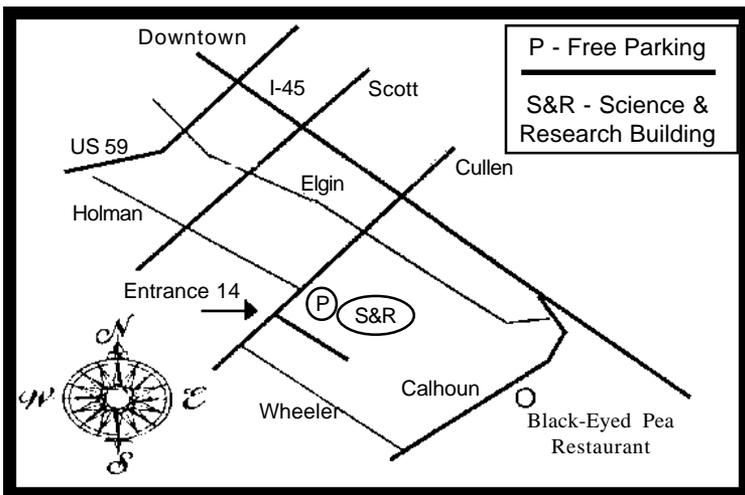
**May Supervisor ..... Logan Rimes ..... 713-681-5397**

Keith Jurgens .....	Site	
Arnie Kaestner .....	Site	
David Kalich .....	Site	
Howard Leverenz .....	Site	
Jay Levy .....	Members Observatory Night	05-20-00
Mary Lockwood .....	Members Observatory Night	05-20-00
Christopher Mendell .....	Site	
John Mitscherling .....	Members Observatory Night	05-20-00

**June Supervisor ..... Allen Gilchrist ..... 281-558-1190**

David Herlinger .....	Site	
Robert Menius .....	Site	
Jeff Moore .....	Members Observatory Night	06-24-00
Debbie Moran .....	Site	
Ben Negy, Jr. ....	Members Observatory Night	06-24-00
Johnny Norris .....	Members Observatory Night	06-24-00
Marge Nunez .....	Site	
Ralph Overturf .....	Site	

Please remember that Site work can be done anytime and does not have to be done just before Members Observatory Night. Contact your Site Supervisor for details. Names are selected for Site Duty using the current Alphabetical listing for Observatory Key Holders. If any member knows of a conflict please call me before your name is listed.



### **General Membership Meeting**

The Houston Astronomical Society holds its regular monthly General Membership Meeting on the first Friday of each month, unless rescheduled due to a holiday. Meetings are in Room 117 of the Science and Research Building at the University of Houston. A Novice Presentation begins at 7:00 p.m.. The short business meeting and featured speaker are scheduled at 8:00 p.m. Also typically included are Committee Reports, Special Interest Group Reports, current activity announcements, hardware reviews, an astrophotography slide show by members and other items of interest.

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors Meeting is held on dates scheduled by the board at 7:00 p.m. in Room 106 of the Space Science Building at Rice University. Call StarLine for Board Meeting information. Information provided to GuideStar will be published. The meetings are open to all members of the Society in good standing. Attendance is encouraged.

### **GuideStar Information**

The H.A.S. *GuideStar* is published monthly by the Houston Astronomical Society. All opinions expressed herein are those of the contributor and not necessarily of Houston Astronomical Society. The monthly Meeting Notice is included herein. *GuideStar* is sent via bulk rate mail to Regular, Student, and Honorary Members of H.A.S., selected individuals and recent visitors to the General Membership Meeting. Contributions to *GuideStar* by members are encouraged. Electronic submission is helpful. Submit the article in ASCII text, MS-Word (preferred), or WordPerfect format on an IBM format floppy or via AOL (BILLP10566). Mail copy to the address shown on the outside cover or to the editor at 256 East 5th Street, Houston, TX 77007. Copy must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the issue to be mailed near the end of the same month. Or, bring copy to the General Membership Meeting and give it to the Editor, or phone to make special arrangements.

Editing & Production: Bill Pellerin, 713-880-8061; FAX: 713-880-8850;

AOL: BILLP10566; Internet: BILLP10566@AOL.COM

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## Houston Astronomical Society

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