

Howard Astronomical League



March 16th, 2017

Introductions

HAL Social Media

Website:

<http://www.howardastro.org>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/howardastro/>

Yahoo Group (mailing list):

<https://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/howardastro/>

HAL Library Online

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs open. The active tab is 'Join HAL' at the URL <https://www.howardastro.org/joinhal.php>. The website has a dark blue background with a starry pattern. A navigation bar at the top includes links: HAL Info, News/Events, Astrophotos, For Members, Resources, and Contact Us. The 'HAL Info' link is highlighted in yellow. Below the navigation bar, a sidebar on the left contains links: Home Page, Learn About HAL, HALO History, HAL Membership, Join E-Mail Group, and Donations. The main content area is titled 'Membership - What Do You Get?' and contains the following text:

Membership has privilege" and this couldn't be more true than with a membership to the Howard. Not only do you get the benefits of observing with some of the most knowledgeable professional astronomers in the Baltimore-Washington corridor, you also get the following

- Attendance to all "Members Only" Events including Impromptu observation events
- Unlimited space to display your astrophotos or other astronomy related photos in the [HAL Gallery](#). *
- Ability to checkout books and DVDs from the [HAL Library](#). *
- Access to the [HAL store](#) featuring a wide variety of logoed apparel.

* So long as you remain a member in good standing

At the bottom of the browser window, a taskbar shows several open applications: Google Chrome, Photoshop, Spotify, and several web pages. The system clock in the bottom right corner indicates 10:56 AM.

Congratulations!

Dennis Conti's coordination of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) amateur observations in support of a major Hubble Study of 15 exoplanets is mentioned on page 70 of the April 2017 edition of Sky and Telescope.

Dennis, who is chairman of the AAVSO Exoplanet Section, will be speaking to us at the May meeting about Exoplanet Detection via Microlensing.

Upcoming Events

- March 22nd - 26th Chaos Springs, VA
- March 25th - Members only star party, Alpha Ridge Park.
- April 8th - Public star party, Alpha Ridge Park.
- April 12th - Yuri's Night, RNC

Night Sky Summary

Sun is at Spring equinox at 6:28am on March 20th.

Moon: |☾ Mar 20| ● Mar 28|☾ Apr 3| ○ Apr 11|

Best earthshine view is around Mar 31.

Planets: Venus is just ending an evening apparition and becomes a morning object March 25th. Look for it to brighten during the next month and rise earlier each morning. It appears as a waxing crescent, decreasing in apparent size. Find Mars continuing to hang on in the western sky after sunset. Jupiter reaches opposition on April 7th, quickly becoming more favorably placed for evening viewing. Saturn is a morning object rising shortly after dawn, headed toward opposition in June.

Constellations: Cancer, Leo, and Ursa Major are near the zenith at sunset.

Observing Challenge

Bi-daily Observations of Venus

Venus reaches inferior conjunction on March 25th as it ends its present evening apparition, and passes into the morning sky. On this particular conjunction, Venus will be near its maximum ecliptic latitude, meaning that it will be about 8-degrees north of the sun. In this configuration, bi-daily, or morning and evening of the same day, observations of Venus are possible within a few days of the conjunction. Look for it about 30 minutes before or after sunset.

Look for reminders that this opportunity is coming, get out and observe, and look for a call for your observations just prior to the April meeting.

Education, Public Outreach and Research at a Small Observatory

Elizabeth Warner

Director, UMD Observatory

Member's astrophotos and sketches





Herman Heyn, Comet Bennett, April 5, 1970

Messier 81 & 82
Galaxies

Constellation: Ursa Major

Telescope: Celestron 102 Refractor

Eyepiece: Meade 26mm 52°

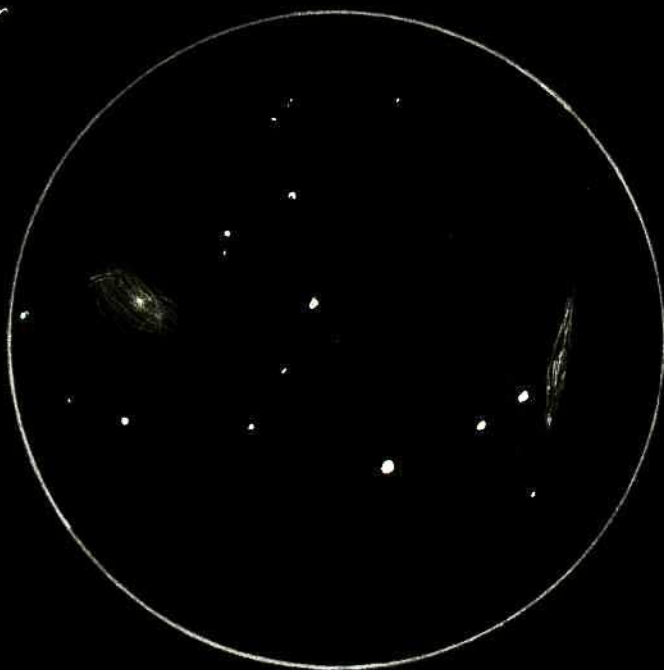
Magnification: 38x

Chris Miskiewicz

Alpha Ridge Park

March 4 2017

Time: 10-10:30PM EST



M78 (NGC 2068)

Emission & Reflection Nebula

Constellation: Orion
Magnitude: 8.0
Distance: 1,630 l.y.

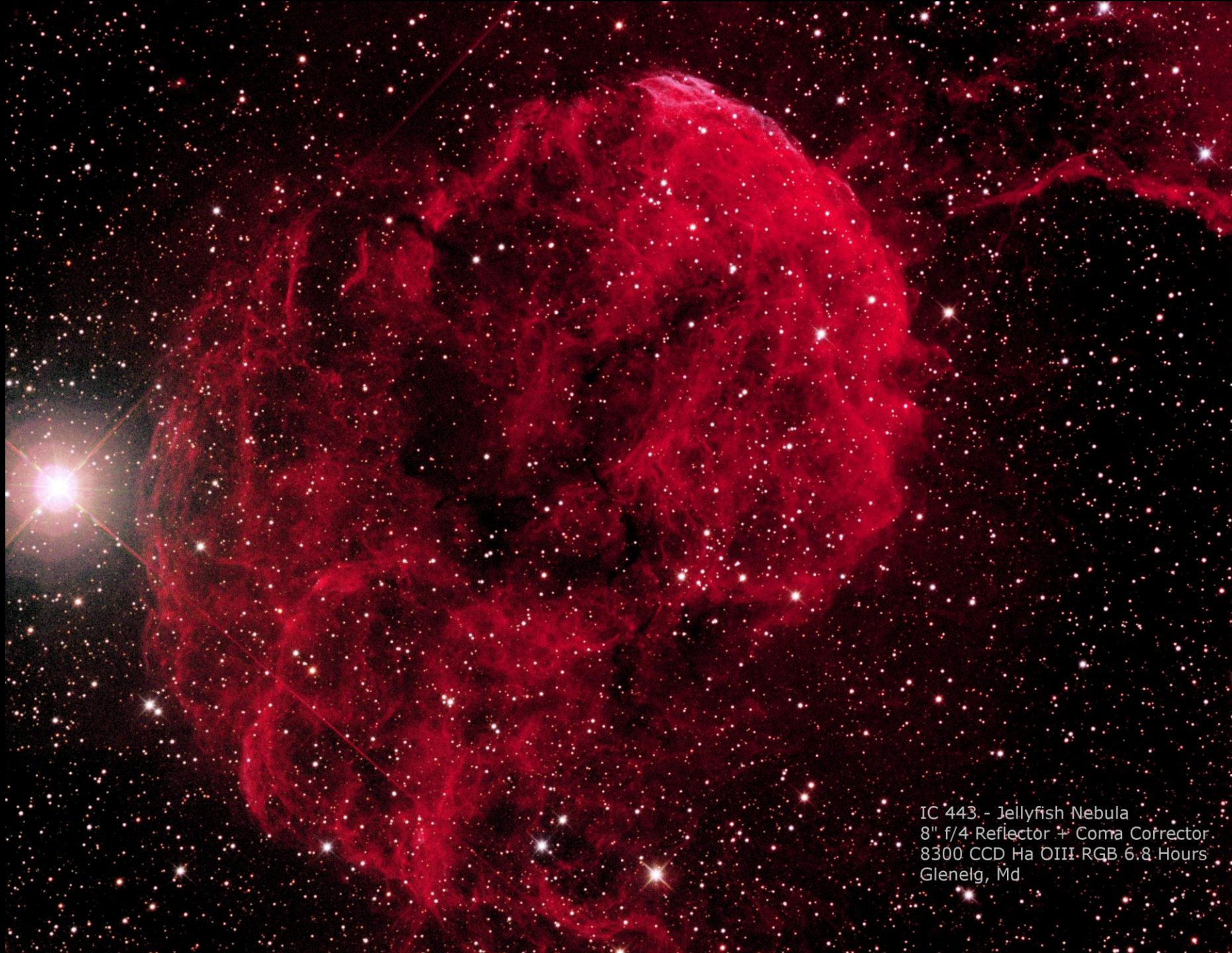
Telescope: 110mm Refractor
Eyepiece: 8mm Delos
Magnification: 96x
Field of View: 1.1 degrees

Drawing by Richard Orr
Location: Alpha Ridge Park
Date: February 26, 2017
Time: 7:30 PM EST



Chris Miskiewicz
AstroPhotography

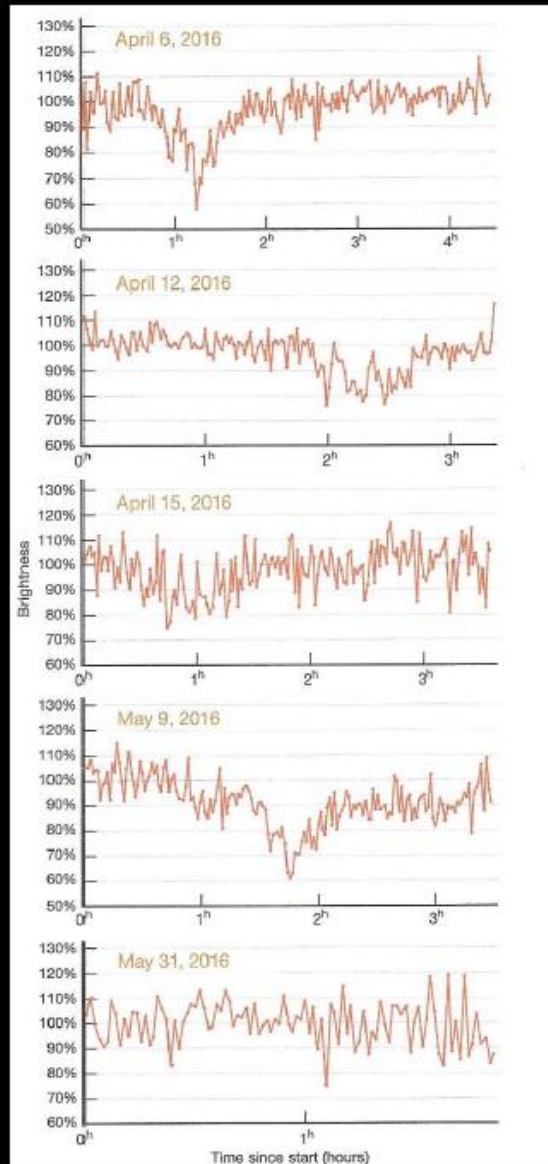




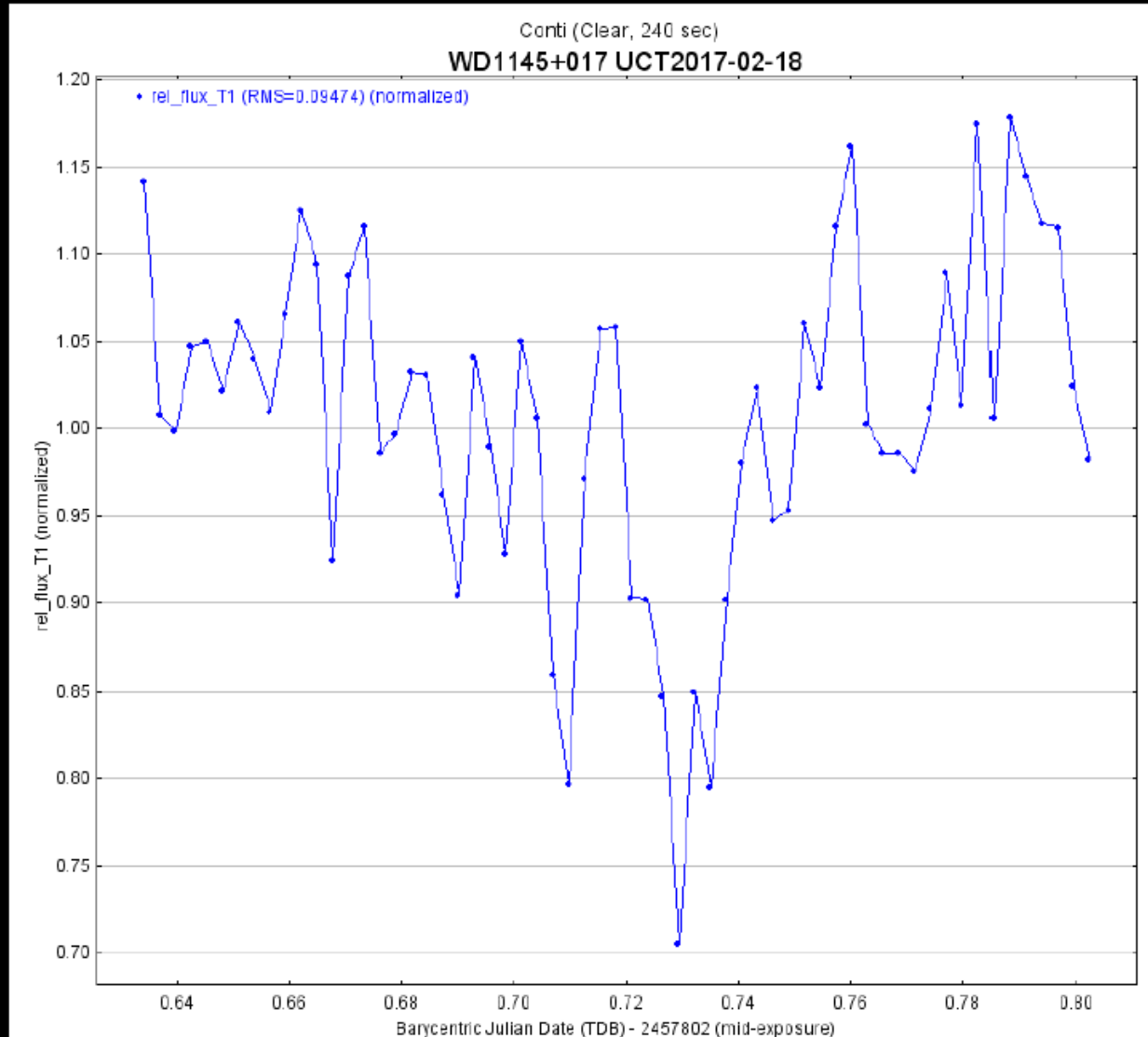
IC 443 - Jellyfish Nebula
8" f/4 Reflector + Coma Corrector
8300 CCD Ha OIII RGB 6.8 Hours
Glenelg, Md

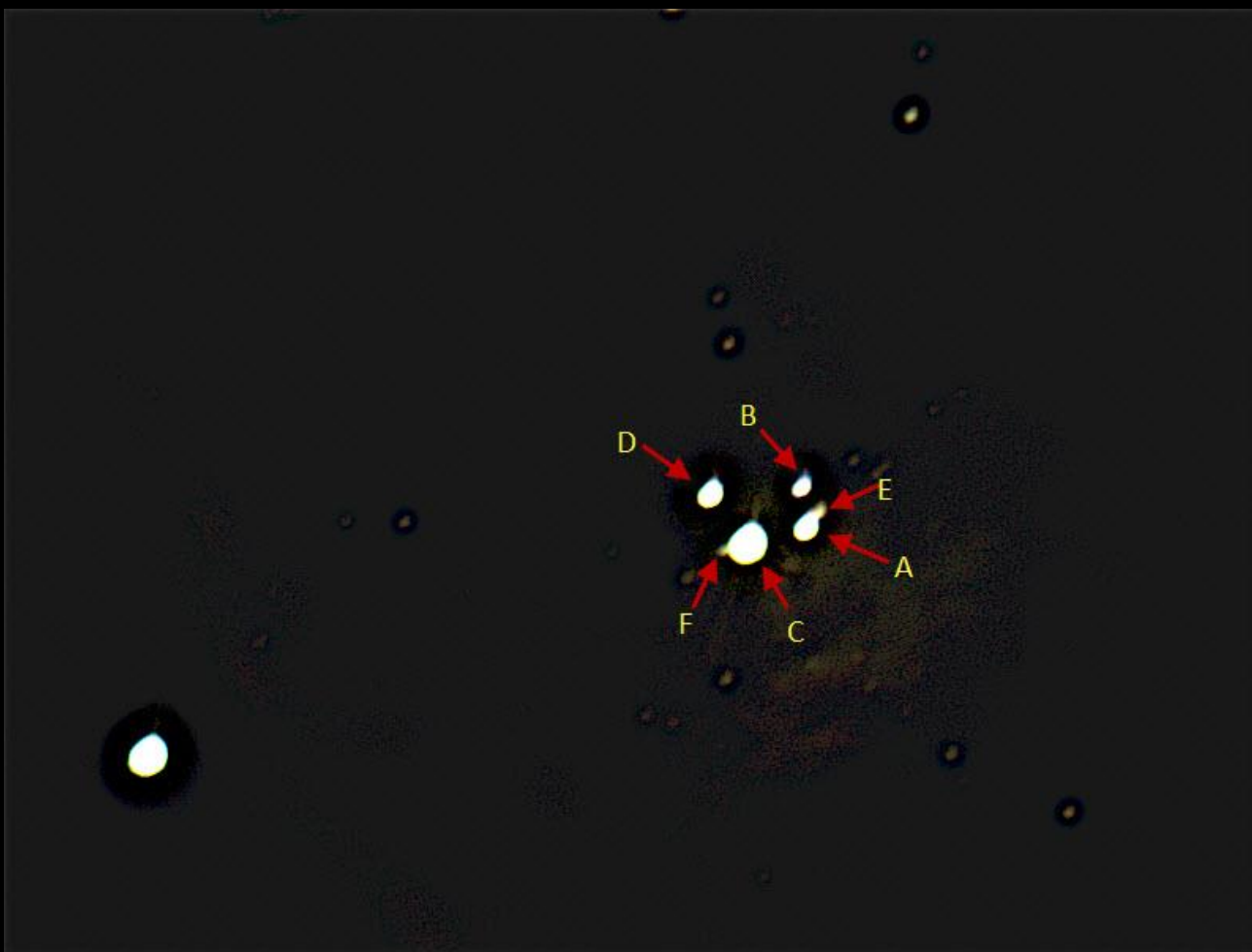
WD-1145 Observations: April 6-May 31, 2016 by Mario Motta

From
Sky & Telescope
April, 2017



WD-1145 Observation: February 18, 2017 by Dennis Conti





Trapezium in M42
Mike Krauss (mostly) and Jim Johnson
HALO/Watson Telescope with QHY5III290C
February 26, 2017

Special Topic

HAL Star Party Etiquette

Before you leave home...

- Pack everything that you need
Batteries, cables, eyepieces, tools, camera(s), red light
- Dress for the weather
More layers of clothing than you think you'll need.
- Bring snacks/drinks
- Have an observation/photography plan

Consider the type of star party...

- **Public**

- Scopes set up by members to share views with the public and other members

- **Members Only**

- A member benefit

- Members usually pursue personal observing/astrophotography programs

- Scopes may or may not be available for sharing views

- **Impromptu**

- When that rare clear sky pops up!

- Members only

- Look for keyholder announcement (members, if opted in)

Once you arrive...

- Select a space that works for you
 - Alpha Ridge vs. Carrs Mill
 - What do you want to observe?
 - Near the entrance if leaving early
 - With people or on a quiet edge
- Turn off/cover trunk and door lights
- Take advantage of the remaining daylight to set up
- Take some time to get to know the people around you

Once it gets dark...

- Enjoy that rare clear sky that you have waited so long for
- Enjoy the company of like-minded amateur astronomers
 - Conversation is always welcome, but loud noise can be distracting
- Protect your neighbors' night vision with red lights/screen covers
- Refrain from running automobile engines until you are leaving

When it is time to leave...

- Parties generally end at 11pm
 - Host's discretion, will announce
- Maintain red light discipline of others are still observing, except...
- Turn on headlights when driving out
 - Required for safety reasons
 - Let observers around you know so that they can cover up as needed
- Do not leave cars in the park!

Most importantly...

Show up!

- Jim-ism: 85% of life is showing up

Enjoy your evening

- Star parties can be a heckuva lot of fun

Enjoy sharing astronomy with others

- ✨ Rewarding - you're hooked the first time that you amaze a youngster!

Astronomy Humor

You Matter.

Unless you multiply yourself by the speed of light squared. Then, of course...

You Energy.

$$E=mc^2$$

Thank You!

Next month's meeting is on Thursday,
April 20th, 2017 7 PM

Dr. Adam Szabo

Chief of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's
Heliospheric Physics Laboratory

The Earth and Solar Wind Science Observations of
the DSCOVR Mission.