

# NOVA

## The Newsletter Of The Sheep Hill Astronomical Assn.

President	Andy Monka	627-8019	Admin. VP	Robert Moravsik	455-7436
Tech. VP	Ray Smith	831-8154	Treasurer	Phil Schwartz	263-4419
Secretary	Marty Ollenschleger	201-943-2911	Observatory		335-5990

### Committee Chairs

Observation	Jack Weber	Observatory	Open	Publicity	Donna Baia
		Program	Open		

To Schedule Observatory Qualifications: contact RaySmith (regular) or Andy Monka (advanced)

## GREETINGS

The next business meeting of SHAA will be held on October 7, 2007. The meeting will be held at the Boonton Town Hall's Community Room at 7:30 P.M. The program for the evening will be the Tim Ferris PBS special on amateur astronomy "Seeing in the Dark".

## Executive Board Meeting

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on October 7, 2007 at the Boonton Town Hall Community Room at 6:30 P.M. All members are invited to attend.

## Club Night

The next Club Night will be held on Saturday, October 13, weather permitting.

## Public Nights

The next Public Night Open House will be held on Friday, October 19, weather permitting.

## Upcoming Events

Friday-Sunday, October 12-14 2007– New Jersey Starquest – Hope Conference Center, Hope, NJ

Saturday, 6 October 2007 – Children's Space and Astronomy Fair, 11 A.M to 3 P.M. at Challenger Learning Center, Rt. 59, Airmont, NJ. Admission is free.

## Observatory report

The digital setting circles are once again inoperative. There has been much discussion on the Yahoo group site about solutions to the problem including repair of the existing unit, finding a stopgap solution using a borrowed Sky Wizard unit, and buying an entirely new, modern setting circles unit which includes updateable star catalogs. As of this writing, the situation is still unresolved. Check the club Yahoo website for further details of this ongoing saga.

## Club Website

A new website for SHAA is now in operation, <http://www.sheephillaastro.org>. The website is a work in progress so contributions and corrections should be sent to webmasters William Faber and Mark Odian.

A Telescopic Tour for October

R.A	Declination	Description	R.A	Declination.	Description.
16h 41.7m	+36d 27s	M13, globular cluster	21h 04.1m	-11d 21s	Saturn Nebula
17h 32.2m	+55d 11s	v Draconis, double star	22h 28.9m	+0d 32s	ζ Aquarii, double star
17h 41.9m	+72d 10s	ψ Draconis, double star	22h 29.7m	-20d 50s	Helix Nebula
18h 44.4m	+39d 40s	ε Lyrae, double-double star	0h 42.7m	+41d 16s	M31, Andromeda Gal.
19h 30.7 m	+27d 58s	Albireo, double star	1h 33.9m	+30d 39s	M33, Triangulum Gal.
20h 18.1m	-12d 32s	α Capricorni, double-double star	2h 03.9m	+42d 20s	γ Andromedae, d. star
20h 46.6m	+16d 08s	γ Delphini, double star	2h 21.5m	+57d 08s	Perseus double cluster
20h 56.4m	+31d 42s	Veil Nebula	2h 29.0m	+67d 24s	ι Cassiopeiae, triple star
20h 58.8m	+44d 20s	North American nebula	3h 47.5m	+24d 06s	Pleiades star cluster

## Sky Views

Mercury sinks out of visibility early in October. It passes through inferior conjunction with the Sun on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and then becomes an early morning object. Jupiter still shines at magnitude -2.0 but it is now low in the southwest at nightfall. By month's end it sets less than an hour after dark. Neptune is at its highest just after dark and Uranus is there as well about an hour and a half later. Mars rises earlier and earlier as each week passes and by the end of the month it clears the horizon at 9:30 DST. During the month it increases in apparent diameter to 12" wide and brightness increases from -0.2 to -0.6. Early morning just before dawn is the best time to look for it. Venus is the highest it ever gets in the predawn sky, 30° ahead of the Sun an hour before sunrise. Its greatest elongation from the Sun occurs on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Saturn is getting noticeably dimmer because its rings are closing toward edgewise-on and are reflecting less light to us. This month's highlight is a spectacular grouping of Saturn, Venus, the crescent Moon and bright star Regulus which occurs on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>. The Venus, Saturn and Regulus rise in a triangle that's only 6° long with the crescent Moon right in the middle of it.

## Month at a Glance

### October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Last Qtr. Moon	4	5 Moon 1° N. of M44 in A.M.	6
7 Dawn Spectacle; Business Meeting 7:30 P.M.	8	9	10	11 New Moon	12	13 Club Night
14	15	16	17	18	19 Public Night First Qtr. Moon	20
21 Orionid meteors peak	22	23	24	25	26 Full Moon w/ moon at perigee	27 Moon occults Pleiades
28	29	30	31			

## Future Meeting Dates (Mark those Calendars)

October 7

November 4

December 2

January 6

February 3

## Constellation Clues

Aquarius overlaps Capricornus on the north, and is overlapped on the north by Pisces. His Urn of water is shaped more like a tetrahedron. He is pouring feathery streams of water into Fomalhaut, "the mouth of the (southern) fish" as if the fish needs to drink. This is a watery region of the sky, with Two Fishes (Pisces), a Dolphin (Dolphinus), a Whale (Cetus), a Water-carrier (Aquarius), the River (Eridanus), a Fish-tailed Goat (Capricornus) and the southern Fishes (Piscis Austrinus). (Constellation Clues from the Astronomical Calendar 2007 by Guy Ottewell).

## Observatory Access

This is a reminder that while the temporary water tank is in place on the lower parking lot, two keys are needed to access the observatory - one for the gate to the lower parking lot and the regular one for the observatory. They can be picked up at the police station prior to your observing session.

## Membership Dues for 2007-2008 Due

September has come around again. For Sheep Hill Astronomical Association, September means we start a new year for membership and hopefully a chilly but clearer fall and winter of star gazing. Dues for the year remain unchanged at \$30.00 for family membership. For those in other situations, the senior citizen and student dues also remain unchanged. Should any member in good standing (means you are current with your dues) wish to renew or order Sky & Telescope at the current club rate discount, please do so at the September meeting.



SHEEP HILL ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION  
POST OFFICE BOX 111  
BOONTON, NEW JERSEY 07005



October 2007