



## EPHEMERALS - JUNE 2006

DATE	WHEN	WHAT & WHERE
1	7:30p	Monthly Meeting @ Cox in Chesapeake
3	8:00p	Garden Stars @ Botanical Gardens
5	12:00p	Risk-5 @ North Landing Elem. School.
8	3:00p	Astronomy Club @ Indian River Middle School
12	12:00p	Risk-6 @ North Landing Elementary School.
16	Dusk	Skywatch @ North West River Park
17	Dusk	Cloverwatch @ Franklin Fairgrounds
23	7:30p	Nighthike @ North West River Park
24	Dusk	Nightwatch @ Chippokes Plantation

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## LOOKING UP

The Times, They Are a-Changing It's hard to believe it is JUNE already! Scorpius and Ophiucus are coming into view, giving us the opportunity to look toward the heart of our home galaxy, The Milky Way. We get to see the splendid star fields, clusters, nebulae, and multiple stars in that part of the sky, especially after midnight in Sagittarius (which will be up in "prime time" in July!). And don't forget the "Realm of the Galaxies" in Virgo, and the starry sights in Coma Berenices, Hercules, and the rising Summer Triangle.

One change for me is that I don't work for Radio Shack any more. I disliked the crazy schedules, and the interference with my family time and astronomy observing and club activities. I am now officially between jobs, and tutoring math part-time at Huntington Learning Center in Virginia Beach.

Another change is our monthly newsletter. Chuck Jagow has volunteered to take responsibility for it, and hopes to get input and articles from the rest of us. Even if you are new at astronomy, your input is desired; in fact we need to hear from you, because

we tend to forget the difficulties and dilemmas of the "newbie". A report from a novice often exudes the wonder and excitement we older observers sometimes pass over - unless you are Kent Blackwell, who bubbles with enthusiasm over the faintest of faint fuzzies. Go, Kent! Your enthusiasm is contagious!

I want to thank Barb Weiner for faithfully publishing The BBAA Observer for several years. She has done an outstanding job, and has indicated that she is willing to help our new editor in any way possible. I also want to apologize to the membership for the lack of a newsletter in the past two months. As president, I should have been proactive in trying to get someone to take over from Barb when she indicated she couldn't continue. A big "Thank you" to C5 for picking up the ball.

So, you may be seeing some changes in the club newsletter, as well as in the skies above. Be sure to come to the June meeting, to be held June 1 at Cox Communications in Chesapeake. We will be showing a demonstration we gave to a men's group last March which brought down the house.

There are many opportunities for involvement, as much or as little  
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# THE BACK BAY AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S OBSERVER

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as you can handle. If you are new, and want to get on the fast track to learning astronomy, jump in and get involved. You will learn more from the wealth of experienced club members than you can ever pick up on your own or from books.

And don't forget to KEEP LOOKING UP!

*George Reynolds*

## MAY MEETING MINUTES

The May meeting of the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers was called to order by -President George Reynolds on Thursday May 4h, 2006 at the Virginia Beach TCC campus.

### Members in Attendance:

Neill Alford, Kent Blackwell, Kenny Broun, Gerry Carver, Larry Channel, Ted Forte, Stan Hubbard, Chuck Jagow, Georgie June, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Greg Nottingham, Mark Ost, Jessica Packer, George Reynolds, Homer Rushing, Richard Smith, Kevin Swann, Barbara Weiner, Kevin Weiner and visitor (new member?) Jay Garrard.

### Secretary's Report:

Chuck Jagow, reported that we currently have about 120 members and twenty three were in need of paying their dues, most of which were at least two months past due.

### Astronomical League Coordinator's Report:

The Astronomical League Coordinator, Georgie June, provided a quick rundown on the new AL program for public outreach and indicated that Matt McLaughlin was well on his way.

### Treasurer's Report:

Barb Weiner, reported that we have \$4,893.xx total, \$856.xx in the scholarship fund and \$4,037.xx for club operations.

### Old Business

- Another request for someone to take over as Newsletter Editor was made. There has not been a newsletter published since March, so far no one has volunteered to take over all of the duties of the Newsletter Editor. Discussion was heard concerning the software used, and primarily about the amount of time and effort that is expended each month to produce the newsletter. Dale Carey expressed some interest in doing the job if he did not have to stuff envelopes and mail newsletters via snail mail.
- The Fan Mountain project was discussed and we learned that the entire project is running behind schedule, the mirror is due by mid June. The bids for constructing the building are being received and they hope to have the building in place near the end of August. The project is also looking for donations of furniture that might be used at Fan Mountain.
- The donation of the telescope to Greenbrier Middle School

will have to wait until Stephen Hamilton has returned from his nuptial vacation.

- As of this meeting there have been no receipts of any applications for the BBAA Scholarship.

### Observer's Corner:

Everyone talked about the comet 73P and how cloudy it had been for so long.

### New Business:

There wasn't any New Business brought up.

### Presentation:

Kent Blackwell provided a very good commentary on his recent solar eclipse cruise as well as a presentation made up of many images that he and Bob Hitt made during the trip. The DVD they produced is available if anyone would like one from Kent Blackwell.

### In Conclusion:

- George went over the upcoming May schedule.
- Kevin Weiner thanked everyone who helped with the April Garden Stars.
- Tom Pearson who has graciously provided the refreshments was absent, so a big THANK YOU to whoever provided the refreshments!
- The meeting was adjourned sometime after 9:11 PM.

*Chuck Jagow*

## OBSERVER INFO

The BBAA Observer is published monthly, the monochrome version is mailed to members who do not have Internet access. Members who do have Internet access can acquire the full color version on the Internet at:

<http://www.backbayastro.org/newsletters/newsletter.shtml>

Please submit articles and items of interest no later than the 26th of the month. Submit all items to:

[ObserverBBAA@cox.net](mailto:ObserverBBAA@cox.net)

OR

[BBAA Observer](mailto:BBAA Observer)  
[P.O. Box 9877](mailto:BBAA Observer)  
[Virginia Beach, VA 23450-9877](mailto:BBAA Observer)

# THE BACK BAY AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S OBSERVER

## Mediterranean Total Solar Eclipse

In March of 2006 Dr. Robert Hitt of the Chesapeake Planetarium in Chesapeake, Virginia and I traveled to Genoa, Italy to catch a ship to cruise half way around the world to witness a total eclipse of the sun.

We spend several days in Genoa prior to boarding the Costa Cruise Lines ship *Classica* in the port city of Savona, Italy. Savona is a city rich in history and enterprise, largely centering on its port. The most important monument in the city is the *Primar*, a castle dating back to 205 BC. Savona fell under rule of the Roman Empire in 200 BC and, its importance rapidly declined.

The port of Savona was busy on boarding day. One other cruise ship was docked next to the *Classica*. Once on board we could finally relax. Or could we? Two pieces of our luggage were missing. Where were they? We were headed for Rome and our missing luggage had set sail for Marseille France! To exacerbate the situation further, both of our tripods and other photographic equipment were packed in the missing bags. The entire purpose of the cruise was to see and photograph the eclipse using our telescopes. With no tripods and other ancillary gear that just wasn't going to happen.

The first port of call was Civitavecchia, Italy, the port of Rome. Costa Cruise Lines said they would attempt to have the missing luggage flown from Marseille to Rome, and trucked dockside to our ship. I had little confidence that would ever happen but lo and behold the missing bags were delivered as promised.

More than a single day is certainly required to see all the marvelous sites in the city of Rome, but I must say we took in as many sites as possible in our 12-hour excursion. I couldn't help but be in awe standing within the walls of the great Colosseum. The immense elliptical structure measures 156x188 meters and is 49 meters tall. It was built in just five years from 75 AD to 80 AD. The seating capacity has been estimated at 75,000. The structure has survived numerous earthquakes throughout its history. Though Christians were certainly among the many killed there, there is no evidenced that Christians were ever massacred in the Colosseum.

The next two days were days at sea, and a time to relax. Other eclipse cruise trips I've taken include a series of lectures for all passengers. To my surprise this one offered no such lectures. The lectures on this ship were only offered to private groups, and if you were not part of that group you were not invited to participate. I think this is wrong. Most of the passengers were eclipse neophytes, and were given no instructions about what to expect during a total solar eclipse. It's important that the passengers be told pertinent information. Information such as not to take flash photographs during totality, not to walk among the many tripods set up during totality, etc. No one offered such instructions. Teams such as Sky & Telescope magazine who warmly offer their lectures to all interested passengers have hosted previous eclipse cruises I've taken.

Our next port of call after Rome was Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt. Alexandria is one of the most important cities in the history of the Mediterranean. A country of extreme, it was founded by Alexander The Great in 331 AD and named after him because of the pride he felt for the land. At the time of his rule it was inhabited by over 500,000.

From Alexander our tour bus followed a desert route bound for Cairo,

Africa's largest city. The desert route is the path of the Pyramids and the Sphinx, Giza, Cheops, Chefren, Zoster and Micerino as well as Mereuka Mastabe. This made for an extraordinary excursion. The journey to Cairo lasted 3 hours, a drive through reclaimed, cultivated desert and modern industrial towns. We drove to downtown Cairo on the banks of the River Nile where a luxurious cruise boat offering lunch awaited to take us on the same timeless waterway traversed by Pharaohs thousand of years ago.

After the cruise we drove to Giza Plateau where the only remaining Wonder Of The Ancient World, The Great Pyramids of Giza are found. I was surprised when the tour buses pulled directly up to the base of the Pyramids. As tourist stepped off the buses street vendors trying to sell souvenirs barraged us. Other than that, the panoramic view of the three pyramids from the Western Plateau was spectacular, and afforded great opportunities for photographs. We continued down the valley to visit the guardian of this complex, the mysterious Sphinx.

Limassol (Cyprus) and Rhodes were the next ports of call. Rhodes was headquarters to The Crusader Knights of St. John. We explored the ancient ruins in the capital city of Lindos. Upon leaving the port our shipped sailed past the crumbled base where supposedly the towering Colossus of Rhodes once stood.

Antayla, Turkey is located on the Turkish Riviera and offers a splendid view of snowcapped mountains and dramatic cliffs. Attles II, King of Pergamum, founded the city in the 2nd century BC. The city's port, Antalya Kaleici Marina, is considered the most beautiful in the Mediterranean. An excursion to Thermossos was very interesting. Thermossos lies 3444 feet above sea level and is one of the best-preserved archaeological sites in Turkey. It is home to a most breathtaking open air theater built during the Hellenistic period with 27 rows of steps carved into the rock and held over 4,000 spectators.

The next day was eclipse day, the most important day of the cruise for many of us. The *Costa Classica* would be positioned along the centerline of the eclipse north of the coasts of Egypt and Libya. The sky in the early morning was very clear, but clouds moved in an hour or so before eclipse time. Fortunately, the sky cleared before 1st contact.

The most exhilarating time of a total solar eclipse is between 1st and 2nd contact. By 1:45 the moon slipped completely between the earth and the Sun for nearly four minutes. No words can do justice to what is experienced during the eclipse. My primary objective was to view the eclipse, however I couldn't resist taking photographs. I later discovered in the mere four minutes of totality I had taken nearly 400 photographs with my Canon EOS 20Da digital SLR camera!

As the end of totality approached the screams grew louder. Everyone was awe stuck by what they had just witnessed. There were many "eclipse virgins" on this voyage to darkness, and most wanted to know when and where the next eclipse would take place.

The day after the eclipse was another full day at sea and provided an opportunity for many of us to share experiences. Due to digital photography there were many images to share. Robert Hitt put together a wonderful DVD of the eclipse, and made copies available to the passengers. The DVD included still images as well as a time-lapse video of the

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eclipse.

I heard horror stories that I often hear after every eclipse. One fellow managed to take over 50 photographs, except he had forgotten to remove the solar filter! Another forgot to load his Compact Flash memory card into his digital camera. Another person forgot to focus after removing the filter, since some filters can shift focus slightly. Overall, though, most people were pleased with their results. No pictures can ever possibly compare with the view the eye sees, so if you witness only one solar eclipse in your lifetime don't concentrate all efforts on photography.

The Ruins Of Pompeii was the next port of call. The ancient city was completely buried under a layer of lava and ash during the huge eruption of the volcano Vesuvius in the year 79 AD. The excavations of Pompeii began in the 18th century and continue to this day. A walk through the city was fascinating. Of particular interest was the Forum, dominated by the Temple of Jupiter and the Basilica, the most important building in Pompeii.

The last port of call was Milan, Italy. We stayed at the Hotel Villa Malpensa, an old villa dating from the early century, and once belonging to Count Caproni. The Count acted as host to such guests as Mussolini and Adolph Hitler. Milan town center lies nearly 35 miles to the east, but is only 30 minutes away via The Malpensa Express high-speed train. Milan's most famous structure is Duomo Cathedral. The construction of Duomo began in 1386. Napoleon, who was crowned King there had the facade completed. The flamboyant Gothic edifice is made of grayish-pink marble from Candoglia and can seat 40,000 people.

After such a marvelous trip it was time to prepare for the dreaded 10-hour flight home. Other than a few bumps of turbulent air no problems were encountered. Now that I'm safely home I am reminded of the in-

credible sights seen, and how fortunately I was to have witnessed nature's most awesome spectacle of a total solar eclipse. I urge everyone to travel anywhere to see one. It'll be over two years before the next eclipse, visible in the remote regions of Mongolia and Siberia.

The eclipse everyone should make an effort to see will in 2009, visible through China and Japan. That eclipse boasts over six minutes of totality. My bag is packed, and I'm ready to go.

*Kent Blackwell*

## B B A A I N F O

The BBAA meet the first Thursday of every month. While school is in session we meet at the VA Beach TCC campus in the Pungo building. Summer meetings are usually held at the Chesapeake COX campus. The next meeting is on June 1st @ 7:30 PM at the COX campus.

### President

George Reynolds  
757.497.0755  
pathfinder27@yahoo.com

### Treasurer

Barb Weiner  
757.548.4936  
Barb.weiner@cox.net

### ALCOR

Georgie June  
doublestarjune@msn.com

### Vice President

Kevin Weiner  
757.548.4936  
Kevin.weiner@cox.net

### Secretary

Chuck Jagow  
757.547.4226  
Chuck@jagowds.com

### Librarian

Gerry Carver  
popcarg@aol.com

### Web Master

Ted Forte  
twforte@cox.net

### Editor's Note

I don't know about anyone else, but I really would like to do this in 2009!

If someone wants a copy of Kent's Eclipse Trip DVD, he can be reached at:

kent@exis.net



# AMAZING!



# THE BACK BAY AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S OBSERVER

## ASTRONOMY DAY

The club spread itself out among five area libraries, four in Virginia Beach and one in Franklin. The following narratives describe the various activities at each library. Thank you for everyone who showed up with and without a scope for their help and support to make Astronomy Day a success.

### Central Library

Astronomy Day at Central Library was slower than in past years, and I guess it's a good thing, since we had only two telescopes there. Gerry Carver had his trusty XT8 and I had my XT10i set up, looking through some haze at first, and then clear skies the rest of the day. I gave away every last one of the BBAA brochures I had brought. In fact, a little after five a mother was telling me how interested her son is in astronomy, and when I went to the table to give her a brochure, they were all gone! At least they lasted all day. I gave her the date of our next Skywatch (May 19) and our Web site address. She said her son had this day on his calendar and was bugging her for days to come to Astronomy Day at the library. I estimate we had about 200 people come by and look through our scopes. At 4 pm I turned my scope on the rising first quarter Moon, while Gerry continued to view the Sun. Though pale in the eyepiece, people were still awed at the site of the craters and seas on Luna. We did not have a corona scope, so we missed the prominences Ted raved about, but it was a successful Astronomy day at Virginia Beach Central Library.

*George Reynolds*

### Kempsville Library

It was a good one. We had no reason to hope for clear skies, but were pleasantly surprised. It stayed mostly sunny for the majority of the session. For part of the day, my set up was the only scope; my PST riding atop a Celestron SCT with solar, white-light filter. Later, Kevin Swann set up a small refractor to project the sun and Stan Hubbard came with his PST. Kevin and Barb Weiner set up a computer table to show CD/DVDs of interest and Barb hosted at my scope at times to spell me, giving me the opportunity to take breaks and have lunch. (Thanks Barb!). My wife Hali acted as photographer ... she was also spelled by Barb in that capacity. Georgie June did her usual magic of engaging kids and issued star stickers to the brave youngsters that risked a view through the eyepiece. We had a fairly steady flow of visitors and most were convinced to take a peak at our star, many expressing amazement, even incredulity. But all expressed appreciation. I'm guessing I had 15 to 20 people look through the scope each hour for a total of about 100 to 120 people throughout the day. A few were very interested and curious, a couple of folks expressed interest in joining the group. We'll see. I was very pleased at the cooperation of the sun. A good sunspot is always appreciated, but those prominences were more than we could have hoped for! Awesome! We never got around to a class for the spectroscopes, we made a few for ourselves and Kevin used them to instruct a few visitors. We gave only a portion of them away so we still have several for future events.

*Ted Forte*

### Princess Anne Library

My wife Karen and I arrived about ten before ten under overcast skies at the Princess Anne Library in Virginia Beach. Setup of my rig took about a half hour, this year I had a Thousand Oaks solar filter affixed to the LXD-75 SN-6. My wife's Coronado Solarmax 60 HA telescope was piggybacked on the SN-6 so we had one setup with two different views of the sun. By eleven we were being graced with a sucker hole or two in the clouds. Then about noon, Neil Alford showed up and set up his LX200 classic. We managed to woo a few folks to gaze through the cloud breaks before Matt McLaughlin showed up to help as well, while Matt did not set up his scope I believe he help prod the clouds away.

Our traffic at the telescopes was not as heavy as in the past, mainly due to cloud cover until about one thirty in the afternoon, which is when the blue sky poured in and cleared out the white fluffy things. It was about then that the drive motors of my LXD-75 mashed into each other and I blew my fuse in the power cord, can you say C5 not paying attention! And wouldn't you know it, I would not have a spare fuse of the correct size, less than a half inch long. So I asked my wife for a piece of Double mint gum, after unwrapping it and tossing the stick of gum back to her, I crossed my fingers that Wrigley's still used real tin foil in their gum wrappings as I "McGyvered" (spelling?) the fuse. In just a few minutes I was re-aligned and back to tracking the sun. All the while keeping a very watchful eye and hoping that the mount did not encounter another over current condition and burn the motors up! We had visitors looking through the scope up until the end, and one daughter and father duo kept us there until five thirty, the father retired 40 some odd years previously as a naval aviator who remembered qualifying in BIPLANES during WWII!!! The firemen from the adjacent fire station continuously made trips over to check on the sun's progress, they threatened to hold their rookie down and remove the filter so they could "burn-him-in!" It was all in good fun, my wife enjoyed the event nearly as much as the rest of us.

*Chuck & Karen Jagow*

### Pungo Library

Pungo Skies was the theme for Pungo/Blackwater/Creeds Library. Thanks to Kent, Paul and Dan for some of the pictures that I displayed at the table. People really liked the thought that most were taken for here. I also brought out my collection of lunar type rocks to demonstrate why there were light and dark areas on the moon and also brought my shatter cones from the Sudbury Impact Crater in Canada. Had 2 scopes set up. White light and Ha. Many folks got to view the Sun and had a great time. My old friends from the farm brought their animals out so we really had a nice community day. Weather didn't let us down again.

*Mark Ost*

### Franklin Library

We set up at the Franklin Library at 10 AM. There were 3 adults and 4 kids. All brought their scopes. We had set up our old orange C8 with a solar filter on the sun. On display we had an XT 4.5, Meade 60 mm Refractor, ETX 70. Had a lot of free handouts. Got several prospective new members.

*Cliff Hedgepeth*

# THE BACK BAY AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S OBSERVER



## Not a Moment Wasted

The Ring Nebula. Check. M13. Check. Next up: The Whirlpool galaxy.

You punch in the coordinates and your telescope takes off, slewing across the sky. You tap your feet and stare at the stars. These Messier marathons would go much faster if the telescope didn't take so long to slew. What a waste of time!

Don't tell that to the x-ray astronomers.

"We're putting our slew time to good use," explains Norbert Schartel, project scientist for the European Space Agency's XMM-Newton x-ray telescope. The telescope, named for Sir Isaac Newton, was launched into Earth orbit in 1999. It's now midway through an 11-year mission to study black holes, neutron stars, active galaxies and other violent denizens of the Universe that show up particularly well at x-ray wavelengths.

For the past four years, whenever XMM-Newton slewed from one

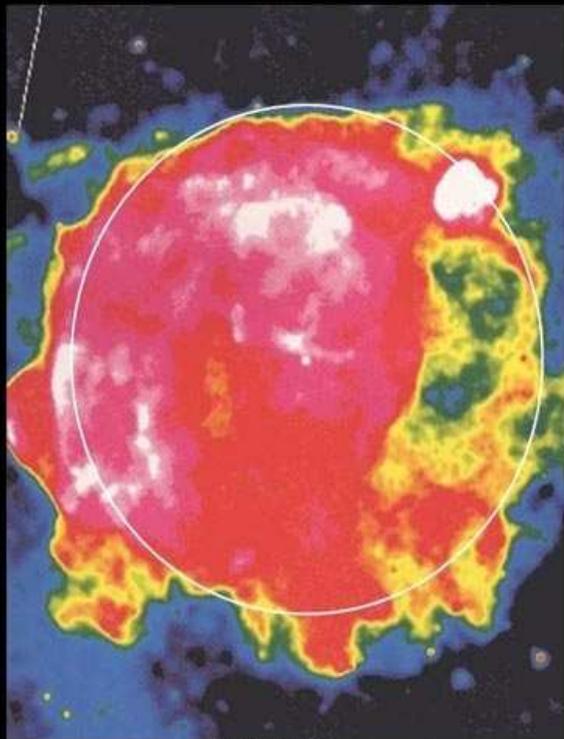
object to another, astronomers kept the telescope's cameras running, recording whatever might drift through the field of view. The result is a stunning survey of the heavens covering 15% of the entire sky.

Sifting through the data, ESA astronomers have found entire clusters of galaxies unknown before anyone started paying attention to "slew time." Some already-known galaxies have been caught in the act of flaring—a sign, researchers believe, of a central black hole gobbling matter from nearby stars and interstellar clouds. Here in our own galaxy, the 20,000 year old Vela supernova remnant has been expanding. XMM-Newton has slewed across it many times, tracing its changing contours in exquisite detail.

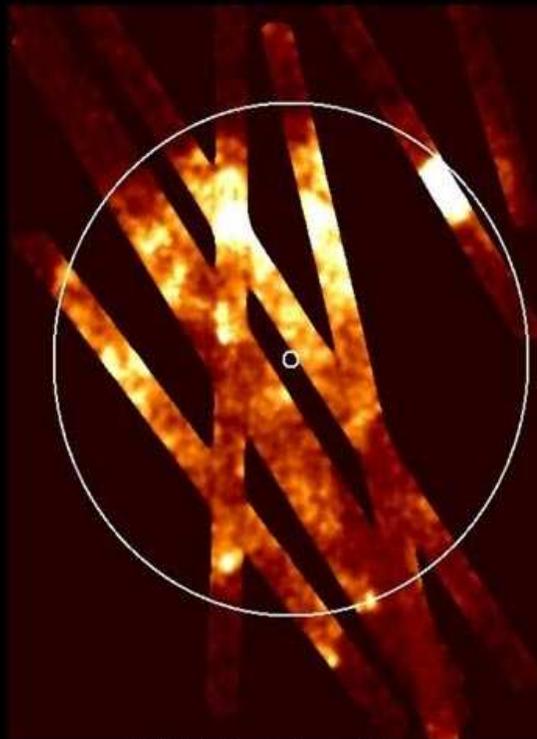
The slew technique works because of XMM-Newton's great sensitivity. It has more collecting area than any other x-ray telescope in the history of astronomy. Sources flit through the field of view in only 10 seconds, but that's plenty of time in most cases to gather valuable data.

The work is just beginning. Astronomers plan to continue the slew survey, eventually mapping as much as 80% of the entire sky. No one knows how many new clusters will be found or how many black holes might be caught gobbling their neighbors. One

## Vela Supernova Remnant



ROSAT



XMM-Newton Slew

The image on the left is the Vela Supernova Remnant as imaged in X-rays by ROSAT. On the right are some of the slew images obtained by XMM-Newton in its "slew"

thing's for sure: "There will be new discoveries," says Schartel.

Tap, tap, tap. The next time you're in the backyard with your telescope, and it takes off for the Whirlpool galaxy, don't just stand there. Try to keep up with the moving eyepiece. Look, you never know what might drift by.

See some of the other XMM-Newton images at <http://sci.esa.int>. For more about XMM-Newton's Education and Public Outreach program, including downloadable classroom materials, go to <http://xmm.sonoma.edu>. Kids can learn about black holes and play "Black Hole Rescue" at The Space Place, <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/>, under "Games."

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# THE BACK BAY AMATEUR ASTRONOMER'S OBSERVER

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This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Dr. Tony Phillips

## SPRING ECSP

The Spring East Coast Star party hosted by Kent Blackwell this year was officially held during April 21– 22. However, some brave souls trekked to Hampton Lodge a day early to try and beat the foreboding weather guessers dismal forecast. I set up over on the “road” away from the cedars because I did not want to disturb any of the visual astronomers with my glaring red lap-top screen. Those of us that were there enjoyed periods of good seeing as well as periods of high clouds. The most notable exception from the last Spring ECSP was the lack of cold temperatures and the absence of Camera Concepts, which is just as well I suppose - probably kept some of us from squandering more \$\$\$ on astro-gewgaws.

Friday was worse weather than Thursday, with only about three hours of seeing over the course of the night.

The Saturday cookout was held in the meeting hall graciously provided by the Hampton Lodge. Many door prizes were raffled off including the Grand Prize which was an 80 mm refracting telescope with equatorial mounting from Hardin Optical.

Fittingly it was won by a newer member's son, Robert Nottingham.

Chuck Jagow

## Magazine Review

### NightSky Magazine for Amateur Astronomers

One of the best magazines for new amateur astronomers is *Night-Sky* magazine, published for novices. It doesn't go into the scientific and cosmological detail that *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* get into, but it contains the nuts and bolts of amateur astronomy that are essential for any stargazer, and especially to help a "newbie" learn the art of observing the heavens.

I just received the latest issue of *NightSky* magazine in the mail (yes, I subscribe to this one, too!) and found some very informative articles on some of the things an astronomer needs to know. If you can, get your hands on a copy of the July/August issue (it is published six times a year).

There is a good article on finding objects by triangulation (a modified version of "star-hopping" -- but with less reliance on stars); and another article on taking good notes while observing. Several of the observing articles show three or four views of what you can expect to see (1) in an urban, light-polluted setting, (2) in

a darker suburban area, (3) in a moderately dark-sky location, and (4) under "pristine" rural dark skies. Location makes a BIG difference on what you can expect to see.

A good article shows the difference a week makes in viewing the Moon in its phases, from first quarter to full. The shadows caused by the sun's angle make surface features stand out a lot more than the flat lighting of a full Moon.

Another good article, on deep-sky observing, has some excellent hints for seeing those "faint fuzzies". In the article and its side-bars, author Alan M. MacRobert mentions zoom eyepieces (like the Televue click-stop zoom), and different star atlases, like the S&T *Pocket Sky Atlas* and Wil Tirion's *Sky Atlas 2000.0* (which I abbreviate as "SA2K"). The magazine always has a multiple-page glossary of terms for a novice astronomer to become acquainted with.

All in all, it is an excellent magazine for new astronomers, and I highly recommend it.

George Reynolds

## SOAP BOX

As you are aware of, there has not been a BBAA Observer newsletter published since the March issue came out late in February. During this time a few folks have indicated that they might be interested in doing this, but not that, and others said they might do it if...

So after this long stint without an editor, I decided to give it a shot. I have not been the editor of anything since 1974 when I edited the high school yearbook, much to my sister's chagrin.

I am pretty much starting from scratch with the format, I have plagiarized the Observer's main title and that is about it. I am open for suggestions and comments. Please email comments directly to me at: [chuck@jagowds.com](mailto:chuck@jagowds.com).

I have been thinking about adding a page where our budding, and not so budding, astro-imagers can submit their recent images for the enjoyment of all.

Perhaps an Observer's Corner feature where folks can share their observing moments.

Most of all, I must re-emphasize that I need to hear comments/complaints from you folks.

This issue was not so **Flashy** as past issues have been, mainly due to my learning curve with Microsoft Publisher and I had an enormous amount of content with Kent's eclipse tale.

Chuck Jagow

**SPACE FACT:** It only takes the Space Shuttle about 8 minutes to accelerate to its orbital speed of more than 17,000 miles per hour and the Space Shuttle main engine weighs 1/7th as much as a train engine, but delivers as much horsepower as 39 train engines.

# JUNE 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> BBAA Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> GARDEN STARS NBG First Qtr 
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> RISK (5)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> IRMS Astro. Club	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>13</b> Full Moon 	<b>12</b> RISK (6)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> SKYWATCH NWRP	<b>17</b> CLOVERWATCH Franklin
<b>18</b> Father's Day Last Qtr 	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> SUMMER SOLSTICE 8:26 PM EDT	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> NIGHT HIKE NWRP	<b>24</b> NIGHTWATCH Chippokes
<b>25</b> New Moon 	<b>26</b> <i>OBSERVER SUBMISSION DEADLINE</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	