



First Light

The Newsletter of the Cape Cod Astronomical Society



September 2006

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It is somewhat of a rocky road for First Light this month. The traditional lead item is the "Mooncusser's 21st Century Almanac". However, author Jim Carlson is in the process of moving his residence; the Almanac will return in October. Then, the feature article was to be on club member Dan Burbank flying on the space shuttle Atlantis. Tropical storm Ernesto had other ideas. At least I have the two lead items for October set.

September 7 CCAS Meeting

Jon Greenberg, our Society's president, will be speaking on "A Curious Incident Near Roswell, New Mexico". The meeting will be held at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School in Room 401, 7:30pm. A map of the school on our website, www.ccas.ws, clearly shows the location of the room. Also, join us for a pre-meeting dinner at 6:00pm at the Hearth 'N Kettle in South Yarmouth on Rte 28.

Dues Are Due

Yes, it is that time of year. Your annual society dues of \$30 are due. On the first of August, they were past due. With a membership that varies between 25 and 30, our annual revenue budget is between \$750 and \$900. That budget covers our annual liability insurance premium of about \$270. This last year it also paid for realuminizing the primary and secondary mirrors on the 14" scope, 40% of the cost for a new digital projector for our monthly meetings, a three copy license for Microsoft Office (which this editor is using at this very time), and a 40G portable hard drive and .5G stick drive to support the preparation of programs for our monthly meetings. Where else can you get such a deal. As the old late night commercial says "You can't beat it with a stick!" Come on folks, let's get your dues in.

Astro Trivia for September

The trivia question for this month is "What is a parsec?" As usual, the question will be discussed and answered at this month's meeting.

Call for Catalogs

The program for our October 5 meeting will be "So You Want to Buy a Telescope". The purpose of the program is to provide assistance to guests and members who are considering the purchase of a telescope. Various types and sizes of telescopes will be on display. We hope to also have a wide selection of catalogs available. If you have a fairly recent catalog that offers telescopes and accessories, please bring it to the September meeting. Thanks.

Society Logo in Stone

Society member Ed Swiniarski is selling stone tiles with the society's logo laser etched into the surface. The 5 1/2" square, 1/4" thick slate tiles have the etching highlighted with either gold or silver colored paint. The slate tiles sell for ten dollars each. Tiles made from other stone such as marble or granite are available by special order with the price varying according to the cost of the stone. All proceeds from the sales will be donated to the Cape Cod Astronomical Foundation. You can contract Ed at efswin@c4.net or 508-896-7270.

An Untimely Definition

We have a new definition of a planet, or so says the IAU. Per the IAU2006.org website, a planet is as follows:

