



Sept 2004 Newsletter of the Omaha Astronomical Society Issue 201

Dave Burgess Gets His Honorary Messier Certificate



General Meeting of the
Omaha Astronomical Society
Friday, September 3rd at 7:30 PM
Durham Science Center, Room 169
UNO Campus

Program: See Page 3

Events

SEPTEMBER CLUB STAR PARTY
Saturday, September 11
Club Site Weeping Water

MAHONEY PUBLIC STAR PARTIES

Friday September 17, 2004

**PLANNING MEETING FOR 2005
NEBRASKA STAR PARTY**
9 September, 7:30 pm
Mahoney State Park Lodge
Join us and do your part to help plan NSP 12!

NEALE WOODS NATURE CENTER PROGRAMS
Phone number: (402) 453 - 5615

Friday, 10th Sept 8:30 –10:00 PM Summer Triangle

Friday, 24th Sept 8:00 - 9:30 PM Harvest Moon

OAS members are encouraged to help out with these events.

STELLA is a publication of The Omaha Astronomical Society. Please send related correspondence to: STELLA, c/o Omaha Astronomical Society, P O Box 540424, Omaha, NE



BULLETINS

September Meeting

Nominations for October Elections

Presentation on Dark Skies & Light Pollution by

Kevin W. Houser, PhD

Good September Dates to Observe at the OAS Club Site or at any other good location

Friday 3 Sept, last quarter moon
Saturday 4 Sept, last quarter moon
Friday 10 Sept, new moon/first quarter
Saturday 11 Sept, new moon/first quarter

Upcoming Events

Annual OAS/PAC Banquet
Friday 8 October @ 8:30

Club Stuff

Well this month there will be no astronomy quiz, instead here are some information about the next couple of very busy months. First here are the dates for events that we are already committed to:

Papillion/Lavista School Outings @ Gretna 4H

Sept 9th	Thursday	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Sept 13th	Monday	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Sept 15th	Wednesday	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Sept 20th	Monday	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Sept 27th	Monday	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Oct 1st	Friday	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Oct 4th	Monday	7:30 - 10:00 PM

Plus we have a couple of dates for Glenwood Iowa Schools @ Camp Neyati Girl Scout Camp:

Sept 20th	Monday	7:30 - 10:00 PM
Sept 23rd	Thursday	7:30 - 10:00 PM

Please notice we have two events on the 20th of Sept. so we will need extra help that night. Plus with the last of our public star parties at Mahoney State Park, we also have two events on the night of the 13th. You will also see that on the 9th there is a NSP 12 planning meeting at Mahoney State Park.

There will also be two events at Neale Woods this month, on the 10th and 24th, both Friday's.

Also remember that elections are coming up in October, as is a lunar eclipse later in the month.

I also have a note from Bill Bond the treasurer, sign up for calendars will continue for September and October, with delivery at the November and December meetings. If you buy please remember to pick it up in November if at all possible so we don't give Bill a bad back carrying the books around from meeting to meeting.

Remember that right at the end of our busiest month we have the OAS/PAC Banquet on Friday the 8th of October. So lets have a lot of folks there, as it is a good time for all.

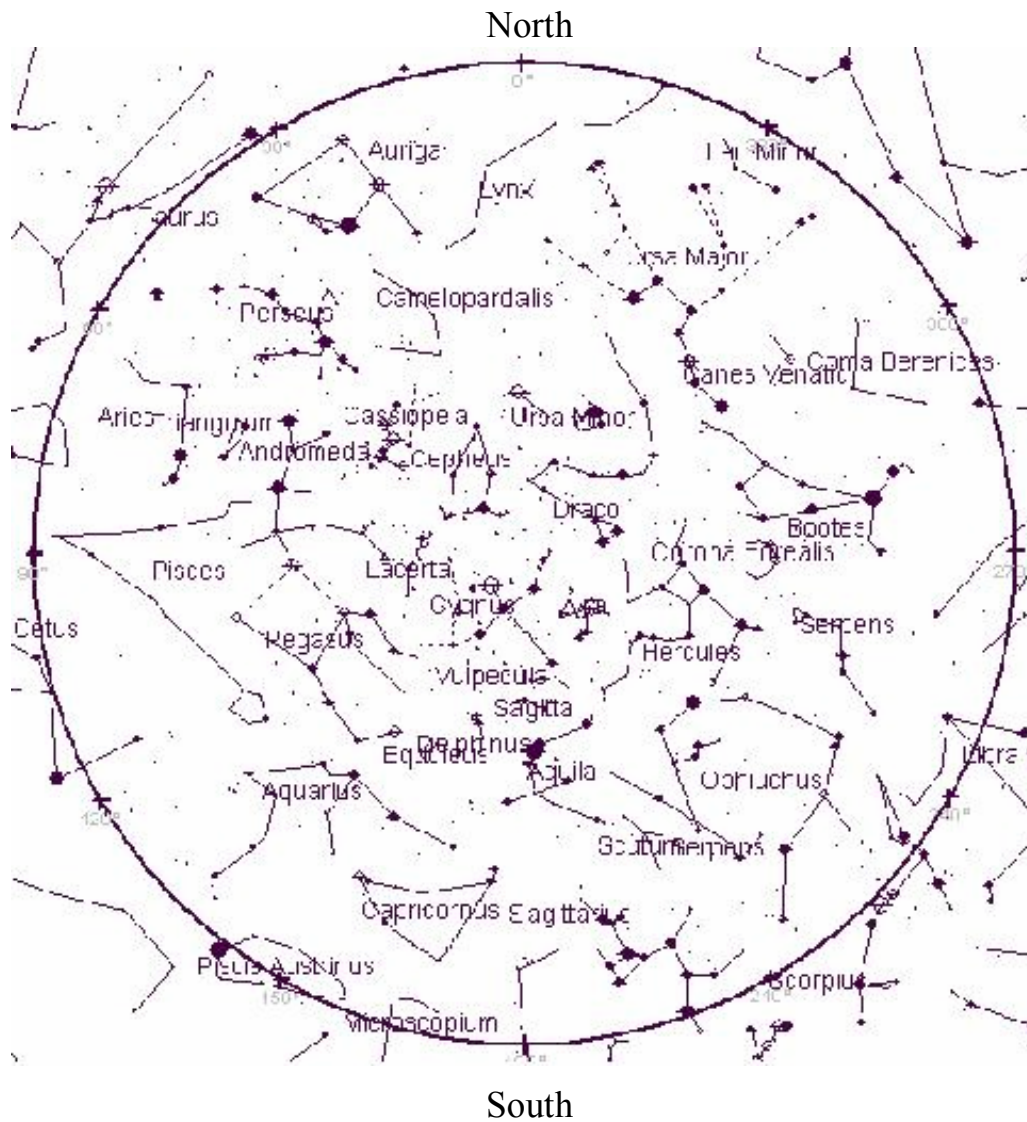
Lets not forget that December is just down the road and will be here in no time. This year I decided instead of waiting until November, that I would start asking for donations to be used as door prizes now and save the begging, pleading, and arm twisting until November. So please give those unused, and no longer wanted astronomy related items in hope that they will find a new home. Thanks in advance. Mark Weiss your current Program Chair.

On page eleven you will find a poll for your thoughts on both the programs after the meeting and the newsletter. Both of these are for you the club member, not just for me as program chair/newsletter editor. So please fill the poll out and let me know what you need and want to see and hear about.

Thanks Mark Weiss.

P.S. I will put last months quiz answers in Octobers news letter.

The September Sky



This map reflects the Northern Hemisphere sky at the following times:

Early September	10pm
Late September	9pm
Early October	8pm

September Sky Calendar

6th Last Quarter Moon
10th Mercury at greatest western elongation
13th Vesta at opposition
14th Metis at opposition
14th New Moon
21st First Quarter Moon
22nd Autumnal Equinox
28th Full Moon

Recent Observing Awards

Dave Burgess Honorary Messier Certificate

Kim Moss-Allen OAS Constellation Certificate

Visit the club web site at: **www.OmahaAstro.com**

Save the club money... and get your newsletter in full color by signing up for the email edition of the Stella. Signing up is easy... just go to:

[Http://www.omahaastro.com/DigitalStella](http://www.omahaastro.com/DigitalStella)

Welcome New Members...

John Martin of Omaha

First of all I would like to Congratulate Dave Burgess on completing the Astronomical League's Honorary Messier Certificate. As many of you know this is where most of us 'get our feet wet' in observational astronomy and is considered the 'Rite of Passage' from a beginner to someone with knowledge of the heavens. For those of you that do not know Dave, I consider this is quite an accomplishment for someone with a disability that would cause many to give the hobby up.

Like most of us Dave's first interest in Astronomy was around the age of 11. It wasn't till after a back injury in 1998 that his interest became a passion. In 2001 his wife, Danielle, and children, Sam and Brittany, bought him a 3" refractor from Toys R Us for Father's Day. They thought it would be a great hobby and a way for him to get out of the house. Dave found out about OAS and started attending meetings. At the first star party he attended, Eric Balcom and Gordon Major helped him find different objects and answered all his questions. Dave says he thinks he drove them crazy that night.

When Dave first started observing he was able to get around with a cane. Although he had to sit down frequently to rest he had little trouble using his 3" refractor. It wasn't long before he needed the use of a walker. His back pain made standing for long periods of time difficult and he could only observe for 5 to 10 minutes before needing to sit and rest.

After about a year he decided the dim views of a 3" needed a boost so he bought an 8" SCT (aperture fever, we all know this well). The height of this scope worked well with the walker but he still had to take many breaks to sit and rest. When he ended up in a wheelchair, the SCT limited his ability to view anything near the horizon or at the zenith. Dave was determined to find an instrument that better suited observing from a wheelchair and asked Gordon Major for some advice. He wanted a scope with a short enough focal length to be able to reach the eyepiece, but a large enough aperture for deep sky. They came up with an 8" Dob that suits him well. Dave says at times the wheelchair gets in the

way but he has learned a few tricks to overcome it.

Dave has started working on the Astronomical League's Binocular Messier Award and has plans to complete the Lunar and Caldwell Clubs as well as the OAS Constellation Certificate. He is also interested in asteroid and comet viewing.

Dave's family and the friends he has made in OAS give him a lot of support by getting him to and from events and helping with equipment set up. In his own words; " The one thing that rings true for me is that I really had to create a large support group inside and outside the Club. I have had a lot of great people helping me along the way. Maybe more than most, but the point is to look for and find people as sources of information and assistance whenever needed. Nobody makes it alone and it is much more fun to go viewing with others. Thank You One and All."

Congratulations again Dave on a job well done.



Item For Sale

A) 8" Meade Schmidt 2080 w/tripod and wedge \$800.00
Includes all of the following parts.

1. carrying case
2. 25mm Plossl lens
3. 21mm Plossl lens
4. 17mm Plossl lens
5. 15mm Plossl lens
6. 2x barlow lens
7. 1 ¼ Diagonal
8. inverter (for scope 120ac)
9. battery case w/2 batteries
10. battery charger
11. Telrad
12. finder scope (50mm)
13. Solar Filter
14. Dew shield
15. Dew zapper 12v
16. Home made pier mount for driveway (role around)
17. Home made Adapter for site pier mount
(adjustable) for polar aligning
18. Home made pier mount

Scope is in very good condition.

Dials are set to scope and work for setting circles.

Every thing else is in good working order.

B) Olympus doubler 10.00

Gordon
333-6255

Newsletter/Meeting Poll

Programs you would like to see after the meeting?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Changes you would like to see in the newsletter.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please rate current newsletter items from 1 to 5, one being the lowest to five being highest.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Astronomy Quiz. | _____ |
| 2. Upcoming Events | _____ |
| 3. Articles | _____ |
| 4. Monthly Sky Chart | _____ |
| 5. Other _____ | _____ |

Thanks for participating.

Mark Weiss (Newsletter Editor)



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BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ Members receive the STELLA, our monthly newsletter.
- ◆ Each member is automatically a member of the Astronomical League, the only nation-wide organization for amateur astronomers.
- ◆ Use of the observing site at Weeping Water, NE
- ◆ The opportunity to borrow one of several club-owned telescopes.
- ◆ Organized trips to local observatories, planetariums and museums.
- ◆ Significant savings on subscriptions to **Sky & Telescope** and **Astronomy** magazines.
- ◆ Savings on astronomy books and printed materials.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular/Family
\$25.00

Junior/Student
\$10.00

Newsletter Only
\$10.00

Send your check to:
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c/o Bill Bond
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