



April, 2001

At the April 6 meeting...

**Charles Messier
and His Catalog
of Deep Sky Objects**

Bob Bohley

Houston Astronomical Society

GuideStar

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.

HAS Web Page: <http://www.astronomyhouston.org>

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

★★★★★ *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 & Past President ★★★★★★

President: Kirk Kendrick H: 281-391-3834
Vice Pres: Bill Leach H: 713-863-8459
Secretary: Art Ciampi H: 713-665-5008

Treasurer: Debbie Moran H: 713-666-9428
Past President: Don Pearce H: 713-432-0734

★★★★★ Additional Board Members ★★★★★★

Liaison responsibility

George Dolson 713-721-1560
Bill Flanagan 713-699-8819
Howard Leverenz 713-957-8667
Jay Levy 281-557-4920 Field Trip and Observing, Program
Larry Wadle 281-395-6290

★★★★★ Committee Chairpersons ★★★★★★

Audit Gary Hlivko 713-864-2541
Education Richard Nugent 713-910-5945
Field Tr./Obsg. Steve Grubbs 713-455-5701
Novice Warren Wundt 713-697-2960
Observatory Michael Dye 281-498-1703

Program Scott Mitchell 713-461-3020
Publicity Brian Cudnik 713-460-1093
Telescope Darin Palmer 713-223-3123
Welcoming Marg Nunez 713-529-2549

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

Historian Leland Dolan 713-529-0403
Librarian Peggy Gilchrist 281-558-1190
Logo Mds Sales Judy Dye 281-498-1703
Long Range Plan Bill Leach 281-863-8459
Parliamentarian Kirk Kendrick 281-391-3834

Publ. Star Party Marg Nunez 713-529-2549
Rice U. Coord. Matt Delevoryas 713-795-0808
Schedule Obs'v'ty Steve Goldberg 713-721-5077
Texas Star Pty Steve Goldberg 713-721-5077

★★★★★ 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.

★★★★★ Dues and Membership Information ★★★★★★

Annual Dues: Regular \$33.00
Associate \$5.00
Sustaining . \$50.00

Student \$5.00
Honorary None

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.

Table of Contents

4	President's Message	9	Special Help Volunteers
5	Meeting notice	10	Observations of the Editor
6	April/May Calendar	11	Observatory Corner
7	Membership Renewal	13	H.A.S. Web Page
	<i>GuideStar</i> Deadline		H.A.S. Logo Sales
8	School Star Party	14	Observatory Duty Roster
	Other Meetings		
	Want Ads		

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

Welcome to New Members!

The Houston Astronomical Society encourages you to join our group of active amateur astronomers and take advantage of the benefits of membership. As a member you'll have access to the club observing site near Columbus, Texas. (You're required to participate in a site orientation meeting before you get the gate lock combination.) The site has concrete pads for setting up your telescope, restroom and bunkhouse facilities, and areas set aside for camping. No new members this month. You'll get monthly issues of the *GuideStar* newsletter, you'll get to vote and to serve the organization as an officer, and you will be supporting the local amateur astronomy community.

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	936-890-3735
Lunar & Planetary	John Blubaugh	713-921-4275
Occultations & Grazes ...	Wayne Hutchison	713-827-0828
Advanced	Bill Leach	713-863-8459

President's Message

April 2001



by Kirk Kendrick

The winter is almost over and I have yet to have a weekend when I have time in Houston, my telescope, and clear skies available at the same time. But, I've been thinking a lot about what Triple Nickel said last meeting about planning.



For the hundreds of us going to Texas Star Party (the infamous TSP) this year, our planning has already begun. After many years doing astronomy, I'm going to start over on my Messiers...and target completing my logs by the end of this year. While I star-hop my way to log them, I plan to visually observe and CCD image them this time around. I had completed all but about 5 objects in 1988...when I lost my logbooks in my move to Europe. Now...13 years later, I'll try again. Using naked eye, binoculars, a 3" refractor, and a C8. And a lot of time!

One of the amazing things about planning your observing program is that you can read about how others have done exactly what you are attempting. I'm trying to organize my observing program to cover about 1/2 my Messiers during TSP...and image a few other objects I've wanted to shoot but can't find from my Houston backyard. I plan to bring only about 10 books and my star charts with me to TSP. Of course, a laptop with a few CDs as well. And a camera body and several rolls of film...and my CCD camera and related peripherals...and... Never enough room!

Just in time for my planning we will have a Robert Bohley presentation on observing the Messiers at the April General Membership meeting.

The recent pictures taken by club members I've seen on the HAS List Server have challenged me to get back in the swing of Astrophotography...or at least CCD imaging. If you aren't a member of our List Server, go to the HAS website and join! <http://www.astronomyhouston.org>.

Back to the planning...I look forward to seeing you all at our Meeting on April 6th!

Clear skies!

...Kirk

Houston Astronomical Society

***Meeting Notice
For Friday, April 6, 2001***

Charles Messier and His Catalog of Deep Sky Objects

***A description of the man and his work with
examples of the object types and tips for the
beginning amateur astronomer***

Bob Bohley

This talk was originally given at the Brazosport Planetarium 2/13/01. Bob Bohley is a Project Manager at Dow Chemical, Freeport Texas who was Introduced to amateur astronomy in 1996 by a coworker in Louisiana, Walt Cooney - at the time President of the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society. Since this introduction, Bob has used binoculars in '96, a TeleVue Ranger in '97, and a 8"SCT in '98.

Bob attended TSP in 1998, 2000, Kisatchie 2001, (TSP 2001) Started the Messier List at TSP'98 and completed last November on a family trip to Big Bend

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:



Photo by Scott Mitchell

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
-------------	-------------	--------------

April 2001

1	2:00 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time begins. Set clocks forward 1 hour.
	4:49 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
6		HAS Club Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H
	8:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting U of H
7	9:22 a.m.	Full Moon
14		Members Observatory Night-Columbus
15	9:31 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
17	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ., contact Matt Delevoryas, 713-795-0808
21		Prime Night-Columbus
22		Lyrid Meteor Shower Peaks
23	9:26 a.m.	New Moon
30	11:08 a.m.	First Quarter Moon

May 2001

4		HAS Club Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H
	8:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting U of H
	4:49 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
7	7:53 a.m.	Full Moon
12		Members Observatory Night-Columbus
13		Texas Star Party begins in Ft. Davis
15	4:11 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon
	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG Mtg. Rice Univ., contact Matt Delevoryas, 713-795-0808
19		Prime Night-Columbus
20		Texas Star Party ends in Ft. Davis
22	8:46 p.m.	New Moon
29	4:09 p.m.	First Quarter Moon
		Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower Peaks

Send calendar events to JBlubaugh@aol.com
or call 713-921-4275.

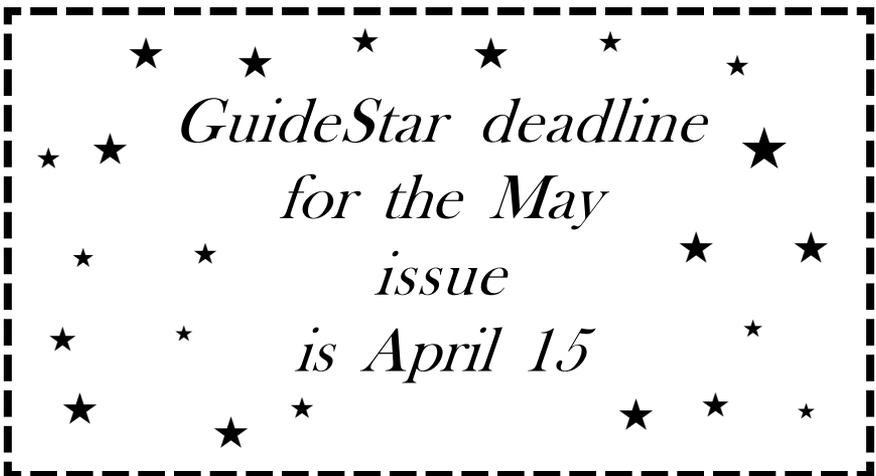
Membership Renewals...

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.

Membership in the Houston Astronomical Society is one of the great bargains in Astronomy. For a regular membership of \$33 you get the opportunity to support an active and growing organization, you get the monthly *GuideStar* newsletter, and you get access to the outstanding H.A.S. observing site near Columbus, Texas. (You must attend an orientation, given monthly, to use the site.) And, after two months of membership you can borrow, at no charge, one of the Society's loaner telescopes. It's the best deal in town, we think. Please renew your membership when it expires.

Thanks!



GuideStar deadline
for the May
issue
is April 15

School Star Party

by Marg Nunez

Volunteers are needed for another try for the kids at J.R. Harris Elementary. This school is located off Broadway inside the loop on the east side of Houston. The star party is rescheduled for Tuesday, April 10th at 8pm.

Please call Marg to volunteer at 713-529-2549 or at marg10@flash.net

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. Web site: www.astronomyclub.org

∞ Want Ads ∞

For Sale: **Celestron C-14**. fork mounted & has brand new internal components. 15 years old but in excellent shape. It comes w/ Solar Filter, dew shield, Heavy Duty Drive Corrector & an Advance Astro Master for \$5800. Price is negotiable! My home # is 281-444-7101. My cell # is 281-468-1434. Bennie "BOBO" Negy Jr. BOBONEGY@webtv.net

Special "Help" Volunteers

Any member who wants specific information on a subject listed below may call the individual listed. If you have a moderate knowledge of a special subject and would be happy to have others ask you about that subject, let the editor know and your subject, name and phone will be listed in *GuideStar* in the future. Note that we have listed a few possible areas where you might volunteer, but, of course, you are not limited to these. You can also have a specialty which is a sub-group of another. Note that the number of names for any subject is not limited to only one person. Also see the "Ad Hoc Committee Chairpersons" on the inside front cover and the "Special Interest Groups Listing" article.

Subject	Name	Phone
Asteroids	Barbara Wilson	281-933-1289
Astrometry	Richard Nugent	713-910-5945
Astrophotography	Steve Goldberg	713-721-5077
Beginning in Astronomy	Peggy Gilchrist	281-558-1190
	Amelia Goldberg	713-721-5077
Comets	Kenneth Drake	281-367-1592
	Don Pearce	713-432-0734
Computers	Matt Delevoryas	713-795-0808
	Leland Dolan	713-529-0403
	Ricardo Palmeira	713-669-1409
Cosmology	Ricardo Palmeira	713-669-1409
Deep Sky	Larry Mitchell	281-448-8700
	Barbara Wilson	281-933-1289
Double Stars	John Blubaugh	713-921-4275
Drawing (Sketching)	Scott Mitchell	713-461-3020
Herschel Objects	Larry Mitchell	281-448-8700
History, Astro'y - General	Leland Dolan	713-529-0403
	Ricardo Palmeira	713-669-1409
History, Astro'y - Amateurs	Tom Williams	713-526-2868
Mathematics, Astronomical	Richard Nugent	713-910-5945
Messier Objects	Novice Committee (see inside front cover)	
Photometry	Open	
Radio Telescopes	John Hiatt	713-464-4010
Satellites, Artificial	<open>	
Solar Observing	Larry Mitchell	281-448-8700
Spectroscopy	Open	
Thin Crescent Moons	Don Pearce	713-432-0734
Variable Stars	Barbara Wilson	281-933-1289
	Tom Williams	713-526-2868
Video	Larry Mitchell	281-448-8700

Observations... of the editor

by Bill Pellerin, GuideStar Editor

My wife, Lori, and I went to the Walker Evans exhibit at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts on March 3, the day before it closed. Walker Evans was a photographer who is famous for his images taken in the 1930s documenting the effect of the great depression on the country. All this wouldn't have any astronomical significance except for the fact that while we were at the Museum, I got a (blank) notebook.

Since the Museum visit, I have been using the notebook, intermittently, as a journal of my astronomy activities. It has not been, so far, a log of observations with all the usual detail (time, date, instrument, sky conditions, eyepiece, etc). The journal is more general, and less specific. I have already included entries such as: "Hoped it would clear up. It didn't." on a possible observing night on which the sky had the potential to clear, but failed to do so.

I plan to record casual observations in this book. On many occasions I have walked out the front door, getting ready to go to work, and observed something that deserves recording, but which is not a 'formal' observation. For example, I might see Venus in the morning sky and I could record that observation. I might see the moon and Jupiter near each other in the night sky and want to make a note of that.

A few weeks ago, I walked out in the early morning darkness to pick up the newspaper, and happened to see an Iridium flare (I was able to confirm this with information from www.heavens-above.com.) This would be a good entry for my astronomy journal.

In addition, a journal could be used to record any interesting ideas that I might want to follow-up on. Here's one.... Since I can only get out of town on weekends, what if we had an urban observing site and a scheduled night, during the week, to be there? It'd be a good outing for frustrated H.A.S. members who want to observe but are unable to do so due to family or job commitments. Gotta bring that up to the H.A.S. prez.

I'll let you know how this turns out, but in the meantime, you may want to start your own journal. Get a blank notebook from the drug store, a pen, and you're ready to go. Who knows, you might think of something important.

..Bill

Observatory Corner



By Michael B. Dye Observatory Chairman

As some of you may have noticed, I did not write an *Observatory Corner* last month. This is because the month of February was a bit rushed for the Dye family. This activity extended into the Mixon family as both of Judy's parents were in town during the month of February for major surgery. While Judy's Mother did very well with her surgery unfortunately Judy's father did not survive the recover stage of his operation and we made an unscheduled trip to Iowa Park, Texas for his funeral.



From time to time, we have Boy Scout troops visit the Observatory Site to view through the Observatory Telescopes, perform some Observatory Site maintenance and camp out. On February 9th through February 11th we had 33 boys and 19 adults who are members of two Troops (404 and 466) and four Packs (404, 409, 463 & 466) visit the Observatory Site. We didn't have a lot for the scouts to do this time, so they occupied their time by scrapping the grass out of the middle of the roads in the Observatory Site.

In order to give some recognition for their efforts at the Observatory Site, I like to mention the names of the members of the Troops and Packs and what they have accomplished. The Troop 404 adults were Rosemary Epperson, Mike Guthrie, Jimmy Cobble, Kevin Wilson, Dayle Williams, Lloyd Stephens Kevin Stephens and Richard Parker. The scouts were Brandon Epperson, Brian Epperson, Ethan Cobble, Travis Wilson, Joshua Williams, Riley Amick, Malcolm Brown, Michael Adams, Glen Adams, Brian Carlin, Jared Bullock, Hunter White, and Michael Parker.

The Troop 466 adult was Mannie Steglich and the scouts were Barsch, Jaramie Morris, Jonathan Darrell and Jonathan Martin.

The Pack 404 adults were Catheryn Rutland, Mark Rutland and Ann Evans. The scouts were Joshua Rutland, Taylor Rutland and Austin Evans.

Continued...

Observatory Corner... from previous page

The Pack 409 adults were Cathy Williams, Scott Ferree and Frank Lerma. The scouts were Robert Williams, Matt Ferree, Frankie Lerma, Dewayne Hendricks and Steven Winkler.

The Pack 463 adults were Wanda LeJeune, Nita Lousig-Nont and Tommy Coulter. The scouts were J. R. Allison III, Jackie Allison, Samantha Cotter, Dustin Robinson, Brent Lousig-Nont and Rob Shell.

The Pack 466 adult was Richard Malish and the scouts were Michael Malish and Matthew Malish.

We have found a person who lives in the Oak Ridge Ranch area who will mow our grass at a reasonable price and because of this I have decided not to try and raise money this year to get a small tractor to use on the Observatory Site. Instead I am going to try and raise money to get a new computer controlled mount for the C-14. This idea was discussed at the annual Observatory Committee meeting last January and (if I remember correctly) everyone thought this was a good idea. We figured that this would take about 15 to 20 thousand. If anyone knows how to raise this kind of money, please contact me or anyone on the Observatory Committee.

We have some problems with repairs in the bathroom. I know about the broken pushbutton switches and am in the process of getting replacements and will get the new ones installed as soon as possible.

For the last few months, I have been inserting a paragraph requesting membership feed back concerning installing computers in the Observatory. I have actually got a response. This gives me hope that members are actuating reading my articles. This hope was shattered by a long time member who told me he never reads the Guidestar. 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 and to report Observatory Site problems such as broken toilets.

HAS Web Page

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

The address is: <http://www.astronomyhouston.org>

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. (You can click on my name on the HAS home page). Or, you can call Steve Goldberg (WebMaster), at 713-721-5077.

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
2001 Observer's Handbooks	\$ 15.00

Correction: The photo of the Pleiades in the March issue was by Kent Francis

Observatory Duty Roster

by Michael B. Dye, Observatory Chairman

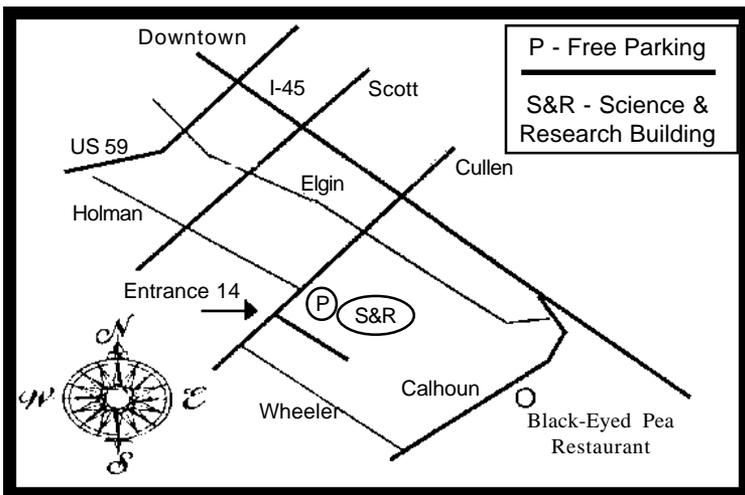
This is the duty list for April, May and June. Some names may have been moved from one month to another to accommodate some conflicts. If you are listed in this roster, please be sure to contact your supervisor for any information that you may need and the date and time to be at the site. You may change 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 Dana Lambert 281-933-4627
Clifton Goldman Site
David Granadino Site
Chai Heng Members Observatory Night 04-14-01
Gary Hlivko Site
Wayne Hutchinson Members Observatory Night 04-14-01
Clayton Jeter Site
Stanley Jones Site
Keith Jurgens Members Observatory Night 04-14-01

May Supervisor Cooper Walls 713-461-9590
Arnie Kaestner Site
David Kahlich Site
Howard Leverenz Members Observatory Night 05-12-01
Jay Levy Site
Mary Lockwood Members Observatory Night 05-12-01
David Herlinger Site
Robert Menius Site
Larry Mitchell Members Observatory Night 05-12-01

June Supervisor Matt Delevoryas 713-795-0808
Jeff Moore Site
Mark Mulrooney Site
Ben Negy Jr. Members Observatory Night 06-09-01
John Norris Site
Richard Nugent Members Observatory Night 06-09-01
Ralph Overturf Site
Don Pearce Members Observatory Night 06-09-01
Sim Picheloup 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

Reproduction: Mike & Judy Dye... Need help!! ... call the president to volunteer!!!

Advertising: Advertisers may inquire concerning ad rates and availability of space.



Houston Astronomical Society

P.O. Box 20332 • Houston, TX 77225-0332

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
STAFFORD, TX
77477
Permit No. 183