



FOCUS

Vol. 62, No. 7, NOVEMBER, 2017

DELAWARE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 8:00pm
Topic: "Cassini-Huygens Mission to Saturn and Titan"
Speaker: John Conrad, NASA Ambassador
At the Mt. Cuba Astronomical Observatory

From the President – Rob Lancaster

DAS Members,

As we approach the Holidays, we should of course reflect upon all those things we can be thankful for. This is especially poignant this November since our longstanding and dedicated publications chair, Joe Neuberger, who we thank for all of his years of dedicated service, was unfortunately in a serious car accident. He remains in critical condition, and we wish him good health and a swift recovery. We also can be really thankful for the club members who have pitched in to put this issue together in Joe's absence. We hope you enjoy the issue, although it will not be up to its usual quality or length. We miss you Joe!

We can also be very thankful of all of the DAS members who have volunteered to help out at our various functions recently. We have a strong outreach group sharing our love of astronomy with people of all ages in schools, museums, and parks. Our members have hosted about 30 outreach events so far this year and have touched the lives of over a thousand people. That is nothing short of amazing. We have been working hard to make improvements to the Sawin Observatory through the acquisition of new equipment, the restoration of our old equipment, and upgrades in the facility itself. This project did get delayed a little in the permit process, but regardless, we are still making progress. As luck would have it, we managed to acquire the refractor we currently plan to put into the pod at a much cheaper price than if we had bought it new, and are proceeding with the next steps to get it operational for the use of our members. We are very thankful of all of the volunteer hours our members have been putting in to make these improvements a reality. We are also thankful for the volunteers who helped with the recent storeroom cleanup and the new shelf installation. The space looks a lot better!

The Delaware Astronomical Society is stronger than ever, with over 100 members the last time I saw the count. I am very thankful to be a part of this group and honored that you chose me to represent you in the role of President. Our club is doing great things for the astronomical community and for the public. Have a great holiday!



Board Meeting Agenda

1. Review of Minutes from Last Meeting—Jack Goodwin
2. Treasurer's Report—Diana Metzger
3. Converting Family Memberships—Jeff Lawrence
4. Report on the New Refractor—Bill Hanagan
5. Items needed to get the Refractor up and running—Bill Hanagan
6. Plans for the old 6" AstroPhysics telescope—Jeff Lawrence



Upcoming Events and Activities Extended

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|-------------------------|---|
| NOV 17 | November 17, 2017 - November 18, 2017 Stokes Star Party Click here for details. |
| NOV 17 | 7:00 pm November 17, 2017 - 5:30 am November 18, 2017 Members' Star Party A DAS Members' Night for Observing for all DAS Members & their guests to enjoy the dark skies at Fair Hill. Newer club members can experience a host of observing styles as various telescopes are set-up for visual use at one of DAS' nearest dark sites under a New Moon. Stay until dawn, if desired. Contact Greg Lee, DAS Observing Chair, at greglee288@gmail.com with any questions. |
| NOV 18 | November 18, 2017 7:30 pm - 11:30 pm Astrophotography Special Interest Group (AP-SIG) Meeting Scheduled at a member's site. Topic and agenda will be available via DAS YAHOO GROUP email and by direct email to AP-SIG members. |
| NOV 21 | November 21, 2017 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm DAS Monthly Meeting Topic: Cassini-Huygens Missions to Saturn & Titan; Guest Speaker: John Conrad, NASA Solar System Ambassador. Board meeting at 7PM, all are welcome; General Meeting at 8PM. Download The FOCUS for full club details and more information. |
| NOV 28 | November 28, 2017 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm DAS' Astronomy Workshop and Book Club Meeting at Mt. Cuba Observatory Come to the Astronomy Workshop at Mount Cuba. Share your astronomy interests, talk about and do astronomy! If it's a clear sky we can observe at the Sawin! Also: the DAS Book Club will meet in the Lecture Room to discuss <i>Astrophysics for People in a Hurry</i> by Neil de Grasse Tyson. |
| DEC 3 | December 3, 2017 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Delaware Museum of Natural History: Moon Misconceptions DAS will lead a discussion about the <i>Moon's Misconceptions</i> followed by viewing the December night sky through telescopes. FREE for DMNH Members or with paid admission to the Museum. Click here for more information. |
| DEC 5 | December 5, 2017 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm DAS' Astronomy Workshop at Mt. Cuba Observatory Come to the Astronomy Workshop at Mount Cuba. Share your astronomy interests, talk about and do astronomy! Held EVERY Tuesday except during Monthly Meetings, special events or an emergency. If it's a clear sky we can observe at the Sawin! |
| DEC 12 | December 12, 2017 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm DAS' Astronomy Workshop at Mt. Cuba Observatory Come to the Astronomy Workshop at Mount Cuba. Share your astronomy interests, talk about and do astronomy! Held EVERY Tuesday except during Monthly Meetings, special events or an emergency. If it's a clear sky we can observe at the Sawin! |
| DEC 13 | December 13, 2017 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Geminid Meteor Shower Join DAS Members and the public to enjoy the Geminid meteor shower under the dark skies at Fair Hill Park. We will give a presentation on meteor showers for the public, and then sit back to enjoy the show! Dress for the weather, and bring a comfy lawn chair. Contact Jeff Lawrence at jeff@delastro.org for any questions. |
| DEC 15 | December 15, 2017 - December 16, 2017 Astrophotography Special Interest Group (AP-SIG) Meeting The exact date, time, and activity depend on the weather and will be announced 1-2 days ahead via DAS YAHOO GROUP email and by direct email to AP-SIG members. |
| DEC 19 | December 19, 2017 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm DAS Holiday Party Topic: Holiday Party; No Board meeting, all are welcome; General Celebrations begin at 7PM. Download The FOCUS for full club details and more information. |

INFORMATION ON DAS MEMBERSHIPS AND MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

DAS MEMBERSHIP

- DAS membership dues are \$30.00 per year and due on November 1 for all members.
- There is no need to renew membership until the treasurer contacts you during the membership renewal drive starting in mid-October.
- New members joining at various times of the year may be eligible for a prorated dues amount.
 - \$20 when joining March-May
 - \$10 when joining June-August
 - \$30 for joining September-October through November 1 of the following year.

SKY & TELESCOPE MAGAZINE

- The DAS offers subscriptions to *Sky & Telescope* at a discounted rate of \$32.95 per year.
- Call S&T magazine at 800-253-0245 and mention the club's name to receive the discount

ASTRONOMY MAGAZINE

- The DAS offers subscriptions to Astronomy magazine at a discounted rate of \$34.00 per year.
- Subscriptions to Astronomy will be processed by the club for the first subscription year only.
- Your subscription expiration date should be displayed on the mailing label on your magazine.
- Renewals can be handled by all club members on the Astronomy.com website using the following steps:
 - a. go to www.astronomy.com
 - b. select the 'customer service' link in the upper right corner
 - c. select the 'renew your subscriptions' link
 - d. enter your customer number (found on the mailing label), postal code, and the renewal code of 'RCLUB040' and click 'continue'
 - e. follow the remaining steps from there.

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Please review the membership and magazine information above carefully.
- PLEASE fill out the membership form below completely.

NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please be sure to review the **Membership** and **Magazine** information above **carefully**.

Please make checks payable to DAS and forward to:

Diana Metzger, Treasurer, 604 Baldwin Lane, Wilmington, DE 19803



Membership \$30.00/20.00/10.00

Astronomy Magazine \$34.00

Total:

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| |

Name _____ Email Address _____

Street Address _____ Phone Number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Notes _____

For questions or concerns, contact Diana Metzger, DAS Treasurer at (302) 290-2108 dmetzgermd@gmail.com

DAS CONTACTS Please Call Any of Us With Your Concerns or Problems

Board Members

Officers:

President: Rob Lancaster -- RLancaste@gmail.com -- also Webmaster

Vice-President: Jeff Lawrence -- Jeff@DelAstro.org -- (302) 668-8277 -- also, Program Chair

Secretary: Bill McKibben -- BillMcK21921@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diana Metzger -- (302) 290-2108 -- DMetzgerMD@gmail.com

Board Members at Large:

Bill Hanagan -- (302) 239-0949 -- hanaganw@verizon.net -- Astro-Photography Special Interest Group (AP SIG) --
Amateur Telescope Making Special Interest Group (ATM SIG)

Amy Hornberger

Dave Groski

Standing Chairs:

Publications: Joe Neuberger -- JRNeuberger@gmail.com -- (302) 723-2734 -- also *FOCUS* Newsletter, articles & Photo
Contributions & Submissions

Observatory: Jack Goodwin -- (610) 457-2945 -- Jack_Goodwin@yahoo.com

Education: Ted Trevarrow -- (302) 593-7949 -- edt750@verizon.net

Library: Maria Lavalle and Sue Bebon Astronomical League Coordinator--K Lynn King -- klynking@verizon.net

Observing Chair: Greg Lee Nominations Chair: Amy Hornberger -- aehornberger@gmail.com

Elections Chair: Nico Carver -- (302)353-2448 -- nicocarver@gmail.com

| Meeting Date: | Speaker & Topic: |
|------------------|--|
| December 19 2017 | Holiday celebration |
| January 16 2018 | Jim O'Leary -- "Astronomy at the Top of the World" |
| February 20 2018 | Paul Halpern -- "Feynman" |
| March 20 2018 | Preston Smith -- "Traveling With Your Scope" |
| April 17 2018 | Member mini-talks |
| May 15 2018 | Dinner Meeting - TBD |
| June 19 2018 | TBD |

The Last
Word. . .



Joe, we know this issue does not live up to the standard you have set. We are all pulling for you for a speedy recovery! All the best to you and you family and loved ones,

- The DAS Board