

S.C.R.A.P.S.

Society's ChRonological Astronomical PaperS

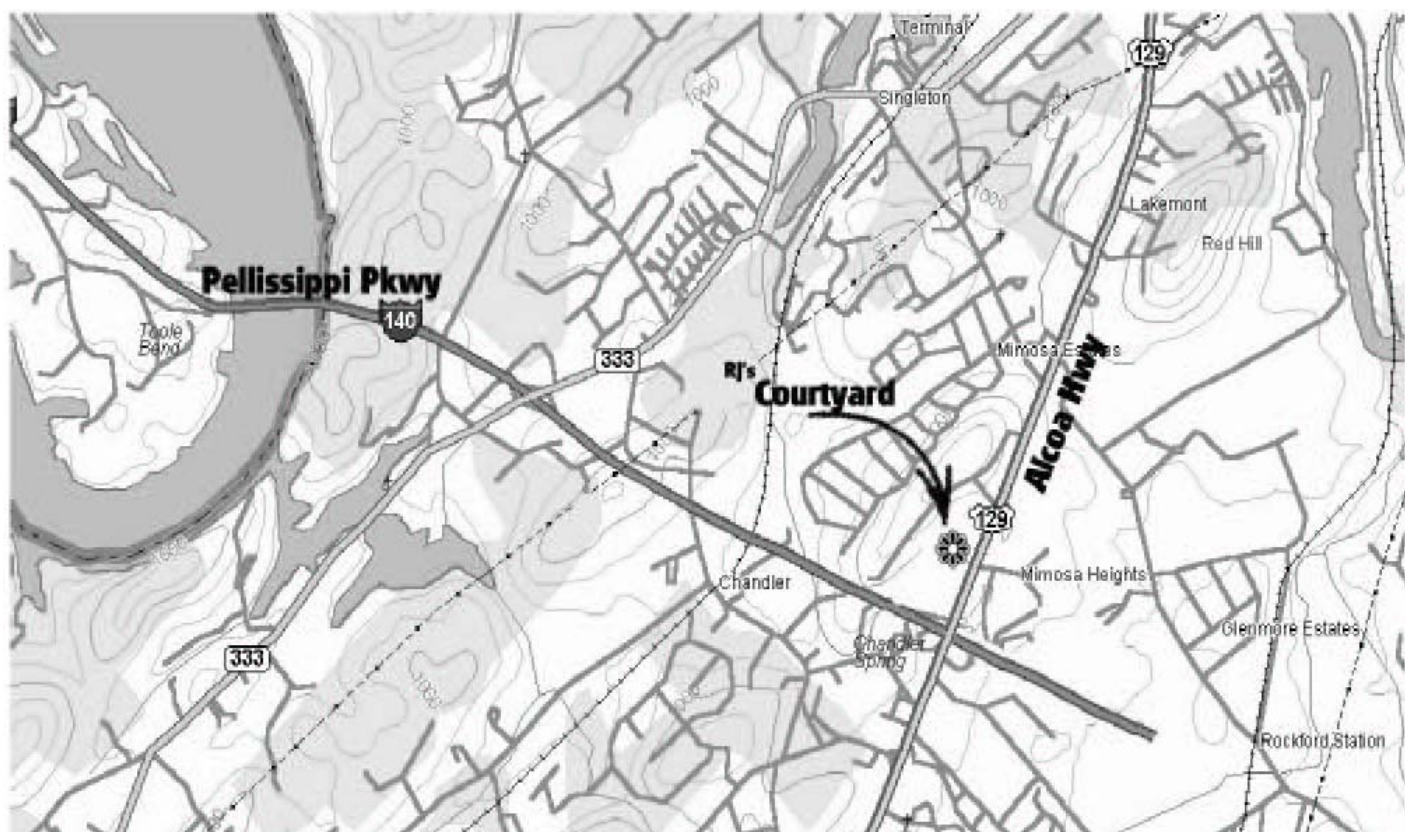


From the Chair By Bob Arr

We're moving to a new meeting place, beginning in January 2003. It's the Division Street campus of Pellissippi State Technical Community College, a very fine complex, located just a few blocks from the I-40 and I-75 interchange--virtually the demographic center of our club. We'll have a road map in the January SCRAPS, as well as on the website. The meeting time will remain 7 PM.

It's hard to leave the Discovery Center, a place that has been extremely good to us for many years. Charles Ferguson's Night Sky presentation, with the planetarium star projector, was a wonderful boon to our club, and we will miss it. On behalf of all our members, I have written to thank DC's director Margaret Maddox and Charles for their kindness.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will only be a few days from the Christmas party. (The restaurant location is shown below.) If you haven't made your reservation yet, please do so quickly, as they need to plan the seating. Call Tammy Burgess at 769-8777 (leave message) or email at won2one@aol.com.



SMAS Christmas Party-Friday 12/6/02 at 6:30 PM
Courtyard Restaurant

A Review of Deepsky 2002 By Ed Gorney

An alternative to "big bucks" planetarium programs

At the November SMAS meeting, we were talking about various planetarium programs and I mentioned that I bought *Deepsky 2002* because it was cheap and I didn't really need anything fancy. It turned out to be a really sweet little program! I want to start off by saying that I don't think *Deepsky 2002* is the "bestest, coolest, most awesome" program out there because it isn't. It is, however, a very inexpensive program that accomplishes just about everything an observer needs. It has a place for your logs, images, and drawings. It will even control a computer-controlled telescope if you have one. It will display and print star charts of any section of the sky. The downloaded version contains around 40,000 objects and costs \$25 to \$30. There is also CD version, but it costs around \$60. The CD version contains sample images of many objects and the database contains several hundred thousand objects. If you don't have a broadband connection, the website recommends you do not choose the download version because it will take too long to download for a dial-up connection. I chose the download version because it is cheaper and I really don't think I will be able to see most of those several hundred thousand objects.

After you enter your location in the program's preferences, the first thing that will be displayed is a spreadsheet with the Messier objects. There is a column of buttons to the left. One of them, labeled "What's Up", is the basic spreadsheet wizard that will look up the objects in its database, based on search filters that you set. Some of the filters are date, time, constellations of interest, types of objects of interest, limiting magnitude, and many others. Once you set your filters, the spreadsheet displays the results.

You can either pick and choose specific objects to be in an observing plan and just display a star chart with all selected objects, or you can just chart all objects. The program will automatically compute the horizon's position depending on the time of night you set and not display anything below it. If you are curious about something below the horizon you can just click on the "What's Up" again and reset the time, which takes all of 10 seconds. After you have your spreadsheet displayed, you can click on interactive chart to display a star chart you can navigate from. The charts are fairly customizable. You can even display the field of a telrad or fields of view

The screenshot shows the 'What's Up Wizard' dialog box in the Deepsky 2002 software. The wizard is titled '2. Select the object types to include' and contains a list of 'Available Object Types' with checkboxes next to each. The list includes: All Types, Active Galaxy, Asterism of Stars, Comet, Dark Nebula, Double Star, Galaxy, Galaxy Cluster, Globular Cluster, Globules, Hill Region, Meteor Shower, Nebula, Open Cluster, Peculiar Galaxy, Planet, Planetary Nebula, Quasar, and Radio Source. Below the list are buttons for '<< Back', 'Next >>', and 'Cancel'. There are also checkboxes for 'Apply wizard preferences to rest of Deepsky', 'Include Altitude/Azimuth', 'Include Chart #'s, 'Include Rise/Set Times', 'Include Transit Time', 'Exclude Observed Objects', and 'Show Herschel Only'. At the bottom, there are fields for 'Excl Azm' and 'Min Altitude', and a 'Precess Coordinates' checkbox. The background shows a spreadsheet with columns for ObjectID, Type, R.A., Dec, Epoch, Alt, Azm, Rise, and Transit. The status bar at the bottom indicates the date is 9/3/02, time is 22:00, and there are 166 objects displayed.

What's Up Wizard Screen

The Wiz

Hey Wiz, I found a dew gun for sale at Orion for \$14.75. Is it a good deal?
F. Over

Dear Fogged, Maybe. I've got to point out that this unit is made to plug into a car's cigarette lighter, because it needs the capacity of a car battery. Trouble is, the cord's not long enough to reach a telescope. You have two choices:

- 1) Splice the cord to reach from the car to your telescope.
- 2) Get an extra battery and recharger. Since the gun comes with a cigarette lighter plug, you'll have to cut that off and replace it with a pair of battery clamps (or fabricate an adapter).

If you're the type that has the stuff for 2) laying around in the garage, it's a good deal. Otherwise, you might tack \$40-50 bucks onto the price. But how much is an extra several hours viewing worth on an otherwise fine night? For what it's worth, this is the only unit I know of for sale.

View-ruining moisture dissipates quickly from corrector plates, mirrors, and lenses with this 12-volt DC, 156-watt warm air gun. Plugs into any cigarette-lighter DC receptacle. Includes 4-1/2' cord. Use car battery only- requires too much power to use with portable field batteries.



www.telescopes.com
12-Volt Dew Remover Gun
Gently Blows Away Moisture

WANTED AND FOR SALE

Smallest covered trailer that can haul Sasquatch and 8' ladder, and double as storage. Should have springs, shocks and pneumatic tires >14". Call Bob Arr 681-3999.

16" F8 Cave telescope. The mirrors need re-coating. \$2800 Contact Paul Lewis at gplewis@utk.edu.

Tuthill isostatic equatorial mount for Celestron 5", 8" SCT, Ultima 9-1/4, Ultima 1-\$250; dual axes hand controller and declination motor for Celestron C-8-\$100. Contact Mike Littleton 671-1022 or littlen@ix.netcom.com

KEEP WARM!

Warm up your mind and share your astronomical experience with the rest of SMAS and everyone on the Internet by writing an article for SCRAPs. Contact Mike Littleton at (865) 671-1022 or email littlen@ix.netcom.com.

NOVEMBER MEETING BY LEE ERICKSON

The meeting was on November 8, 2002 at the Discovery Center. There were 14 members in attendance and two guests.

The meeting began with a review of the astrophotography workshop attended by several SMAS members at the Tamke Allan Observatory. At the workshop, the participants shared food and were serenaded by the Roane State Choir who were practicing for their Christmas concert. Mike Littleton presented a Power Point presentation overview of both film and CCD imaging. There was a lively discussion by the participants of imaging techniques they have tried and how difficult some things are, such as focusing. Mike Littleton displayed two CCD cameras and a focusing mask he made for his 8" Ultima 2000 SCT telescope. The mask covers the correcting plate except for three 1-inch diameter holes near the edge spaced 120 degrees apart. With this mask in place, an out of focus star produces three images. When accurately focused, the star displays a single image.

There was a presentation by one of Roane State's students on receiving radio signals from Jupiter using a simple dipole antenna. Lee Erickson repeated a question asked by the Choir Director, "why do we monitor the signals from Jupiter and what is the significance of the information?" A discussion followed on the generation of Jovian radio signals as well as their significance. The next workshop is 6:00 PM on the first Saturday, December the 7th. The workshop is free. If you would like to attend the next workshop, please let Dave Fields know. His email is at Fieldsde@aol.com. Feel free to bring some of your astro-imaging efforts, equipment, and food to share.

Club business.

Club members, both present and by absentee ballot voted on the proposed constitution. The results were 25 for, 1 abstaining and 3 against. The constitution was thus ratified and is in effect, as of November 8, 2002

There will be no December meeting, just the Christmas party. **IMPORTANT:** Beginning January, the meeting location will be changing. SMAS meeting will be at the Division Street campus of Pellissippi State Technical Community College. The address and details will appear in the January 2003 newsletter.

EXTRA-FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February meeting will be held on the **first** Friday of the month on 2/7/03. The one-time change is because of the availability of the meeting's keynote speaker.



December 2002

Chair:
Bob Arr

Vice Chair:
Tom Rimmell

ALCOR Observe Chair:
Ron Dinkins

Secretary:
Lee Erickson

Treasurer:
Janice Erickson

SCRAPS Editor:
Mike Littleton

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 New Moon	5	6 Christmas Party UTK	7 Astrophotography Seminar
8	9	10	11 First Qt. Moon	12	13 Geminids Peak	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 UTK	21 Winter Solstice
22	23	24	25	26 Last Qt. Moon	27	28
29	30	31				

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SMAS Website:
<http://www.smokymtnastro.org/>

Webmaster:
Mike Fleenor

- 12/6/02 and 12/20/02** all interested
 Public observing from the roof of the Physics Building at UTK
- 12/13/02** Geminids Peak
- 12/6/02** SMAS Christmas party-see page 1 of the newsletter
- 11/15/02** Venus rises at 4:06 AM; Mars rises at 4:05 AM and is within 2 degrees of Venus; Jupiter rises at 9:28 PM; Saturn rises at 5:28 PM
- 12/7/02** Astrophotography Seminar 6 PM at the Tamke-Allen Observatory
 Roane State CC Open to