

Event Horizon



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September 2011



From The Editor

Although our membership year doesn't officially start until November 1st, September always seems like the beginning of a new year. A great deal of activity has been happening in the club over the summer break and you can read all about it in this issue of Event Horizon.

There is considerable excitement about starting up a telescope makers' group within the club - you can read about it and the donation that inspired it on page 13.

Most of the summer star parties are over for the year (reports on two of them are in this issue), except for the Huronia Star Party which takes place on Labour Day weekend this year. You can find more information at http://www.hsp-ssaa.ca/Welcome_To_The_HSP_and_SSAA_Website.html

Please send me a report if you go. We'd love to read of your adventures.

Clear skies!

Ann Tekatch
Editor@amateurastronomy.org



Chair's Report by John Gauvreau

The last chair report I gave was at the beginning of June and star party season was about to begin. In fact, I was writing the day before I was to leave for the Cherry Springs Star Party in Pennsylvania. Now that star party (and I recall this quite clearly!) was marred by solid rain, high winds, tornado warnings and incredible thunderstorms. After four days the field we were camping in was nothing but mud. I never had a single look through my telescope (and on a personal note, on the first day (mere hours after submitting my last chair report) I broke my finger, so I did the star party with a nice shiny, metal splint and took a lot of teasing for that!). But despite the rain, mud, personal injuries and total lack of observing, we still had a great time.

I am very happy to hear that those returning from the August star parties did much better! Both Starfest, near Mount Forest, and the Black Forest star Party in Pennsylvania were well attended by members of the HAA and reports have all been favourable. Everyone got in at least some observing and there were good talks and presentations, including one at Starfest from our own Kerry Ann Lecky-Hepburn, which was a big hit. Old friends were met and new friends were made, and our own Michael Jefferson, who has never missed a Starfest since it began (!) even won a nice door prize. Congratulations Mike and everyone who enjoyed this seasons wonderful star parties!

The HAA hosted a rather remarkable star (Continued on [page 2](#))

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Chair's Report (continued)

party of sorts itself this summer. Each year we make the Binbrook Conservation Area open to the public for one night, and to make their experience the best possible, it's the night of the Perseid Meteor Shower. This year Perseid night fell on Friday August 12th, and a crack team of club volunteers turned out to assist the public in their observing experience. Thanks to the amazing publicity job done by our own Mario Carr, we received good coverage from local papers, CHCH TV and K-lite fm radio. All this resulted in over 800 people turning out at the park. They were treated to some great views through club members' telescopes, the chance to hold a real meteorite and enjoy putting out a blanket and watching for meteors under a lovely summer sky. Thanks go to Steve Germann who organized the evening and the following members who rendered invaluable service that night; Ann Tekatch, Bob Christmas, Don Pullen, Jim Wamsley, Joe McArdle, Matthew and Janice Mannering, Ray Badgerow, Gary Sutton, Jackie Fulton, Ed & Kevin Salwach. A number of other members showed up as well and many offered their telescopes up for public viewing or jumped in to lend a hand as needed. I have received a number of comments from members of the public who attended and all were favourable. Thanks to everyone for giving those 800 people a magical night under the stars that they and their families won't soon forget.

On a smaller scale but equally valuable, the loaner scope program has seen the club scope pass through a few hands this summer and the program is running smoothly and seems to be popular. The club received a number of donations from generous and well meaning people who wanted to see more of this kind of work done, and that has resulted in the club obtaining a second loaner scope. This instrument is also an 8" Dobsonian and is now ready to go out to interested members. If you are interested in borrowing one of the club loaner scopes feel free to contact either myself or Jim Wamsley to make arrangements. And remember when borrowing a scope that there are a number of experienced club members ready and willing to help you.

The wonders of the universe are yours to be had for the asking!

Speaking of observing, don't forget that when a keyholder is unavailable to open the park, there is an alternative observing location for you to use. The alternative site is located at the west end of the park on Tyneside Road. Directions can be found here:

<http://amateurastronomy.org/sites/binbrookCA/BinbrookTyneside1.jpg>

There is parking just off the road and a small field to set up scopes. The sky is as dark as at the main site in the park, and no key is needed to access this site. This location is open to the public, so remember to be safe, take care of yourself out there and take care of the park. Enjoy the dark sky and feel free to post any observing you do on the website blog to share your experiences with your fellow members!

The blog <http://amateurastronomy.org/blogs/index.php?blog=1> is a great source of information about upcoming events, observing reports and what to look at in the sky. There's new stuff being posted all the time so check in regularly. Of course, feel free to contribute any observations or photos you might have. Other members will certainly enjoy sharing the experience through your reports.

Don't forget that you are welcome to submit images for the 2012 HAA calendar and you'll find guidelines elsewhere in the EH. Last year's calendar was the most successful yet and the contributions from our members were varied and remarkable! Everyone's welcome to participate and now is the time to submit.

The 2011/2012 season for the HAA is just beginning and promises to be an exciting one.

See you out there!

John

chair@amateurastronomy.org

Masthead Photo Credits: Photo of the camping/observing field at the Black Forest Star Party held at Cherry Springs State Park, Pennsylvania taken by Don Pullen.

See Don's full report on this annual star party on page 6.



Our First Star Party: Gordon's Park, Manitoulin, August 5-8 by John Crowdis

My family and I are newcomers to the HAA. I joined in February, and have been "reclaiming" amateur astronomy as an interest and a hobby that I had as a teenager. Part of this has been sharing this with our 5 1/2 year-old daughter, Megan, who has made herself abundantly well known at some of our observation nights. The big challenge with Megan is that too many late nights aren't all that good for her, or for her parents' sanity. It would be nice if we could simply put her to bed when she needed to, and Sarah and I could keep observing until sleep eventually pulled us to bed. As the summer approached, the best option for observing with the late sunsets and nice weather seemed to be a star party.

Sarah and I enjoy camping, as does Megan, so the idea of a star party really seemed to be a good one. Trade the campfire for a telescope? I'm there. Sure, I'll miss roasted marshmallows and hotdogs as a time-honoured tradition, but then we'll gain a chance to really see the stars. Since our vacation time was going to be in August, I looked at a few of the options available. We would be out of the province during Starfest, so we looked around at other events. The one that really caught my eye was the Manitoulin Star Party at Gordon's Park. Gordon's Park bills itself as an Eco-Resort, that has camping, hiking trails, nature walks, but it also has a designated Dark Sky Preserve on its property. Couple that with the fact that Gordon's Park has virtually no light pollution. We thought it would be a chance to camp under some truly dark skies. Gordon's Park also had a pool and a playground, so it seemed that there would be enough activities to keep Megan occupied during the day.

We weren't disappointed. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.



Sarah, Megan and John at the Manitoulin Star Party. Photo courtesy of Nancy McDermid, Manitoulin Expositor.

The cloud-cover was always something of a gamble, as we gather it would be for any camping-style star party. I had been worried that we would get to these dark skies and see nothing but clouds. While there were some, fortunately, this fear was unfounded. We took the Chi-Chimaun Ferry across to the Island from Tobermory, and quickly found Gordon's Park on Highway 6,

about 15 minutes from the Ferry's landing. After checking in, we went into the Dark Sky Preserve, which is accessed from a secondary entrance east of the main buildings. No white light is permitted past a certain point at all times, so this area is a Dark Sky Preserve all the time. The campsites are situated in a relatively open field with picnic tables, cooking stands, and a number of convenient privies. Water needs to be carted in from the main buildings at the front. We set up our campsite, and then decided to go check out the pool before the opening events. In a word, nice. Our daughter was the youngest participant, but she was always made to feel welcome no matter where we went. Rita and Terry Gordon, the owners of the property,

were exceptional hosts, who make a point of getting to know everyone who stays with them. It really felt very family friendly.

Now... on to the observing. As I had mentioned earlier, I had been concerned about cloud-cover, as Gordon's Park had been largely clear all through July. Murphy's Law would have the clouds and rain come in force. The days had been nice, but always a bit of cloud leading up. People had arrived earlier in the week, and were remarking how good their observation nights had been. I was afraid that I would have bad luck. At least we had the pool and the playground!

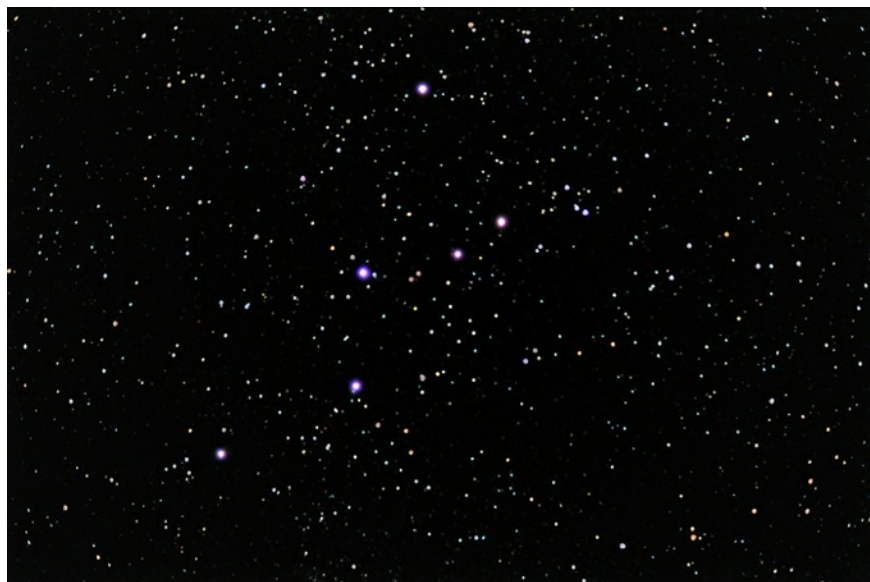
Even with my worries, we were able to experience these glorious skies. On Fri- (Continued on [page 4](#))

Our First Star Party: Gordon's Park, Manitoulin, August 5-8 (continued)

day and Saturday night, there was thin cloud cover around Sunset to around midnight. It seemed to be the better practice to set our alarm for 1am, and get up and do some observing then. I had simply hoped to see the skies clear from horizon to horizon for about an hour while we were there. On those first two nights, when the clouds did clear up, it was wonderful to see. Friday night had the aurora hiding behind clouds to the north, but Saturday it was far less active. It was a great experience to use not only my own CPC800 under these skies, but to look through some truly massive telescopes. One person, Steve Pellarin from RASC Windsor Centre, who was delivering a couple presentations, had brought his 28" custom-made Dobsonian. Sarah and I had a chance to look at the Witch's Broom (NGC 6960) through Steve's scope, enhanced with an OIII Filter... it was truly stunning. I thought my own



Photo of the observing field at Gordon's Park. The Crowdis-Fanning camp can be seen on the left. Photo by Sarah Fanning



Nice photo of the constellation, Cassiopeia, by Sarah Fanning.

scope was performing exceptionally well, but climbing a ladder to look through someone else's monster dob was just the icing on the cake.

The real treat came on the last night. On Sunday we had rain, and the initial forecasts had indicated

that there would be socked-in for cloud cover and rain for the rest of the day. By then, most people had packed up and gone home, but we were booked in to stay Sunday night. By mid-day the sun had come out, and quickly dried up any of our gear that had gotten wet. I had actually been so pessimistic that I had put my scope away ahead of the rainstorm. Yet by the time evening had rolled around, the skies had cleared up completely, and would remain clear the entire night. By this time, there were only four groups of campers including ourselves who had stayed for the last night, but it was far and away the best. From sunset until 2am, we were able to enjoy the pristine skies. The Perseids were wonderfully active. The moon provided us with a great chance to do some first quarter observing, until it set, revealing the true glory of Manitoulin's Dark skies. For those who keep track of these things, the Sky-Quality is 21.96, which is almost Bortle Scale 1.

Our first star party was a fantastic experience. We would go again in a heartbeat.



Through the Looking Glass by Greg Emery

As September rolls around I have to look back at the summer and wonder where it went. Wasn't there snow on my driveway just a very short time ago? Well in just a few short months it will be Christmas, then a few months after that March and the Messier Marathon. At that time, the summer will be just around the corner!

In the meantime, how did you spend the summer? Star parties? Travel? Did you load the kids into a car and drive a countless number of kilometers to see family? Did your family drive a countless number of kilometers to stay with you for a few days (most likely the last two weeks of July when your air conditioner wasn't handling the 50 °C Humidex too well)? Did you get in much observing? Modify your telescope? Buy some new astro-toys?

For an upcoming trip south I bought a pair of binoculars. I did a fair amount of research on this purchase, which represents more effort than I usually put in on something like this. I had three basic criteria: maximize aperture; minimize cost and finally good optical construction. I needed to be able to hand hold the binoculars for viewing, so the upper end of the aperture size is arbitrarily limited. Too big and they are too hard to hold. I decided that based on weight and size the 70mm binoculars available where on the large size, so I eliminated binoculars with 70mm and up of aperture.

In terms of the optical quality I was really hoping to get fully multicoated optics, not just the outside of the objective and eyepiece. In addition I wanted some attention to detail of construction - comfortable body for holding, solid hinge with a smooth motion, baffling for reduction of off axis reflections. A generous eye relief would be nice as well.

I finally settled on Celestron SkyMaster 9x63 binoculars. When I bought them, I checked them for collimation and defects, all seemed fine.



Now what do I do? How do I observe with binoculars? Remember all the books that tell the burgeoning amateur astronomer how they will be best off using binoculars to observe prior to buying a telescope? Well I don't remember them - I went from an interest in astronomy right into amateur telescope making. I skipped the first two chapters of all those books!

It is actually amazing to me how easy binoculars are to observe with. The field of view is so wide that pointing in the general area of an object of interest will often times put that object in view. The lower magnification (which is tied in directly with the wider field of view) leads to one problem - some of the stuff is really small!

I struggled at first to build a telescope, then to find the objects I wished to look at. With binoculars, that frustration level would be somewhat lessened. I am just so accustomed to M13 or M42 looking a certain size - I guess what I really need is a section of sky that I have never seen before. Use this to observe with binoculars first, then move up to a telescope - Yeah! That seems like a plan.



Report From the Black Forest Star Party by Don Pullen



The southern portion of the Milky Way as seen from the observing field at Cherry Springs State Park. Photo by Don Pullen.

I'm writing this article on the field at Cherry Springs State Park in Pennsylvania where I have been attending the Black Forest Star Party. It's Sunday night and the fringe effects from Hurricane Irene have moved on, fortunately faster than expected. So now the skies are crystal clear, and Cherry Springs is almost at its very best. The sky is awash with stars and dark nebula within the Milky Way.

As I often do, I arrived a few days early with the hopes of getting several good nights of observing and imaging. I arrived late on Tuesday so I didn't get much done other than set up camp.

There were already several dozen astronomers on the field with a few more arriving around the time I did. The skies were clear, but the seeing and transparency weren't that good. So I felt it was safe to go to bed early that night. Unfortunately the skies improved after midnight and I missed out on some prime viewing because of my selfish need for sleep.

On Wednesday, Jim Wamsley, Les Webb and Mario Carr from the club arrived to join me so we had a good group and a lot of fun. Other club members had ventured off to Starfest (Ontario) and Almost Heaven (W. Va) star parties.

Each day more people arrived until we had over 450 astronomers and their families.

BFSP is basically a 2 night and 1 day event. However many astronomers arrived by Thursday and were rewarded with a good night, along with Friday which was almost as good. All told, we had over 450 astronomers on the field which is close to capacity. A great turnout.

As usual, there were a few presentations on Saturday. One of these was Glenn Muller who stopped by to see some of the HAA members present. I also visited their camp site and had a chat with Glenn and Gail which was nice since I hadn't seen them for a while. Glenn did his "Shot of the Century" presentation which he did for the club a few years ago,



Unprocessed photo of M27, the Dumbbell nebula, by Don Pullen.

Report From the Black Forest Star Party (continued)

and not surprisingly, he did an excellent job judging from some of the comments I heard.

When word came around that the hurricane was approaching the east coast, a lot of people evacuated, either to be home in that area with their families or wanted to clear this area in case any effects extended this far. Fortunately we only had to deal with cloud, some strong gusts and very light rain Saturday night through to Sunday morning. The effects at the park were relatively mild. And as mentioned, those who could stay were rewarded with a great night on Sunday.



Something completely different at the Black Forest Star Party! Photo by Don Pullen.

Some of the interesting things we were able to see were comet Garradd (one night some of the others were able to capture the comet in the same field as M71), the new supernova in M101, and on Wednesday we were treated to a military exercise. A KC135 fuelling tanker circled the field several times and was refuelling a squadron of A10 Warthogs.

Observing-wise, it was one of the best star parties I've been to since most nights we had some viewing, but it wasn't that well organized and I was a little disappointed with the arrangements. However it was definitely still worth the trip and was great seeing lots of old friends and making new ones.



Photo of the sun and sun-spots taken through a white light filtered telescope. Photo by Don Pullen.



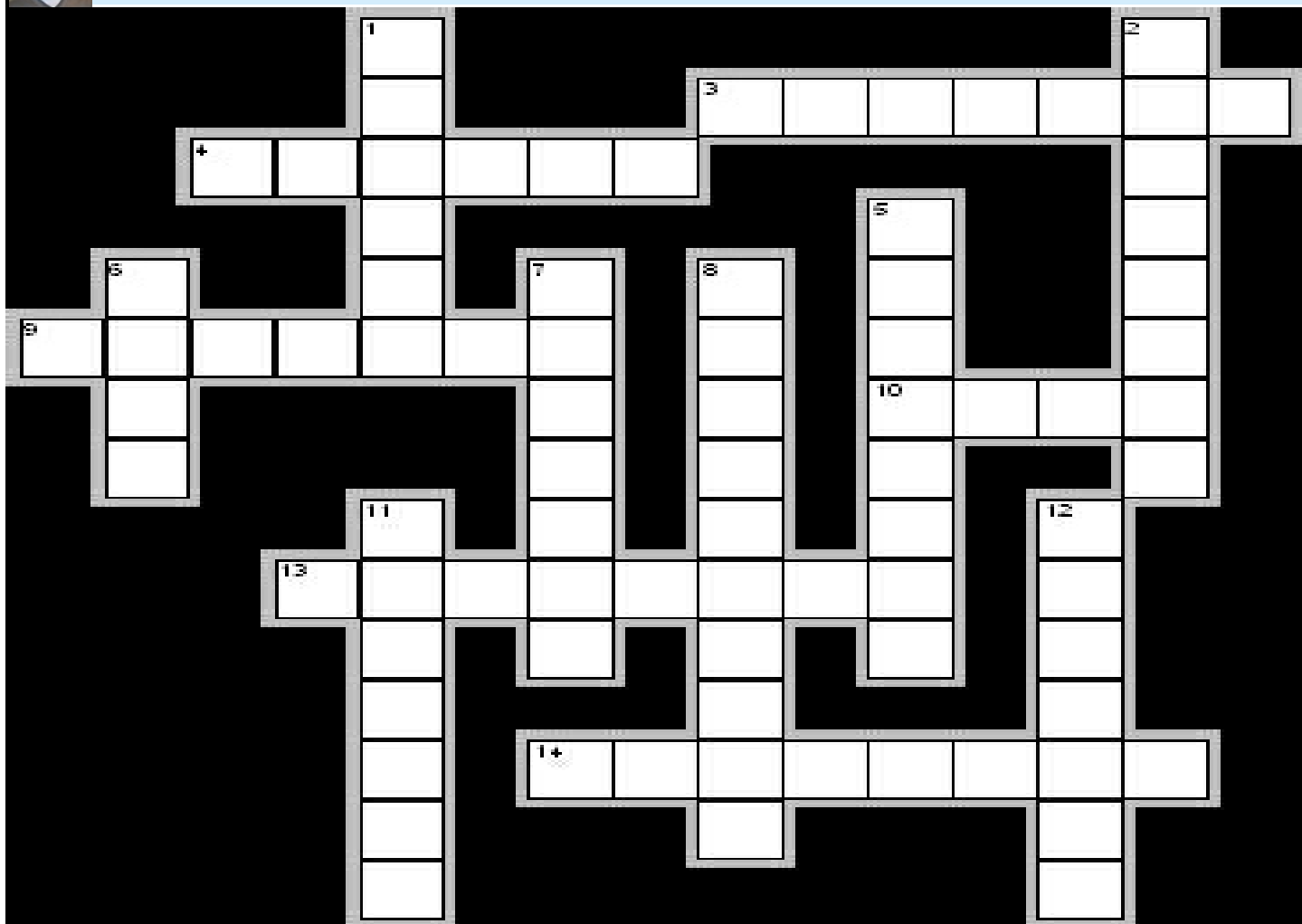
Treasurer's Report by Don Pullen

Since I'm away at the Black Forest Star Party in Pennsylvania and it's been a quiet summer, there isn't too much to report. Our account balance as of Aug 27, 2011 stands at \$5974.24.

We've had a couple of memberships and we made our annual donation to Binbrook Conservation Area (\$100). We also purchased a second telescope for our club's "Scope Loaner" program. It's an 8" Dob along with a carrying case which cost us \$513.02. Some of this cost will be offset by the sale of some of the earlier donated telescopes. A more complete report will be provided in the October Event Horizon once we have finalized everything.



Astronomy Crossword by Mario Carr



Across

3. On Sept. 23 this event will occur.
4. On Sept. 15 the moon is at?
9. One of the last of the summer star parties.
10. On Sept. 13, 1959 the second of this spacecraft was the first to reach the moon.
13. This annual shower drew about 800 visitors this year at Binbrook
14. On Sept. 29, 1962 Canada launches our first satellite called.

Down

1. Recently, this type of asteroid was discovered sharing Earth's orbit.
2. This type of light is best seen for two weeks starting the last week in Sept.
5. For 2011, this month's full moon will appear to be the
6. This spacecraft was recently launched with a five year mission to Jupiter
7. On Sept. 12 the full moon is known as this moon.
8. On Sept. 25 Uranus is at?
11. On Sept. 3 it is a good time to see this planet.
12. On Sept. 4 the moon is in this phase?

Answers can be found on page 15



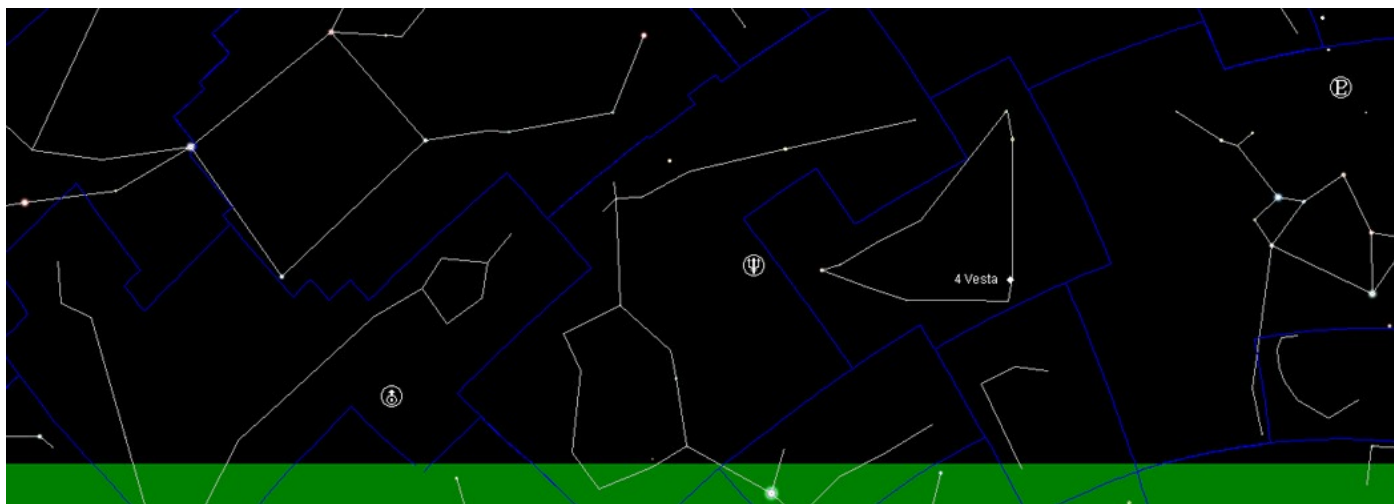
The Sky For September 2011 by Steve Germann

September is all about balance. The Autumnal Equinox is the point in time when the sun is exactly above the Earth's equator, and heading southwards. However, there's also the 'Equilux' when the day and night are closest to 12 hours long.

In this month, day and night are balanced, especially on a day that begins at exactly 9:04 am, UTC which is about 5:04 AM EDT. So, somewhere in the maritimes, you could measure the night before and the day following, and see them equal, except for interesting details:

Check out the setting sun over water the next chance you get, and you will see something interesting. The Sun distorts in shape and sets slower for the last 4 minutes, traveling about a degree at half the speed it does when elsewhere in the sky. This is due to refraction of the light by the many miles of Earth's atmosphere and the angle of the Earth's atmosphere where the light enters it. As a result, on the day of the equinox, there's actually still a few minutes more sunlight than twilight and darkness.

A few days later, we will see the equal day and night event (Equilux), but it will vary depending on latitude, and for people who live on the Equator, it will never come. Their days are always a few minutes longer than their nights.

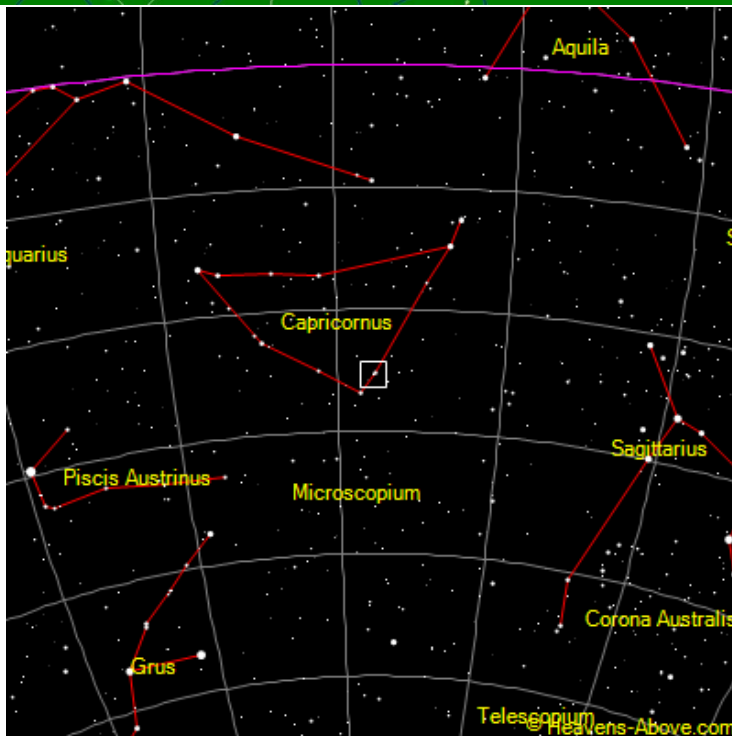


I have been alluding to Vesta since the start of the summer, and now it's positioned at a convenient place and time for all to see. It was at magnitude 5.6 earlier in August, the brightest it will be for 10 years, but, pick up your binoculars and you will always be able to find it. Here's how Vesta's peak brightness varies in the coming years:

<http://www.nakedeyeplanets.com/vesta-2011.htm>

Views of Vesta are being served to you on a silver platter now. By 9:45 PM, Vesta is up 17 degrees, easily visible if you can see the southern horizon, and just a few degrees east of due south, at 153 degrees azimuth. Over the course of September, it will be that high by 8 PM, and at magnitude 6.2, it's brighter than most of the stars near it.

We have the advantage at the start of September it is near one of the brighter stars in Capricorn, and visible in the handy chart here included. Over the month of September, Vesta will go into retrograde, briefly
(Continued on [page 10](#))



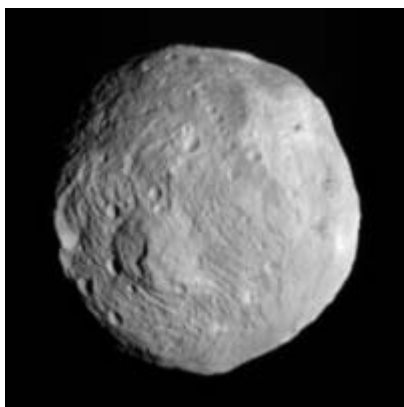
The Sky For Summer 2011 (continued)

balancing between eastward and westward motion in the sky.

Here's a video made by NASA showing how Dawn can just make out surface details on Vesta a month before it arrives to begin orbiting: http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/multimedia/video/BUNDLE3_Approach-1280.mov

Target Name: Asteroid Vesta
Spacecraft: Dawn
Instrument: Framing Camera
Produced by: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA/MPS/DLR/IDA
Copyright: NASA Copyright Free Policy
Cross Reference: PIA14121
Date Taken: 2011-06-01

Even at that distance, Dawn's view rivals those of the HST made 5 years ago. As it goes into orbit, we will see spectacular detail, and even be able to see the layers of Vesta laid bare by the huge impact crater in it's southern region. The video also highlights a 60 mile diameter crater closer to Vesta's Equator.



Compare the view of Vesta from Dawn (left) to that of the Hubble Space Telescope (right).



Over the course of September, Jupiter will slowly become an evening object again. At the start of September, it rises at about 10:30 PM, but by October 1, it will be rising at 8:30 PM, conveniently adjusting to the earlier darkness of the Fall.

You can put your binoculars down and enjoy Jupiter. Last week at Starfest I tried to see if my young eyes could see the moons of Jupiter without a telescope. Not for me, but perhaps for you? To get it right, you and I will have to wait for Jupiter to be at opposition, and also have a moonless night. Such will happen for about 2 weeks around the last few days of October 2011, since the new moon and Jupiter's opposition are both about October 29.

How many moons will you be able to see with your eyes and eyeglasses?

September and October are traditionally our clearest months. Take advantage of the clarity by planning to use your telescope while it's still warm, the nights are reasonably early, and the skies are doing their best for us.

September marks the rise of 2 other planets in the sky, leading Jupiter across the sky, about 60 and 30 degrees ahead of Jupiter, are Neptune (7.8) and Uranus (5.7). Uranus is also a naked eye object now, and near opposition. Warm up with Binoculars and then have a go at finding it too!

As the summer dies, so do the summer constellations, with Sagittarius and its wealth of nebulae trailing Scorpius into the evening twilight. M22 is always my favourite. Bright and big, just bursting with a million stars, and as old as the galaxy. Awesome.

Spread through September and October you will also see Orionid Meteors. They are fast and long and often green fireballs, served to us as laggard fragments of Halley's Comet collide with the Earth, centuries after undocking with the comet's nucleus. For those of us too impatient to wait another 51 years for the entire comet, just check out the Orionids. 20 per hour puts it 'up there' with the Perseids, and the meteors of the Orionids are often fireballs. I remember spotting a dozen of them on my trip to Lake Superior Provincial Park, even 3 weeks before their peak on October 21.



Observing Comet Garradd by Ann Tekatch

On August 13, 2009, Gordon Garradd, an astronomer with the Siding Spring Observatory in Australia, discovered a previously-unknown comet on images he had taken during his search for near earth objects. The comet was assigned the designation C/2009 P1 and name, Comet Garradd, by the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

Comet Garradd has been growing in brightness as it nears the sun and will be well placed for evening viewing until mid-December. It is predicted to remain fairly bright, near magnitude 6, until spring. Around mid-December, the comet will become an early morning object.



Photo of Comet Garradd taken by Don Pullen at the Black Forest Star Party in Cherry Springs State Park, Pennsylvania.

Unfortunately, Comet Garradd gets no closer than 1.55 AU from the Sun (December 23/11) and 1.27 AU from Earth (March 5/12), so it is not likely to develop into a spectacular, naked-eye object. However, its brightness and position will make it a popular target for astrophotographers and visual astronomers alike.

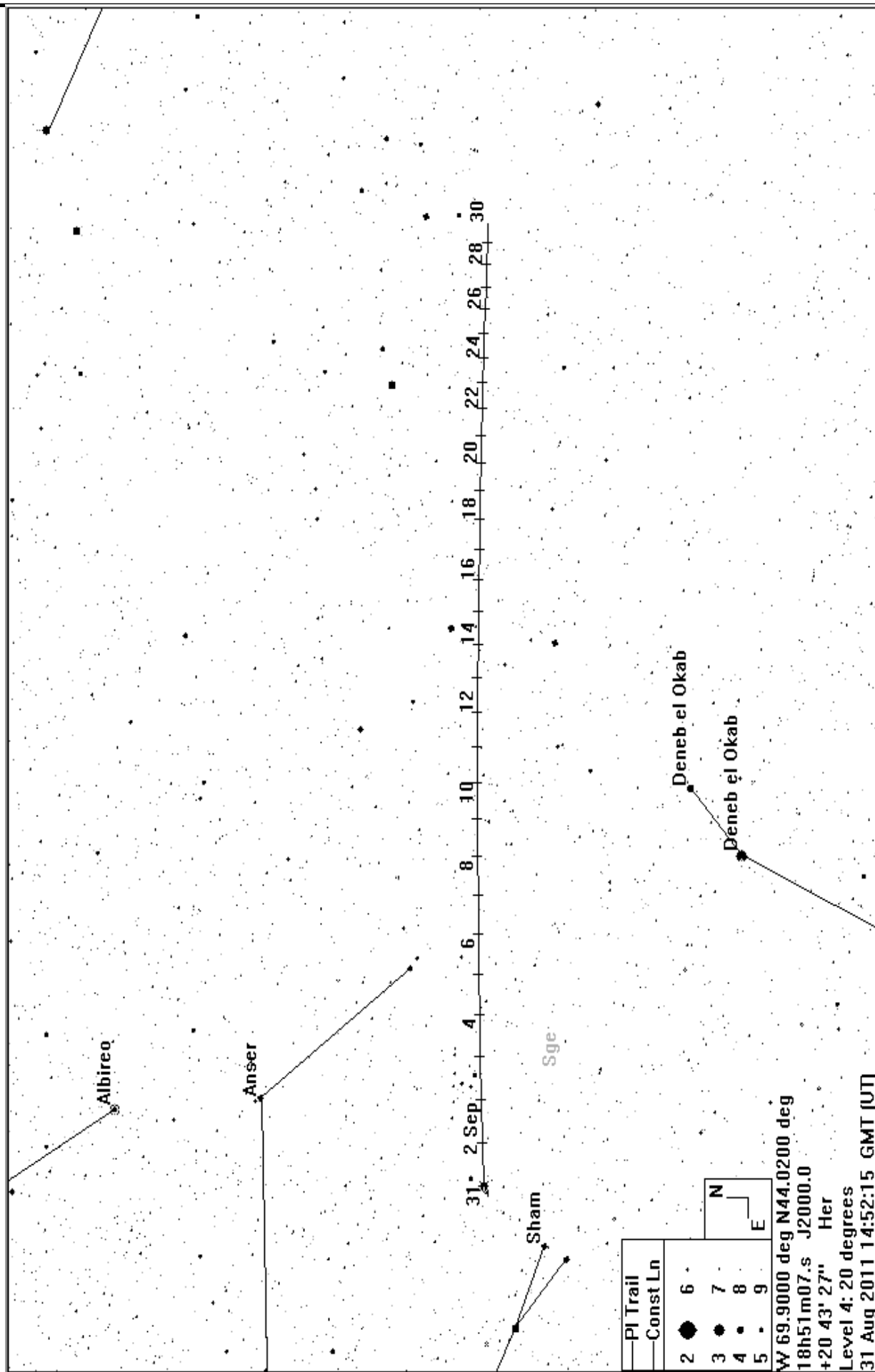
On the next page, I have included a chart showing the position of Comet Garradd over the next month. I've also included is a listing of the comet's position throughout September for those of you with computerized Go-To telescopes. Please share your photos and observations.

Comet Garradd Co-ordinates for September 2011

C/2009 P1 (Garradd)

Date	UT h m s	R.A. (J2000)	Declination	Date	UT h m s	R.A. (J2000)	Declination
2011 09 01	000000	19 33 44.6	+19 29 54	2011 09 17	000000	18 40 17.8	+19 53 35
2011 09 02	000000	19 29 53.5	+19 34 49	2011 09 18	000000	18 37 35.4	+19 52 13
2011 09 03	000000	19 26 05.8	+19 39 09	2011 09 19	000000	18 34 57.5	+19 50 40
2011 09 04	000000	19 22 21.8	+19 42 58	2011 09 20	000000	18 32 24.2	+19 48 55
2011 09 05	000000	19 18 41.7	+19 46 15	2011 09 21	000000	18 29 55.3	+19 47 02
2011 09 06	000000	19 15 05.6	+19 49 02	2011 09 22	000000	18 27 30.8	+19 44 59
2011 09 07	000000	19 11 33.6	+19 51 21	2011 09 23	000000	18 25 10.7	+19 42 50
2011 09 08	000000	19 08 05.8	+19 53 13	2011 09 24	000000	18 22 54.9	+19 40 34
2011 09 09	000000	19 04 42.4	+19 54 39	2011 09 25	000000	18 20 43.4	+19 38 13
2011 09 10	000000	19 01 23.4	+19 55 41	2011 09 26	000000	18 18 36.0	+19 35 47
2011 09 11	000000	18 58 08.9	+19 56 20	2011 09 27	000000	18 16 32.8	+19 33 19
2011 09 12	000000	18 54 58.9	+19 56 38	2011 09 28	000000	18 14 33.5	+19 30 47
2011 09 13	000000	18 51 53.5	+19 56 36	2011 09 29	000000	18 12 38.3	+19 28 14
2011 09 14	000000	18 48 52.7	+19 56 15	2011 09 30	000000	18 10 46.8	+19 25 41
2011 09 15	000000	18 45 56.5	+19 55 37				
2011 09 16	000000	18 43 04.9	+19 54 43				

Comet Garradd Finder Chart for September 2011



Finder chart made with Guide 8 software using ephemerides from the Minor Planet Center.

Amateur Telescope Maker Group

This past summer, our club was the recipient of a very generous donation by Ed Growsky. Mr. Growsky contacted us through Mario Carr, asking if we were interested in some telescope making supplies. Jim Wamsley and John Gauvreau met with Ed and took delivery of a number of boxes from his garage.

The boxes contained five complete 6" mirror kits, a 10" mirror blank and tool as well as a large assortment of grits, polishes and pitches! In a large box, John and Jim discovered a 17.5" aluminized f/4.5 mirror and matching secondary mirror, both of which are in excellent condition. The mirror set is from Coulter Optical and of early 1980s vintage, I think.

The Coulter Optical mirror set is to be sold by the club and at a recent council meeting, it was decided to offer the set to our members first. If no one from the club is interested in buying them, the mirror set will be offered for sale to others as well. We will be making an announcement about the sale of these mirrors in the near future.

Ed's donation has sparked interest in starting up a telescope making group within the club. A few members have made mirrors in the past, but many newcomers may not even be aware that such a thing is possible. I have asked Everett Cairns if he would act as a mentor to the group and he has agreed. Anyone interested in grinding their own telescope mirror or joining the group should contact me.

It is likely that a fee for materials will be charged to anyone wishing to make their own mirror, but we won't be able to determine that cost until we know the number of participants. Please keep in mind that it is generally not cheaper to build your own 'scope. Nor are there any guarantees that your mirror will be as good or better than a commercial one. However, the experience of making your own mirror and telescope and then viewing the sky through it is absolutely priceless.

If you are interested in learning to make your own mirror and/or telescope, please send me an email: editor@amateurastronomy.org.

Ann Tekatch

HAA Helps Hamilton

To support our community, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and cash for local food banks at our general meetings. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the meeting or a donation of cash and help us help others in these tough economic times.

If you would like to help or have any questions about this new initiative, please contact Jim Wamsley at 905-627-4323.

Photos Needed for 2012 HAA Calendar

Once again we will be publishing a club calendar and we are soliciting your photos. Please send photos to webmaster@amateurastronomy.org.

Because this is a club calendar, we try to include photos from as many of our members as possible but can't guarantee that every photo submitted will be included. We're looking for a variety of astronomy-related subjects to keep the calendar interesting and best represent the club. (eg. images of HAA events, your observing sessions, wide-field images of the sky, star parties, Sun, Moon and deep sky objects.)

The images don't need to have been taken within the past year, but they must have been taken by you. Only submissions from HAA members will be considered.

Images should be of landscape orientation (i.e. horizontally rather than vertically oriented). Please send images as JPEG files and try to keep the size in the range of 500kb to 3MB so we have enough resolution for good print quality but not too large to become a problem for image manipulation and formatting to fit the calendar.

Info about the image(s) such as the location, date, object name, equipment you used to get the image, how long your exposures were and processing you may have done if applicable, etc. is required.

Please submit your images as soon as possible but no later than September 24, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact editor@amateurastronomy.org.



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Cartoon Corner by Alexandra Tekatch

Why the clouds seem to leave when you do.



"Wait for it..."

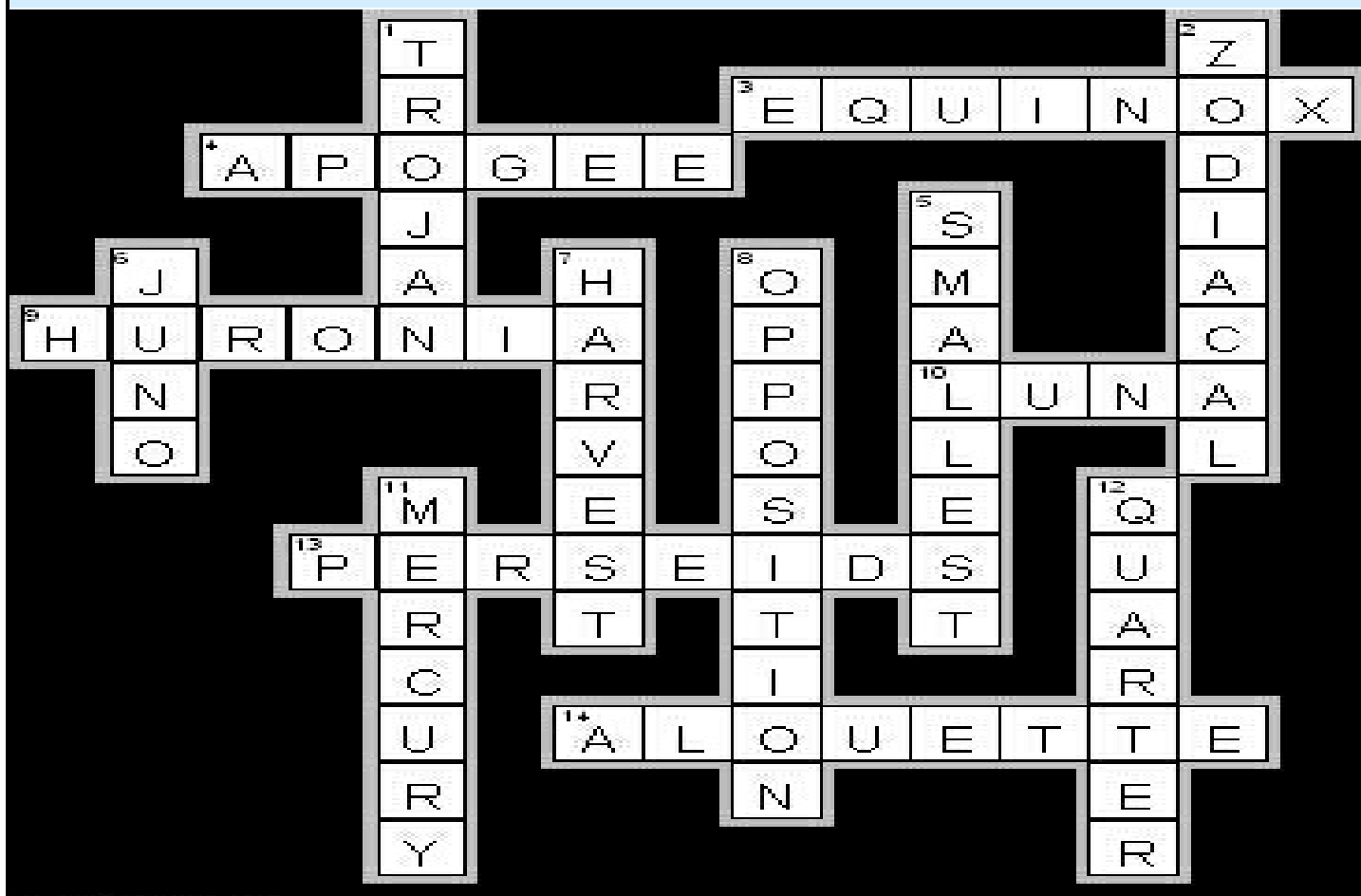


"Oh, whatever!"



"Roll out!"
"HeHe."

Answers to Astronomy Crossword on Page 9



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9, 2011 - General Meeting in the auditorium of the Hamilton Spectator Building - 7:30pm
Sept. 10, 2011 - Cosmology Discussion Group meeting. 7:30 pm. Contact John Gauvreau for details (chair@amateurastronomy.org).

Sept. 24, 2011 - Submission deadline for calendar photos.

October 1, 2011 - Public Stargazing Event at Mohawk Park in Brantford. Details will be available on our website.

October 14, 2011 - Annual General Meeting of the Hamilton Amateur Astronomers at the Hamilton Spectator Building, 7:30 pm.

2010-2011 Council

Chair	John Gauvreau
Second Chair	Jackie Fulton
Treasurer	Don Pullen
Membership Director	Matthew Mannering
Observing Director	Steve Germann
Event Horizon Editor	Ann Tekatch
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Meeting Inquiries:

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Public Events:

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Observing Inquiries:

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Newsletter:

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Observing site for the HAA provided with the generous support of the

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