

Event Horizon

October 2002

Volume 9 Issue 11

Summer Adventure *by Ollie and Lou Darcie*

For us it started on July 12 when we found ourselves up in Haliburton at one of those fancy resorts. We had heard that the nights up there were quite dark so we took the 10 inch Orion dob with us. We were not disappointed. One could reach up and touch the stars. On our way to the resort we stopped in a visitors bureau, and just happened to pick up a brochure there that advertised an observatory nearby. After checking in to our gorgeous accommodations, we hit the road and drove up to this observatory. It was really off the beaten path, but a great location. It was still daylight, so we drove around the area. After a half hour or so, no one appeared, so we got on the phone and called the number on the brochure, spoke to someone right away only to learn that there were only activities there on Tuesday and Saturday. Of course it was Wednesday, so that put a damper on that. None the less, we hustled back to the resort, had a great supper, and by that time darkness had fallen, and ooooh what a beautiful sight. Sky is much darker than Starfest or Huronia, so we were out there enjoying everything until way past midnight. Starfest was outstanding, and we did get to the Huronia Star Party, and that too was exceptional, especially the Saturday when we were treated to a most wonderful display of Northern lights. Totally awesome.

Not too long after that, we traveled to California, and after the regular tourist jaunts of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Fisherman's Wharf, riding the cable cars, Monterey aquarium, Hearst's Castle, Crystal Cathedral, Disneyland, we spent a great day at Lick's Observatory just outside San Jose. It is a fifteen mile drive up the mountain to get there, but well worth it. We were given a good tour which included the 36 inch refractor. The 120 inch reflector was being prepared for the night session, so we could not visit it. In the main hall of the main building there were some magnificent astrophotographs: the milky way, Andromeda and the like. Under the picture of M51, the information stated that the Galaxy was 8 million light years away. Now any amateur astronomer knows that the Whirlpool Galaxy is 40 million light years away, so I took them to task and brought it to their attention. I left them my card and I expect to hear from them. Astronomically, that concluded our venture into the skies. Next time we go to California, we will visit the Wilson Observatory, and the Palomar Observatory. We have now settled back in Rockwood, and last night the viewing was marvelous. It is good to be home.

Clear skies

Ollie and Lou Darcie

Astronomaires Extraordinaire

Solar Scouts *by Elar Inc.*

(ad)

Solar Scouts is an Educational Astronomy Software course covering the Solar System for MS Windows 95/98/Me

It is intended for High School, Jr High (Middle School), University Students & Other Adults (12 years of age and up).

There are eight levels of play/learning. The first four levels are great for Jr High students.

Visit <http://www.solarscouts.com> for more information.

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Word Find**Find The Following Words:**

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HONORARY	MEMBERS	OBSERVING
PUBLICITY	SECRETARY	SPEAKER
TREASURER	WEBMASTER	

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 Y R Y C G M R Y H E
 R S X O N E E T O T
 A P R U I M R I N S
 T E I N V B U C O A
 E A A C R E S I R M
 R K H I E R A L A B
 C E C L S S E B R E
 E R U F B O R U Y W
 S Y K A O U T P J B

Quoar , tenth planet from the sun recently discovered**Facts:**

- 1,280 kilometres across
- Half the size of Pluto
- Circles the Sun every 288 years
- Discovered by Michael Brown and colleague Chadwick Trujillo of the California Institute of Technology on 4 June, 2002.
- One billion miles beyond Pluto

Read more at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/2306945.stm>

<http://www.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=15587>

HAMILTON AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Event Horizon is a publication of the Hamilton Amateur Astronomers (HAA).

The HAA is an amateur astronomy club dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of astronomy for people of all ages and experience levels.

The cost of the subscription is included in the \$25 individual or \$30 family membership fee for the year. Event Horizon is published a minimum of 10 times a year.

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From the Editor

The Leonid meteor showers are coming up on November 17,18,19. It would be nice to do a group meteor watch or something of the sort.

We have a special alliance with NASA as you'll notice in this months edition. Each month NASA will contribute an article for the newsletter.

The upcoming slate of prospective councillors are as follows: Hon. Chair.....Jim Winger
Chair.....Doug Welch
Second Chair..... Grant Dixon
Secretary.....Margaret Walton
Treasurer..... Cindy Bingham
Observing Dir.....Stewart Attlesley
Publicity.....Glenn and Gail Muller
Editor/Web..... Anthony Tekatch
Membership Dir.....Ann Tekatch
Councillor at large.....Ray Badgerow, Barbara Wight

Anthony is interested in electronics, astronomy and music. He has been a member of HAA for one year.
anthony@unihedron.com



From Nasa's Space Place



Brobdingnag to Lilliput:

My Travels Through 30 Years of the Space Program

By Diane K. Fisher

In the early 70s, as minor character in the Apollo Program, I worked in the Vehicle Assembly Building at KSC. Stepping into the VAB, I felt like the incredible shrinking woman. The space inside accommodated six 45-story office towers with vast open spaces to spare. In the vertical spaces between the office towers, the 363-foot high Saturn Vs were assembled.

From my third floor office in one tower, I often delivered documents to higher floors in other towers. Between riding the stomach-dropping glass elevators and dashing across to other towers on narrow, open catwalks at the 28th or 44th floor levels, I soon overcame my fear of heights.

On these excursions, I would see the Saturn Vs come together in the 500-foot high bays. After hundreds of engineers and technicians had toiled around the clock for months, the morning of high-bay rollout would arrive. Slowly, the Crawler Transporter would bear forth the Mobile Launch Platform and the majestic Saturn V rocket. The morning sun reflecting off its gleaming white form would take my breath away.

The last Apollo mission was 30 years ago. As the Apollo program ended, some thought human missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond would continue apace. Though they didn't continue, the Apollo program remains a single, large step in our technological evolution as a species. It is a great tribute to the intelligence, ingenuity, and dedication of the people responsible for the Apollo missions that they were so successful and the disasters so few. NASA's program today continues to build on the technological and managerial legacy bequeathed us by Apollo.



The Saturn V and Mobile Launch Platform are carried to the launch pad on the Crawler Transporter. Notice the tiny humans below the platform.

And just where are we now? Among its other tasks, the International Space Station is teaching people to live in space for long periods. Robotic space missions are studying issues like land use and global warming and discovering the wonders of the universe, its history, and our place in it. With humanity's many other pressing

needs, such quests must be done efficiently.

Part of NASA's mission is to develop the technologies to do cost-effectively what has never been done before at all. NASA's New Millennium Program develops and validates new technologies for space. Missions such as Deep Space 1 and Earth Observing 1 carry and test multiple new technologies (such as ion propulsion and advanced imaging instruments) previously untried in space. And, unlike the Saturn V, the ultimate gas-guzzling muscle car of the 70s, the new technologies must be the "zero emission" vehicles of the 21st century—small, efficient, and capable beyond anything done before.

Many of the New Millennium technologies are described for adults at nmp.nasa.gov and for children at The Space Place, spaceplace.nasa.gov.

Diane K. Fisher is the developer and writer for The Space Place web site.

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Upcoming HAA meetings:

Date: Friday, November 8, 2002:
Speaker: Dr. Bill Harris,
Department of Physics and
Astronomy,

McMaster University

Topic: TBA

Date: Friday, December 13, 2002:

Speaker: Steve Barnes, Sky Optics

Topic: TBA

Upcoming events:

Date: Saturday, 7 December 2002

Topic: Discovering Galileo

Actor: Mr. John Gauvreau

Rather than a lecture about the famous astronomer, Galileo himself promises a first hand account of the invention of the telescope and the dramatic changes in the scientific world that followed. Armed with 17th century costume, illustrations and telescope, John Gauvreau portrays Galileo as the great scientist would have appeared in 1610 when announcing his first astronomical discoveries. John Gauvreau has been an astronomy educator for 20 years, giving shows and teaching courses through Mohawk College, McMaster University's planetarium and schools throughout the region. He is also a great advocate of the contribution made to the world of astronomy by amateur astronomers.

http:

[//nebula.on.ca/hamiltonassoc/lectures.htm](http://nebula.on.ca/hamiltonassoc/lectures.htm)

WebWatch



Norvic Philatelics

Stamps from Across the Universe

<http://www.norvic-philatelics.co.uk/star.htm> submitted by Rob Roy

NASA has a special childrens we site at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov>

Our ccd images taken over the last few months, take a look at our web site,

<http://www.acseal.freemove.co.uk> take look at our CCD page in our photogallery web page.

submitted by Anthony and Christopher Seal

Hamilton Amateur Astronomers

Membership Renewal

November 1, 2002 - October 31, 2003

Name:

Address:

Province: Postal code:

Phone number: (....)..... E-mail:

Type of membership:

Individual \$25.00/year

Family \$30.00/year

Royal \$50.00/year*

Friend \$100.00/year*

Patron \$250.00/year*

Voluntary Donation: \$.....

*These levels of membership confer the same rights and privileges as a Family membership. We greatly appreciate the additional financial support our members provide by signing up as a Royal, Friend or Patron member. *All membership dues are eligible for tax receipts.*

Total: \$.....

Please make your cheque payable to:

Hamilton Amateur Astronomers
P.O. Box 65578
Dundas, Ontario
L9H 6Y6

Membership renewals are due November 1, 2002

November 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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3	4	5	6	7	8 HAA General Meeting	9																																										
10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14	15	16																																										
17 Leonid meteor shower	18 Leonid meteor shower	19 Leonid meteor shower peaks 5:36am	20 Penumbral lunar eclipse, centered on 1:46 UT and visible from the Americas, Europe, and Africa.	21	22	23																																										
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30																																										
<p>For observing info, call Stewart Attlesey 827-9105, Rob Roy 692-3245, Ann Tekatch 575-5433</p>																																																
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