

NOVAC OFFICERS 2003

President

Ed Karch 703-631-3263
ekarch@karch.com

Vice President

Craig Tupper 301-773-4386
ctupper@erols.com

Secretary

Bob Hand 703-532-5607
Bob.Hand@mail.house.gov

Treasurer

Pedro Martinez 703-534-2604
pmartinez@ushcc.com

NOVAC Trustees 2003

John Avellone 703-768-8086
jgavellone@aol.com

John Deriso 703-476-3543
seacotter@bellatlantic.net

Alan Figgatt 703-860-8239
afiggatt@erols.com

Rob McKinney 703-924-5883
robmckinney@aol.com

Bob Stewart 571-434-0366
rhshrs1@msn.com

Directors

Membership Director

Joe Pierson 703-680-6343
jmperson@comcast.net

Public Events Committee POC

Bob Garrett 703-978-3387
robtgarrett@earthlink.net

Important NOVAC Numbers

Savage (Paul McCray) 703-729-0596
wodtrail@erols.com

Mason Neck SP 703-550-9960

Crockett Park 540-788-4867

NOVAC Web Page

<http://www.novac.com>

Webmaster

Greg Piepol GPiepol@aol.com

NOVAC Newsletter

Editor

Michael Mills mjmills@fpo.net

Layout

Kim Bieler kimbieler@mindspring.com

Distribution

John Nusbaum john@nusbaum.com

Events at the University of Maryland

by Elizabeth Warner

New Telescope Owner Nights

The University of Maryland Observatory would like to announce that the dates for its annual New Telescope Owner Nights have been set. We will hold the program on the 15th and 18th of January 2003 from 6–9 pm. Details and a flier are available at our website: www.astro.umd.edu/openhouse.

Open House

Reminder that the UM Observatory is open to the public on the 5th and 20th of each month. The program is a short lecture followed by a tour of the observatory and observing (weather permitting). (www.astro.umd.edu/openhouse/programs/oh.html)

Group Programs

We have slightly revised our group programs. Groups have the option of coming on an Open House night. Their presentation would be an hour before the regular public one. Groups should contact me to arrange which date they'd like to come on. In addition, there will be a few Friday and or Saturday nights available for evening observing only. We have also acquired some solar filters (visible and h-alpha) to use with our 8" SCTs, so we can also do some day programs. Groups interested in coming to the observatory should contact Elizabeth Warner at 301-405-6555 or warnerem@astro.umd.edu to make a reservation. (www.astro.umd.edu/openhouse/obs_info/groups.html)

Docents Program

Individuals get trained on the telescopes, commit to help with a couple of Open Houses, and then get to use the equipment on our Docents Nights. (www.astro.umd.edu/openhouse/amateur/docents.html)

Other plans...

These are possible future programs that we would like feedback on:

- A page where people can request observations of a particular star, asteroid, or other astronomical object within the

capabilities of our instruments. Once the image is acquired, it could be e-mailed, printed and mailed, or mailed on disk if one is provided.

- Possibly allow individuals/clubs to come in and use the instruments for a particular project.
- Last year we held our "Learn the Sky Fridays" program, an intro program for people interested in astronomy. We are planning on holding it again this year. In addition, we are thinking about holding a more advance program dealing with amateur projects (how-tos, equipment needed for asteroid/comet hunting and observing, supernova searches, GRBs, occultations, and so on). Generally, all of these would be free, but we would gladly accept \$\$ donations!

Looking for guest speakers...

We usually try to have some of the faculty from the UM Astronomy Department give presentations at our Open Houses, but if you have a member that is a good speaker and has an interesting talk, we would love for them to give a presentation. I am currently setting up our spring and summer schedule. The dates would be the 5th and 20th of each month.

Need a guest speaker...

Quid pro quo . . . I understand that many clubs are also looking for speakers at their club meetings. I will be happy to give a presentation . . . either on some astronomical topic (astrophotography, comets, occultations) or . . . I am also the "Liaison to Amateur Astronomers" for the Deep Impact mission so I could talk about the mission and what amateurs can do to be involved. (deepimpact.umd.edu/)

Happy stargazing! ★

Contact Elizabeth Warner at warnerem@astro.umd.edu or 301-405-6555.