

CONSTELLATION *addendum . . .*

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Scott Petersen, editor © BMAA 2015

Observing Report

Coyle Field – April 11, 2015

-by Igor Peshenko

Saturday blessed us with long awaited clear and moonless night. Rodney, Terry, Howard and I made it up to Coyle Field, all four of us armed with imaging scopes and cameras. Imaging has become a distinctive signature of our club, indeed. The night was clear and cold with some frost after midnight. Seeing was ridiculously terrible. I had my 6" SCT aimed on Jupiter all night to entertain myself and others in between shots and at some point I genuinely believed that something was wrong either with my eyes or my scope, so blurry Jupiter appeared in the eyepiece. Even my guider scope was not happy about "boiling" stars. Comet C/2014 Q2, still a binocular object, was low in the sky just above Cassiopeia clearly visible in my 70x11 binoculars. My object of the night for imaging was a group of galaxies known as Markarian's chain. As always, I ran into some problems with my equipment and managed to collect only 23 x 5 min subs which I converted in the image below:



photo by BMAA member Igor Peshenko

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- Coyle Field, continued -

- by **Howard Dutton**

My first time at Coyle Field was great fun, thanks to all for the invite. I had a cheap Lumenera LW11059 "project" camera that I am evaluating and so I imaged M51 with my 100mm F/7.4 refractor. Below is a center cropped stack of an hour of 2-minute subs, dark subtracted, and stretched. This was a fairly cool night with temperatures hovering near freezing which was a great help to the noisy KAI-11002 CCD in this camera that really should be even more deeply cooled. I have color data too, one of these days I'll get around to finishing it off:



photo by BMAA member Howard Dutton

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Astronomy Day – April 25, 2015

- by *Dwight Dulsky*

Thanks to our astronomers who braved a chilly cloudy morning to set up solar scopes for Earth/Astronomy Day at the Jarrett Nature Center this morning in Horsham.

The Sun did peek out a bit here and there offering up a sunspot or two. But of course it got really nice and clear on the way home!

Attendance was not overwhelming, but we had a steady group of visitors and met a lot of nice people who came out to the event.



left to right: Igor, Terry, Rodney, Lee and Gary (Don't they look nice and warm)
photo by BMAA Vice-President Dwight Dulsky

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StarWatch at St John's Elementary – April 15, 2015

BMAA held a StarWatch for St John's Elementary School, Ottsville PA, conducted by Dwight Dulsky. He started with a classroom presentation for the students, followed by outdoor viewing after dark. [-ed]



Dwight explains a PowerPoint slide for about 20 students and parents at St John's

photo by Scott Petersen

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January 2015 General Meeting Review

- by Gary Sprague

The annual "Holiday" meeting for BMAA was held on January 7, 2015 at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, Ambler PA

2014 and 2015 Events were reviewed:

- The Michener Museum "Star Party" was hosted by BMAA in December.
- There was a possibility for a future star party with Council Rock South High School
- The February meeting will be held at the Sandy Run Middle School Planetarium.

BMAA business was covered:

- Elections were finalized for officers.
- A planned update of the website was briefly described by Gary Sprague.
- The 2015 star watch schedule will be developed in March.

Gary Sprague gave a presentation on "Observing in the Sand Hills of Nebraska.

- Located in north central Nebraska.
- Covers approximately 20,000 square miles.
- Population is less than 10,000.
- A great place to observe; no light pollution and very good horizons.

The meeting concluded with a game of "Trivia" Bingo, followed by refreshments.

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Meeting notes:

The February 4, 2015 meeting of BMAA was held in the planetarium at Sandy Run Middle School. It was not a business meeting.

The March 4, 2015 meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. [-ed]

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Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association, Inc General Meeting Minutes April 2015

BMAA held its April meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church in Ambler. 27 members and guests attended.

Association President Gary Sprague led off the meeting with a review of recent activities and overview of coming starwatches and events including an update on the BMAA telescope project, the Association website update, the publication of the Association's *Constellation*, and the request for participation in the NASA Rockets to Racecars event at the Pocono Raceway in June.

He invited members to share gadgets, observations and photos.

- Igor Peshenko shared several recent astrophotos of Comet Lovejoy taken in mid-March.
- Bernie Kosher showed a pair of wide angle, low power binoculars purchased online and then demonstrated a pair that he made for considerably less money from goggles purchased at Home Depot and inexpensive lenses ordered online.
- Gary also brought in several old Japanese refractor telescopes that have been donated to the Club and put them out for inspection by the membership. These included:
 - SPI 60mm, F800 mm, alt-az mount
 - Tower 75mm, F=1200mm Equatorial mount\SPI 60MM, F1200mm, alt-az mount,
 - Eyepieces and accessories and
- Guests Sharon and Herb Glery brought in several telescopes they acquired some years ago at a yard sale and asked for help in identifying them, estimating value, and for advice on how best to dispose of them.
- Member Howard Dutton and kids demonstrated a homemade telescope tracking/guidance system he designed and built that runs off a laptop.

Gary then gave a presentation on the Astronomical League, which included an overview of its history, organization, benefits of membership (activities), which included an emphasis on observing programs.

He reminded the attendees that BMAA members are automatically members of the AL and encouraged us to take advantage of their resources.

The formal meeting ended by 9:00p and members examined the Glery and donated telescopes, and the Dutton demonstration.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Urbanchuk, Secretary

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BMAA 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 Rd.
Chalfont, PA 18914

If you would prefer to register and pay using **PayPal** do not use this form. On the PayPal 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.