

The ECLIPSE

October
2017

The Newsletter of the Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society

Next Membership Meeting:
October 18, 2017, 7:30 pm
Cumberland Valley
Girl Scout Council Building
4522 Granny White Pike

*Topic:
To Be Announced*

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From the President

Greetings,

This coming Sunday (October 8th) BSAS will be involved in a fairly unique event. If you don't normally come to our star parties you might want to make a special effort to come to this special occasion. In the 1930s the Cheek family of Nashville built a Georgian mansion on 55 acres in the Belle Meade area near Edwin Warner Park. Today, Cheekwood Estate & Gardens is open to the public and features botanic gardens, woodland sculpture trails and a very fine art museum. From 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM a traditional [Japanese Moon Viewing or "Tsukimi" celebration](#) will be held at Cheekwood. The Japanese Tsukimi celebration is all about harvest, special foods, spending time with family and friends as well as viewing the moon which is thought to be especially bright and beautiful this time of year. Visit the BSAS web site's calendar listing for this event to see the full schedule of activities. If you do come, don't miss the Tea Ceremony and koto players.

BSAS will be providing a star party, and entrance to Cheekwood will be free to BSAS members bringing telescopes. When you arrive, just tell the guard at the front entrance you are with BSAS. Later this week I will send specific instructions about where we will setup our telescopes. The Cheekwood web site shows BSAS will be there from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. The sun will not set until about 6:20 PM and the moon doesn't rise until 8:45 PM. Nonetheless we will make the best of it. Hopefully we will be able to see a few objects shortly after sundown and then provide a few glimpses of the moon before the evening celebration is over.

Tsukimi celebrations are very similar to the Mid-Autumn Festivals held in China and other Asian



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Observing Highlights October and November

Globular Clusters

M56, M71, M55, M75,
M15, M2, M72, M30

Open Clusters

M11 (*Wild Duck*), M26,
M73, M29, M39, M52

Nebulae

M57 (Ring), NGC 6543 (*Cat's Eye*),
NGC6826 (*Blinking*),
M27 (*Dumbbell*),
NGC7000 (*North America*),
IC5146 (*Cocoon*), NGC7293 (*Helix*)

Asterisms

Cr399 (*Coat Hanger*)

Multiple Star Systems

Double-Double (*Epsilon Lyrae*)
Albireo (*Beta Cygni*)
Gamma Delphini

Variable Stars

Mu Cephei (*Herschel's Garnet Star*)

Upcoming Star Parties

Saturday 10/14 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Public Star Party Cornelia Fort Airpark
Friday 10/20 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Public Star Party Bowie Nature Park (Fairview)
Saturday 10/21	Private Star Party Natchez Trace Parkway mile marker 412 (Water Valley Overlook)
Friday 10/27 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm	Public Star Party Montgomery Bell State Park
Saturday 10/28 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Public Star Party Long Hunter State Park



Oct 19
Nov 18



Oct 2
Nov 26



Oct 5
Nov 4



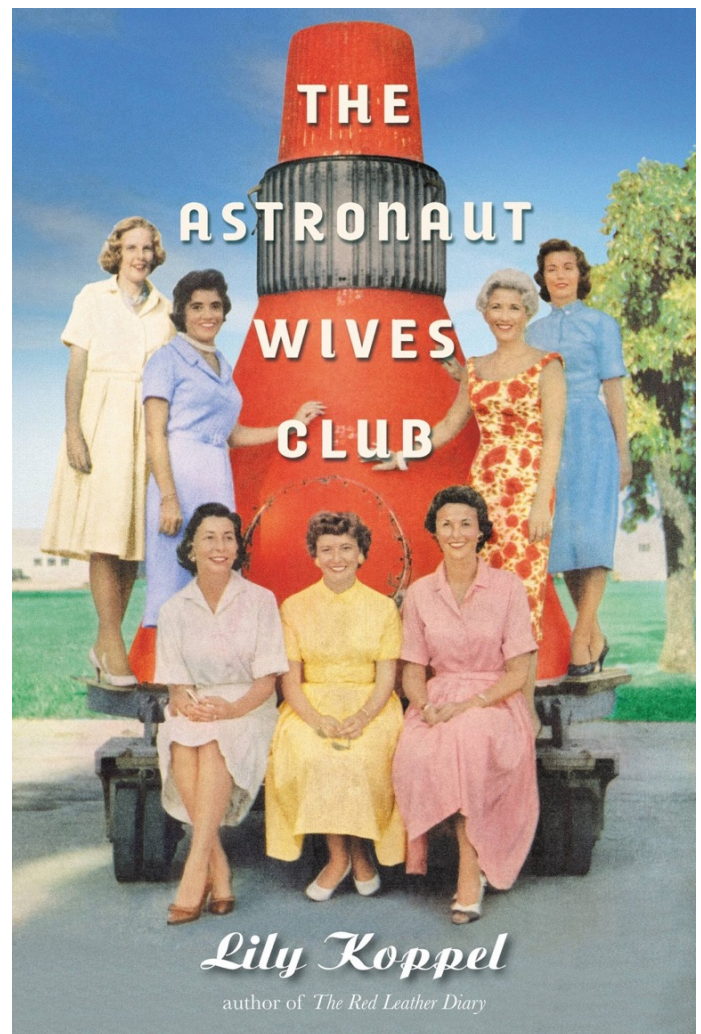
Oct 12
Nov 10

Book Review: The Astronaut Wives Club
 Reviewed by Robin Byrne

With a long commute to and from work, audio books have become one of my favorite ways of staying entertained while driving. My most recent listen was *The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story* by Lily Koppel. The narration was provided by Orlagh Cassidy.

From the cover, I was led to believe that it was only going to be about the wives of the Mercury astronauts, however, I was wrong. The book attempts to tell the story of the wives of, not only the Mercury astronauts, but also the wives of Gemini and Apollo astronauts. That's a lot of stories to try to tell. Certainly the focus was on the Mercury wives, and easily half of the book is devoted to their stories, with more of a selection of later wives getting a similar amount of attention. That broad scope definitely hurt the book, since you never really got to know much about any one woman. Of the Mercury wives, I had not known that Trudy Cooper was a pilot in her own right, and that Rene Carpenter had become a journalist. Each of those women could easily warrant a book of their own, instead of the cursory treatment they get in this publication.

Lily Koppel seemed more interested in telling the stories in the context of the changing society of the 1960's and the role of women, in particular. She gave much focus on the infidelity of the husbands, portraying the women as martyrs of their time and circumstance, while still managing to be critical of one another. The patriarchal approach from NASA was also on display in how the wives were treated. As more astronauts joined NASA, the Life Magazine contract money was spread thinner and thinner, while the media coverage remained as invasive as ever. Given the stresses put



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The Astronaut Wives Club, continued

on the marriages from all sides, it's not too surprising that most ended in divorce.

I wondered about the scope of Koppel's research, though, when many portions of the Mercury era stories were nearly word-for-word identical to scenes from *The Right Stuff*. It was not clear if the author actually interviewed any of the wives or simply relied on other sources.

Adding to my dissatisfaction was the tone of the narrator, Orlagh Cassidy. Throughout the book, her voice made me feel like she approached the telling as though she were dishing the dirt with the girls. This gave the entire book a feel of a gossipy tell-all. I wondered how I would have felt about the book if I had read it, instead, with my own internal voice providing the tone.

For someone who knows anything about the history of the space program, there was nothing new added to the public stories of the various missions. Meanwhile, the stories of the wives deserved something with more depth.

As something to listen to in the car while driving, the book was fine for keeping me distracted. However, if you are looking for actual information about the wives that goes beyond skin-deep, this is most definitely not the book for you.

References:

The Astronaut Wives Club: A True Story by Lily Koppel; 2013, Hachette Audio

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Topic: To Be Announced. Watch bsasnashville.com for updates.

**Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society
Minutes of the Monthly Membership Meeting
Held On Wednesday, September 20, 2017.**

The Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society held its monthly meeting in the City Room at the Girl Scouts office, 4522 Granny White Pike, Nashville, Tennessee, on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. 27 members and guests signed in.

Keith Rainey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Keith announced upcoming star parties and outreach events: September 30 at Edwin Warner Park from 7:30 to 9:30 PM, October 14 at Cornelia Fort Airpark from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, October 20 at Bowie Nature Park from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, October 2 at Water Valley Overlook (private) from sunset until the last member leaves, October 27 at Montgomery Bell State Park from 7:30 to 10:00 PM, October 8 Moon Viewing Festival at Cheekwood from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, October 13 at Edwin Warner Park (solar) from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, October 28 at Edwin Warner Park 70th Anniversary celebration from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

RASC Observers' Handbooks will be ordered through the Astronomical League. The cost will be \$23 a copy if we have enough orders. Deposits will be accepted at the November meeting. The Deep Space Mysteries calendar will be available at \$13 a copy.

Invitations to members to join the new BSAS Google discussion group shortly.

Drew Gilmore noted that there were about 140 attending the planetarium show and panel discussion at the Sudekum Planetarium on August 16.

A first look at Citizen CATE images, one per site, assembled into a short animation, was shown.

Prize winning photographs by Meghan Keohane and other members' eclipse related photographs were displayed, and members shared their solar eclipse stories.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Hamblen

Secretary

**Due to a lack of quorum, there was no
BSAS Board Meeting in September 2017.**

From the President, continued

countries you may be familiar with already. A few years ago, I had the privilege of celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival in Xian China. On one particular evening, I spent time with a university astronomy club. Aside from viewing the moon together, the group wanted to know all about BSAS and amateur astronomy in the U.S. And oh yeah, we also enjoyed eating mooncakes, a hallmark tradition for the festival. Mooncakes are similar to Nashville's moon pies, only not as sweet.

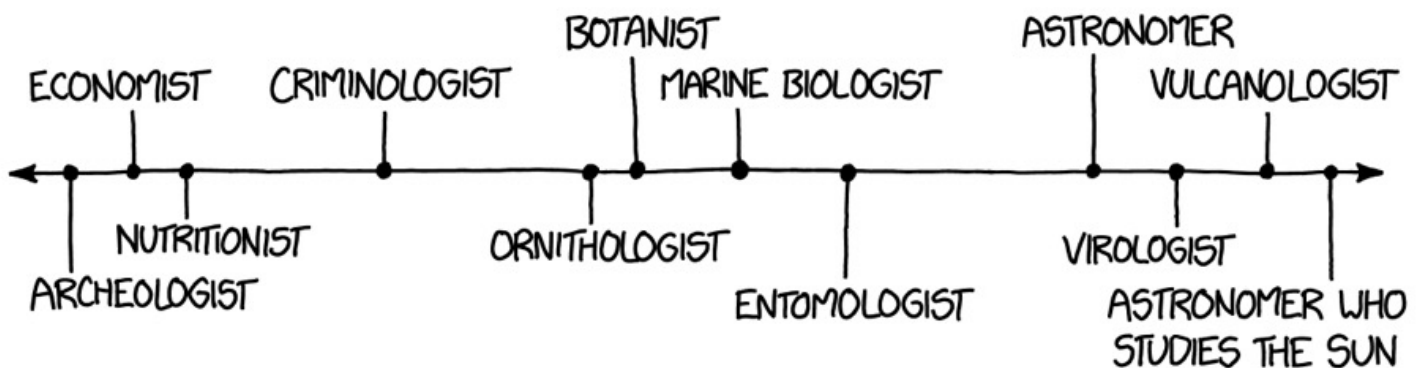
Whenever BSAS can share our love for astronomy with the general public they are so very appreciative. For this evening's celebration, I believe we can find appreciation for an important Japanese tradition as well.

Gary Eaton

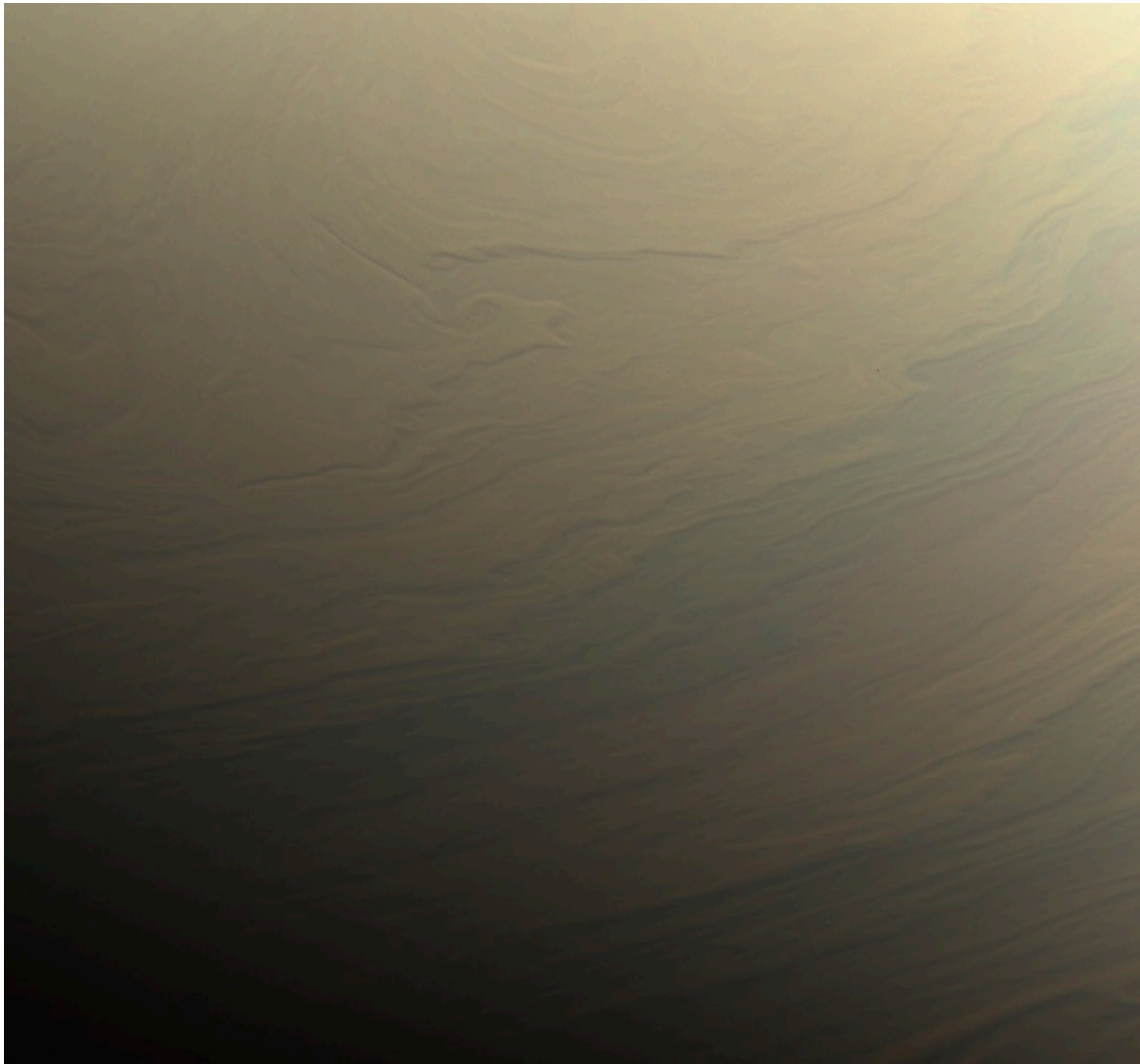
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HOW WORRIED YOU SHOULD BE IF YOU SEE LOCAL REPORTERS INTERVIEWING SCIENTISTS ABOUT A BREAKING NEWS STORY, BY FIELD:

MORE WORRIED →



Contribute to *The Eclipse!*
eclipse@bsasnashville.com!



NASA's Cassini spacecraft gazed toward the northern hemisphere of Saturn to spy subtle, multi-hued bands in the clouds there.

This view looks toward the terminator -- the dividing line between night and day -- at lower left. The sun shines at low angles along this boundary, in places highlighting vertical structure in the clouds. Some vertical relief is apparent in this view, with higher clouds casting shadows over those at lower altitude.

Images taken with the Cassini spacecraft narrow-angle camera using red, green and blue spectral filters were combined to create this natural-color view. The images were acquired on Aug. 31, 2017, at a distance of approximately 700,000 miles (1.1 million kilometers) from Saturn.

For more information about the Cassini-Huygens mission visit saturn.jpl.nasa.gov and www.nasa.gov/cassini. The Cassini imaging team homepage is at ciclops.org.



This striking image of Jupiter was captured by NASA's Juno spacecraft as it performed its eighth flyby of the gas giant planet.

The image was taken on Sept. 1, 2017 at 2:58 p.m. PDT (5:58 p.m. EDT). At the time the image was taken, the spacecraft was 4,707 miles (7,576 kilometers) from the tops of the clouds of the planet at a latitude of about -17.4 degrees.

Citizen scientist Gerald Eichstädt processed this image using data from the JunoCam imager. Points of interest are “[Whale's Tail](#)” and “[Dan's Spot](#).”

JunoCam's raw images are available for the public to peruse and process into image products at:

www.missionjuno.swri.edu/junocam

More information about Juno is at:

<https://www.nasa.gov/juno> and <http://missionjuno.swri.edu>

Image Credits: [NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS/Gerald Eichstädt](#)



Free to loving home: Criterion analog clock drive mount, 1981. Rings and scope not included. Clock drive needs a little work, nothing major.

Contact Drew:
dotsandlines@gmail.com.



This image, taken with the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope, shows the galaxy NGC 4490. The scattered and warped appearance of the galaxy are the result of a past cosmic collision with another galaxy, NGC 4485 (not visible in this image).

The extreme [tidal forces](#) of the interaction between the two galaxies have carved out the shapes and properties of NGC 4490. Once a barred [spiral galaxy](#), the outlying regions of NGC 4490 have been stretched out, resulting in its nickname of the Cocoon Galaxy.

Credit: [ESA/Hubble & NASA](#)

Acknowledgements: D. Calzetti (UMass) and the LEGUS Team, J. Maund (University of Sheffield), and R. Chandar (University of Toledo)



Become a Member of BSAS!
Visit bsasnashville.com to join online.

All memberships have a vote in BSAS elections and other membership votes. Also included are subscriptions to the BSAS and Astronomical League newsletters.

Annual dues:

Regular: \$25
Family: \$35
Senior/Senior family: \$20
Student:* \$15

* To qualify as a student, you must be enrolled full time in an accredited institution or home schooled.

About BSAS

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 Wednesday of each month at the Cumberland Valley Girl Scout Building at the intersection of Granny White Pike and Harding Place 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 bsasnashville.com. If you need more information, write to us at info@bsasnashville.com.

Free Telescope Offer!

Did someone say free telescope? 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. A waiting list is 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 info@bsasnashville.com.