



ECLIPSE



The Newsletter of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society

Celebrating our 75th Year in 2003

October 2003

October Membership Meeting

The meeting of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society will be on October 16, 2003 at Dyer Observatory at 1000 Oman Drive. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

We are fortunate to have Dr. David Fields of Roane State Community College and the Tanke-Allen Observatory as our speaker. Dr. Fields will be speaking on the wide range of activities he conducts at Roane State, including both optical and radio astronomy, as well as astrophotography. This is an excellent opportunity to get ideas for new astronomy outreach programs for our club, and to compare notes on fighting light pollution in Tennessee.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joseph M. Boyd, Jr.

First, let me express my appreciation to you, the members of BSAS, for your confidence in electing me to a second year as president of the Society. We have a great Board of Directors for this coming year, and I look forward to working with them as well as with all of the members of this great organization.

Next, I want to thank all of you who worked so hard to make the Tennessee Star Party 2003 such a success. I have not seen a financial report on the event yet, but the reactions of those who attended were very favorable. The weather was not the best, but there was a fantastic array of speakers who had obviously worked hard on their presentations and gave us some cutting edge reports on what is happening in astronomy today. Lloyd Watkins, as chair of the event, and Rocky Alvey, the previous chair, spent many hours setting up the event, and I would be remiss if I did not give thanks to Kathy Watkins who helped Lloyd, handled much of the paperwork when he was away, and did all of the registration on Friday.

A large number of our BSAS members actually worked on the star party in various capacities, and some were actually on the program as speakers. Dennis Williams, Bill Griswold, Doug Hall, Kris McCall, Tim Ferris, Rob Knop, and Rocky Alvey made presentations, and all of them deserve our thanks and appreciation. Greg Selah set up a Star Party Messier Marathon for the two nights, and did an outstanding job of organizing and promoting it. Others, such as Evelyn Wright, worked all day Saturday on registration.

I also want to give special accolades to Kris McCall. Kris took the portable planetarium and set it up in the Vendor's Pavilion, and gave several presentations to various groups. She even gave a special two hour presentation to a group of young people who were simply fascinated by her show, during which she answered tons of questions.

As we get started in our new year in BSAS, I want to set out some of the goals I have in mind for our organization in the coming months. Some of these can be accomplished in the next twelve months. Others will take longer, but can be started this year. I will present these to the Board of Directors at the October meeting for their consideration and discussion. They are in no particular order.

1. The Long Range Planning Committee should present to the membership a set of goals and objectives for the next five years. We need to know exactly where we are going.
2. We must make absolutely certain that proper records are kept of everything we do.
3. We should implement a computerized accounting system which will show the source of all income, the itemized expenditures by budget classification, and the status of the finances of all of our accounts at any time.
4. We need a computerized system of membership records which will have one person who can make all entries and changes, but have the records easily accessible to the treasurer, membership chair, president, and others

Continued on Page 5

In This Newsletter

Meeting Announcement	1
From the President	1
What are Sun Spots?	2
Minutes Regular BOD Meeting	3
Clear Skies and Clear Eyes	4
Elections	6
Sales Tax	6
Minutes Membership Meeting	7
Minutes Special BOD Meeting	9
Some Special Star Parties	9
Activities and Events	10

A request was made by Ilse Cleaves on the TN Astronomy (Yahoo! Group) for information and asking "Just what are Sun spots?" The request was not addresses to anyone in particular and our Rocky Alvey wrote the following answer to her question by email. I thought the response was so great that I have included it in the Eclipse.

What are Sunspots?

By Rocky Alvey

Due to the temperature of the Sun, the Sun's material is ionized, atoms are stripped of their electrons which creates charged particles both + and -. These charged areas which flow around the Sun, create magnetic fields. The flow of these magnetic fields is fairly complex, but for the sake of simplicity, imagine that the north and south magnetic pole of the Sun is a large loop, like a rubber band stretched from top to bottom, actually a dipole. As the Sun rotates those magnetic field lines start wrapping around the Sun. They are being dragged around the Sun and stretched by differential rotation, (the equator and poles do not rotate at the same rate). A north south field line will wrap the Sun in about 8 months. Now, also imagine that not only are the field lines being dragged around the Sun, but at different layers there are flows of ionized gas in different directions than that of rotation. The zone of flow between the radiative zone and the convective zone is where it is now believed the magnetic regions originate. This zone is called the interface layer.

The migration of sunspots from higher latitudes early in the solar cycle to nearer the equator during the peak of the solar cycle is very well known. No one can say positively why this happens, but it probably has something to do with the connection between the tensions created between the wrapping of north/south field lines and the internal flows in the interface layer. The flows which are meridional, or from north to south, carry parts of the north magnetic field to the south and parts of the south magnetic field to the north until at solar maximum, it flips. At that point, the south field becomes stronger in the region previously known as the north and vice versa.

As far as sunspots emitting radiation, they are still very hot and emit plenty of radiation. They are just not quite as hot as their surrounding environment. Sunspots are often measured with instruments that detect the strength of their magnetic fields. The Sun magnetic field is about as strong as a refrigerator magnet. A sunspot can be dozens to over a hundred times stronger. Being magnetically stronger, it traps the flow of hot materials flowing up from the convective zone and causes it to cool by not being allowed to refresh.

How all these things work together to produce a 22 year cycle is still being investigated. Now they can measure some of what is happening in the interior of the Sun with instruments such as GONG. At Dyer, we regularly look at the strength of magnetic fields in certain active regions. These resources are available on the web to anyone <http://www.spaceweather.com/> and numerous other places such as the SOHO website.

This explanation is probably inadequate, but it is getting late and I need to head home from the observatory. Play with some magnets and iron filings on paper to see field lines. You can even create something similar to a sunspot.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR BSAS MEMBERS

We are always able to accept requests for new and renewal yearly subscriptions to SKY AND TELESCOPE and ASTRONOMY from our members in good standing.

The current yearly rates are as follows:
SKY AND TELESCOPE: \$29.95
ASTRONOMY: \$29.00

Checks or Money Orders should be made out to the Barnard Seyfert Astronomical Society (BSAS) and sent to the following address:

BSAS
P. O. Box 150713
Nashville, TN 37215-0713

DUES INFORMATION

On your Eclipse mailing label is the expiration date for your current membership in the BSAS. There will be a two month grace period before any member's name is removed from the current mailing list. You will be receiving a number of warnings informing you that your membership is expiring.

Dues are \$20.00 per year for Regular and Family memberships and \$15.00 per year for Seniors (over 60 years of age), and \$10.00 for students (under 22 years of age). Please call President, Joe Boyd, (615) 386-3134 if you have questions. Dues can be sent to:

BSAS
P. O. Box 150713
Nashville, TN 37215-0713

THE ECLIPSE NEWSLETTER

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Joe Boyd, President
John Harrington, Vice President
Jill Thompson, Secretary
Lonnie Puterbaugh, Treasurer
Powell Hall, Immediate Past President

Board of Directors

Mike Benson
JanaRuth Ford
Bill Griswold
Kris McCall
Greg Selah
Pam Thomas

Logo Photograph:
Francisco Diego

Regular Meeting of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society Board of Directors on September 4, 2003

The regular monthly meeting of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society's Board of Directors was called to order by President Joe Boyd at 7:50 PM on Thursday September 4, 2003 at the Jefferson Square Clubhouse. A quorum was present consisting of board members Joe Boyd, Powell Hall, Jill Thompson, Greg Selah, Jana Ruth Ford, Kris McCall, John Harrington, and Bill Griswold. The guests present were Jim Frasher, Lonnie Puterbaugh, Dennis Williams, Lloyd Watkins, and Kathy Watkins. All are BSAS members. The minutes of the August board meeting were approved as presented. There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer.

Jill Thompson passed out a final statement for ALCON 2003, commenting that the only item outstanding is the reimbursement of speaker expenses for Ron Wodaski.

Joe Boyd announced that he had received word from Bob Gent that IDA Middle Tennessee has been formally approved. The first meeting is set for Saturday September 13, 2003 at 2 P.M.

Lonnie Puterbaugh announced that there would be a joint meeting of the Long Range Planning Committee and the Equipment and Facilities Committee on Wednesday, September 10 at 7:30 P.M. at Jefferson Square Condominiums Clubhouse.

Joe Boyd announced that Greg Selah will take over the membership records and should be appointed as Assistant Secretary, which will allow him to take care of membership records without breaking the bylaws. Joe also announced that he wants to revise the dues structure, and that Brock and Rachel Schippers will be preparing a new member kit. In addition, without objection from the Board, Joe appointed Greg Selah as acting chair of the Membership Committee pending contact with Tom Murdic. Greg has the interim authority to call membership meetings and act as Membership Chair for the society.

From the Mentoring Committee, Janaruth Ford announced that she would like to prepare an anonymous survey to assess the knowledge of club members and determine in which areas of knowledge members are weak or strong. She mentioned a sample survey from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Program Committee Chair John Harrington announced that speakers have scheduled for the membership meetings for the rest of the year, with the exception of October. Contact has been made with Loren Ball in regard to speaking, but no response has been received yet. Lloyd Watkins suggested that the business portion of the meeting be held until after the speaker. Joe and John indicated that they had intended to make this switch and assured everyone that the September membership meeting would be arranged this way.

John Harrington, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced that his committee had met and made the nominations for the open Board Member position and club officer elections in September. Pam Thomas was nominated to fill the position left vacant by Jill Thompson upon assuming the Secretary role from Evelyn Wright. The Board Member positions of Bill Griswold and Kris McCall are expiring and they have both agreed to run for additional 3-year terms. Joe Boyd and John Harrington were recommended to second terms as President and Vice-President respectively. Jill Thompson was nominated to a full term as Secretary, with the acknowledgement that she may have to step down as Secretary if her employer assigns her to Guam in 2004. Lonnie Puterbaugh was nominated to fill the position of Treasurer. Bill Griswold moved to elect Pam Thomas to the recommended position. Greg Selah and John Harrington seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Elections for the other posts will be held at the regular monthly membership meeting on 18 September. It was also announced that John Green assumed the Chairmanship of the Outreach and Liaison Committee at the beginning of the month.

Kris McCall had recommended an additional outreach program at the Adventure Science Center on Saturday, September 6 from 10 P.M. to 12 A.M. to accommodate the large number of people interested in seeing Mars. Joe Boyd contacted all Board Members and received unanimous approval for this activity. John Harrington moved to officially ratify approval of the activity and Powell Hall seconded the motion. Kris reminded those present that the media advisory had already gone out by e-mail and asked that they forward it to everyone in their address books. A very large crowd is expected. She has not talked to Chuck Schlemm yet, but will get the advertising out for TNSP 2003. It has been prominently placed on the back of ASC star charts.

Lloyd Watkins announced that 60 people have signed up for TNSP, with a total present income of \$2789. There was also discussion of additional advertising, with Kris McCall making several suggestions.

In regard to the BSAS co-sponsorship of the Seyfert Lecture Series, Joe Boyd commented that Mrs. DeWitt should be invited to the luncheon that the BSAS will host. Pam Thomas and Bill Griswold will work on preparations for this. It was also noted that this lecture is in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Dyer Observatory in December of 2003. The Seyfert Lecture will be held on 4 December. Those present were informed that David Ernst has also invited all club members to attend the Slack Lecture at Vanderbilt University on 25 September to hear speaker Michael Turner.

CLEAR SKIES AND CLEAR EYES

By Lonnie Puterbaugh

Apparently, many of our members, particularly those who have joined recently, do not understand some of the terminology being used regarding outreach, public star party, mentoring, or Messier Marathon. Let me try to explain what we in the BSAS mean by those terms and how they apply to us.

The Messier Marathon is not meant to be “outreach”. It is an annual event held near the New Moon each March for the sole satisfaction of our own members. This is not to say that the Outreach Committee will not benefit from the Marathon. Participating in the challenge should enable our members to become more proficient in the operation and use of their own personal equipment, and increase their knowledge of the sky and thus to better explain it to the public. Completing the marathon requires each individual to acquire an object every six minutes on average for a period of about 11 hours straight. This is not easy for those who haven’t done it before and who aren’t organized in how to do it. It is much easier for those with fully electronic scopes, but some of our more experienced members with fully manual dobsonian telescopes can even outperform them. This is especially true when the electronic scopes are in the hands of persons who are not very familiar with their operation. We don’t expect everyone to “go the distance” in this event. In fact, very few people have ever seen all 110 or even 109 in one night. Breaking the 100 mark is outstanding for experienced amateurs. For beginners, breaking 50 is outstanding.

Public star parties are for public outreach. By outreach, we mean that we who are amateur astronomers conduct activities designed to educate members of the public by showing them what we do and the wonders of the cosmos. One way we do this is by public star parties, at which we set up our equipment and invite the public to come and look and let us answer their questions.

I am hoping we can ramp up to several outreach activities per month over the next year. This does not mean that everyone in our club must participate in every event. We now have a large pool of resources to draw from. Some of us will be able to participate in all of them and some will go to every other one or perhaps only one a month. Some of us have been doing several per month already. The Dyer Observatory public events are held twice per month and some of our members are helping there. Those events are not sponsored by BSAS, but some of our members choose to volunteer and help out. We also have our normal Long Hunter State Park, Warner Park, and Adventure Science Center public parties. I would like to see the BSAS eventually visit local schools, scout troops, and other groups once or twice a month. Many people who have visited our existing parties recently, have requested this type of activity from our group. Outreach isn’t all that our club is about, but it does play a very significant role in what we do.

For example, Joe Boyd has suggested that we institute some more informal “sidewalk astronomy” nights where we pick a place and meet. Whoever comes is fine and we could eat or just have some good coffee or hot chocolate — sound like fun? There are some major events, such as the recent Mars events, and some other high profile comet-associated events that will require us to rally the troops, but in most cases, we just need to have about ten scopes there and we will be fine. For the sidewalk astronomy, even one or two scopes may be enough! In that case, we aren’t announcing where we will be and doing lots of promotion; we’re just showing up and educating people about the sky and letting them know we exist. We will go to a restaurant or store that is open at night and set up our scopes on the sidewalk and let the people coming out of the restaurant look at the sky. I know this goes on already with some of our members.

The role of our Mentoring Committee is entirely different, since its purpose is to educate our own members, with particular emphasis on our newest members, some of whom have very little experience in astronomy and need guidance in learning to observe as well as what equipment they should purchase. We have talked about mentoring for several years, but now we have a committee that is actually going to organize and carry it out. Obviously, this requires the participation of many of our more experienced members, many of whom have been into astronomy for many years and have a lot of good advice to contribute.

President's Message, continued from Page 1

- who need access to them. State law requires that a list of our members be available for inspection by any member, and this would satisfy that requirement.
5. We need to have a new member's kit for every new member, and improve the way we absorb new members into the club.
 6. An active mentoring program should be organized and utilized. Our new Mentoring Committee chair is enthused about this and is already working on setting up the program.
 7. We need to decide what our relationship with Dyer Observatory should be, and then implement it. We also need to determine what our relationship with Adventure Science Center, Warner Parks, Long Hunter State Park, Radnor Lake Park, and the other colleges and universities in this area should be.
 8. We have already agreed to work with the Vanderbilt Department of Physics and Astronomy in sponsoring the annual Seyfert Lecture series. In this regard, we need to set some goals and implement them.
 9. We need to increase our efforts to gain more and better publicity for the BSAS and for astronomy in general.
 10. We should offer to send some of our members into the various schools to encourage interest in astronomy.
 11. We need to have our own headquarters, where we can store our equipment, work on our equipment, and keep our files and records. We may consider combining it with some type of observatory. We should consider having a facility that is available for club use for observing meteor showers and other special astronomical events, and one that is suitable and available for public star parties.
 12. We need to actively seek to acquire, by donation or purchase, equipment to loan to our members. We must set membership requirements and reasonable qualifications for all loaner equipment. We should consider setting up a trust fund for accepting certain contributions, with very strict limitations on how the funds and income will be spent.
 13. We must actively promote contributions to BSAS, such as memorial donations and contributions to honor living people.
 14. It is time we set up a revised, simplified, and realistic dues structure.
 15. We need to set goals to have more social events for our own members. We have an active Hospitality Committee, which should be encouraged and supported in its efforts.
 16. It is time we make plans and recommendations for organized classes for amateurs on subjects ranging from basic to advanced astronomy.
 17. Many of our members would like to do actual scientific research in astronomy. They should be encouraged and supported by the Society in their efforts. Grants might be available to the Society to help in this project.
 18. Every effort should be made to obtain grants from various sources to assist BSAS in our outreach programs. This should be a high priority.
 19. Our outreach efforts should be expanded. This can be done both alone as well as by working with other entities such as Sudekum Planetarium and Warner Parks. Local schools could be contacted to ask about their ideas, needs, and wishes. In addition, I would like to see a "sidewalk astronomy" program carried out. It needs very little organization, and few members at a time, but it can generate enormous good will in the public.
 20. We need to put more emphasis on utilizing the many talents in our organization. We have several CPAs, physicians, lawyers, engineers, and other professional people as well as specialists in many fields. Our membership program should enable us to be able to locate any specialty we want, and to request that help for the Society.
 21. BSAS needs a logo which can be used in all of its promotional materials as well as the web site, to give the Society an identity in the public eye.
 22. BSAS has an illustrious history, but few of our members and even fewer members of the public know anything about it. A history committee or BSAS historian should be appointed and authorized to prepare a comprehensive history of the Society.
 23. There needs to be an analysis of the Tennessee Star Party to determine its future course. The goals and objectives of the event should be clarified, and advance planning for future Tennessee Star Parties should be provided.
 24. Consideration should be given to obtaining state of the art audio visual equipment, for use at our meetings as well as in our outreach programs.
 25. The work of our Dark Sky Committee has resulted in the formation of a Middle Tennessee Section of the International Dark Sky Association. The BSAS, through the Committee, should work with the new Section.

These are my dreams for the BSAS for the coming year. We welcome the input of all of our members as we seek to carry out the Society's work for this next year.

Regular Board of Director's Meeting, continued from page 3

Since the BSAS booth set up has been very successful in the past few weeks, Powell Hall moved that Lonnie Puterbaugh be authorized to purchase a 10' X 10' Quickshade Set for the club for approximately \$100. John Harrington and Janaruth Ford seconded the motion. Greg Selah amended the motion to state that an additional \$40 be added to the fee in order to purchase red lights for the booth as well. The amendment was seconded and passed unanimously, as did the amended motion.

Kris McCall requested that the Board consider whether or not it wishes to plan any additional activities at Long Hunter State Park in the next few months, adding that she did not wish to over-extend the club members.

Joe Boyd noted that the domain name of the web site is expiring and that he will ask Tony Campbell to take care of this. He then indicated that amendment of the budget and adoption of the statement of policy for the web site will be postponed to a future meeting.

Lloyd Watkins inquired as to whether the BSAS will be hosting a picnic this year and Joe Boyd indicated that he would e-mail Pam Thomas to organize this.

Greg Selah and Bill Griswold were authorized to investigate the Panorama software package with the intent to determine whether it is suitable to keep track of membership. A motion to purchase this software has been previously approved and rescinded. The suggestion was made to discuss this further at a future meeting before a purchase is approved.

With no objection, Joe Boyd declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Thompson, Secretary

ELECTIONS HELD

At the annual membership meeting of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society, Joe Boyd was reelected president, John Harrington was reelected vice-president, Jill Thompson was elected secretary for a full term, and Lonnie Puterbaugh was elected treasurer. The two outgoing directors, Kris McCall and Bill Griswold, were reelected for three year terms. Powell Hall will continue for another year as the immediate past president. All of the officers and the two directors were nominated by the Nominating Committee, which stated that its members felt that the Society has a winning team that should be continued. Each of the officers was elected one at a time, to allow nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

Immediately after the conclusion of the ALCON 03 project, Jill Thompson was elected secretary by the Board of Directors to replace Evelyn Wright, who resigned for personal reasons. Therefore, she had served only a fraction of a year. The nominating committee commended her for her excellent work and for continuing in the tradition of Evelyn Wright, who had been earlier commended for the faithful and accurate minutes she kept. Lonnie Puterbaugh succeeds A.G. Kasselberg, who was president prior to Powell Hall, as the treasurer. A.G. was thanked for his hard work in straightening out the financial records of the Society.

After the elections, President Joe Boyd made a brief statement to the members, thanking them for their confidence and pledging to continue the work that was commenced at the time he took office. He thanked the committees which have been meeting regularly, and strongly encouraged the remaining committees to start meeting right away.

Minutes for Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society Monthly Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2003

The monthly membership meeting was called to order by Joe Boyd at 7:30 P.M. in the library of Dyer Observatory, with an introduction of visitors Billy and Stephanie Ball; Ed and Mary English; Jeff Stewart; John and Andrew Stern; and Robin and Matthew Kumar. In contrast to previous meetings, speaker Greg Henry, from Tennessee State University, introduced by Presentations Committee Chair John Harrington, gave his presentation before the business portion of the meeting. Professor Henry gave a presentation entitled "Extrasolar Planets, The First 100: What do we know about worlds beyond our solar system?" Among other things, Professor Henry indicated that he would like help in making photometric observations and put out an offer to BSAS members who might be interested in helping him look for planets around other stars. His presentation concluded at 9:15 P.M.

Shortly after, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as presented. Joe Boyd made the following announcements. Pam Thomas had been appointed as the newest member of the Board of Directors, to fill the position vacated by Jill Thompson. The Adventure Science Center decided to move the location of the November 8 star party from the Adventure Science Center to Warner Park. Volunteers will be needed to set up scopes at that event. It was also announced that the volunteer procedure for Dyer Public Nights has changed. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Nancy Dwyer at the Observatory and she will schedule volunteers as needed. Joe mentioned that Dr. David Ernst, the Chair of the Physics and Astronomy Department at Vanderbilt, has invited the BSAS to participate in 2 events, the first of which overlaps with the Tennessee Star Party (TNSP) this year. Joe reiterated Greg Henry's invitation to participate in research with Tennessee State University. He then commented that there was also still plenty of opportunity to plan events with Long Hunter State Park.

Joe Boyd announced that the nametags for the club are missing and he requested that members try to locate them.

It was also announced that Tony Campbell is the new web master. Brock and Rachel Schippers and Bill Griswold were thanked for their work on the new BSAS brochure, and it was noted the Brock and Rachel are now working on a new member kit.

Joe announced there are plans for a new membership committee chair and he hopes to see increased activity from that committee in the future. He also made a very important announcement about the BSAS tax status. Bob Rice and John Harrington have been diligently completing the forms for state tax-exempt status. Their forms were so perfect and their arguments so erudite, that the tax-exempt status was easily granted in only ten minutes.

Powell Hall gave a brief report on the recent formation of the Middle Tennessee International Darksky Association and its recent meeting. He also announced that the BSAS darksky committee meets the first Tuesday of every month.

John Harrington, Chair of the nominating committee, then announced the nominations for the 2003 BSAS officer and board elections. Joe Boyd and John Harrington were nominated to serve second terms as President and Vice-President, respectively. Jill Thompson was nominated to serve a full term as secretary and Lonnie Puterbaugh was nominated as Treasurer. Bill Griswold and Kris McCall were also nominated to continue in second terms in the Board positions that they currently fill.

At this point, Joe Boyd asked Vice-President John Harrington to conduct the election for President. The floor was then opened for additional nominations for President. None were made and Greg Selah moved to close the nominations. This was seconded by Tony Campbell. The motion carried. Powell Hall moved to elect Joe Boyd as President by acclamation, which was seconded and passed. Joe Boyd then resumed presiding over the meeting.

Nominations were opened for Vice-President. Steven Balay moved to close the nominations, and was seconded by Spencer Buckner. Steven Balay moved to elect John Harrington as Vice-President by acclamation. This was seconded by Greg Selah, and the motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Secretary, Tony Campbell moved that they be closed and was seconded by Spencer Buckner. The motion carried. Mike Benson moved to elect Jill Thompson as Secretary by acclamation. This was seconded by Tony Campbell. The motion carried.

Nominations were opened for Treasurer, Spencer Buckner moved to close the nominations and was seconded by Steven Balay. The motion carried. Spencer Buckner moved to elect Lonnie Puterbaugh as Treasurer by acclamation and was seconded by Kris McCall. The motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the two additional Board positions filled by Kris and Bill, None were made and Spencer Buckner moved to close the nominations. This was seconded by Tony Campbell. The motion passed. A motion to elect Bill and Kris by acclamation was made, seconded and carried. Officers will assume their duties at the close of the meeting.

Membership Meeting, continued from Page 7

Lonnie Puterbaugh announced that the next joint meeting of the long range planning committee and the equipment and facilities committee has been changed. It will meet on Wednesday, 1 October at 7:30 P.M. at the Clubhouse of Jefferson Square Condominiums.

Powell Hall announced that any one who wished to purchase a 2004 calendar from Astronomy Magazine should give his name and telephone number to Jill Thompson. Also, Mike Benson indicated that anyone who is interested in purchasing a Guy Otwell Astronomical Calendar should see him. An inquiry was made into the purchase of the Canadian Observer's Handbook and, as part of his Treasurer duties, Lonnie Puterbaugh will look into this.

Joe Boyd announced that there would be a meeting of the Board of Directors at the close of the membership meeting.

Owen Embry announced that volunteers were needed for a 3-4 hour commitment to take care of accounting duties at the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Walk.

Joe Boyd offered a big thanks to Janaruth Ford, Dennis Williams, and Greg Selah and Nancy Selah for their recent participation in a star party at Elmington Park. They were able to participate on short notice. The new banner and booth were set up and there was a huge crowd. Kris McCall also thanked the BSAS for its participation in the September 6 star party at the Adventure Science Center.

Tony Campbell moved to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Kris McCall. The motion carried. With no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Thompson
Secretary

STATE SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION ACHIEVED

On 16 September, the State of Tennessee Department of Revenue granted the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society a Certificate of Exemption from having to pay sales or use tax on articles purchased for use of the Society. This should result in a tremendous saving to the BSAS over the years, and will enable the Society to purchase more equipment and other assets for use in our outreach and other programs.

Much of the credit for obtaining this tax exemption goes to Bob Rice, who undertook the project and carried it through, with the help of John Harrington. Bob assembled all of the paperwork, documented everything, and hand delivered the package to the Department of Revenue. As a result of his meticulous work, the application was approved in ten minutes, and he walked out with the finished product.

All persons who have authority to purchase any equipment or supplies for the Society must obtain the exemption number and an exemption certificate from the Treasurer before making the purchase, President Joe Boyd announced. A special training session on what can and cannot be purchased as exempt property and how the purchases should be handled will be given in the near future for members of the Board of Directors and the chairs of the various committees.

**Minutes of the Regular Annual Meeting of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society
Board of Directors on Thursday, September 18, 2003**

President Joe Boyd called the meeting to order at 10:15 P.M. in the library of Dyer Observatory. He then announced that the BSAS had been invited to hear Jeff Bary's Ph. D. defense at 3:30 P.M. on Monday, 22 September in room SC5326 of the Stevenson Center on the ground floor of the Engineering side of the building.

Joe indicated that he wished to assign a new chair of the membership committee and appoint someone to the recently create position of assistant secretary for membership. Also, when Secretary Jill Thompson is assigned to Guam in March, an assistant secretary of minutes will need to be appointed. Powell moved to allow Joe to do this and Bill Griswold seconded the motion. The motion carried. Joe Boyd announced that he would be re-appointing some committees and he indicated that it was urgent that the finance and budget committee meet with the membership committee to review and re-design the dues structure. Without objection, Joe indicated that he would work on these matters and have them ready by the next board meeting.

Joe also opened discussion on the 2003 Tennessee Star Party. He put in a request for additional information on the event.

A request was made for BSAS participation in the "Lights On After School" Program at a junior high school in Hendersonville on 9 October. Powell Hall noted that it was short notice and that he would rather not participate than do a poor job. No resolution was made.

Mention was made that dues notices have been mailed out by regular mail, but not by e-mail. It was also noted that some people have not been receiving copies of the Eclipse or the Reflector. Joe Boyd relayed a message from a member who hasn't gotten the appropriate mailings for the entire year. The Board approved an extension of her membership by another year to compensate for this error.

There was further discussion on obtaining software for tracking membership details, but nothing was decided this evening.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Thompson
Secretary

Some Future Star Parties

Saturday, November 8, 2003

Total lunar eclipse

5:00 to 8:00 PM

model airplane field at Edwin Warner Park

* We originally had one scheduled to take place at the Science Center, but later found out they had put one on the calendar for the Park. The event at the Science Center has been cancelled because of the specific conditions of the eclipse and the clear horizon available at Warner Park.

Saturday, December 13, 2003

Saturn and the Geminid meteor shower

7:30 to 9:30 PM

model airplane field at Edwin Warner Park

Friday, February 13, 2004

Saturn, the Orion Nebula, and other winter wonders

7:30 to 9:30 PM

model airplane field at Edwin Warner Park

Friday, April 23, 2004

Conjunction of Venus, Mars, and a slim crescent Moon with Saturn close by PLUS Jupiter

8:00 to 10:00 PM

model airplane field at Edwin Warner Park

Friday, August 13, 2004

Perseid meteor shower and other summer spectacles

8:00 to 10:00 PM

model airplane field at Edwin Warner Park

Activities and Events
October 1 - October 31, 2003

10/2 FIRST QUARTER; Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
 10/3 Conj., Venus & Spica
 10/4 Conj., Neptune & Moon
 10/5 Yom Kippur begins at sundown.
 10/6 Conj., Uranus & Moon; Mars & Moon, occultation
 10/8 Draconid meteors
 10/9 Draconid meteors
 10/10 FULL MOON
 10/16 BSAS meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Dyer Observatory
 10/17 Conj., Moon & Saturn
 10/18 LAST QUARTER; Conj., Moon & Jupiter; Orionid meteors
 10/22 Orionid meteors
 10/23 Orionid meteors
 10/25 NEW MOON; Mercury in sup. conj.; Private Star Party, Natchez Trace site
 10/26 Conj., Venus & Moon, occultation; Daylight Saving Time ends.
 10/31 FIRST QUARTER

November 1 - November 30, 2003

11/1 Conj., Moon & Neptune
 11/2 Conj., Moon & Uranus
 11/3 Conj., Moon & Mars; Taurid meteors
 11/4 Taurid meteors
 11/5 Taurid meteors
 11/8 FULL MOON, penumbral lunar eclipse, star party at Adventure Science Center
 11/10 Conj., Venus & Antares
 11/13 Conj., Moon & Saturn
 11/16 LAST QUARTER
 11/18 Conj., Moon & Jupiter; Leonid meteors
 11/20 BSAS meeting, 7:30 pm at Dyer Observatory
 11/22 Private Star Party, Natchez Trace site
 11/23 NEW MOON; total solar eclipse, not visible in U. S. or Canada
 11/24 Conj., Moon & Mercury
 11/25 Conj., Moon & Venus
 11/27 THANKSGIVING DAY
 11/29 Conj., Moon & Neptune
 11/30 FIRST QUARTER

BSAS

P. O. Box 150713

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