



Sky Watch

Issue #8
Sept 06

The Newsletter of the Brevard Astronomical Society

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Club News:

The telescope mirror making class has begun. Be sure to get your order forms (and checks made to BAS) to Mark Jones for ordering of kit materials. The information was mailed out separately by John Norczyk. There are 3 instructional forms on the website for those participating.

Next BAS Star Party:

There is no "local" scheduled star party for Sept.; however some members intend to travel to Chiefland Fl. the weekend of 22/23rd. Gary Scott is the POC if you intend to go.

Moon Phases:

Full: Sept 8th



New: Sept 22nd

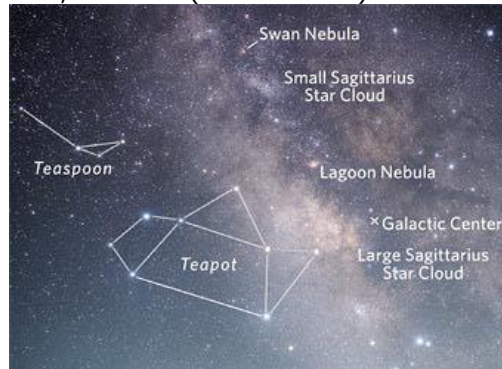


What's in the Sky in September?

The sky has been simply dreadful in August due to weather, however September typically promises to be a better month for clear skies. Let's hope.

There are no decent passes of the ISS in Sept, but there will be several overhead passes of the HST. Many occur around 8pm, but there are some lower altitude passes around 9:30pm. Check: www.heavens-above.com for specific pass times and coordinates for your area.

You can still catch Sagittarius, but time is running short. M8 Lagoon Nebula transits by about 8:30pm. There are still many gems to view if you can find a clear sky. There are very easy Messier objects to view such as M22, M25, and M8 (Lagoon Nebula); and many others such as M20, M21, M16, M17, and M18 (Swan Nebula).



The Milky Way plane traverses up through Cygnus the Swan (sometimes called the "Northern Cross"). It then heads down to the northeast through Cassiopeia. In Cygnus you will find the binary star system Albireo (July News Letter) Deneb in Cygnus (α Cygni) along with stars Vega (Lyra), & Altair (Aquila) form the "summer triangle", which remains overhead. Also within the triangle, you can observe Ring Nebula (M57), the North American and Veil Nebula's, the Dumbbell Nebula (M27), and the globular M71. Very dark skies (and a Hydrogen-Alpha H3 filter) will be needed for any attempt to see the faint nebulas. Another area of interest is to the south of β Cygnus (Albireo) is Brocchi's cluster otherwise known as the "Coathanger cluster" because it looks like an upside down

coat hanger. Use the arrow asterism in Saggita and you can readily find it with binoculars!

As Sagittarius fades into the horizon, and you are finished with Cygnus, it is a good time to turn telescopes toward the east and northeast. The great square Pegasus is high in the east sky by mid September. To the north lies the constellation Andromeda. The great Andromeda galaxy M31 can be found off " β And", as well as M32 and M110. all will fit in the view of a 25mm eyepiece nicely.

PLANETS: **Jupiter** is sinking in the southwest at dusk, Venus is sinking lower in the dawn, **Neptune** transits in Capricornus to the south about 10pm.

Uranus (in Aquarius) follows Neptune by about 1-1/2 hrs; so this may be the best time to catch a good glimpse of Uranus. There are other gems in that area of the sky as well including the Helix Nebula, NGC 7293, if you are lucky to get a dark sky due south. **Mercury** is setting, but to early to view. October will be better, and especially when daylight savings time ends.

In the mornings, Saturn rises in the east approx 4:30am and is followed by **Venus** at approx 6:30am mid month.

Outreach News:

No outreach events are currently planned for September, however there is an "Eagle District Fall Family Campout Star Party" scheduled for Oct. 7th at Wickham Park.

BCC Observatory

Visitor statistics:

(At the recommendation of Jan Furguson, I will begin posting visitor stats for the previous month)

August 2006:

Total Observatory visitors: 574

Avg: 72

High: 118

Low: 31

(August was terrible weather wise)



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Upcoming BAS Meetings & Agenda:

Sept 20th – The discussion will largely focus on the trip to Chiefland in addition to the normal business activity.

Summary of Aug 16th meeting:

(1) Presentation on "Light Pollution" by Derek Demeter from the Seminole Community College Planetarium in Sanford.

(2) A motion was raised and disapproved to continue annual membership to the Dark Sky Association.

(3) Louis gave a demonstration and discussion of the Orion "Sky Scout".

(4) Continued discussion about the Astronomy awards for public school science fairs.

Club Telescope News:

The BAS currently has two telescopes for use by club members. Contact Gary Scott for additional information. Jason Lehmann currently has the 16" dobsonian.

Featured Science Article:

U.S. Naval Observatory to Participate in SETI's Allen Telescope Array Effort

By David Schlom
Special to SPACE.com

"The United States Navy has signed off on a \$1.5 million agreement to use the **Allen Telescope Array** along with another 10-dish installation to be developed in the near future. The ATA is a general purpose radio telescope designed to provide new measurements and insights into the density of the very early universe, the formation of stars as well as other applications. The observatory is located the Hat Creek Radio Observatory in the mountains northeast of San Francisco. Investor and philanthropist Paul Allen has committed \$13.5 million to the construction of the first and second phases of the array. When complete, the ATA will consist of 350 6.1-meter dishes. Twenty dishes are currently online at the observatory with a 42-dish array total to be completed near the end of 2006".



This article above went on to describe the intent of the array being used for SETI research. I then wandered to a link called "Protocol", which is the official international protocol for what happens (or supposed to happen) if in fact a SETI signal is detected. I inserted this protocol on the next page for your reading enjoyment. I had never seen it before, so I thought others may be interested..... **See pgs 3 & 4.**

For Sale:

- ❖ Tele Vue 2" 55mm eyepiece, multi-coated Plossl. Like new \$168.
- ❖ Meade Nebular filter 2" broadband (series4000) Like new - \$55.
- ❖ Orion Sirius Plossl eyepiece; 1.25", 26mm Like new - \$19.
- ❖ Adapter; 2" to 1.25 for star diagonal. Good cond \$9.
- ❖ "Visual Astronomy of the Deep Sky" Roger N. Clark. 351 pgs. Very good cond - \$12.
- ❖ Will Tiron Star Atlas deluxe addition. Very good cond - \$24.

For any of the above, call 784-3140

Meade 8" Starfinder Dobsonian Telescope Meade Magellan I telescope comp system (2 included) Telrad, Various eyepieces & Barlow lens. Collimating eyepiece, Moon filter Value worth \$1500. Sell for \$500

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From: <http://www.seti.org>

Declaration of Principles Concerning Activities Following the Detection of Extraterrestrial Intelligence

We, the institutions and individuals participating in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, Recognizing that the search for extraterrestrial intelligence is an integral part of space exploration and is being undertaken for peaceful purposes and for the common interest of all mankind, Inspired by the profound significance for mankind of detecting evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence, even though the probability of detection may be low, Recalling the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which commits States Parties to that Treaty "to inform the Secretary General of the United Nations as well as the public and the international scientific community, to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, of the nature, conduct, locations and results" of their space exploration activities (Article XI),

Recognizing that any initial detection may be incomplete or ambiguous and thus require careful examination as well as confirmation, and that it is essential to maintain the highest standards of scientific responsibility and credibility,

Agree to observe the following principles for disseminating information about the detection of extraterrestrial intelligence:

1. Any individual, public or private research institution, or governmental agency that believes it has detected a signal from or other evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence (the discoverer) should seek to verify that the most plausible explanation for the evidence is the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence rather than some other natural phenomenon or anthropogenic phenomenon before making any public announcement. If the evidence cannot be confirmed as indicating the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence, the discoverer may disseminate the information as appropriate to the discovery of any unknown phenomenon.
2. Prior to making a public announcement that evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence has been detected, the discoverer should promptly inform all other observers or research organizations that are parties to this declaration, so that those other parties may seek to confirm the discovery by independent observations at other sites and so that a network can be established to enable continuous monitoring of the signal or phenomenon. Parties to this declaration should not make any public announcement of this information until it is determined whether this information is or is not credible evidence of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. The discoverer should inform his/her or its relevant national authorities.
3. After concluding that the discovery appears to be credible evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence, and after informing other parties to this declaration, the discoverer should inform observers throughout the world through the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams of the International Astronomical Union, and should inform the Secretary General of the United Nations in accordance with Article XI of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Bodies. Because of their demonstrated interest in and expertise concerning the question of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence, the discoverer should simultaneously inform the following international institutions of the discovery and should provide them with all pertinent data and recorded information concerning the evidence: the International Telecommunication Union, the Committee on Space Research, of the International Council of Scientific Unions, the International Astronautical Federation, the International Academy of Astronautics, the International Institute of Space Law, Commission 51 of the International Astronomical Union and Commission J of the International Radio Science Union.
4. A confirmed detection of extraterrestrial intelligence should be disseminated promptly, openly, and widely through scientific channels and public media, observing the procedures in this declaration. The discoverer should have the privilege of making the first public announcement.
5. All data necessary for confirmation of detection should be made available to the international scientific community through publications, meetings, conferences, and other appropriate means.
6. The discovery should be confirmed and monitored and any data bearing on the evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence should be recorded and stored permanently to the greatest extent feasible and practicable, in a form that will make it available for further analysis and interpretation. These recordings should be made available to the international institutions listed above and to members of the scientific community for further objective analysis and interpretation.



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7. If the evidence of detection is in the form of electromagnetic signals, the parties to this declaration should seek international agreement to protect the appropriate frequencies by exercising procedures available through the International Telecommunication Union. Immediate notice should be sent to the Secretary General of the ITU in Geneva, who may include a request to minimize transmissions on the relevant frequencies in the Weekly Circular. The Secretariat, in conjunction with advice of the Union's Administrative Council, should explore the feasibility and utility of convening an Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference to deal with the matter, subject to the opinions of the member Administrations of the ITU.
8. No response to a signal or other evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence should be sent until appropriate international consultations have taken place. The procedures for such consultations will be the subject of a separate agreement, declaration or arrangement.
9. The SETI Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics, in coordination with Commission 51 of the International Astronomical Union, will conduct a continuing review of procedures for the detection of extraterrestrial intelligence and the subsequent handling of the data. Should credible evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence be discovered, an international committee of scientists and other experts should be established to serve as a focal point for continuing analysis of all observational evidence collected in the aftermath of the discovery, and also to provide advice on the release of information to the public. This committee should be constituted from representatives of each of the international institutions listed above and such other members as the committee may deem necessary. To facilitate the convocation of such a committee at some unknown time in the future, the SETI Committee of the International Academy of Astronautics should initiate and maintain a current list of willing representatives from each of the international institutions listed above, as well as other individuals with relevant skills, and should make that list continuously available through the Secretariat of the International Academy of Astronautics. The International Academy of Astronautics will act as the Depository for this declaration and will annually provide a current list of parties to all the parties to this declaration.