

CONSTELLATION

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Scott Petersen, editor

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BMAA (officially) Celebrates 25 years in 2016!

- by Gary Sprague

Does January 28, 1991 mean anything to you? That's the date on the Charter of the Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association (BMAA); which means we officially celebrate 25 years of activity in 2016. However, BMAA has actually been active longer than that. The first by-laws were approved in 1987, and the first Stella Della Valley Star Party, which was held for several years at Camp Onas in Bucks County, predates 1987.

Monthly meetings were originally held at Tamanend Park, Southampton, early on [-ed] and then at Peace Valley Nature Center, Doylestown, for many years prior to moving to our location in Ambler. The Nature Center location was interesting; the meeting room was located around the back of the Nature Center, a challenge to find for a newcomer. When I first started coming to BMAA meetings, it took me 3 tries before I finally found the meeting room - the effort was worth it.

BMAA has changed over these 25 plus years, as it should, to meet the changing times, as well as the needs and interest of the members and the community we serve. We expect another active year in 2016 and really look forward to getting ready for the solar eclipse in August 2017.

- BMAA co-president Gary Sprague provided this article. [-ed]

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All BMAA meetings are open to the general public. We share observing highlights (including aurora sightings), astrophotographs and experiences. Meetings begin at 7:30p at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, 411 Susquehanna Ave, Ambler PA 19002. Look for black and yellow BMA2 signs.

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2016 BMAA Officers:

Gary Sprague and Dwight Dulsky, Co-Presidents

Lee Zager, Vice President

Robert Mittel-Carey, Secretary

Ed Radomski, Treasurer

info@bma2.org

BucksMont Astronomical Association, Inc

General Meeting Minutes, December 2015

The December BMAA meeting and inaugural flea market was held on Wednesday December 2, 2015 at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church. Approximately 30 members and guests were in attendance. Guests represented the ChesMont and Lehigh Valley Astronomy clubs as well as the Jarrett Nature Center.

President Gary Sprague led off the meeting with an overview of Club activities in November and preview of upcoming events for early 2016.

Ed presented the Treasurers report and indicated that he will be in Florida for the next three months.

Bernie conducted his astronomical quiz, which involved the Winter Solstice and the actual dates of the earliest sunset and latest sunrise (which are not on the Solstice). Bernie also presented the slate of officers for 2016, solicited additional nominees and upon receiving no additional names, closed nominations. The proposed slate of officers was elected by acclamation. The BMAA officers for 2016 are:

Gary Sprague and Dwight Dulsky, Co-Presidents
Lee Zagar, Vice President
Robert Mittel-Carey, Secretary
Ed Radomski, Treasurer

The keynote of the December meeting was the donation of a 6-inch Dobsonian telescope to the Jarrett Nature Center. The presentation was made by BMAA Vice president Dwight Dulsky and was accepted on behalf of Jarrett by Katherine Gipson and her son. *[see photograph on page four, -ed]*

During the show and tell portion of the meeting Ed Radomski displayed an old (circa 1944) Bausch & Lomb Navy binocular that had belonged to his father. For some time Ed used the 7 X 50 binos for astronomy but at some point one of the lens was damaged. By happenstance Ed found the exact binocular dated 1944 in perfectly new condition on eBay. To make the story sweeter Ed found an old filter set in a box of unused odds and ends in his observatory that were evidently designed for the binoculars and are a perfect fit!

Howard also demonstrated a large (12 inch?) Dob that he equipped with a go to mount he designed and built. *The meeting concluded at 8:30p and was followed by the flea market. Six tables of astronomical devices and materials were offered for sale or trade.*

The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 6 and will feature the Holiday party and celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Respectfully submitted,
John Urbanchuk, secretary

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BucksMont Astronomical Association, Inc

Minutes January 6, 2016

The Meeting was held on January 6th at 7:30p at the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church in Ambler, PA and was our annual Holiday party and also a celebration of the club's 25th anniversary.

There were 17 plus members and guests in attendance for Gary's well put together and informative presentation about the Hubble Space Telescope (HST).

Other topics discussed at the meeting were the upcoming planning meeting scheduled for January 18th at 3:00 pm, and the announcement of the 2016 officers:

- Co-Presidents: Gary Sprague and Dwight Dulsky
- Vice-President: Lee Zager
- Treasurer: Ed Radomski
- Secretary: Robert Mittel-Carey

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Mittel-Carey, Secretary

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Editor's Note

The CONSTELLATION is your BMAA club newsletter and its success depends solely on your input. Please submit articles to me at: constellation@bma2.org. I am trying to maintain a quarterly publication cycle, on or about the Solstices and Equinoxes with supplements as required. Thanks.

- Scott Petersen, editor

The CONSTELLATION is the official publication of the Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association, Inc, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and exists for the exchange of ideas, news, information and publicity among the BMAA membership, as well as the amateur astronomy community at large. The views expressed are not necessarily those of BMAA, but of the contributors and are edited to fit within the format and confines of the publication. Unsolicited articles relevant to astronomy are welcomed and may be submitted to the Editor. Reprints of articles, or complete issues of the CONSTELLATION, may be available by contacting the Editor at the address listed below, and portions may be reproduced with permission, providing proper acknowledgment is made and a copy of that publication is sent to the Editor. Contents of this publication, and format (hard copy or electronic) are copyright ©2016 BMAA, Inc. Submission deadline for articles is the 15th of the month prior to quarterly publication.

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BMAA donated a 6-inch Dobsonian telescope to Jarrett Nature Center at the December meeting. Accepting the gift is Katherine Gipson and her son on left, presented by co-presidents Dwight Dulskey and Gary Sprague, on right.

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BMAA Member Registration Form

☐ Renewal

☐ New Member

Name

Address

Telephone

Home

Cell

E-Mail

Dues are **\$30.00** for an individual or **\$40.00** for a family membership (more than one person at same address).

Make check payable to **BMAA and send to:**

BMAA
c/o Ed Radomski
36 Far View Road
Chalfont PA 18914

If you would prefer to register and pay using **PayPal** do not use this form. On the [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) website send your payment to treas@bma2.org. Send it as a “purchase of goods” so that I receive your address. In the email section make the subject “Dues”, include your telephone number and your preferred email address in the message area.
