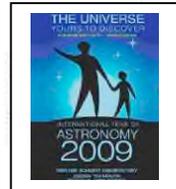




First Light

The Newsletter of the Cape Cod Astronomical Society



May, 2009

Vol.20 No. 5

Thoughts on First Light

This will be a very much abbreviated edition of First Light since on the day of issue, your editor will have been in the mountains of North Carolina for twelve days. Regular format and content will continue with the June issue to issue about May 26.

Key News for May:

The "Main Event" in May is the CCAS observance of National Astronomy Day: afternoon and evening of May 2nd. The announcement covering programs for this day was sent out earlier and a copy is printed here as page 2.

You can also download copies from our website: www.ccas.ws

Please be sure to participate in our afternoon and evening programs on that day. Please help us advertise for this event. Invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives. Programs will take place on schedule both afternoon and evening. There will NOT be cancellations because of bad weather or clouds. If we cannot observe the night sky in the evening, workshops and equipment demonstrations and tutorials will continue indoors if necessary after dark.

Our second "Main Event" for May is our regular monthly meeting at the library of D-Y High School at 7:30pm on Thursday, May 7th. Dr. Tim Barker, Department of Physics, Wheaton College, will speak on "Visual Astrophysics". Learn how observers can connect what they see through small telescopes to the physics of what's happening in these objects. The use of filters by amateurs to reduce sky brightness allowing visualization of nebulae more clearly will be included in the discussion. Dr. Barker heads an impressive program in astronomy at Wheaton where over 2,000 undergraduate students have had experience using one of the 8 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes on their observing deck.

Finally, many thanks to Bill Boyd for his wonderful portrait of the early days of CCAS and the genesis and early history of the Werner Schmidt Observatory. From idea to plan, from project shape to heroic fundraising over many years, from foundation pouring to construction by Cape Tech students to First Light and dedication, this story provides a legacy for all members to know and from which to draw new energy.

If you have not yet seen the announcement for CCAS programs on May 2nd, National Astronomy Day, please check it out on the next page, download and print and share it with your neighbors and friends, and be sure to participate in our programs on that day.

Announcement

National Astronomy Day

at the Werner Schmidt Observatory

Saturday, May 2nd, 2009, 3-10pm



What...

... in the afternoon: a program of short classes and demonstrations introducing amateur astronomy, what we see, instruments we use, how we know some of the things we know, how telescopes work.

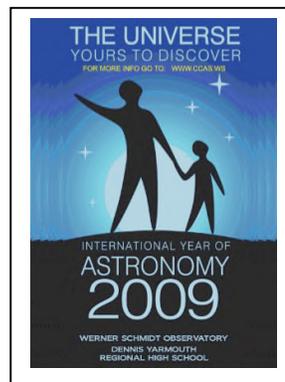
...in the evening: workshop stations on how to look at the sky, considerations when buying a telescope, and finally...

...from twilight until whenever... observing the sky with a pointer, binoculars, and telescopes, small and large, ours or yours...

Where...

... in and outside classrooms in the rear of Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, 210 Station Avenue, South Yarmouth, MA and...

... inside and outside the Werner Schmidt Observatory behind the High School



Programs...

- Classes and Demonstrations; One hour sessions at both at 4pm and 5pm:
 - *The sun and the planets- misconceptions and how we learned the truth
 - *Where does this rock come from?
 - *Lives of the Stars
 - *Telescope Design and considerations on buying a scope
 - *How to Observe the Night Sky
 - *How Do I use a Telescopes.com
 - *....and more
- Observing the Night Sky from Dusk until late evening with one of four CCAS telescopes including a 16" Schmidt-Cas and an 18" Dobsonian and binoculars

If you wish, especially if you need help, bring your own telescope or binoculars

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The **Cape Cod Astronomical Society** meets at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of every month in the library of the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School in Yarmouth, Massachusetts. Meetings are open to the public. Membership dues are \$30 for adults, \$15 for students in two year colleges and part year residents, and no charge for spouses or for students in K-12 schools.

