

CONSTELLATION addendum ...

supplement to the official publication of Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association, Inc

Vol 30, No 1b

Winter 2015

Scott Petersen, editor © BMAA 2 015

Observing Report

Nockamixon Starwatch, February 26

– *by Dwight Dulsky*

When I arrived at Nockamixon State Park visitor center, the moon was just slightly visible through some high haze. We had a nice group of about 18 kids and their parents attending.

I talked and did a demo on how our Earth's tilt in it's yearly orbit makes our seasons. Then we talked about telescopes and did our demo with our portable "optics lab". The kids had fun playing with the lenses and bringing images into focus. Next up was a handout on the winter hexagon. Beth, the Environmental Education Specialist had a nice constellation flashlight projector for the kids to use in the last 15 minutes.

I went out at that point and was surprised to see Jupiter, Sirius and the Moon looking pretty darn good! Since I already had my 80mm set up inside on the portamount, it was easy to take it outside and get on the Moon. The kids had a good eyeful of the Moon, then we went to Jupiter where they saw the moons and cloud bands. They got a chance to see the real winter hexagon. The final treat of the evening was a nice halo around the Moon.

All in all it worked out just fine and a good time was had by all. The kids were a great group.

Dwight

BMAA vice-president Dwight Dulsky coordinates many club StarWatches [- ed]

* * * * *

2017 SOLAR ECLIPSE:

August 21, 2017. I know it's a few months (years) away but it may not be too early to start planning for the total solar eclipse we can see in North America. Gary.

BMAA president Gary Sprague sent this proposal. [-ed]

* * * * *

METEOR TERMINOLOGY

AMERICAN METEOR SOCIETY - WWW.AMSMETEORS.ORG

COMET

A solid body made of ice, rock, dust and frozen gases. As they fracture and disintegrate, some comets leave a trail of solid debris.

Nucleus (solid part): tens of kilometers,
Tail: millions of kilometers.

ASTEROID

Small rocky, iron or icy debris flying in space.
From 1 meter to hundreds of kilometers.

METEOROID

A small asteroid.
From microns to 1 meter.

METEOR SHOWER

An annual event, when the Earth passes through a region having a great concentration of debris, such as particles left by a comet. From Earth, it looks like meteors radiate from the same point in the night sky.

METEOR

The light emitted from a meteoroid or an asteroid as it enters the atmosphere.

FIREBALL

A meteor brighter than the planet Venus.

BOLIDE

The light emitted by a large meteoroid or an asteroid as it explodes in the atmosphere.

METEORITE

A fragment of a meteoroid or an asteroid that survives passage through the atmosphere and hits the ground.
From few grams to several dozen of tonnes.