



The Guide Star

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh Inc.
A Section of the Academy of Science & Art of Pittsburgh
Founded June 9, 1929 by Chester B. Roe and Leo J. Scanlon
Web Site: 3ap.org



Mingo Creek Park
Observatory



Nicholas E. Wagman
Observatory

April, 2005

Vol. 40, No. 2

In This Issue...

On the Horizon	2
Mingo News	3-4
AAAP Election Info	5
May Miscellany	6
Photo Gallery	7
Member Articles	7
Book Reviews	8
May Astro Events	8
May Fridge Calendar	9
Classifieds	10



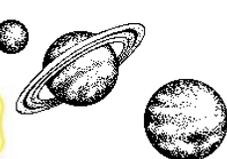
Election Ballot Enclosed

Welcoming Five to the Fold!

Greetings, fellow stargazers!
A warm welcome to the five new members who were voted in at the April business meeting:

Dottie Boyd
William J. Dilmore
Carolyn Hall
Dennis Leech
Frank Leone

Springing Into 2005: Star Party Success!



The long, long months of cold weather and winter constellations are officially over! April 15th and 16th were the culmination of about ten consecutive days of very fine weather, and AAAP members launched into spring with the opening events of the year. Overall, it was an excellent weekend for our kickoff of Star Party Season 2005.



Wagman's driveway held a welcoming profusion of member scopes, star charts, and friendly faces; at least thirty AAAP members volunteered on each night.

Around 250 members of the public came to us for a view of the sky, with Saturn and Jupiter as the favorites, and Comet Machholz and Pallas running a close second. On Saturday, there was solar observing with a lecture by Tom Reiland.

Thanks to all who participated! A warm welcome back to Eric Fischer, who made his first post-surgery appearance on Friday. And finally, congratulations to Rowen Poole, who completed the Mullaney-McCall list early Saturday morning.

AAAP's Most Wanted: YOU! (Yes, All You New Members Too)

Spring is here. Star Party Season 2005 has begun. We're looking forward to (and counting on) seeing you all there!

Yes, this means you.

It doesn't matter whether you're a twenty-year veteran or a first-week newbie. It doesn't matter if you got your first scope in 1972, or are just starting to scan Sky & Telescope for a killer deal on a Dob. In fact, it doesn't even matter if you don't know what a Dob is.

The point is this: as a participating AAAP member, you are one of the most essential resources the club has. Just your presence will be appreciated, and will be of more value—both to the public, and to the club—than you might realize.

Looking for Dates? Meetings Remain the Same

Business meetings for 2005-2006 will continue to be scheduled on the Friday closest to full moon. Those of you who preferred the 2nd Friday will be somewhat mollified to learn that many of these dates *also* fall on the 2nd Friday of the month. Meetings will be on the following dates:

2005:	September 16	October 14
	November 18	December 9
2006:	January 13	February 10
	March 10	April 7
	May 12	

NOTE: April 7th is *not* the date closest to the full moon. The April meeting was moved because the actual date is Good Friday, and is dangerously close to the Ides of April (tax-day).

On the Horizon

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Volunteers Needed!

■ Public Star Parties ■

This month, we begin a season of double opportunities to share the sky, with events scheduled at both Mingo and Wagman Observatories each month.

Both observatories will be hosting star parties on **May 13 & 14**. The events will begin at 8:00 p.m. and will extend for as long as the skies are clear and you feel like staying. These will also be Mingo's first "official" public star parties, so we're hoping for a good member turnout. As always, we're looking for folks to set up scopes, park cars, and answer questions!

Also, a head's up for next month's public events: June brings the first of our "summer" schedule, with star parties scheduled on two weekends. Star parties are scheduled for **June 10 & 11** and **June 25**. Mark 'em on your calendar.

■ Private Star Parties ■

We have several private star parties slated for May, and at least one scheduled already for June.

- Wagman will be hosting a group of Cub Scouts on **Saturday, May 21**, and a group of Boy Scouts on **Wednesday, June 15**.
- Mingo will possibly be hosting a party for yet another group of scouts on **Friday, May 20** (this is also the date for club elections at the May business meeting, so if you plan on assisting, please be sure to mail your ballot to John Holtz).

We will need people to run the observatory scopes, answer questions, and usher visitors around the grounds. If possible, we'd like to have a couple member scopes available for these groups, as well. Keep an eye on the listserv for more details.

Member Reservations

Just a reminder: AAAP observatory facilities are reserved for members and their guests on the weekend nearest the new moon. Bring your scope, your friends and family—or even just bring yourself—and join us at either Mingo or Wagman on **May 6** and **May 7** for (hopefully) a few nights of blissfully dark skies.



AAAP Picnic:
Check page 6 for details!



■ Off-Site Educational Events ■

This month we also have two off-site educational events:

- On **Thursday, May 5**, we will give a discussion of astronomy to a youth group (an audience of around 10 to 20 kids, ages from 9 to 15) at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Beechview branch. The events will be at 6:00 p.m. (1910 Broadway Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA, 15216).
- On **Monday, May 16**, we have been invited to West Mifflin Area High School's first-ever star party. Set-up will begin at 7:30 p.m. The event will be in the baseball field behind the school (91 Commonwealth Avenue, West Mifflin, PA, 15122) and will run until 10:00 p.m. Rain dates are Thursday, May 19 and Monday, May 23.

May Meeting Features Historian Art Glaser

The meeting this month, on May 20th, 7:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Science Center, will be the final business meeting before our summer break. Our featured guest speaker will be AAAP historian Art Glaser, who will wrap up our spring schedule with his lecture, "The History of Allegheny Observatory."

Art has been at Allegheny Observatory in his capacity as tour guide, volunteer, and historical researcher since 1982. His long career as an astronomer and historian allow him to offer a broad and unique perspective on the history of astronomy in the Pittsburgh area. Due to time constraints, however, his discussion will focus primarily on the opening of AO and the work of Director Frank Schlesinger and Heber Curtis. Learning a bit about the larger context of the field will be not only instructive, but also inspirational...and certainly, an experience that none of us will want to miss!

Training Wheels & Key Fees

As Flacc quipped at the April business meeting, "Bring your training wheels and \$15 key fee." There will be a training session at Wagman Observatory at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 7. Trainees will receive instruction on standard procedures, including those for operating the Manka and securing the building and grounds.

To qualify, you must have been a member of the AAAP for a minimum of one year and must be willing to undertake responsibility for the security of the facilities and equipment. If interested, contact Associate Director Flacc Stifel at: flaccs@nauticom.net

Mingo News

Scoutin' Out the Sky: Mingo Scout Camporee 2005

All photographs by Al Paslow



Multi-colored tents peppered the field, campfires glowed in the night, and the Mingo scopes got a heck of a workout...



In short, the Scout Camporee at Mingo Park Observatory was a roaring success! Friday night through Saturday night, we hosted, educated, and edified over 133 registered scouts (and approximately 40 scout leaders).

Objects were observed (i.e., fun was had) by all. As an expression of their gratitude, the scouts treated the AAAP staff to a Saturday-night dinner cooked at the campsites, and have promised to spread the word about Mingo among other regional scout troops and community groups.

Over the course of the two days, we offered presentations, lectures, solar observing and yes, actual hands-on, *clear-sky* observing experience! The scouts were impressed with the night sky, the observatory, our equipment, and the concerted effort that we made to help them earn that pinnacle of all merit badges: *The Astronomy Merit Badge*.

Best of all, we may have gained at least one new prospective member. According to the aforementioned scout leader, one young man named Aaron "has announced that one of his future career options is Astronomer. He has already been on the AAAP website and wants to become a junior member."



Members of Scout Troup #1184



The sun, viewed in the 10" Refractor with a Hydrogen Alpha Filter



Check it out! Our new astronomy displays!

Well, we aim to please. We aim to make astronomy more accessible to the public. Most importantly, we aim to bring the wonders of the sky, and the stars, and the night to the eyes and ears of all who might cultivate an interest.

And so, the Mingo Observatory Scout Camporee was a resounding success...because clearly, we succeeded in all of the above.



The Mighty, Mighty Planetarium Projector, ready for 130 scouts

In an email to Director Larry McHenry, one of the scout leaders commented, "I have got nothing but positive feedback from everyone that attended...the weather, the events, the opportunities, and the fellowship was great."

Thanks Again to MPCO Volunteers!

Thanks again to the folks who came and devoted their efforts, energy, and expertise to the scout weekend. It was these things—together with the enthusiasm and interest of 133 youngsters—that made the event such a memorable experience for all.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Judy Schomer | Mark Schomer | Richard Urban |
| Peter Urban | Al Paslow | Chrissie Chojnicki |
| Ed Moss | Dan McKeel | Gene Kulakowski |
| Dave Smith | Mike Meteney | Mark Arlet |
| John Diller | Joanne Diller | Charlotte Tunney |
| Jim Tunney | Jeff Marsh | Jerry Schuster |
| Gary Morrow | Larry McHenry | |

Mingo Progress Report

*Transcribed from April 2005 meeting
by Larry McHenry*

We were ready for the Scout Camporee, but are continuing to prepare for the spring star party season. Since the last update, we have made a good bit of progress, especially on some of "finishing touches" on the site.

At this point, we have:

- Poured concrete for a six-car parking pad and the handicap-access sidewalks
- Leveled the parking lot
- Widened the road leading to the parking area
- Added fresh layer of gravel to both the road and the parking lot

We have also begun the process of several tasks that should be completed within the next month:

- Planning the installation of a drainage ditch and pipe along the observatory side of the road
- Negotiating with the Parks to include repair work to our access road when they repave the road leading up the pavilion
- Finding a local landscaper to finish grading the observatory hillside and to plant grass

Got Books?



If anyone has any old astronomy books, starcharts, globes, or even models, we are in the process of building a reference library at Mingo.

We are still looking for astronomy displays. If you have an idea and would be interested in contributing in this way, there is still plenty of space for your handiwork! You can either bring the displays to the May business meeting, or to the next star party at Mingo.

Lastly, we also need several large, stick-pin type bulletin boards for the Mingo refractor room (similar to the type we have at Wagman).

Literary Largess

Visitors to our upcoming star parties, once again, will benefit greatly from the generosity of several astronomy publications. *Sky & Telescope* has donated 200 copies of "Getting Started in Astronomy." *Astronomy Magazine* has agreed to donate 200 copies each of four different informational brochures/publications.

The donated literature will be divided equally between Mingo and Wagman Observatories for distribution at public events.

Impressions of the Mingo Star Party Scout Camporee

By Dan McKeel & Al Paslow

The quiet studious young man, patiently waiting for the planetarium to weave a journey of words onto the images of the night sky, was quite well versed in the science of astronomy and was ready to see.

The citizen, learning with his son about astronomy, up until now had only learned what he saw on the evening news.



Photo by Al Paslow

The exuberant chaos, as one hundred and thirty boys moved through the building. The echoes of young voices, happy and excited by the event, the technology, and the experience.

The night sky, seen through the telescope and the naked eye, its mages projected onto the planetarium and shown to people who really liked and appreciated them all.

The feeling of the darkened red-lit planetarium room, filled with young boys and containing a surprising silence. Each young man was led on a new journey as he was held enthralled by the small artificial lights that projected pictures onto the dome overhead, and with the words that filled out the pictures.

For many of these young men, this would be, perhaps, their first look at Jupiter or Saturn through a telescope. Who knows where these images could lead some of them?

If just one scout experiences that magic, that "something" that lasts a lifetime... has the observatory not done exactly what we have hoped it would? Judging from the youthful energy supplied over the two nights, there was certainly enormous potential for just that kind of experience.



The event made an impression on both the scouts and their leaders; everyone said how much fun they had at the hilltop observatory. We could hear the enthusiasm in the disembodied young voices, talking as they passed by in the dark—talking about the night sky that could be seen, and about which views had been the best.

When the two weekend evenings ended, all the participants felt the impact of the shared experience. Young and old alike put aside their earthly pursuits to venture out into the universe, where spirits are united, uplifted, and awe-inspired. There was no such thing as too simple of a question, nor too feeble an attempt to appreciate such Celestial beauty and serenity. All present were able to visualize a portion of the universe not often experienced in today's society, especially by such diversified age groups.

We are told the event had a profound effect on one young scout, who wishes now to become an astronomer by profession. With this in mind, from deep within our hearts we can surely conclude that the Camporee was an outstanding success.

Election 2005

Once again, the AAAP Elections are here! This year the ballot boasts three offices—yes, count ‘em, three—with multiple candidates. Our roster for 2005 is a nice assortment of old friends and new faces. Some of them you know well, and others...well, not quite so well! So, here is a quick introduction to this year’s slate of nominees:

PRESIDENT:



Christine Chojnicki is a first-time nominee for President. She is extremely active in club events, and has been instrumental in the planning, construction, and ongoing educational programs at Mingo Observatory.

Rich Bailey has been an AAAP member for 20 years. He has been active in numerous AAAP events, including the restoration of the Brashear Telescope. He intends to promote membership and visibility, as well as participation and variety in club events.



VICE-PRESIDENT:



Bill Yorkshire is the current VP—a long-time member and a familiar face at meetings and club events. He has been an integral part of the Exec Committee, and has done a find job of scheduling speakers for AAAP meetings.

Ann Norman has been a member since 1997, and Associate Editor of the Guide Star since November 2002. She volunteers for many club events, likes to attend astronomy lectures, and has earned both the Messier Certificate and the Lois Harrison Award.



RECORDING SECRETARY:



Dennis Derda remains uncontested in his office of Recording Secretary. For you folks who sit at the back of the auditorium at meetings, he is the owner of the voice reading the minutes. He is also Chair of the Optics and Telescope Making Special Interest Group.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Charlotte Tunney is another veteran member, and is beginning her third term as Corresponding Secretary. She does a great job and enjoys the work, but is willing to share the glory; she encourages newer members to step up as write-ins!



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:



Brent Hudock is the current Membership Secretary—an office that is being contested for the first time in at least a couple of years. He is also an ISN member and the Chair of the Variable Star and Nova Special Interest Group.

Mark Schomer is starting his third year as an AAAP member, but has been interested in astronomy since 1965. He considers his telescope to the “the best investment I’ve made in my adult life.” He and his wife Judy look forward to many years of AAAP membership.



GUIDE STAR EDITOR:



Kelly Fletcher joined the AAAP in 2004 after attending John Holtz’s astronomy class. She is working on a graduate degree in Professional Writing and has acted as the interim Guide Star Editor since Eric Fischer’s retirement this winter.

AAAP 2005 ELECTION BALLOT

(CHECK THE BOX NEXT TO CANDIDATE OR WRITE-IN)

PRESIDENT:

- Christine Chojnicki Rich Bailey
 Write-In: _____

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

- Charlotte Tunney
 Write-In: _____

VICE-PRESIDENT:

- Bill Yorkshire Ann Norman
 Write-In: _____

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

- Brent Hudock Mark Schomer
 Write-In: _____

RECORDING SECRETARY:

- Dennis Derda
 Write-In: _____

GUIDE STAR EDITOR:

- Kelly Fletcher
 Write-In: _____

BRING BALLOT TO MAY 20 AAAP MEETING OR MAIL IN:
AAAP TREASURER, 176 HIDDEN HILL RD, SARVER, PA 16055-8907

May Miscellany

Applause, Applause! The 2005 Election Committee

Each year, a select group pours liberal amounts of their valuable time and careful consideration into the process of selecting nominees for the annual AAAP election. A round of applause, please, for our 2005 Nominating Committee—**Wade Barbin**, **Bob Novack**, and **Bob Kalan**—and for their efforts in compiling this year's slate of candidates!

Election Procedures

For many members, the procedures for AAAP elections are as familiar as the Summer Triangle. For newer converts, though, (or for the veterans who'd like a reminder) we publish instructions for submitting votes. Here they are:

- One vote per member.
- You may print or download ballots; copy as necessary.
- Ballots may be submitted either at the May 20th business meeting, or may be mailed to Treasurer John Holtz.
- Ballots submitted via mail must be received by May 18.

Wishing a Light-Speed Recovery...

For those of you who hadn't heard, Truman Kohman was unable to give his lecture on "Visual Star Colors from Instrumental Photometry" at the May meeting due to quadruple by-pass surgery on April 12th. He is home now, thankfully, and improving daily.

Our thoughts are with you, Truman. We wish you a light-speed recovery to stellar health...and are looking forward to hearing that lecture just as soon as you're able to give it!

Special Thanks...

With elections drawing near, we would like to express our gratitude to all of the Executive Committee members who have offered so much of their time over the last year. Thanks also to Ann Norman and Cathy Rivi for continuing in their positions as Associate Editors of the Guide Star, and to John Holtz for agreeing to extend his tenure as Treasurer.

Special recognition is in order for the two Executive Committee members who are retiring from office: President George Guzik and Guide Star Editor Eric Fischer. Your commitment has helped the club to run smoothly through some very "interesting" times—from the construction of Mingo to the AAAP coverage in the *Tribune-Review*—and has been greatly appreciated by the AAAP membership.

Wagman, Wagman, Growing Green

Spring is here, and we're all happy to see the trees budding and the world growing green once again. Still, some of us have begun watching our lawns with a subdued sense of trepidation; the grass has begun to thrive, and mowing season is almost upon us.

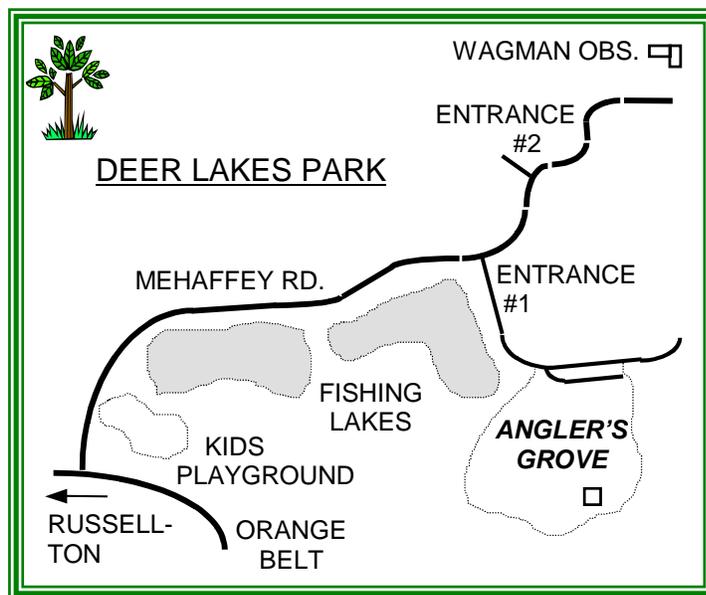
The grass at Wagman is growing, too...and due to staffing difficulties, the grounds crew at Deer Lakes Park will be unable to perform their usual lawn maintenance duties. Our sincere thanks to member Bill Moutz for offering to take on the job.

Once Again, You're Invited... Annual AAAP Picnic 2005

After a long, dreary winter, we're all ready to get out and do some socializing around the scopes on dark nights...and on **June 4th**, it'll be time again to do a bit of mixing in broad daylight (imagine that) at the Annual AAAP Picnic!

The picnic will be from 3:00 p.m. until sunset, once again at Angler's Grove in Deer Lakes Park. No alcohol is permitted, but bring food, bring fun, and as Tom Reiland suggests, "bring your own physician for any sports related injuries."

And definitely bring your scope, if you have one. At sunset, we'll be moving up to Wagman for the After-Party Party. Keep your fingers crossed for clear skies, good transparency, and stellar seeing. We'll see you there!

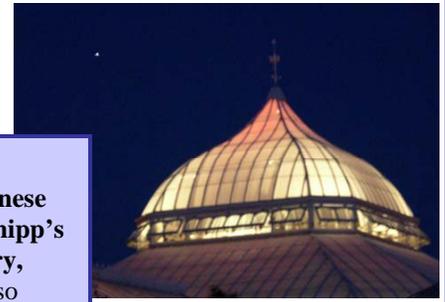


MEMBER PHOTO GALLERY: You Gotta See This!



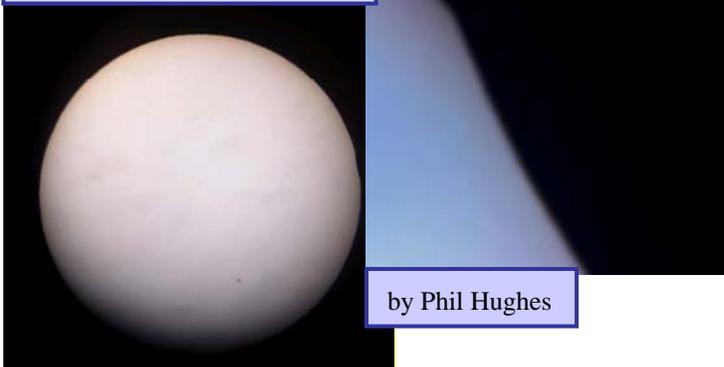
Sliver of a Moon, by John Pane

**Jupiter
from the Japanese
Courtyard at Phipp's
Conservatory,**
by Judy Lesso



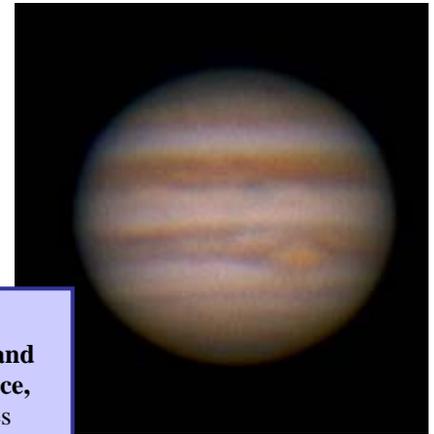
Black Eye Galaxy, by John Pane

**Solar Eclipse
from King of Prussia, PA**



by Phil Hughes

**Jupiter
with Red Spot and
New Disturbance,**
by Phil Hughes



Guide Star Time Dilation Capsule: (Almost) 25 Years Ago

By Rowen Poole

A few weeks ago, I came across an old binder within which I had stored many copies of the famed AAAP Guide Star. I was rather surprised I still even possessed said binder, being that it was 25 years old. As I sat and scanned through some of the old articles, I found a couple items of interest. Some were amusing. Some were very apropos.

As we all follow the near daily news of the completion of the new Mingo Creek Observatory, it might be noted that, at one time, the future wasn't so bright for the AAAP observatory. Way back when, even finding a site for the "Proposed" Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory was a long process.

Here's an excerpt from the May 1981 Guide Star:

"In the time the AAAP has struggled to find a site for the Nicholas Emory Wagman observatory, there have been four U.S. Presidents, three Popes, the Iran hostages were taken and released, the Steelers won four Superbowls, Mars orbited the Sun four times and 47 Guide Star articles were written explaining how it would be just a short time before a site was found."

Forty-seven Guide Star articles took up a bit of space! After all, back in 1981, the Guide Star was only one page, front and back. It should also be noted that the funding goal for building the new observatory was a mere \$10,000! We have come a long way since those days!

In May of 1981, Tom Reiland was the president of the AAAP, Eric Fischer was the editor of the Guide Star, and yours truly had just received the Messier Certificate.

Book Recommendations

May 2005: Astro Events

by Al Paslow

Brett Day recommends *Full Moon*

by Michael Light (1999, 2000)



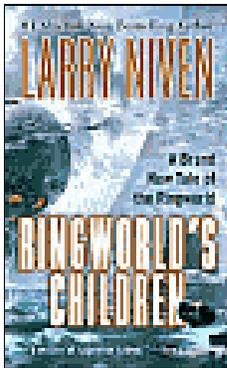
I just picked up a copy of Michael Light's photo journal *Full Moon* in the bargain section of the Waterworks Barnes and Noble.

This book culls the some 32,000 photographs from the Apollo missions, and uses 127 of them to give us a journey to, on, and home again from the moon. It truly is breathtaking, definitely one for the library.

Tom Reiland recommends *Ringworld's Children*

by Larry Niven (2005)

I recently purchased the Larry Niven book *Ringworld's Children*. It's his fourth book on this interesting subject of constructing a ringed habitat around a star. *Ringworld*, published about 1970, won several Sci-fi awards and was followed by *The Ringworld Engineers* and *The Ringworld Throne*.



I decided to reread the first three in order and finish with the new book. It was over 1,300 pages of fascinating science fiction that is just a small portion of Niven's "Tales of Known Space" selections of short stories and novels.

If you decide to read these books, I suggest that you start with his book *The Protector* first so that you have an understanding of the race that built the *Ringworld*.

Niven is my favorite sci-fi writer and is often considered among the all-time top five writers in this field, along with Asimov, Clarke, Heinlein, and Bradbury. I just started to reread his books about an earth expedition that colonizes an area inside of a planetary nebula. They're *Integral Trees* and *The Smoke Ring*. Hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

Venus, in Taurus, now slowly reemerges as an evening star, extremely low in the west a half-hour after sunset. Look for the thin crescent Moon near it on 8th. Mars is still dim in Aquarius, but close to Uranus from the 14th to the 17th; use binoculars to view the planetary combo. (Keep in mind that both planets rise shortly after 3:00 a.m. EST.)

Jupiter continues to blaze brilliantly almost all night long. It is closely joined by the Moon on the 19th in a fine conjunction. Saturn is well placed in the west at nightfall and sets around midnight.

Neptune and Uranus are still morning stars, only rising after 2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., respectively, after mid-month.

As for Comet Machholz, the grand show is well over: the comet slips from 9th magnitude to probably less than 10th magnitude by the end of May. You will need finder charts to locate this object.

SELECTED DATES FOR MAY

May 1: Moon is Last Quarter and passes 5° south of Neptune. Texas Star Party begins in Fort Davis, Texas. (Ed Moss, have fun!)

May 2: Moon is 3° south of Mars.

May 3: Moon is 3° south of Uranus.

May 5: The asteroid Juno is 0° 08' north of the Moon. Occultation of Juno by the Moon.

May 5-6: Eta Aquarid meteor shower. Rates are predicted at 20 per hour; the Moon near new will not interfere with this event.

May 6: Moon 3° north of Mercury; this is a daylight event, as Mercury sets by 6:00 p.m. EST.

May 8: New Moon. Ceres, the largest asteroid, is at opposition. Visual magnitude approximately 7°.

May 13: Saturn is 5° south of the Moon.

May 14: The Moon is at apogee. Mars is 1° 2' south of Uranus.

May 15-16: Uranus 1° above Mars. A good opportunity to find Uranus; look after 4:00 a.m., as both planets rise after 3:00 a.m.

May 16: Moon is First Quarter.

May 18: Venus 6° north of Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation Taurus. Look early evening as Venus sets at 9:30 p.m.

May 19: Jupiter is 0° 4' north of the Moon. Occultation of Jupiter by the Moon, but is not visible from this location.

May 20: Neptune is in retrograde.

May 23: Full Moon.

May 24: Antares, in Scorpius, is 0° 8' south of the Moon. Occultation of Antares by the Moon. Event starts at 4:40 a.m. EST and lasts one hour. The Moon is 99% full.

May 26: The Moon is at perigee.

May 28: The Moon is 5° south of Neptune.

May 30: Last Quarter Moon. Look for Uranus 3° north of the Moon.

May 31: Saturn is 7° south of Pollux, in Gemini. Mars is 0° 55' north of the Moon. Occultation of Mars by the Moon, but again, not visible for us.

SELECTED DATES FOR EARLY JUNE

June 2-6: Cherry Springs Star Party, in Cherry Springs Park near Coudersport, PA. Contact Tom Bemus at (716) 386-7150.

June 3: Mercury is in superior conjunction and cannot be seen.

June 5: Jupiter retrograde to direct motion.

June 6: New Moon.

June 8: Venus is 4° south of the Moon.

June 10: Saturn is 5° south of the Moon.

June 11: The Moon is at apogee.

June 14: Pluto is at opposition.

That's it for now. See you next month!

☾ MAY 2005 ☽

Fridge Calendar by Cathy Rivi

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8  Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13 Star Parties: NEWO and MCPO	14 Star Parties: NEWO and MCPO
15	16 	17	18	19	20 AAAP Meeting 7:30 PM CSC AO Public Lecture See Below	21
22	23 	24	25	26	27	28  <small>rwtech.com</small>
29 	30 Memorial Day Observed	31 	The sun is but a morning star. ~Henry David Thoreau, <i>Walden</i>			

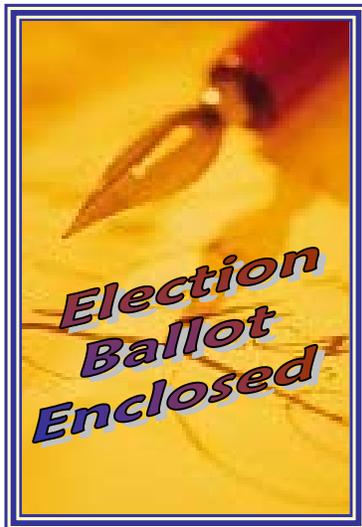
<p>Also this month: May 20 Lecture: Particle Astrophysics. Allegheny Observatory. Free. RSVP required. 7:30 PM. Univ. of Pittsburgh (412)-321-2400. Looking ahead: Star Parties June 10, 11, 25 at NEWO. June 10, 11 at MCPO.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AAAP Long-Range Meeting Schedule</u></p> <p>Stay tuned... NEWO = Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory MCPO = Mingo Creek Park Observatory Moon phases are based on Eastern Daylight Time</p>
---	---

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Fourteen-inch Meade LX200 GPS UHTC. \$4,650.00.
Contact Bernie Kriger, (412) 787-1171

FOR SALE: Twelve-inch Meade LX200 Classic UHTC. \$2,250.00.
Contact Bernie Kriger, (412) 787-1171

FOR SALE: Stellcam EXT. \$375.00.
Once again, contact Bernie Kriger, (412) 787-1171



*** Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh, Inc. ***

A section of the Academy of Science and Art of Pittsburgh
Founded June 9, 1929 by Chester B. Roe and Leo J. Scanlon

2004-2005 Officers:

President:	George Guzik	724-863-8008
	georgeguzik@aol.com	
Vice President:	Bill Yorkshire	412-793-9552
	ydwork@aol.com	
Treasurer:	John Holtz	724-352-7596
	jwholtz@aol.com	
Corresponding Sec:	Charlotte Tunney	412-441-3958
	tunneyc@carnegielibrary.org	
Recording Sec:	Dennis Derda	724-224-4688
	derdad@capa.net	
Membership Sec:	Brent Hudock	724-437-5990
	hooty@atlanticbb.net	
Guide Star Editor:	Eric Fischer	412-487-7011
	emfischer@switch.com	

AAAP Member Dues*:

AAAP Dues:	\$18.00
Junior Member (under 18):	\$13.00
<u>Sky & Telescope Magazine:</u>	Add \$33.00
<u>Astronomy Magazine:</u>	Add \$29.00

A Brief Note About This Month's Guide Star:

Please excuse the overabundance of bold-faced print on the first page; the interim editor is having file conversion difficulties (which she fervently hopes will be resolved by next month). Thanks for your patience...

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH, PA
PERMIT NO. 394

RETURN ADDRESS:
Amateur Astronomers Association
of Pittsburgh
176 Hidden Hill Rd.
Sarver, PA 16055-8907