
★ DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY ★
★ *Celestial Views* ★

42 29' 20.3 N. Latitude
Southfield Civic Center



83 14 12.7 W. Longitude

January/February 1998

D.A.S.: The Year in Review

Welcome to 1998! Here's hoping everyone enjoys a happy and prosperous new year! The DAS has had a rather busy year. We've been involved in a number of activities, and the club itself has undergone some important changes. What follows is a recap of the highlights of 1997.

We began 1997 with a new editor and a new newsletter. DAS member **Joseph Stokes** entered and won the "Name the Newsletter" contest, and in January 1997, "Celestial Views" became the official publication of the DAS.

In March, everyone welcomed the arrival of Comet Hale-Bopp. The DAS hosted a Comet Party at the Southfield Civic Center. Although the skies didn't cooperate, we handed out fliers to the general public with information about the comet and our club. We also welcomed new member **Kevin Gorman**.

Also in March, our own **Jack Brisbin** was a guest speaker at the S.M.A.A.C. convention at Eastern Michigan University. He gave an interesting talk on Comet Hale-Bopp, and showed video highlights of Comet Hyakutake.

The DAS took part in the "Comet Hale-Bopp Star Party" in April at Kensington Metropark. All of the area astronomy clubs were involved in this extremely successful event which was open to the public.

The annual S.M.U.R.F.S. gathering took place

at the end of July. DAS Treasurer **John Lines** was there and gave us an excellent report and rave reviews of the dark skies.

September was a particularly important month. It was then that the officers of the club had a frank discussion about the state of the DAS. It was one of the best meetings we've had, and we got a lot out of it. The most important change was the meeting night from Friday's to Tuesday's. There has already been an improvement in attendance.

DAS President **Barry Craig** also came up with the idea of a twice annual "pow wow" among the area clubs. We all contributed our ideas, and it is hoped that this thing will really take off and become an annual event. The DAS will be hosting the first one this spring.

In November, the DAS welcomed the Physics & Astronomy class of Madonna University to our meeting. The students, who earned college credit by attending, were treated to a computer demonstration by Barry Craig.

We wrapped up 1997 with a Holiday Party on December 9th. We enjoyed good food, lively conversation, door-prizes, and the company of good friends.

We have much to look forward to in 1998. Of particular importance is the continued growth and improvement of our club. Hopefully the changes we have made and our future plans will encourage you stop by some time!

General Information

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Barry Craig (248) 547-1299
SECRETARY Gary Frey (248) 363-9926
TREASURER John Lines (248) 969-2790
PAST PRES. Jack Brisbin (313) 455-7827

DIRECTORS

Dave Corkery (248) 685-7657
Mike Cyrek (313) 366-3595
Cindy Parkhurst (313) 692-1640
Robert Thomas (313) 534-0310

SKYWATCHERS HOTLINE (313) 207-1857

The SKYWATCHERS HOTLINE is a public service of the Detroit Astronomical Society. The hotline is updated monthly with information about astronomical events, discoveries, and highlights observational astronomy. DAS meeting dates are listed at the end of the broadcast. Callers are not billed a 900 or 976 service charge.

The SKYWATCHERS HOTLINE is a registered service mark of the Detroit Astronomical Society in accordance with the provisions of the Michigan Department of Commerce, Corporation, and Securities Bureau.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to any individual interested in astronomy. Membership dues are used to finance the SKYWATCHERS HOTLINE, and all DAS activities. Our purpose is to "encourage and promote astronomy and related space sciences".

MEETING INFORMATION

The Detroit Astronomical Society is a registered non-profit organization meeting federal requirements for tax deductible, charitable contribution status. The DAS generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month; however, due to special events or observing sessions, meeting dates may be altered. Meetings are held at the Southfield Parks and Recre-

ation Bldg., located at 10 1/2 mile and Evergreen, in community room 224, unless otherwise noted. Since we are guests here, it is important to be considerate in our use of the facility to ensure our continued welcome.

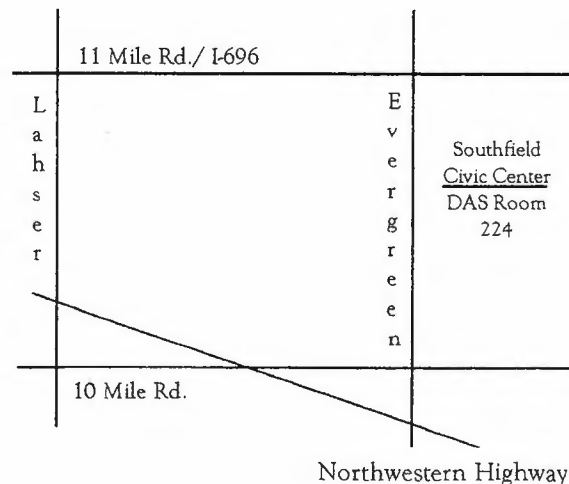
The meetings consist of talks, lectures, films, slides, mirror making, and fellowship with astronomy as the common denominator. Scheduled events usually start at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation of meeting dates can be obtained by calling the SKYWATCHERS HOTLINE at (313) 207-1857. During July and August, our meeting dates are reduced and emphasis is placed on scheduled observing sessions.

DAS NEWSLETTER

The DAS newsletter is a bi-monthly publication. Members are encouraged to submit any article pertaining to astronomy, including observing experiences, improvements in observing techniques, and astronomical theory. Articles should be typed, and sent to the editor at the following address:

Cindy Parkhurst
14180 Park St.
Gibraltar, MI 48173

Telephone (313) 692-1640. If no answer, please leave a message or E-mail me at: normdak@ic.net Articles submitted by members are their opinions and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the DAS. If your mailing address is incorrect, or you don't receive a newsletter, please notify the editor immediately.



EDITOR'S DESK

by Cindy Parkhurst

I apologize for the lateness of the newsletter. In addition to the holiday's, I experienced technical difficulties with the computer!

Changing the meeting night to Tuesday's appears to be a good move. We've been seeing some new faces at the meetings, which makes it all the more interesting.

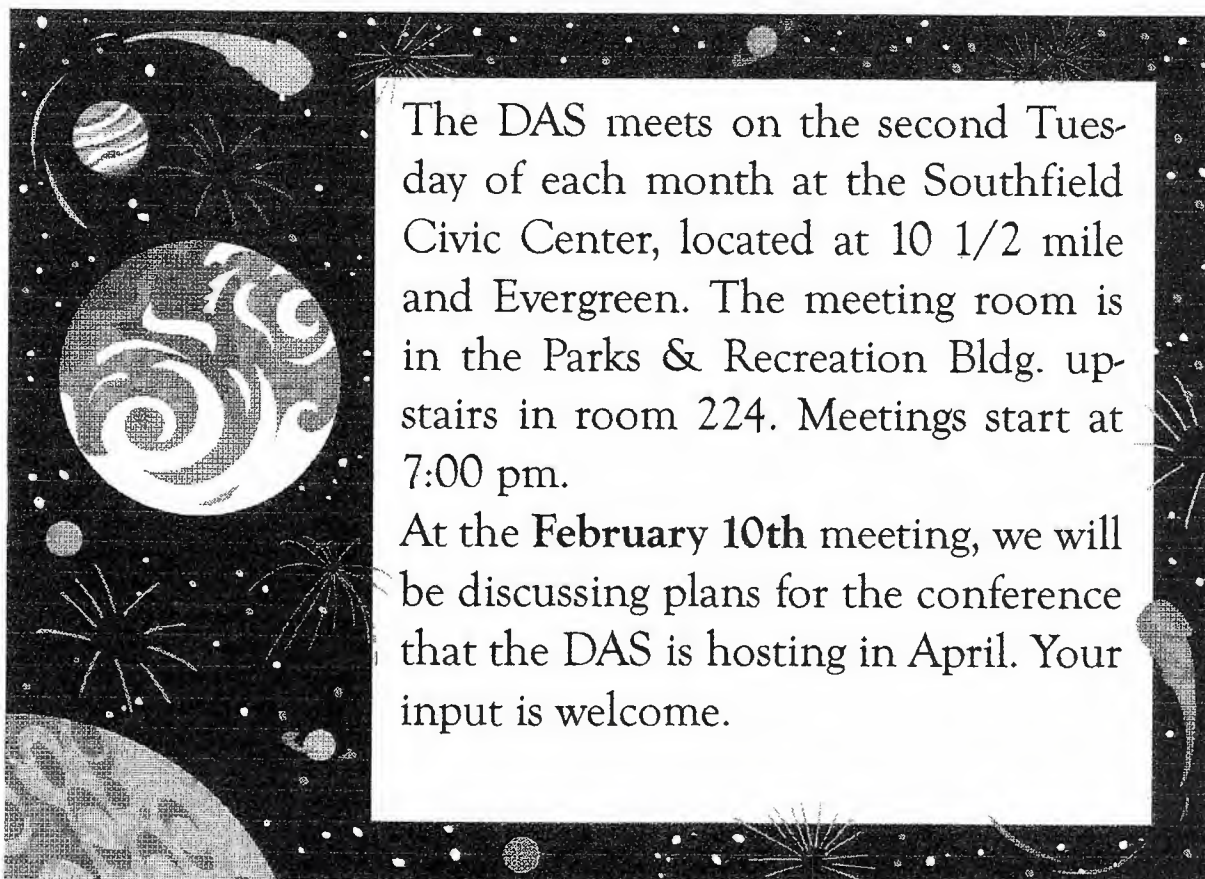
The November meeting was a particularly good one. That night, the DAS hosted it's annual Software Fair. In addition to members, we welcomed Dr. Afif's "Physics & Astronomy" class from Madonna University. The students earned credit for attending, and DAS president Barry Craig presented live computer images projected on a big screen for all to enjoy.

Our Christmas Party on December 9th turned

out very well. Several DAS members were on hand, and we also welcomed members from other clubs.

We enjoyed some interesting conversation on a variety of subjects. There was a rather heated debate on the origin of the universe, and we also discussed some pending legislation concerning light pollution, a matter of importance to even the casual observer.

The January meeting was canceled. Barry Craig had a death in the family, and some of the board members were also unable to attend. Mark your calendars NOW for May 1st and 2nd. We're going to Kensington Metropark again, and those of you who attended last year will remember what a great event it turned out to be. This is a chance for the area clubs to share our hobby with the general public. Last years event drew an estimated 4,000 people. More details next newsletter.



The DAS meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Southfield Civic Center, located at 10 1/2 mile and Evergreen. The meeting room is in the Parks & Recreation Bldg. upstairs in room 224. Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

At the February 10th meeting, we will be discussing plans for the conference that the DAS is hosting in April. Your input is welcome.

OBSERVATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Mike Cyrek

January 1998

1 03UT Moon 4° N of Mars
 23 Moon 3° N of Jupiter
 3 17 Quadrantid Meteors*
 23 Venus 0.4° N of Asteroid
 Eunomia at M -4.4 & 10.4
 5 12 Moon 0.2° S of Saturn
 9 13 Moon 0.4° N of Aldebaran
 17 Venus 0.4° N of Neptune at
 M -4.4 & 8.0
 12 17 Full Moon
 21 01 Mars 0.2° S of Jupiter at
 M 1.2 & -2.0
 26 17 Venus 8° N of Mercury at
 M -4.4 & -0.3
 27 00 Moon 3° S of Venus
 01 Moon 5° N of Mercury
 28 06 New Moon
 29 12 Juno stationary at M 9.8
 17 Moon 2° N of Jupiter
 30 01 Moon 1.7° N of Mars

February

1 21UT Moon 0.6° S of Saturn
 2 Groundhog Day
 11 Mercury 2° S of Neptune at
 M -0.5 & 8.0
 5 18 Moon 0.2° N of Aldebaran
 8 05 Mercury 1.4° S of Uranus at
 M -0.7 & 5.9
 10 05 Moon 4° S of Beehive Cluster
 11 10 Full Moon
 12 01 Moon 1.4° S of Regulus
 14 24 Moon 1.5° N of Juno M 9.8
 16 13 Moon 6° N of Spica
 20 02 Venus greatest brilliancy
 23 17 Moon 1.6° S of Venus
 24 06 Moon 3° N of Neptune
 22 Moon 3° N of Uranus
 26 17 New Moon
 27 22 Moon 0.7° S of Mars

***Quadrantid Meteors:**

A narrow shower from Jan. 1-6. Expected count about 120. Velocity at 41 km/s. Radiant originates in northern Bootes and rises about 11 PM EST. By this time, the waning crescent moon will be setting which should greatly increase the count.

Comet Tempel-Tuttle will be ideally placed in January moving across the northern sky as it moves from Canes Venatici across the middle of the Big Dipper in Ursa Major, across Camelopardalis, then Cassiopeia where on Jan 21st, it will be at it's brightest at Mag. 9. Then across Andromeda, Pisces, etc. Refer to the sky calendar by Guy Ottewell, 1998 page 59.

Planets:

Mercury Visible in the morning twilight from Jan 1 to Feb 10.
 Venus A brilliant object in the evening twilight sky during the first two weeks of January, and then a morning twilight object.
 Mars An evening object throughout January and February moving from Capricornus to Aquarius and then Pisces.
 Jupiter An early evening object in January and then an evening twilight object the first two weeks of February moving from Capricornus to Aquarius.
 Saturn Visible in the evening throughout Jan and Feb in Pisces.
 Uranus A morning twilight object during the last week of Jan and throughout Feb in Capricornus.
 Neptune A morning twilight object the last three weeks of Feb in Capricornus.

Observational Highlights compiled from The Astronomical Almanac, Sky Gazers Almanac, and the Astronomical Calendar.

During these two months, Eridanus is well situated. At the bottom and inside the western loop are two beautiful galaxies. NGC 1232, it's axis in our line of sight, is a 5c spiral at mag. 10. Also the well known spiral NGC 1300, an SBC spiral with very fine symmetry at mag. 10.4. Both are about 23° S of Alpha Ceti.

DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE:

- FAMILY \$46.50 All members living at one address, membership includes SKY and TELESCOPE magazine, D.A.S. newsletter.
- REGULAR \$43.50, 18 Years of age and older, membership includes SKY and TELESCOPE magazine, D.A.S. newsletter.
- JUNIOR \$28.50, 17 years of age or younger, membership includes SKY and TELESCOPE magazine, D.A.S. newsletter
- REGULAR (NO MAGAZINE) \$18.00, membership includes D.A.S newsletter and all mailed announcements

Membership dues are used to finance all DAS activities and the SKYWATCHERS hotline
If you are a new member how did you find out about the D.A.S.

Make checks payable to; DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, send check and membership application to :

JOHN LINES TREASURER DAS
9590 RIDGE TOP TRAIL
CLARKSTON MICH 48348

