

# Martian Chronicles

Volume 24 Issue 11

November 2006

## Attention!

The next MARS club meeting will be held at MOSI in the Saunders Planetarium on November 10<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 - 9:00 PM.

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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 [newseditor@marsastro.org](mailto:newseditor@marsastro.org)**

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## Up Coming Club Events.

### Nov. 2006

10<sup>th</sup> M.A.R.S. Club meeting.  
Program:  
Casini Saturn program.  
Open to everyone.

### December

2<sup>nd</sup> SkyWatch at MOSI Sundown to 10 PM

8<sup>th</sup> M.A.R.S. Club meeting.  
PARTY TIME!!! and  
Election of officers and approval of by-laws.

30<sup>th</sup> Sky Watch at MOSI Sundown to 10 PM



# **The Scope of Things**

## **Dennis Farr**

### **President**

Things we can't do anything about:

1. The weather.

I missed an opportunity to do some observing this month because of the weather. I missed the opportunity because I believed the forecasts from the various weather services. I had planned on going out on the new moon weekend but by the preceding Thursday all the weather services predicted a rainy weekend. So, I made other plans. It turned out to be a partly cloudy weekend and probably would have offered at least some opportunities to see the sky.

Astronomers obviously are at the mercy of the weather and need to get information to plan their viewing activities. There are many places you can get weather forecast information. Primarily, the television stations all have their own weather departments, and it's amazing how much they differ on their predictions. There are four in the Tampa bay area. You can GOOGLE search the various channels and find their weather pages on line. Also, NOAA has pages with complete weather information and forecasts. Also, the CSC (Clear Sky Clock) at <http://cleardarksky.com/> is a great resource. You should probably have at least some of these pages bookmarked for reference.

Our November meeting will feature a presentation about the Casini Saturn space program by Alvin Dozier. It's a fascinating program and I'm sure Alvin will have a great presentation.

Also, we will finalize the work of nominating members to become club officers for the coming year. I have been working on a formal set of By Laws for the club, and will send them out to the membership with this news letter. Please read them and be prepared to discuss them at the November meeting so we can vote on them in December along with the 2007 club officers.

Last month, I gave all the people at the meeting a form and asked what programs they would like to see and if they would be willing to present a program. I was very happy with the results and have begun to put together a schedule for 2007. Thank you to all who responded and who will be doing presentations. There's still room for more, both topics and presenters. So, please let me know of things you would like to hear about, and things you would consider presenting.

# Computers, the Internet and Astronomy

Tired of the same old picture of the dog or grand kids on your PC screen? The Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) is a web site hosted by NASA and maintained by professional astronomers who pick a new exciting beautiful astronomy picture every day. Astronomy Picture of the Day has been active for more than 7 years, successfully sharing the beauty of the universe with us all. APOD brings it one step further, setting those beautiful astronomy pictures, optionally with their scientific explanation, as your desktop wallpaper.

You can run a program on your Windows PC that will automatically download a new picture every day and install it as wallpaper on your display. The pictures are amazing and the joining explanations often have links to other sites with more information about the picture. It's a great daily astronomy lesson.

To see the picture, and to get the program to do the daily download, go to <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/>.



This is an example of the picture, from November 4, 2006

# TIME FOR SOME FUN!

**FIND THE PLANETS.**

**A FUN LITTLE WORD SEARCH FOR ASTRONOMERS**

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

**CERES EARTH ERIS JUPITER MARS**

**MERCURY NEPTUNE PLUTO SATURN URANUS VENUS**

*(The solution will be available at the meeting this Friday)*

## **PROPOSED BY-LAWS FOR THE CLUB.**

The following bylaws are proposed for your approval as club members. Please read and bring a copy to the November meeting for discussion, and be prepared to vote on them at the December meeting.

### **Name and Purpose**

**W**e constitute ourselves as the Museum Astronomical Research Society (M.A.R.S.), wishing to secure the fellowship, pleasures, and benefits of an association with persons commonly interested in astronomy. We hereby enact these Bylaws to help govern our club. The specific purpose for which this group is organized is to promote the science of astronomy by:

1. Providing opportunities for the local community to learn about and become interested in astronomy, such as, but not limited to, astronomy lectures, demonstrations, and sky observing events;
2. Making astronomy in general more accessible and visible to the general public, through public and media outreach; and
3. Providing opportunities, at low cost, for its general membership to learn and improve skills related to amateur astronomy, such as, but not limited to, sky observing, amateur scientific research, and the selection, construction, and use of astronomical equipment.

### **Membership**

Membership in this club will be open to anyone with an interest in astronomy. A "member in good standing" is one who is up to date in the payment of their dues. The "general membership" will consist of all members in good standing.

Family memberships are available for households with multiple members. The amount of dues will be 33% higher than single memberships. Family memberships will receive 2 votes in all club decisions. Everyone in the household will be eligible for all other club benefits.

All club membership dues are required during the month of September. Those who join the club during the year will pay a fraction of the dues amount based upon the number of quarters remaining in the current year. First quarter, 75%, second quarter, 50%, third quarter, 25%, fourth quarter, pay in full and applied to following years membership.

### **Meetings**

"Meetings" shall mean regularly scheduled club meetings each month at a date and location designated by the general membership. When desired at the beginning of a meeting, Roberts Rules of order may be requested and followed if desired by a majority of members present.

### **Business**

A "quorum" shall consist of at least 25 per cent of the members in good standing (including one officer.) A vote taken during a meeting will be binding on the club only if a majority of members present approves the motion.

### **Management of the Club**

The affairs and business of the club shall be conducted and managed by a Board of Directors. The Board will include the following elected officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom will be elected annually by the general membership. All elected officers and directors shall be members in good standing for the year in which they will hold office. Each officer is responsible for the accomplishment of the duties defined herein.

Additional Board members will include three (3) directors, elected annually along with the slate of four (4) officers by the general membership.

The Board may appropriate up to TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY dollars (\$250) per expenditure for club business. Larger expenditures will be voted on by the general membership.

### **President**

The President shall preside at all club meetings and shall see that all club business is conducted in a manner that is consistent with these Bylaws. Whenever necessary, the President shall create committees and appoint chairpersons who will thereupon recruit committee members to assist them in adequately conducting club activities. All chairpersons are responsible to the President.

### **Vice President**

The Vice President shall assume all duties of the President in the President's absence. Additional responsibilities for the Vice President will include scheduling club programs for monthly meetings and arranging speakers on the various program subjects.

### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence, the accurate recording of all motions and official actions taken at all meetings, and for keeping up to date all membership records, club property records, and all other important club documents.

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of all club moneys authorized by the general membership or the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep up-to-date and accurate, complete, and comprehensive records.

### **Committees**

Standing committees will consist of:

#### **Membership**

Responsible for maintaining a list of paid members and assisting the treasurer in the collection of dues.

#### **Astronomy day.**

Coordinate with MOSI to support annual Astronomy Day activities.

#### **News Letter**

Gather articles and other items of interest from the members and from other places to publish a monthly news letter for the club which will be used as a reminder for the upcoming meetings.

#### **Library**

Catalog and maintain the library collection of the club.

### **Elections**

Elections shall be held once a year, at the December meeting. The President shall appoint a nominating committee, consisting of two members from the Board of Directors and one from the general membership, to meet during the month of October and present a slate of officers and directors at the November meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at that time, and also at the December meeting immediately prior to the election. Terms of office shall be for one year, with the restriction of three consecutive terms for re-election to each individual office.

### **Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended or changed at any meeting where a quorum is present, on a motion by a member in good standing, which is seconded, and then passed by a 2/3 majority of all members present.

## NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM ASTRONOMY RESOURCE SOCIETY ASTRONOMY CLUB

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**M.A.R.S. Club's Website**  
[www.marsastro.org](http://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  
nonmembers by requesting a complimentary issue. Please  
send all inquiries, comments and newsletter contributions to  
the address below. 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)  
M.A.R.S.  
C/O Frances Ferguson  
1527 W. River Ln  
Tampa, Fl 33603*

## 2006 M.A.R.S. Club Officers

President—Dennis Farr  
([president@marsastro.org](mailto:president@marsastro.org))  
Vice President—Your name could be here  
Secretary—Carolyn Oivero  
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Treasurer—Frances Ferguson  
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be here  
Librarian—Elizabeth Mueller  
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