

# CONSTELLATION *addendum . . .*

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

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## **BMAA July 1, 2015 General Meeting Telescope Clinic**

We offered a telescope clinic that was open to the public. Several people brought a variety of telescopes, to have checked out. We were fortunate to have partial clearing in the western sky, and we did some observing of Venus and Jupiter, located close together.

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### **Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association General Meeting Minutes July 2015**

The July 2015 BMAA meeting was held on Wednesday July 1, 2015 at the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church. 20 members and guests were in attendance.

President Gary Sprague led off the meeting with an overview of Club activities in June and upcoming events for the remainder of 2015. Weather in June was not friendly for observing. A successful Star watch was held on June 10 at Igoe-Wellings memorial field and had a good turn-out of both scopes and visitors. Planned star watches for Northampton Municipal Park and JarretThe feature Nature Center were cancelled.

The feature for the July meeting was a telescope clinic where members discussed telescope types, general maintenance and operation. Several members and guests brought in scopes for display and discussion. In addition to three scopes brought in and setup by Val Gonzales, members brought in Maksutov, solar, Dobsonian, refractor and reflector scopes.

Several scopes were set up in the church yard for an observation session but persistent cloudy conditions frustrated observations.

The meeting concluded at 9:00p.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Urbanchuk, secretary

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# BMAA August 5, 2015 General Meeting

Our featured presentation was given by Valentino Gonzales (LTC USAF- Master Navigator), former director of the Imax Theater and Fels Planetarium-Franklin institute Science Museum. He described how celestial navigation works. It uses angular measurements (sights) between celestial bodies and the visible horizon to locate one's position on the globe, on land as well as at sea. Val demonstrated different types of sextants and explained how they are used. We also had sharing time for observing highlights, astrophotographs and observing experiences.

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## Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association General Meeting Minutes August 2015

The Aug 2015 BMAA meeting was held on Wednesday August 5, 2015 at the Upper Dublin Lutheran Church. 19 members and guests were in attendance.

President Gary Sprague led off the meeting with an overview of Club activities in July and upcoming events for the remainder of 2015. Notable events in July were:

- Star watch at Jarett Nature Center family camp out
- BMAA participation in the NASA solar watch and outreach, Pocono International Raceway.

Gary held a discussion of the NASA flyby of Pluto and provided members the opportunity to share observing reports and astrophotographs. Igor and Rodney shared some spectacular photos of deep sky objects, followed by a discussion of a visit to the Yerkes Observatory at the University of Chicago.

The featured presentation for the evening was given by LTC Val Gonzales on celestial navigation. Val was a master navigator in the Air Force and former Director of the IMAX Theatre and Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute.

The meeting concluded at 9:08p.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Urbanchuk, 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](mailto: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*

## Observing Notes

*- by Igor Peshenko*

This is my second nebula imaged through 80 mm Orion ED80T CF. I have found the Veil a surprisingly difficult object for imaging with DSLR even with a full spectrum one. The fine nebulosity is dim and any attempt to bring details resulted in harsh and unnatural appearance. Besides, the nebula is located in a star rich region. I tried to keep stars on leash during processing so that they do not overwhelm the nebula itself.



*Photo by Igor Peshenko - 08/13/15, from Lake Nockamixon*

Technical info:

Orion ED80T CF Triplet Apochromatic Refractor with Astro-Tech AT2FF field flattener  
Celestron advanced VX mount, guided - 50 mm finderscope, f3.2/ QHY 5L-II  
Canon 1100D, full mod, cooled - EXIF temperature -4 to -6C, 2" Orion Sky Glow Astrophotography  
Filter, ISO 800, 22 x 5 min  
Processing: IRIS v. 5.59 and Photoshop CS2

# 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](http://www.paypal.com) website send your payment to [treas@bma2.org](mailto: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.