

Martian Chronicles

Volume 24 Issue 12

December 2006

Attention!

Holiday celebration next
M.A.R.S. Club meeting.

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****Your Article, Story, . . .
could be here. This
Newsletter is for all
M.A.R.S. Club members.
Please send your
Newsletter contribution to
newsletter@marsastro.org by
the 15th of the month ****

Up Coming Club Events



December 2006

8th M.A.R.S.
Club meeting at
7:30 PM in the Saunders Planetarium.

30th SkyWatch at MOSI Sundown to
10 PM

January 2007

12th M.A.R.S. Club meeting at 7:30
PM in the Saunders Planetarium



The Scope of Things

Dennis Farr

President M.A.R.S.

Time, what the heck is it anyway? Well, for one thing, it's a way to measure the end of a calendar year. And here we are in December ending 2006.

I've really enjoyed this year, my first full year getting back into astronomy. I've met a lot of really nice people, and learned how much I don't know, about a lot of things.

I am very pleased with the presentations we have had this year for club meetings. We have some great resources between the MOSI staff and other members. Thank all of you who took the time to put together presentations for the rest of us.

At our December meeting, the membership will vote on officers for the coming year. The nominees are listed on page 5. The floor will be open to nominations before the election.

Additionally, the membership will vote on by laws for the club. The bylaws are available on line on the club web site.

After all that, it's time for snacks and our party! Please bring something to share with the others, but whatever you do, don't bring any paper supplies. Mildred says we have plenty left over from previous years that she has been storing and wants to move out.

Al Peche will be running the planetarium and presenting the Star Of Bethlehem show for the club.

But now it's time to start another year. The program schedule for 2007 is nearly complete, subject to change of course.

In January James Daggett will present, he was still working on the topic at the time this is being written.

February will have Richard Gage putting together a presentation on Astronomy and Astrology.

March will be the second annual star party, currently scheduled at the Homeland Frontiersman Park. This is a combination meeting and outing with a great opportunity for exposing people to astronomy.

Just a sample of the first quarter of the year. I'm looking forward to it, I hope you are, too.

Remember, astronomy is looking up!

Computers, the Internet and Astronomy

Dennis Farr

President M.A.R.S.

Many of us would like to get into digital photography through our telescopes. It seems that simply looking at something in the sky is out of vogue.

Those pictures in the magazines and on the Internet look amazing and certainly it would be nice to see that in the eye piece. Most of those are taken with very expensive CCD cameras and very large scopes that can track for long periods of time.

There is a relatively inexpensive way to get started in digital photography, especially for solar system objects such as Jupiter, Saturn, and the Moon.

The Philips ToUcam can be purchased on ebay for around \$50.00. You will need an adapter to match it to your eyepiece holder, which will be around another \$20.

Then if you have a laptop PC with USB ports you are ready to go.

The software that comes with the camera will make images, but the next step is K3CCDTOOLS software for about \$30. It is specifically designed for astronomy work and the Philips camera easily interfaces with it. You can create strings of photos and use RegiStax software available free on the Internet to create some impressive shots. It takes time and patience, but I think you will be amazed at what can be done with a modest investment.

Library Lingo

Elizabeth Mueller

The Amateur Astronomer – Patrick Moore - This new edition of Sir Patrick Moore's classic book has been going since 1957, with many revisions. This has been completely updated in the light of changes in technology. There are many new photographs and illustrations. The comprehensive appendices provide hints and tips, as well as data (year 2000 onwards) and much more.

Einstein's Cosmos: How Albert Einstein's Vision Transformed Our Understanding of Space and Time – Michio Kaku – Kaku has written a physicists' biography of a physicist—recounting the facts of Einstein's life but spending little energy analyzing, debating, or speculating on his personal life. Instead, the subjects he makes accessible to a lay audience are those of the most interest to physicists: the astonishing depth and subtlety of Einstein's theories, and especially the deceptively simple physical intuitions that guided them.

National Geographic Encyclopedia of Space – Linda K. Glover, National Geographic Society (U.S.) - How vast is the Milky Way? What makes a satellite stay up? How does deep space affect our daily climate? National Geographic Encyclopedia of Space provides answers to all pertinent questions regarding space and space travel. In one easy-to-read and lavishly illustrated package, this volume offers clear and concise explanations of all aspects of space—from planets, telescopes, and satellites to the origins of the universe and the discoveries made by Nicolaus Copernicus, Edwin Hubble, and Stephen Hawking. Arranged in six thematic chapters, the encyclopedia features tables, diagrams, maps, and fact boxes, which are enriched by

recently declassified intelligence material, photographs from the U.S. Navy and National Reconnaissance Office, the latest Hubble images, and essays written by professionals in the field, such as astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Kathryn Sullivan, and marine biologist Sylvia Earle. Thanks to the success of the Mars landings in January 2004, space science is more popular than ever. Complete with up-to-the-minute information and expert commentary, National Geographic Encyclopedia of Space is the definitive volume for studying and understanding the mysteries of the cosmos.

Star Gazer – Ben Morgan - Discusses astronomy, including moon shadows, star charts, and shooting stars, and provides learning activities.

Stargazing – Peter Grego - This user-friendly, authoritative resource includes full-color charts, easy-to-follow guidance, and illustrations showing you everything you need to see the night sky. Inside you will find: Choosing the right equipment Basic techniques Detailed star charts, diagrams, and maps and a Troubleshooting Resource section.

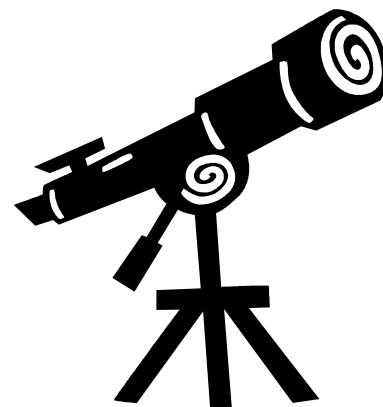
Walking Zero: Discovering Cosmic Space and Time Along the Prime Meridian – Chet Raymo – The line of zero which is about longitude and the standard for all the world's maps and clocks. The author reconstructs the story of humankind's intellectual journey from a cosmos not much larger than us to the universe of the galaxies and geologic cons.

Science Library @ MOSI

Jason Steward

The Science Library @ MOSI is designed primarily to meet the needs of Hillsborough County's citizens with an interest in Science. It is the result of a unique partnership between the Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative and the [Museum of Science and Industry](#); and is believed to be the only public library located inside a museum in the United States. The library is ideally positioned directly across from the box office in the main MOSI entrance. This science library is considered a "flagship" library within the system for innovative approaches to technology and customer service.

Hobbyists, science enthusiasts, teachers, students, and homeschoolers, of all ages can find science, math, computing information and science fiction in a variety of formats. The staff is polite and considerate, and is always willing to help find the answer to what ever question patrons may have. Internet access and word processing is available, but the most exciting part about the Science Library @ MOSI is the realia collection. This collection includes telescopes, microscopes, models, games, science kits, and more! As always, it is all free to check out; all you need is a library card from Hillsborough County (or a reciprocal borrowing county), and the materials are yours for an entire week.



That is not all the Science Library has to offer either. There are computer classes every Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00am, book discussion groups that meet every month, and Science Adventure Days for students. No matter where your interests may lay, the Science Library @ MOSI is the place to find the information and materials you are looking for.

Nominations for 2007 Officers

Museum Astronomical Resource Society (M.A.R.S.)

Proposed slate of officers and directors for the 2007 year.

Officers will be voted on at the December meeting of the club.

Before the election, the floor will be open for additional nominations.

The nominees are:

President – Dennis Farr

Vice President - Karen Beard

Secretary - Carolyn Olivero

Treasurer – Frances Ferguson

Director – James Daggett

Director – Richard Gage

Director – David Yarger

Note from the editor: If you have an article to submit, please feel free. I will find space. ☺ Make sure you send it to my home address: newsletter@marsastro.org by the 15th of the month before it is to appear. I need to work on the newsletter at home, not at MOSI on MOSI time. If you send articles to my MOSI address, and I forget to forward them to my home address, then I may not have the article for the newsletter, when I start to work on it. I apologize if I missed anyone this month.

If you have MOSI related questions, please feel free to use my MOSI email: tanjad@mosi.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM ASTRONOMY RESOURCE SOCIETY ASTRONOMY CLUB

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M.A.R.S Club's Website
www.marsastro.org

*Newsletter of the Museum Astronomical Resource Society
Martian Chronicles is published monthly by the Museum
Astronomical Resource Society (also known as M.A.R.S.
Astronomy Club), to provide club news and other items of
interest to its member. MARS is sponsored by MOSI Tampa
Florida. Annual club membership dues are \$15.00 single
and \$20.00 for families. Dues can be paid to any club officer
at a meeting or event or mailed to the Club Membership/
Renewal Address listed below. Newsletters are available to non
members by requesting a complimentary issue. Please
send all inquiries, comments and newsletter contributions to
newsletter editor, shown on the right. The deadline for submitted
contributions is the 25th of the month prior to the next issue.
Contribution may be delayed in publication due to available space.
Membership/Renewal Make checks payable to:*

*Frances Ferguson, (Club Treasurer)
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2006 M.A.R.S. Club Officers

President—Dennis Farr
(president@marsastro.org)
Vice President—Your name could be here
Secretary—Carolyn Oivero
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Treasurer—Frances Ferguson
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Astronomy Day Coordinator— Your name could
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