Send in Your Vote

By-Laws Change—Get in Your Proxy Vote

The Secretary is still collecting proxy votes on the motion to amend the NHAS by-laws concerning club dues. As soon as it is clear that we have a quorum (over half the membership), a vote will be taken at the next monthly club meeting. Details on the motion, and how to register your proxy vote, are in the January NHAS Observer.

Make your voice heard—get in your proxy vote today!

❖ Paul Winalski

Discovery Center Sky Watch, February 2

Mike Townsend and I decided to brave the cold and wind and go. We got there about 7:00. They had plowable snow. Quite a bit had drifted across the road. Skies were mostly clear with all observing in the downwind direction. We did have one visitor with an Orion XT8 Plus looking for some assistance. There were some other visitors who made some very short looks before leaving. We packed up and left by 9:30.

❖ John Rose

Hampton Academy Sky Watch, February 5

We held the rescheduled sky watch at North Beach, under clear skies but rather poor seeing. Herb Bubert, Gardner Gerry, Andy Jaffe, and Paul Winalski were there with scopes from NHAS. About 60 students, parents, siblings, and teachers were there.

I set up the TeleVue 85mm refractor to view the Pleiades and left it there for the whole evening. With the 14” TScope I showed M42, NGC 457, M35, M37, the Christmas Tree Cluster, and R Leporis.

❖ Paul Winalski

Chester Public Library Sky Watch, February 16

The event took place at Wason Pond as scheduled, under clear but windy skies. I was there with a telescope. NHAS member Russ Dumont was also there. It had rained that morning. It was too damp and windy to set up the 14” TScope, so instead I used the TeleVue 85mm refractor. We viewed the Pleiades, M42, M35, NGC 457, the Perseus Double Cluster, and M37.

❖ Paul Winalski

KRES 24 Hours of Space Presentation, February 23

I attended Kearsarge Regional Elementary School’s annual “24 Hours of Space” program. With cloudy skies and it being NHAS business night, I was there to do a half hour presentation and be on my way. As it turned out, after a nice dinner in their cafeteria and a late start, I ended up doing a 50 min. presentation for about a hundred people including some parents and staff and missing the business meeting. I ended by answering several questions and bringing out the club 8 lb meteorite. They seemed to enjoy the event and were looking forward to an overnight at the school. I would say this is a school that really has its act together.

❖ Steve Rand

Wolfeboro Public Library Sky Watch, February 27

Marc Stowbridge and I were there from NHAS. About a dozen people were there. Skies were clear, but there was an almost-full gibbous Moon. We set up in the library’s parking lot, which was a problem both from floodlights that couldn’t be shut off and trees blocking the horizon. Star-hopping was very difficult. I did manage to show the Moon, M45, M42, NGC 457, the Perseus Double Cluster, Mizar, and Polaris. This night was also first light for their library telescope.

We received this note from Helen Gallagher:

“I wanted to thank you for leading the Sky Watch last night at Wolfeboro Public Library. Everyone had a wonderful, informative time. I also appreciated your flexibility as I know the conditions were not ideal! We hope to be able to do another Sky Watch at a more suitable site.”

❖ Paul Winalski

Cancelled Sky Watch Events

Parkside Middle School (Manchester), due to overcast skies.

❖ Paul Winalski

Carbon Star of the Month

TU Geminorum is a red giant pulsating semi-regular variable at RA 06h10m53s, DEC 26°00’53”. It

On the web at http://www.nhastro.com/
is located about two minutes west and two-and-a-half a degrees north of star cluster M35, about half-way on a line between M35 and κ Aurigae.

Spectral class is C-N5, and the visual magnitude varies between 6.25 and 8.65 in an approximately 230-day cycle. It is currently at about 7.5 magnitude. Surface temperature is about 3160°K. Its angular diameter has been directly measured during lunar occultations. The star's diameter is 250 times that of the Sun. At a distance of about 1680 light years, it shines 5700 times brighter.

Paul Winalski

**NHAS February 2018 Business Meeting**

The February business meeting was held on February 23 at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, our President, Marc Stowbridge, presiding.

**EOC/LTP**

Pete Smith reports that the LTP will be buying and building three more library telescopes. Ed Ting will be taking one with him when he visits Chile in June.

Steve Rand has placed three more Library Planispheres (Kingston, Pittsfield, and Wolfeboro).

Sarah Post of Cornerstones of Science will be conducting a workshop on LTP called “Rope-a-Scope: Hands-on Time with a Telescope” for NASA’s 75 partner libraries, four state library agencies, and a few others.

**Membership**

Larry LaForge has collected a list of volunteer members for the club mentorship program and has posted the information on the NHAS website.

**Other Business**

Ed Ting has been appointed a NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador volunteer educator.

Our Secretary continues to collect proxy votes concerning the proposed by-laws amendment. We have not yet achieved the required quorum to take the vote. Please send in your proxy if you haven’t already.

AerospaceFest 2018 will take place at the Discovery Center on Saturday May 5. NHAS is already committed to another daytime event (NHX Boy Scout Jamboree) that day. The Discovery Center would like some NHAS members to conduct solar observing outside, and maybe to man their observatory for an hour-long shift or so.

We still need a new chairperson for the Speaker Committee.

**Scope of the Month**

Meade 80mm spotting scope.

**Book of the Month**

A 1970s vintage Sky & Telescope collection of all 110 Messier objects.

**Evening Presentation**

Gardner Gerry gave a presentation on basic astrophotography.

**The Bottom Line**

Income and expense report for January through December 2017:

**Income:**

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<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund Donations</td>
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**Expenses:**

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Purchases</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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**Net Income:** 2800.37

**Cash Balance:** $16230.70

Pete Smith

NHAS Treasurer 2018
DEADLINE March 2018 Issue: 5 April 2018
E-mail articles to the Editor.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS – Notify the Treasurer of changes to postal or e-mail address.

How to Join N.H.A.S.

Send E-mail to:

NHAS
info@nhastro.com

P.O. Box 5823
Manchester, NH 03108-5823
Attn: Treasurer

Use our web site:

http://www.nhastro.com/

This month's contributors:

Steve Rand, John Rose, Paul Winalski

New Hampshire Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 5823
Manchester, NH 03108-5823

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery Center Sky Watch</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHAS Monthly Meeting</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>St. Anselm College, Goffstown NH</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
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<td>Curious George Cottage, Waterville Valley NH</td>
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<td>Ed Ting Astrophotography Sky Watch</td>
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<td>77 Amherst Street, Manchester NH</td>
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<td>Market Square, Portsmouth NH</td>
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<td>Sidewalk Astronomy</td>
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