

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

Society's **Ch**Ronological **A**stronomical **P**aper**S**



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### Message from the President

As I have mentioned in previous articles, I feel that education of members is one of the primary missions of SMAS. At the last Unicoi Crest star party, I happened to be setup within earshot of Sasquatch. During the evening, I enjoyed listening to Lee Erickson talking to new members and guests about the objects being viewed through Sasquatch. Lee has a special talent for teaching new comers, he does not tell them what they will see; instead, he ask questions which forces them to take second looks at the targets and better observe the fine features. In my opinion, Lee is a master at instructing both newcomers and experienced viewers in the art of better observing.

I encourage all members to take the time to try and pass along some of their personal observing skills and helpful techniques they have picked up over the years. Members have 2 good methods to pass along their skills:

1. Make a presentation at club meeting
2. Participate in the "Constellation of the Month Project"

Item 2 was introduced at our last meeting and will be also discussed at the June 10 meeting. The idea of the project is to help beginning astronomers carry out observations by giving them a "heads up" on what to expect when observing different objects with a scope similar to theirs. The idea is to use the experience and observing skills of all members in our club to create a SMAS observing guide. The method is to take a "Constellation of the Month" and members make a point to search out objects in that constellation and share their observations in a fairly uniform manor. Members could also share observation notes from previous times. The key item is that we would have descriptions from a wide variety of scopes. This project would take a rather lengthy period of time; but, in the end, we would have compiled a fairly useful guide for all members. It would be the "SMAS Guide to the Night Sky". Come to the June meeting and share your thoughts about this project.

**Jim Sanders**



**Interview with Brent Holt**

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This section is intended to be viewed by only SMAS members

## Past Events

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The ORION Club of Oak Ridge sponsored a stargazing event in the new amphitheater at Linden School Fair. Hundreds of students and several SMAS members participated. One of SMAS's newest members (Yuko Komata) attended and here are her comments and photos:

### Yuko Komata:

I had a pleasure of attending ORION Star Watching Event at Linden Elementary on May 6th.

When I arrived around 7:30pm, five people were already preparing for telescopes and binoculars in a newly opened amphitheater.

Before sunset, we watched a moon from a telescope. It was quite impressive to compare crater images with not-to-buy telescope and a good quality telescope.

After a long wait to getting dark, we watched Saturn with a ring.

Children were screaming that I can see Saturn. One kid took his mini telescope and started focusing to stars.

When I visit science/environmental events in the area, I usually don't see lots of children. This time, it was something different. Children were curious and constantly asking "When the telescope is ready?" to astronomers.

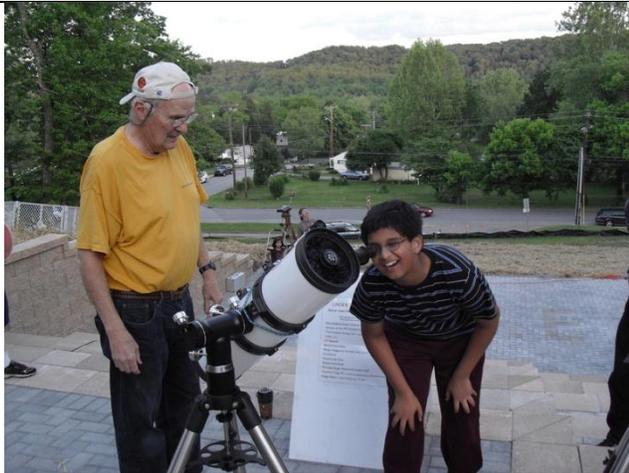
And we had a good location and facilities. Amphitheater provided stairs for star watching. I saw lots of happy parents and children. I'm sure this night was something special to everyone.



David Fields (ORION President) with students



Lee Erickson (top of stairs to right) setting up the "Do not buy" telescope



Roy Morrow helping an student enjoy the sights

Comments by other SMAS members:

Lee Erickson:

Glad I went last night. I took the Do Not Buy telescope and put it on the moon. I set it up next to the edge of a step and a wall in the amphitheater so that young persons could stand on an upper step and look into the eye piece and older persons could stand comfortably behind on the lower step and look.  
Lots of kids got to see creators on the moon and mountains and Maire Crisium.  
I even gave away some JPL posters to a 2nd grade teacher.  
I hope some young minds were inspired last night.

Roy Morrow:

.. I never envisioned so MANY students and parents and this was a great educational opportunity for everyone. I always get a great deal of satisfaction showing people the moon and Saturn for the first time and hearing the "WOWs".

## Upcoming Events



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**June 4, 2011 –SMAS Star Party at Look Rock (weather permitting).**

**June 10, 2011 – Regular SMAS meeting at PSTCC**

Tentative program:

1. Business Session
2. Jim Sanders – Introduction to Star Hoping
3. Jerry Kornegay – Constellation of the Month Project
4. Night Sky: Spring Objects

**June 25, 2011 –SMAS Star Party at Unicoi Crest (weather permitting).**

**July 2, 2011 –SMAS Star Party at Look Rock (weather permitting).**

**July 6, 2011 – ORION Amateur Science and Astronomy Club, Grove Theater, Oak Ridge, Tn**

Tentative program: Mr. Tim Troutman, NOAA/NWS Morristown, Climate Change

## Meeting Minutes



### May 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes

#### Reported by Noah Frere, Secretary

Any corrections to these minutes should be sent to Noah Frere at [noahhaverkamp@yahoo.com](mailto:noahhaverkamp@yahoo.com)

The regular SMAS business meeting was held at PSTCC on Friday April 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Sanders at 7:30 EST. Those in attendance were:

Noah Frere, Brent Holt, Dennis Miller, Nick Schepis, Duane Dunlap, Lee Erickson, Patrick Thrush, Jerry Kornegay, Vicente Diaz, Erik Iverson, Miles Iverson, Angela Quick, Stan Azubalis, Ronald Dinkins, Chris Dinkins, Gary Lozado, Susan Lozado, Yuko Komatu, Gary Kliethermes, Mark Ziolkowski, Jim Sanders, Roy Morrow, Duane Dunlap and Michael Reuter.

Jim Sanders welcomed the group. Several visitors announced themselves

#### Program #1: Astro-imaging with a Wide Field Telescope by Roy Morrow - 45 minutes

Roy introduced himself as being not the most knowledgeable Astrophotographer, but the one amongst us who has taken the most pictures. He showed some pictures of Sky Village ([arizonaskyvillage.co.uk](http://arizonaskyvillage.co.uk)), where he has a house he visits 6 or 7 times a year.

Roy gave a quick overview of the southern and northern Milky Way. He talked a little about scopes. Wide FOV scopes are more forgiving. An F5 usually gives a 3-4 degree FOV. Hyperstar optics from Starizona converts F10 to F2! It replaces the secondary mirror. Most of the pictures Roy showed during his presentation were with his 101 mm F4 Borg Refractor. Among his pictures was Sadr, the central star of Cygnus, surrounded by nebulosity; N. American Nebula near Deneb, a massive star-forming hydrogen cloud in Cygnus; the Veil Nebula: removal of the HA filter makes this a short but effective 15 minute exposure; IC 1396 in Cepheus is very difficult to observe, even though it is a 3.5 magnitude, because it is spread over 3 degrees, giving it very low "surface brightness;" the "Double Cluster" in Perseus is a favorite for imagers and observers.

Roy explains that camera chips are not cooled, so stacking shorter exposures helps to minimize abnormalities caused by an "overheated" camera. He pointed out a small purple smudge in the corner of a photo which resulted from this overheating, called Amplifier Glow. He explained why nebulosity glows red: ionized hydrogen gas jumping down to its alpha state.

Roy recommends the DSLR Shutter Program for unattended camera operation.

Roy then passed around a bag of Milky Way candy bars.

#### Program #2: AL Observing Clubs by Ron Dinkins – 20 minutes

Ron announced that SMAS members are all automatically members of the Astronomical League (AL), and should receive a quarterly magazine. He showed pictures of some of the pins you receive when you complete one of the dozens of "Clubs." A Club is a list of Night-Sky observations one has to make and record. There are 3 levels: beginner to advanced. The Deep Sky Binocular is a real good Club. It is one of the many Binocular Club options. Many new clubs have been added in the past 5 years. Clubs encourage star-hopping. Each Club has its own Club Coordinator. Roy also recommends the Universe Sampler Club which you must purchase a book for. Roy also showed a thorough and large Sky Atlas which he bound himself, and showed stars down to, if I remember correctly, the 9<sup>th</sup> magnitude or so. I need that.

The AL Clubs are similar to merit badges. They are an excellent way to categorically acquaint yourself with hundreds of Night Sky objects. They provide inspiration and encouragement to deepen our desire to learn more about the infinite special cosmos.

At the end, Ron presented Jim Sanders with the Lunar Club Pin, which he began in 2006 and just finished this year. It took Jim 100 recorded observations and 5 years to complete this Club!

-BREAK-

At 8:35, Jerry Kornegay presented an idea that he and Jim Sanders had been discussing:

**A SMAS Reference Book, or SMAS Observing Guide.** This would provide comparisons of a space object, for example, the Orion Nebula, through various telescopes and binoculars. The reason for this book is to make it easier for astronomers to locate the targets with whatever particular instrument *they* are using, rather than trying to match up some glorious Hubble telescope picture or description with their amateur telescope. If there is enough interest, SMAS Members would make contributions as they desire. M42, then, would have 5 or 10 different visual descriptions from various instruments, such as a 101 mm Borg Refractor, or an 8" Dobsonian, or a 9X42 binoculars, etc. Ideally, each asterism would have a description for each major type of instrument.

Jerry passed out a chart to illustrate this idea, and some members asked to have the chart emailed to them. This is an ambitious project, but there appears to be some interest in pursuing it.

Program #3: *Spring Galaxies* by Jim Sanders – 20 minutes

"Like wolves, they run in packs."

Our galaxy is a barred spiral with a huge core, with our sun about half-way out, 100,000 LY from the center. Most of the stars we see are in our little section of the galaxy. Jim showed a 3D physical model of our galaxy.

In the Summer, we in the northern hemisphere are between the sun and the central galactic bulge. During the Winter, this is reversed so we can't see the bulge. In the Spring, as we transition, our view is up and out of the galaxy, towards the north pole.

Jim showed some slides, including a photo he took at Unicoi Crest. He held up the model to demonstrate just what we see on a good clear summer night.

The cosmos is punctuated by groups of galaxies. Ours is in the Local Group. Andromeda M31 is in our group and moving towards us at about 300,000 mph. At that rate, it will take about 3 billion years to collide with our galaxy.

Jim showed: a night sky map from 5/1/11 and pointed out NGP (North Galactic Pole) in Coma Berenices; Leo double stars: Regulus with a wide separation, Gamma Leonis with very close separation – 4.4 seconds; picture of Leo Triplet very similar to what he saw through an 8" scope at UC (going back to the SMAS Observing Guide idea); Mizar double-star in Ursa Major; a galaxy group in Ursa Major – M81, M82 – a 3" or 4" scope gets a pretty good view of their shapes; M51, a colliding galaxy very nice through Sasquatch.

Jim Sanders alerted us to stay tuned for the meeting next month – the meeting room at PSTCC was not yet confirmed.

End of Meeting.

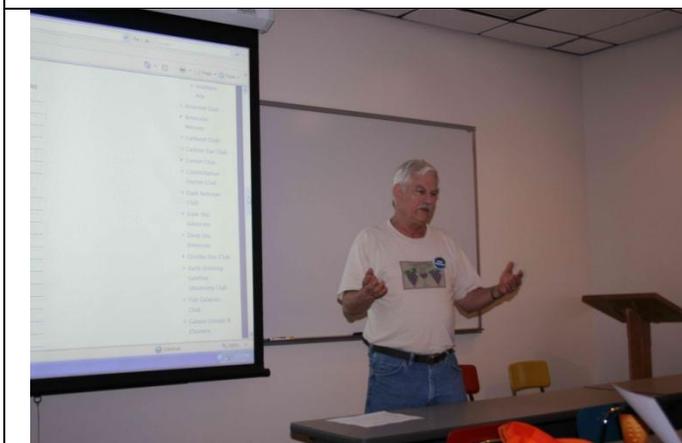
Submitted by Noah Frere June 1st, 2011



Roy Morrow Presentation on Astrophotography



Ron Dinkins presents Lunar Club Observing Award to Jim Sanders



Jerry Kornegay explains a proposed club project



Ron Dinkins shows his Sky Atlas 2000 Which displays stars down to 8.5 magnitude



Lee discusses benefits of SMAS membership to  
Gary and Susan Lozoda

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# June 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <b>ORION Club meeting</b> Grove Theater, Oak Ridge, Tn  New Moon	2	3 <b>UT K</b>	4 <b>SMAS Star Party, Look Rock</b>  TAO
5	6	7	8	9	10 <b>SMAS Meeting</b> PSTCC 7:30 PM	11
12	13	14	15  Full Moon	16	17 <b>UT K</b>	18 <b>TAO</b>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <b>SMAS Star Party, Unicoi Crest</b>
26	27	28	29	30	 New Moon	

UTK – roof of Neilson Physics Building on the Hill At UT on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays  
<http://www.phys.utk.edu/trdc/telescope.html>

TAO – Tamke-Allen Observatory  
Public Stargaze  
Watts Bar Lake, Roane County  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays  
<http://www.roanestate.edu/obs/>