

Upcoming Events

Board of Directors Meeting

November 6th at the
Cumberland Valley Girl Scout
Council Building – 7:30 pm

Public Star Party

November 8th at Shelby
Bottoms – 8:00 pm

Membership Meeting

November 20th at the
Adventure Science Center –
7:30 pm

Private Star Party

November 22nd at mm 435.5
parking lot Natchez Trace
Parkway – 6:30 pm

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November Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2008
Adventure Science Center
7:30 pm



All I Want For Christmas Are Astronomy Toys!

If you have someone on your Christmas list who wants astronomy gear, then you won't want to miss BSAS board member Dr. Spencer Buckner's presentation at this month's meeting. He will showcase all manner of astronomy equipment including telescopes, mounts and accessories.



From The President

Just in case, you haven't heard, long-time member and past president Powell Hall passed away this past month. We all offer his family our deepest condolences. I will miss his commitment to dark sky issues, his ability to do calendar math, and his encyclopedic knowledge of star lore.

I want to thank Steve Wheeler for his work on this past month's membership meeting presentation. The majority of the target list (all I added was Algol) and the improved layout of the slides were Steve's workmanship. I also want to thank Kris McCall for helping out. Being able to view the location of the object in the context of the whole sky really helps when trying to learn exactly how to find a given object. The quality of the new star projector really makes that easy.

Have you given any more thought to starting a systematic observing program? While we can continue to look at our favorites, there is still great value in exposing yourself to new objects. Whether the list of objects is from someone else or something you created yourself is not as important as continuing to grow and enjoy yourself as an astronomer.

The November program will be presented by Spencer Buckner. The topic will be "All I Want for Christmas Are Astronomy Toys".

We will be voting at the November meeting for new officers and Board members. The nominees from the Board are:

President: Terry Reeves
Vice-president: Spencer Buckner
Secretary: Bob Rice
Treasurer: Robert Norling

Board members: (3 year terms)
JanaRuth Ford
Curt Porter

There were no nominees from the floor. We will offer another chance for nominations from the floor this month before voting.

Dr. Terry Reeves
President



"I thought 'The Martians had arrived!' but then I realized that I was looking at pollen slightly out of focus."

(On looking through his telescope – quoted in The Observer, March 2003.)

Sir Patrick Moore
1923 –

FREE TELESCOPES!

Yes, you did read that correctly. The BSAS Equipment & Facilities Committee has free telescopes ranging in size from 2.6" to 8" that current members can actually have to use for up to 60 days at a time.

We also have some other items in the loaner program such as a photometer, H-alpha solar telescope, educational CDs, tapes, DVDs, and books.

Some restrictions apply, and a waiting list may be applicable in some cases. The BSAS Equipment Committee will not be held responsible for lost sleep or other problems arising from use of this excellent astronomy gear.

For information on what equipment is currently available, contact Lonnie Puterbaugh at (615) 661-9540.

Observing Highlights

all times listed are Central Standard Time

November 2008

- 11/3 Jupiter 1.9° north of Moon
- 11/3-5 Taurid meteors
- 11/6 BSAS Board of Directors Mtg.,
7:30 pm at Girl Scout Office
- 11/6 FIRST QUARTER
- 11/6 Neptune 1.1° south of Moon
- 11/8 Public Star Party – Shelby Bottoms
- 11/8 Uranus 4° south of Moon
- 11/13 FULL MOON
- 11/14 Moon at perigee
- 11/15 BSAS Membership Meeting
7:30 pm at ASC
- 11/16-18 Leonid meteors
- 11/19 LAST QUARTER
- 11/21 Saturn 6° north of Moon
- 11/22 BSAS Private Star Party – mm 435.5
parking lot Natchez Trace Parkway
– 6:30 pm
- 11/27 NEW MOON
- 11/29 Moon at apogee
- 11/30 Venus 2° south of Jupiter

OBJECTS VISIBLE THIS MONTH

Messier Objects:

- M57 (The Ring Nebula)
- M56 (globular cluster)
- M27 (The Dumbbell Nebula)
- M71 (globular cluster)
- M30 (globular cluster)
- M72 (globular cluster)
- M73 (asterism)

Caldwell Objects:

- C9 The Cave Nebula (diffuse nebula)
- C11 The Bubble Nebula (diffuse nebula)
- C55 The Saturn Nebula (planetary nebula)
- C63 The Helix Nebula (planetary nebula)

Outreach Update *Terry Reeves, President*

In October, we had a full plate of events. We had the astronomy retreat at Mark Manner's home October 3 and 4. I personally want to thank Mark and Anne for their hospitality. I know that I had a wonderful time. We also had a public star party at Long Hunter State Park on October 4. I spent most of the night with my telescope pointed at Jupiter. I counted about 6 or 7 telescopes in the darkness. If memory serves, we had about 125 people come by. That is probably a record for Long Hunter. We also had a lightly attended private star party on October 25 at the Water Valley Overlook on the Natchez Trace.

There is also public star party at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center on Saturday, November 8 from 8:00 PM until 10:00 PM. We will be showing the moon and planets primarily given the light pollution at the location. I found directions to Shelby Bottoms on the Sudekum Planetarium web site at <http://sudekumplanetarium.com/starparties/shelbybottoms.shtml>.

There is also a private star party scheduled for November 22 at the turnout near mile marker 435.5 on the Natchez Trace.

Dr. Terry Reeves
President

Book Review: Project Mars- a Technical Tale by Werner von Braun

Reviewed by Robin Byrne

This month we will let slide the birthday theme to review a book. Werner von Braun, the designer of Germany's V2 rocket, is reported to have said after the first V2 bombing of England, "The rocket worked perfectly - it just landed on the wrong planet." Von Braun's fascination with using rockets to travel to other worlds was the driving force behind his work as an engineer for both Germany and, after the war, for the United States. Before he had a chance to design rockets to carry America's astronauts into orbit and, ultimately, to the Moon, von Braun had already worked out a way for men to travel to Mars.

In 1949, Wernher von Braun wrote "Project Mars A Technical Tale" as a fantasy set in the distant future of the 1980's. The setting is after the last of the devastating global wars, and the world has united in a single, worldwide government. America's orbiting space station, designed as a military outpost for dropping bombs on our enemies, has now become a scientific station. Astronomers working at the station discover intriguing evidence that Percival Lowell's canals may actually exist. This spurs the world to take action, and to send a flotilla of 10 spaceships and 70 men to Mars to investigate.

For a reader looking for an action/adventure tale, this is not your book. Although the characters face challenges and dangers, none of it is presented in a fantastic manner. The story takes a realistic approach, from convincing the government to fund the mission, to the challenges of designing all of the spaceships, to the tedium of a 6-month journey to Mars. While the discoveries on Mars are pure fantasy, von Braun has made what is found on that planet more of a cautionary tale than one of danger.

However, for a reader interested in technology, the story has much to offer. It's not called a "Technical Tale" for nothing. The bulk of the book deals with the technological aspects of a trip to Mars. Von Braun wrote not only a piece of fiction, he also made sure that all of the designs presented were feasible. In fact, the book includes an appendix with all of von

Braun's calculations. Considering the book was written in 1949, von Braun was able to design an achievable mission using the technology of that time. Since computers of 1949 filled entire rooms, the mission uses computer tapes with all possible contingency plans, which could be run on the smaller computers on the spaceships. Means of radio communication were developed to compensate for the weak transmitters and receivers of the time. Nuclear power and solar panels were not an option, so solar heated steam generators would provide the electricity. And the idea of sending an unmanned probe to take a closer look at the other world wasn't even a consideration.

Meanwhile, the social aspects of the story can be a little uncomfortable for a 21st century reader. Apparently, it never occurred to von Braun that women might one day do more than be supporting housewives who stay home while their husbands go off on a 3-year mission. No women are found in the government, as scientists, among the engineers and designers, and certainly not among those who actually travel to Mars. Because it is a one-world government, von Braun includes characters from other countries (although the majority are from the United States). It is clear that von Braun held some stereotypical and bigoted views of certain nationalities, as seen in his descriptions of various characters. Although not heavy-handed, the characterizations stand out to today's readers.

So, is this book for everyone? Probably not. However, for geeks like me who enjoy the history of science, the technology of space travel, the myriad details that are involved (while letting slide some of the social aspects), it is a compelling look at what could have already been accomplished 50 years ago.

October 2008 Board of Directors Minutes

Bob Rice, Secretary

The board of directors of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society met in regular session at the Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Council Building in Nashville, Tennessee on October 2, 2008. A sign-in sheet was circulated in lieu of a roll call. Board members Dr. Spencer Buckner, Bill Griswold, Dr. Terry Reeves, Bob Rice, Randy Smith, and Steve Wheeler were present. Board members Keith Burneson, Tony Campbell, JanaRuth Ford, Dr. Donna Hummell, Kris McCall, and Theo Wellington were absent. A quorum being present, President Terry Reeves called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

Treasurer Randy Smith reported that the Society's bank balance was \$2,181.92. Nominating Committee Chair Bill Griswold recommended this slate of nominees for the upcoming annual election of officers and board members: Dr. Terry Reeves for President, Dr. Spencer Buckner for Vice-President, Bob Norling for Treasurer, Bob Rice for Secretary, and JanaRuth Ford and Kurt Porter for board members. Nominations will also be solicited from the floor at the October 16th meeting and the November 20th election night meeting. Bill Griswold moved that this slate of nominees be accepted and Steve Wheeler seconded his motion that subsequently passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Terry Reeves reported these upcoming star parties and events:

- Private BSAS membership retreat & star party at Spot Observatory on Oct. 3rd & 4th.
- Public star party at Long Hunter State Park on Oct 4th – only need 3-4 scopes.
- Private star party at the Natchez Trace Water Valley Overlook site on Oct 25th.
- Public star party at Shelby Bottoms Municipal Park in early November.

Dr. Terry Reeves announced these upcoming membership meeting programs and events for the remainder of the year:

- October – “What’s Up (in the Sky)” by Dr. Terry Reeves and Steve Wheeler.
- November – “All I Want for Christmas Are Astronomy Toys” by Dr. Spencer Buckner.
- December – Annual Holiday Party and Potluck Supper.

Secretary Bob Rice announced that he would be out of town during the last part of October and asked for someone to take the minutes at the October 16th membership meeting. Steve Wheeler graciously volunteered to do so. Since there was no further business to discuss, President Reeves declared the meeting to be adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

OFFICERS

Dr. Terry Reeves
President

Keith Burneson
Vice-President

Bob Rice
Secretary

Randy Smith
Treasurer

Bill Griswold
Past President

Directors at Large

Dr. Spencer Buckner
Tony Campbell
Jana Ruth Ford
Dr. Donna Hummel
Theo Wellington
Steve Wheeler
Kris McCall (*ex officio*)

Steve Wheeler
Newsletter Editor
wsw261@hotmail.com

**Monthly meetings
are held at:**



**The Adventure
Science Center**

**800 Fort Negley Blvd
Nashville, TN 37203**

October 2008 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Steve Wheeler, BSAS Board of Directors member

President Terry Reeves called the meeting to order at 7:33 P.M. in the Adventure Science Center (ASC) and welcomed new members and guests. Dr. Reeves then asked for corrections to the minutes of the previous membership meeting held on September 18, 2008 and, there being none, declared them to be approved without exception as published in the September 2008 edition of the Eclipse newsletter. He announced that a public star party was scheduled on November 8th at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center, and that a private satar party was to be held on November 22nd and the mile marker 435.5 parking lot on the Natchez Trace parkway.

Treasurer Randy Smith announced the club's current bank balance to be \$2,221.91.

Dr. Reeves then announced the following candidates for officers for the upcoming year: Dr. Terry Reeves for President, Dr. Spencer Buckner for Vice-President, Bob Norling for Treasurer, Bob Rice for Secretary, and JanaRuth Ford and Kurt Porter for board members. Nominations were also solicited from the floor, but none were submitted. Dr. Reeves announced the official vote for these officers will be done at the November meeting.

Dr. Reeves and board member Steve When presented a What's Up tour of the fall night sky. Included in the presentation were the following objects:

M31-32-110, M33, NGC891, M34, M15, M2, NGC869-884, NGC457, NGC663, NGC253, NGC300.

In addition to the above objects, the following multiple star systems were discussed: Eta Cassiopeiae, Iota Cassiopeiae, Almach (Gamma Andromedae), Algol (Beta Persei), and Mesarthim (Gamma Arietis).

Sudekum Planetarium Director Kris McCall then used the planetarium's facilities to display the objects in the night sky. Dr. Reeves declared the meeting to be adjourned at approximately 9:15 P.M.

BSAS Affiliations

The Astronomical League
<http://www.astroleague.org/>



The Night Sky Network
<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/>



International Dark Sky Association
<http://www.darksky.org/>





The Flame and the Horsehead Nebula

Imaged by Tom Murdic

Date-Time: 10/23/2008, 1:00 am

Location: 5 miles south of Franklin, Tn.

Telescope: Astronomy Technologies AT 66mm on CI 700 mount, unguided.

Camera: Canon 350XT Modified

Camera Control Software: ImagesPlus 2.82

Image Processing Software: ImagesPlus 2.82 and Adobe Photoshop 6.0



Reverend Powell Storrs Hall, Jr. 1929-2008

By Joe Boyd

It is with great regret that we announce the death of a stalwart of astronomy in the Nashville area, Rev. Powell Storrs Hall, Jr., on Saturday, 18 October 2008, at the age of 79. Powell, as he was known to his many friends, was a retired United Methodist Church pastor, having served in Mississippi, New Jersey, Illinois, and West Virginia during his many years in the ministry from 1954 to 1993.

In addition to being a minister, he was an active astronomer with a vast knowledge of the sky. An active member of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society, he served as its treasurer for two years, and then as its President. An avid advocate of more responsible outdoor lighting, he has served as chair of the Dark Sky Committee of the Astronomical Society for the past six years, and has served as the Chair of the Middle Tennessee Section of the International Dark Sky Association since its formation. Powell was one of the organizers of the Section, and had attended the yearly meetings of the International Dark Sky Association in Arizona.

He had been living at McKendree Village in Hermitage since moving to Nashville in 1993 with his wife of 55 years, Julia Hewitt Hall, who survives him. In addition to Julia, he is survived by his five children, Dr. John Storrs (Sandra) Hall, Cathy (Rick) Shelton, Dr. Miriam (Allan) Berele, Edwin Hall, and Jacqueline (Michael) Hall-Williams, and nine grandchildren. He also is survived by his brothers, Dr. H. Gaston (Gillian) Hall and John William (Beverly) Hall.

Powell was a frequent lecturer in the fields of religion and astronomy as well as history, science, and mathematics. Powell would ask new acquaintances their birth date, and within 30 seconds he would tell them on which day of the week they were born. He would also amaze married couples by asking them the date of their marriage, and in a few seconds he would tell them whether and in what year there would be a full moon on their wedding anniversary. He was an active supporter of the Planetarium at the Adventure Science Center, having visited it prior to moving to Nashville, according to Kris McCall, Director of the Sudekum Planetarium, who pointed out that he shared his loved of the sky with others at every opportunity and prepared his frequent talks on astronomy with as much care as he prepared his sermons during his years as a preacher. Discounting a conflict between science and religion, one of his notable quotes was "Anyone who insists that there is a conflict between science and religion doesn't understand either science or religion."

As a young minister in Jackson, Mississippi, Powell was one of 28 ministers who signed the famous "Born of Conviction" statement protesting racism in Mississippi in 1963. Along with the others who signed the statement, Powell and his family paid a heavy price for this courageous action. Their home was shot into and his church voted to refuse to pay his salary. As a result, the Methodist Church moved him to other churches in New Jersey and West Virginia, where he served until his retirement in 1993. He attended the West End United Methodist Church in Nashville where he sang in the choir and participated in Sunday School classes.

A memorial service for him was conducted on Friday, 24 October, at West End United Methodist Church, with Rev. John Feldhacker officiating. He will be sorely missed.

Become a Member of the BSAS!

Download and print the Application for membership from www.bsasnashville.com (Adobe® Acrobat Reader® required).

Then fill it out and bring it to the next monthly meeting or mail it along with your first year's membership dues to:

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

Annual dues, which include membership in the BSAS and Astronomical League, and subscriptions to their newsletters, are:

\$20 Individual
\$30 Family
\$15 Senior (+65)
\$25 Senior Family (+65)
\$15 Student*

* To qualify, you must be 21 or younger & enrolled in an accredited institution.

All memberships have a vote in BSAS elections and other membership votes,

Also included are subscriptions to the BSAS and Astronomical League newsletters.

IMPORTANT DUES INFORMATION

On your Eclipse mailing label is the expiration date for your current membership. There will be a two month grace period before any member's name is removed from the current mailing list.

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:
www.bsasnashville.com

About Our Organization

Organized in 1928, the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society is an association of amateur and professional astronomers who have joined to share our knowledge and our love of the sky.

The BSAS meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Adventure Science Center in Nashville. Experienced members or guest speakers talk about some aspect of astronomy or observing. Subjects range from how the universe first formed to how to build your own telescope. The meetings are informal and time is allotted for fellowship. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings.

Membership entitles you to subscriptions to Astronomy and Sky & Telescope at reduced rates; the club's newsletter, the ECLIPSE, is sent to members monthly. BSAS members also receive membership in the Astronomical League, receiving their quarterly newsletter, the Reflector, discounts on all astronomical books, and many other benefits.

In addition to the meetings, BSAS also sponsors many public events, such as star parties and Astronomy Day; we go into the schools on occasion to hold star parties for the children and their parents. Often the public star parties are centered on a special astronomical event, such as a lunar eclipse or a planetary opposition.

Most information about BSAS and our activities may be found at www.bsasnashville.com. If you need more information, write to us at info@bsasnashville.com or call Joe Boyd at (615) 386-3134.

**BARNARD-SEYFERT
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