



February, 2003

At the **February 7** meeting...

Larry Mitchell

H.A.S. Member

***Volcanic Activity
&
Astronomical Events***

Houston Astronomical Society

GuideStar

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

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

★★★★★ **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 Treasurer: Debbie Moran H: 713-666-9428
 Vice Pres: Bill Leach H: 281-893-4057 Past President: Don Pearce H: 713-432-0734
 Secretary: Brian Cudnik H: 832- 912-1244

★★★★★★★★★ **Additional Board Members** ★★★★★★★★★

	Liaison responsibility
Bill Flanagan 713-699-8819	Telescope Loaner Program
Howard Leverenz 713-957-8667	
Jay Levy 281-557-4920	Field Trip and Observing, Program
Christopher Mendell 281-488-8906	
Steve Sartor 281-370-3544	

★★★★★★★★★ **Committee Chairpersons** ★★★★★★★★★

Audit Matt Delevoryas 713-666-9428	Program John Blubaugh
Education Richard Nugent 713-524-1993	Publicity Joe Khalaf
Field Tr./Obsg. Kenneth Miller	Telescope Clayton Jeeter
Novice George Stradley 281-376-5787	Welcoming Marg Nunez 713-529-2549
Observatory Michael Dye 281-498-1703 Hannah Lange 832-715-7833

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

Historian Leland Dolan 713-688-0981	Publ. Star Party Marg Nunez 713-529-2549
Librarian Peggy Gilchrist 281-443-8773	Rice U. Coord. Matt Delevoryas 713-666-9428
Logo Mds Sales Judy Dye 281-498-1703	Schedule Obs'v'ty Steve Goldberg 713-721-5077
Long Range Plan Bill Leach 281-893-4057	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.

★★★★★★★★★ **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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Check the web site:

<http://www.astronomyhouston.org>

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. 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	Don Pearce	713-432-0734
Lunar & Planetary	John Blubaugh	713-921-4275
Occultations & Grazes ...	Wayne Hutchison	713-827-0828
Advanced	Bill Leach	281-893-4057

Observations... of the editor

by *Bill Pellerin, GuideStar Editor*

My 'shallow sky' observing program continues... In the January, 2003 issue of *Astronomymagazine* (page 78) there's a fine list of double stars to check out. Not all of these are visible now, but many are and they represent very nice examples of doubles.

One of my favorites so far is Gamma Andromedae (Almach as primary), a 2.3 magnitude and a 4.8 magnitude star separated by 9.8" (easily split in small telescopes). This star is at the eastern end of the constellation, but it sets at 01:00 on 2/15/03. There's plenty of time to take in this beauty before it goes down.

This is a very high color contrast double, similar in appearance to Albireo (3.2 magnitude and 5.4 magnitude, separated by 32"), but closer together. Check this one out.

Later in the evening, check out Lambda Ori (Orion). This is a nice double consisting of two blue stars separated by only 4.4".

1/19/03 -- This was the full-moon weekend, which usually doesn't interfere with my observing activities. I had previously agreed to help with communications for the Houston Marathon, so I was working on that project this morning. As a result, I was up well before dawn, and managed to see the (nearly) full moon in the western part of the sky accompanied by Jupiter. In the southeast was Venus, glowing as bright as a searchlight. Very impressive!

There will soon be a HAS board meeting to sort out the future of this publication. The issues have to do with the cost of printing and mailing the *GuideStar* to you each month. The variables include: printing costs, mailing costs, availability of volunteers to help with the assembly and

Continued on page 14...

Houston Astronomical Society

***Meeting Notice
For Friday, February 7, 2003***

Larry Mitchell

***Volcanic Activity
&
Astronomical Events***

Is there any relationship between volcanic activity and astronomical events? Does the tidal pull of the sun and the moon conspire to trigger volcanoes? Larry has looked into this (in person), and will tell us all about it at the February meeting.

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.

**Site orientation meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Classroom 121**

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

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

February/March Calendar:



Photo by Scott Mitchell

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
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February 2003

1	4:48 a.m.	New Moon
1		Prime Night-Columbus
7	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H.
	8:00 p.m.	General membership meeting U of H. Larry Mitchell will be our speaker
9	5:11 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
16	5:51 p.m.	Full Moon
18	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG meeting, contact Bill Flanagan, 713-699-8819
22		Members Observatory Night- Columbus
23	10:46 a.m.	Last Quarter Moon

March 2003

1		Prime Night-Columbus
2	8:35 p.m.	New Moon
7	7:00 p.m.	Novice Presentation - U of H.
	8:00 p.m.	General membership meeting U of H.
11	1:15 a.m.	First Quarter Moon
18	4:34 a.m.	Full Moon
	7:30 p.m.	Advanced SIG meeting, contact Bill Flanagan, 713-699-8819
20	7:00 p.m.	Spring Equinox-sun moves north of celestial equator
24	9:51 p.m.	Last Quarter Moon
27	7:30 p.m.	HAS Board Meeting-Univ. of St. Thomas, Robertson Hall rm. 118
29		Members Observatory Night- Columbus

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

Wanted: Lunar Meteor Lookouts

By Brian Cudnik

H.A.S. Secretary

Coordinator of the A.L.P.O. Lunar Meteoritic Impact Search Section

In light of January's talk at the H.A.S. general membership meeting, I would like to encourage any one who is the least interested to keep watch on the moon for signs of impact events and report any such events to the e-mail address listed below. We have moved into the period of the year relatively devoid of meteor activity in Earth's skies, as well as the lunar surface. However, sporadic reports of impact phenomena, however unconfirmed, are received from time to time when someone casually observes the waxing crescent Moon with scope, looking for something else, but surprised to see a sudden, bright, flash of light on the moon. I am heading a campaign with a goal to monitor the Moon during a seven-day period each month, from about 3 days until 8 days after New Moon, for such activity. The dates of such periods for 2003 are included below, along with a list of annual showers for 2003 with an earthly ZHR of at least 10, during which the moon is favorably placed for observations. To start with, I would like to coordinate one to three days per month for monthly observing, and later we can increase the days per month if enough people are interested.



Although the ALPO/LMIS web page has all the information needed to get someone started in the observing of lunar meteors, I want to provide a few basics in this article to get people started. All that is needed at minimum is a small telescope, a hand-held tape recorder, and a radio able to pick up short wave WWV signals. The tape recorder and tapes can be picked up from Wal-Mart or some place similar. The shortwave radio can be bought at Radio Shack. The observations can be taken either visually with this equipment, or with a low-light CCD black-and-white video camera (examples include the Supercircuits PC23C and PC164 cameras). It is best to have the scope track the Moon, especially if one videotapes the moon, but

Continued....

Wanted... from previous page

it is not a requirement. Essentially what one does is similar to conventional meteor watching, except one is gazing through an eyepiece rather than gazing at the entire sky. If the observer is doing visual work like myself (I have not yet had the money to complete my video system...) one simply focuses on the part of the un-illuminated, but earthlit moon, watching for any impact flashes while recording the time signal from WWV and any comment, such as an impact event, that someone may see. If one is videotaping, it is important either to record the time on an audio track (shortwave radio broadcasting WWV) or have a time track inserted in the video stream (I do not know how to do this, but know someone in IOTA that can do this...). Record for a specific period of time, then later, at your convenience, play back and watch the tape for any events that you may have recorded. In both cases, the situation is similar to comet hunting, but if you get the privilege of witnessing one of these events personally, you will have seen something rarer than a great comet or total solar eclipse; if you see something and it is confirmed by another observer, you will join a very small group of people who have witnessed an explosion from nearly a quarter million miles away caused by a collision between a meteor and the Moon—and know exactly that the event was an impact.

The crucial point to remember is this...there should be at least two independent observers separated by 20 to 30 miles watching simultaneously. With this setup, in the event one records an impact, the other can check his/her observation or videotape for the confirming observation. Without two or more independent observers recording an event at the same location on the moon (within about 3 deg long/lat) and at the same time, within a second or two, there is no way to know whether what one records is actually an impact event. Several things can mimic an impact event, such as point-like cosmic ray flashes on CCD's or even on one's retina (I have seen these before, and many of my visual candidates are likely in my head, literally); even point meteors serendipitously placed or sunlight reflected off of satellites or space junk can show up as an apparent impact event. If a candidate is spotted, record the time, and the location on the Moon using the blank moon map found at the ALPO/LMIS website. If videotaping, it is a good idea to move to the bright part briefly every so often to enable better pinpointing of a location of a candidate event. When the earthshine is bright and the maria are visible, this is not as necessary.

Continued...

Wanted... *from previous page*

I am, as of this writing, awaiting the result of a proposal I submitted to NASA last June for funding for a systematic, detailed study of lunar meteoritic phenomena. One of the main activities of this proposal is to equip ten amateurs, including myself (and they have already been selected) with identical equipment, including a program to pick lunar meteor candidates off videotapes (which is not commercially available, unfortunately). If this is funded, observations will be carried out during the time intervals given below. Additional support observers are always needed, and if you are interested, please contact me, Brian Cudnik, at xflare@earthlink.net

The link to the ALPO/LMIS web site is the following URL:
<http://www.lpl.arizona.edu/~rhill/alpo/lunarstuff/lunimpacts.html>

Also, if you want to join the lunar impact list server, which I moderate, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lunar-impact/> and follow the instructions to sign in. I approve each one who wants to sign up, so if you want to contact me directly and ask me to add you to the list, this may be faster. We have occasional discussions concerning lunar impact phenomena and how to observe it effectively. I also send out newsletter-like blurbs from time to time as well, which includes updates before they show up for the rest of the world to see on the main ALPO website.

The tables of active observing times for the monthly watch and the annual showers follow. The latter contains the following information: the shower name, peak as observed from Earth in UT time and date (2003), approximate time of local moonrise or set with respect to sunrise or set, the earthly ZHR, the percentage of the hemisphere facing into the meteor stream that is observable from Earth, and the polar graze angle.

Campaign Dates: Monthly 2003

New Moon

Jan 02
Feb 01
Mar 03
Apr 01

Observing Dates

Jan 05 - 12
Feb 04 - 11
Mar 06 - 13
Apr 04 - 11

Continued...

***Wanted**... from previous page*

New Moon

May 01 & 31
Jun 29
Jul 29
Aug 27
Sep 26
Oct 25
Nov 23
Dec 23

Observing Dates

May 04 – 11 & Jun 03 – 10
Jul 02 – 09
Aug 01 – 08
Aug 31 – Sep 07
Sep 30 – Oct 07
Oct 29 – Nov 05
Nov 27 – Dec 04
Dec 27 – Jan 03, 2004

Annual Meteor Showers With the Moon Favorably Placed

Lyrids 16:27 Apr 22 UT: Moon rises 6.7 hrs before sunrise. ZHR = 15,
15% impacts on unlit near side w/polar graze = 56 deg.

eta Aquarids 11:23 May 6 UT: Moon sets 3.6 hrs after sunset. ZHR
= 60, 29% impacts on unlit near side w/polar graze = 6 deg .

Daylight Arietids 21:48, Jun 7 UT: Moon sets 6.0 hrs after sunset.
ZHR = 100, 6% impacts on unlit near side w/polar graze = 6 deg.

Daytime zeta Perseids & Arietids 21:28 Jun 9 UT: Moon sets 7.8
hrs after sunset. ZHR = 100, 1% impacts on unlit near side w/polar
graze = 2 deg.

Aurigids 11:38 Sep 1 UT: Moon sets 4.2 hrs after sunset. ZHR = 10,
36% impacts on unlit near side w/polar graze = 19 deg.

Sextantids 20:50 Sep 27 UT: Moon sets 1.6 hrs after sunset. ZHR =
10, 7% impacts on unlit near side w/polar graze = -9 deg.

Orionids 0:37 Oct 21 UT: Moon rises 3.3 hrs before sunrise. ZHR =
20, 28% impacts on unlit near side w/polar graze = -6 deg.

Geminids 11:06 Dec 14 UT: Moon rises 7.8 hrs before sunrise. HR =
1208% impacts on unlit near side w/polar graze = 11 deg.

Observatory Corner



By Michael B. Dye Observatory Chairman



I am trying to get this Article out on time, which means that the only thing I have to talk (write) about is the Annual Meeting at the Observatory Site on January 4th of this year. The members attending were Matt Delevoryas, John Hiatt, Kirk Kendrick, Edward Preston, Robert Rogers and me. We had one visitor, in the person of Steve Sartor. The final member of our meeting was Don Selle, who answered my plea for a volunteer to become a new Site Supervisor. The addition of Don to

our Site Supervisor list still leaves us short one Site Supervisor so Kirk Kendrick and I will share the sixth Site Supervisor months.

After going over the stuff left over from last year some discussion was had on how to overcome the fact that the last work week (2002) was a total disaster. The fact that nobody showed up (except me) was made worse by the fact that I overstressed myself moving some dirt, got sick, and missed the Annual Picnic, which was the next day. The moral to that story is that if one has been a desk jockey for the last 10 or so years one should not try and move about three yards of dirt by one's self. The solution to not having a work week will be solved by having work weekends. The problems that need to be fixed at the Site this year are:

- Sand blast and Paint the Observatory
- Repair the Bunkhouse Roof
- Install the Culvert warning lights
- Fix the Site fence (keep the cows out)
- Install Sweeps on the bathroom door
- Fix Observatory Red Lights
- Reinstall Observatory ground

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with any of these activities, please call me. The walk around the Observatory was cut short because we ran out of time.

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Observatory Corner... from previous page

As I reported last month, the C-14 is installed and functional. The problem is that the scope was removed in order to install a new set of bushings on the fork pivot points (Declination axis). Allen Gilchrist has removed the scope, got the new bushings modified and will install the scope back in the Observatory on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of January. This is a Full Moon weekend, so no one will miss anything. I hope we will start retraining classes shortly after the scope is operational. Please contact Steve Goldberg (whose phone number can be found in the inside front cover of the *GuideStar*) to sign up for the Training's. Training Dates will be announced later. The trainers will likely be Allen Gilchrist, Bob Rogers and Matt Delevoryas.

I have talked to Marge Nunez and she is still working on the Banquet. It will likely be in March.

The Society continues to benefit from members who shop at Randalls. For this we (the Society) thanks you. Please link your Randalls card to the Houston Astronomical Society so that the society can benefit from the 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. We are also in the process of getting a Kroger number that does the same thing for Kroger. A new person has volunteered to spearhead this effort so we may have Kroger card yet.

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.

Want Ads

For Sale: **14.5" Starsplitter II** dobsonian. Beautiful telescope with Galaxy optics, 2" focuser, Telrad, 7x50 finder, custom-made bags for secondary ring and truss-tubes, shroud. This is one of the last Galaxy mirrors made in this size. Asking \$1600 (compare with \$3200 for current 15" Starsplitter).

Also: **8" LX-200** (non-GPS). 2" diagonal, carry bag for telescope, RS-232 cable, all original equipment. Excellent condition. Asking \$1000.

Call Bill Pellerin at 713-880-8061 or email at BillP10566@aol.com

Marg's Star Parties

Here's your chance to share your enthusiasm for astronomy with some school kids. Marg Nunez has planned events for the near future. Bring your telescope, or just come by... Either way, you'll have a great time.

Call or Email Marg. for more details. 713-529-2549
Marg10@flash.net

Observations... from page 4

mailing, the budget, and member's willingness to support these costs. If you have any thoughts on this matter, send an email to the prez. His email address is on the web page.

You may notice that I've placed 'for sale' ads in this issue indicating my willingness to part with two telescopes that I've had for a long time. This does not mean that I've given up observing, quite the contrary. I've decided that I have too much equipment, and that I can do what I want to do without these instruments. (Did I mention that I got a new refractor?)

If you're overloaded with equipment, send me an ad and I'll put it in the next *GuideStar*. You'll be giving someone else an opportunity to acquire instruments that match their observing programs, and you'll benefit from the clean-out of the spare bedroom.

Until next time... clear skies and new moons!

..Bill

Minutes of the H.A.S. General Membership Meeting 03 January 2003

The Meeting was called to order at 8:19pm; this was followed by a brief introduction of the club.

The Announcements follow:

- ⇒ Marg informed the membership of the refreshments in the back of the meeting room as well as two star parties to take place in January. A signup sheet was passed around for suggestions for this year's annual banquet. There is electrical power at both star party sites which include:
 - Strack Intermediate, Friday 10 January at 7:30p.m., located at 18027 Kuykendahl, between Cypresswood and Luetta.
 - Johnston Middle School, Thursday 30 January at 7:30p.m.
 - Dinner starts at 6:30p.m. both evenings

- ⇒ Don Pearce gave the comet report:
 - Kudo-Fujikawa, at magnitude 6.6 is in Hercules, moving southeast into Aquila. It rises at 5am and sets at 7pm. Tom Fox, observing from the H.A.S. dark site this evening, attempted to observe this comet, but the comet had become too low by the time it was dark enough to view it.
 - C/2002 V1 (NEAT) is at magnitude 8.5 and a fine evening object, rising at noon and setting around midnight. Tom Fox observed the comet this evening

Continued...

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about a half hour before this announcement was made and reports that it has an apparent magnitude of 8 and a coma diameter of 2 arc minutes, with a moderate condensation and slight elongation. This comet is moving westward through Pisces. It is a sungrazer, with a perihelion date of February 17, when it will be as bright at magnitude 1.5, but only 0.10 AU from the sun.

- The IAUC 8039 reports the discovery of a comet, C/2002 Y1 (Juels-Holvorcem) by amateur astronomers using a 5-inch f/5.0 reflector and a CCD camera. The comet, currently at magnitude 15, reaches perihelion on April 10, at a distance of 0.67 AU, but is expected to get no brighter than magnitude 10.

- ⇒ Kirk Kendrick showed the membership the telescope loaner program website. Each telescope has a picture and a description. The web site, accessible from the H.A.S. website, is currently being put together. Clayton Jeter is the Loaner Scope chairman, with Bill Flanagan the assistant chair.

- ⇒ Kirk Kendrick also announced the availability of five scopes at the club's observing site near Columbus. The C-14 is currently being repaired, and anyone interested in using the scope once it is ready was asked to contact Bob Rodgers or Michael Dye for training.

- ⇒ Six new members were introduced; each gave their name and how each found out about the club.

- ⇒ No visitors were present.

Continued...

Minutes... from previous page

- ⇒ Michael Dye announced the annual Observatory Committee meeting to take place on January 4 at the Observatory site at 2:30p.m. All members are welcome to participate.
- ⇒ James Wooten announced that Saturn would be passing in front of the Crab Nebula on January 4/5.
- ⇒ There will be an occultation of a 7.7-magnitude star by a magnitude 12.3 asteroid on the evening of Friday, January 10. More information, including what one can do if one is interested in contributing observations, is at www.eclipssetours.com.
- ⇒ Judy Dye announced that the logo sales in December were very successful, with \$710 taken in. She thanked the membership and said that the sale was still on for the current meeting.

John Blubaugh introduced the speaker, Brian Cudnik, who gave a talk entitled "Lunar Meteoritic Phenomena".

Door prizes were awarded after a brief break.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:55p.m.

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	713-688-0981
	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	713-688-0981
	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
Telescopes	Clayton Jeter	281-383-1337
Variable Stars	Barbara Wilson	281-933-1289
	Tom Williams	713-526-2868
Video	Larry Mitchell	281-448-8700

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!

Other Meetings...

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://www.fbac.org>

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>

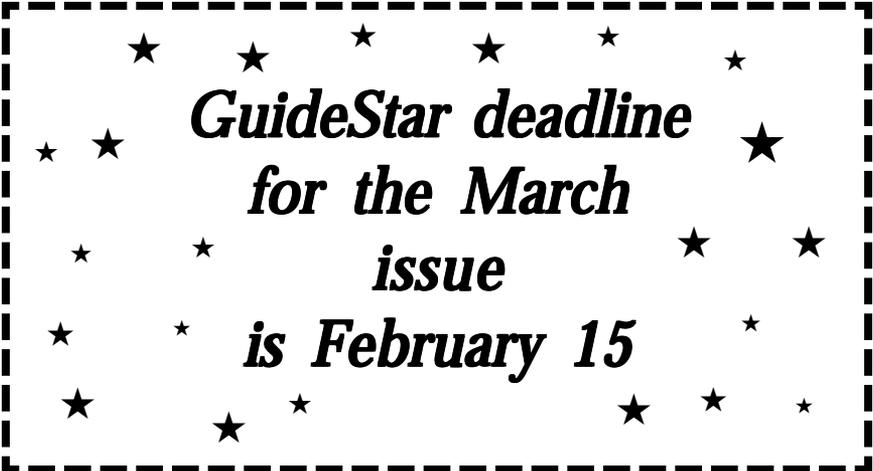
North Houston Astronomy Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Friday of each month in the Teaching Theatre of the Student Center at Kingwood College. Call 281-312-1650 or E-mail bill.leach@nhmccd.edu. Web site: www.astronomyclub.org

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



***GuideStar deadline
for the March
issue
is February 15***

Observatory Duty Roster

by Michael B. Dye, Observatory Chairman

This is the duty list for February, March and April. 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.

February Supervisor Kirk Kendrick 281-391-3834

(Will most likely change)

Warren Wundt	Site		
Joe Blubaugh	Members	Observatory Night	02-22-03
Ken Carey	Site		
John Chauvin	Site		
Art Ciampi	Members	Observatory Night	02-22-03
Brian Cudnik	Members	Observatory Night	02-22-03

March Supervisor Allen Gilchrist 281-443-8773

Gary Delzer	Site		
George M. Dolson	Site		
Ken Drake	Site		
Jean-Marc Follini	Members	Observatory Night	03-29-03
Fred Garcia	Members	Observatory Night	03-29-03
Stanley Jones	Members	Observatory Night	03-29-03

April Supervisor Michael B. Dye 281-498-1703

Keith Jurgens	Site		
Arnie Kaestner	Members	Observatory Night	04-19-03
David Kahlich	Site		
Dana Lambert	Site		
Howard Leverenz	Site		
Jay Levy	Members	Observatory Night	04-19-03
Mary Lockwood	Members	Observatory Night	04-19-03
Christopher Mendell	Site		
Robert Menius	Site		
Kenneth Miller	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.

Logo Sales

The Logo Sales is extending the Discount Sale.

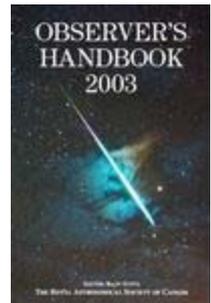
The following items are on sale for the indicated prices. In most cases these prices are almost 50 percent less than the original list price.

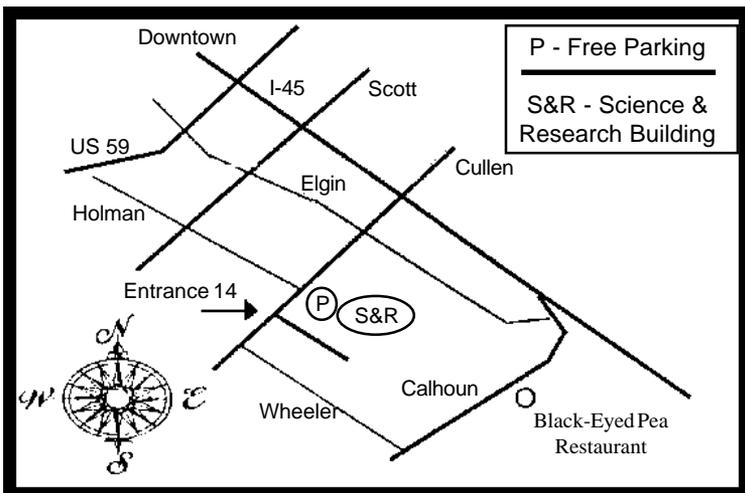
Astronomy Day T-shirts	\$8.00 each
Koozies	\$2.00 each
Magnetic Signs	\$12.00 each
Peel-N-Stick Logo	\$1.00 for four
Thermal Cups - 22 oz	\$3.00 each

SPECIAL

Hooded Sweatshirts	\$3.00 off
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If you don't have your 2003 Observer's Handbook yet, get your copy at the February meeting. You won't want to be at the observatory site without it!!





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. *GuideStaris* 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. *GuideStaris* 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.

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