

NOVAC

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA ASTRONOMY CLUB

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The Metro Viewing Program is coming to town!

Steve LaBrenz

In an effort to service more members of NOVAC, the MVP is creating opportunities to perform astronomy in metropolitan area. A location for urban observing is being considered. We are taking suggestions for locations to gather for group viewing sessions, and you can pass along your suggestions to srlabrenz@hotmail.com.

If you are asking "What's in it for me?" how about a subscription to S&T, or a light pollution filter? Plans are in the works for awarding members that show excellence in urban astronomy. This is most likely to be a standard "Identify the most objects" from a given list, where each object observed will be given a point value. There will be beginners and advanced astronomer lists, so everyone can participate. We are still working out the details, but be assured we are looking for the participation of all NOVAC members.

Keep your eyes open for information on the NOVAC web site too.

President's Message

Ed Karch

A volunteer organization is one made up of the members, by the members, and for the members, (we should be so lucky as to have a government like that). We can have a club like that. We have no paid management, no government grants; we are self-supporting financially and programmatically. Volunteers are what keep us moving. We are now placing signup sheets on the front table before meetings so you can volunteer some time toward your specific astronomy interests. If your interest isn't there, let us know and we can address that need.

For example: this club is located in a very light polluted urban area, so I was glad to see some discussion on the list of what we could do as a club to promote urban observing and appropriate lighting. This exchange resulted in "MVP", our Metro Viewing Program. Volunteers stepped forward to plan and organize this new activity and it will soon be offering some new opportunities for members to sharpen their operating skills. The team is also considering some wild and wacky observing contests to tempt the seasoned observer.

A faint fuzzy is a faint fuzzy. Remember, Grasshopper, it is the journey not the destination that counts.

Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce (VOLT) Formed to Fight Light Pollution

Bob Parks

John Nusbaum and I would like to announce the formation of a new group dedicated to reversing the tide of light pollution in Northern Virginia. The name of the new group is the Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce (VOLT). Its mission is to encourage and assist local governments to enact zoning legislation to regulate outdoor lighting. VOLT was a natural outgrowth of our work with Loudoun and Fairfax counties over the last year. Informally, we have met with county legislators and zoning officials to press the urgent need for comprehensive outdoor lighting ordinances. These ordinances will set reasonable guidelines on the quantity and quality of outdoor lighting. I am happy to report that progress is being made in both of these counties.

Our first formal training session for the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) was held in November of last year. We were encouraged by the number of DPZ staff who attended the session and their level of interest. Many in attendance are tasked with investigating and solving citizen complaints with

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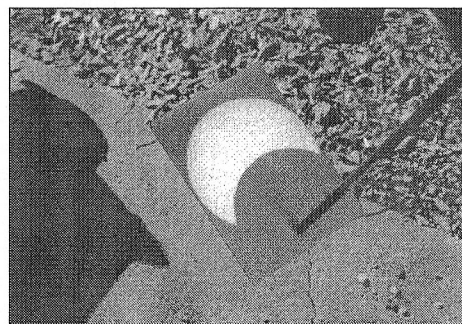
What's Up?

Al Schumann

My observing and writing regimens were interrupted recently, because I was cast in a play at a nearby community theater. My wife, Lynn, was directing the old Agatha Christie classic, "Ten Little Indians." While casting, Lynn ran short of - how should I put this - mature gentlemen. Hence, yours truly was brought out of military retirement to play the part of the elderly, doddering General Mackenzie. Not much of a stretch, eh wot? It's been 24 years since I performed in a stage play, and I had forgotten how totally consuming the process was. Everything else had to be set-aside for the duration, including the telescopes. Ah, but that rush of excitement you feel when performing before a full house makes it all worthwhile. It gets the juices

flowing.

Anyhow, I was back in business for the Christmas eclipse. I went so far as to order 50 pairs of eclipse glasses and handed them out to family, friends, neighbors, and the cat. Also, I cranked out a poop sheet to go along with the glasses, which gave the eclipse particulars as well as safety information. December 25 was cold and windy, but the sky was clear as a bell. Here on National Lane I set up the Astroscan with its projection screen and used a 10mm eyepiece. The 44X image filled the screen and made a lovely picture. The neat thing about projection viewing is that a crowd can watch the event simultaneously. It beats having a big line of people queued up behind the scope for a quick peek. Everything went according to schedule, and the oohs & aahs were greatly appreciated. Just after mid-eclipse, we put the



*Partial solar eclipse, 25 December 2000.
Astroscan projection at 44x.
Photo by Al Schumann*

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Starting Out Right

Rob Lentini

Okay, you've gotten the perfect beginner's scope, you bought a star chart, a quality eye-piece or two, and maybe you have already run through a pair of batteries with your red flashlight. The planets and a few Messier objects have entertained you over the winter. If you're like me, you probably aren't in the running for winning a cold weather observing Iron Man award, but you are looking forward to the Spring. Now is a great time to get organized!

An excellent way to put together a list of objects, get motivated, track your progress, hone your skills, and reward yourself is to pursue an Astronomical League Observing Club award. Regardless of your interests or skill level, there is probably an Astro League Club that you will enjoy.

Clubs are added periodically, and currently include the Lunar Club, Urban Observing Club, Universe Sampler Club, Binocular Messier Club, Deep Sky Binocular Club, Southern Skies Binocular Club, Messier Club, Herschel 400 Club, Herschel II Club, ARP Peculiar Galaxy Club, Asteroid Observing Club, Double Star Club, Meteor Club, Planetary Observers Club, and the Sunspotters Club.

You don't have to "join" a club to pursue an award; your membership in NOVAC qualifies you for the Astro League programs and awards. Just visit the Astro League web site (<http://www.astroleague.org>) to find out the details of what to observe, how to record your observations, and how to submit them to receive the certificate.

As an example, the Lunar Club provides a list of 100 features on the moon to observe organized by naked eye, binoculars, or small telescope. Getting a chance to view each feature is more important than what equipment you are using to do so... the Lunar Club allows you to

move up to binoculars if a naked eye feature isn't apparent, or to move to a telescope if the feature evades your binocular view. Optional features/activities are even provided in case any of the 100 regular features are just too difficult to spot.

Features include mare, craters, mountains, valleys, and more. You'll learn a lot about the Moon as you work your way through the list. The Lunar Club requires you to record the date and time you viewed each feature, and which instrument you used. That's all there is to it. Other clubs require drawings, details on the magnification, seeing conditions, or specific equipment used, or suggest projects and activities.

To get your Lunar Club certificate and pin(!), have the NOVAC Astronomical League Coordinator (John Avellone) review your log. The Astro League will add you to their list of awardees. NOVAC maintains a list of award recipients at <http://www.novac.com/al.html>.

Next time you see me at Mickey Gordon, ask me how I'm doing on my Messier and Lunar Club lists. My pace is a little relaxed, so to speak, so it may be another year or two before you see my name on the awardee lists. I am definitely having fun, though. If you catch yourself going back to the Orion Nebula and Andromeda Galaxy a little too often, I strongly encourage you to browse the Astronomical League website and see if one of the observing clubs sounds interesting.

Coming Soon: the NOVAC "Membership Guide"

Michael Mills

In an effort to better serve NOVAC members, there will be a change in this Newsletter starting with issue #95 (May-June, 2001). Most of the membership information from the last two pages of the newsletter will be removed to make room for more timely club information and articles.

In development is a new "Membership Guide" that will describe in fuller detail how to take advantage of all of the benefits and services that NOVAC provides. This information will include all that is currently in the "Notices" section of the Newsletter, as well as more detailed instructions on joining the various e-mail lists and special interest groups that are maintained within NOVAC. In addition, the Membership Guide will contain detailed maps and directions to our observing sites.

To maintain some continuity in the Newsletter, a single column will be added inside the last page that briefly describes the club and all of its benefits for members.

A single copy of the Membership Guide will be included with each member's May-June Newsletter. Also, each new member will receive a copy of the Membership Guide with his or her welcome letter. Since detailed instructions will no longer be printed in each Newsletter, **put your copy of the Membership Guide in a safe place** so you can refer back to it when necessary. Occasionally, the Membership Guide will be substantially updated with new information. When that happens, another copy will be printed and mailed with the Newsletter. In addition, an up-to-date version of the Guide will always be available for download from the Member's Only section of the club website.

VOLT

(Continued from page 1)

regard to outdoor lighting. They were eager to learn ways to solve lighting problems and also expressed a desire to have a comprehensive outdoor lighting ordinance.

This experience led us to form a group that would bring together other concerned citizens who want to work toward the goal of better outdoor lighting throughout Northern Virginia. Our purpose is to offer training and assistance to anyone who is interested in accomplishing this goal. The taskforce will have the know-how to educate elected officials and the staff of various county planning and zoning departments about the elements of "good lighting". The elements include: installing full cut-off fixtures to eliminate glare, setting illumination level caps to eliminate "over lighting", and establishing "lighting curfews" so that illumination levels

are reduced when a facility is not in use.

In January, we issued an open invitation to all concerned individuals who would like to join VOLT. We held our first meeting at George Mason University on January 22, 2001, with approximately 20 participants in attendance. During the meeting, we discussed our vision for VOLT and solicited individuals to become team leaders in other counties. I am pleased to say that two fellow NOVAC members, Joe Pierson and Kevin Beamer, rose to the challenge and will lead the efforts in Prince William County and Arlington County, respectively. John Nusbaum is the taskforce leader in Loudoun County and I am responsible for Fairfax County. We are still looking for taskforce leaders in Alexandria and Fairfax City, as well as other counties in Virginia. In addition, we have the following exciting opportunities available: Treasurer, Secretary, Accountant, General Council, Public/

Media Relations Director, Web Developer, and State Legislative Coordinator.

To assist in our education and communication efforts, we have developed a web site. Please visit it regularly for more information about VOLT activities. The URL is <http://www.volt.org>

In February, we will hold a second training session to help educate members of VOLT about the basics of good outdoor lighting and how to encourage elected officials to implement new outdoor lighting ordinances.

Our organization will soon be incorporated as a not-for-profit group and we will be soliciting donations to cover its basic operational expenses. As we grow, we hope to expand our scope and focus on all the counties in Virginia, as well as the Virginia State Government.

What's Up?

schedule, and the oohs & aahs were greatly appreciated. Just after mid-eclipse, we put the telescope in the car and went to Newport News for dinner with our son's in-laws, cousins, aunts, etc., etc. We set up the telescope again, and 14 more of us watched the moon's shadow recede and finally disappear. There were some nice sunspot groupings, which added extra spice to the show. Everyone enjoyed the event—especially me.

I did get in some satisfying deep sky observing in January. Don't you just love it? The haze is gone and transparent skies are back. Orion is up in the early evening hours, as are Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter. Dress for the cold, and let the good times roll. I joined a few of my Sky-watcher colleagues at a nearby park. They had quite an array of new telescopes. There was a cute little five-inch Nexstar scope -- the one with the keypad recessed in a fancy, curved, single armed support. Another fellow had an 8-inch Meade LX200, and the Gee Whiz instrument of the night was an awesome 12-inch LX200. The latter had more bells and whistles

than I'd ever seen before. It took a large battery pack on a handcart to power the telescope. It takes a fair amount of time to get it all together. In contrast, I used my old 13-inch Dobsonian, which takes every bit of 2 minutes and 32 seconds to set up get and running. Together we rambled through the sky and marveled at all those wondrous wintertime delights from the open clusters in Auriga and Gemini to the Andromeda galaxy and its companions. The Big Dipper was standing on its handle, so M-81/82 were easy to find. Even though they were low in the sky they were a glorious sight. While up north, I enjoyed wandering through the clusters in Cassiopeia and finished with a long look at the double cluster. Magnificent. Periodically, I returned to the planets. Venus looked like a super bright half moon. The air was steady, so Saturn and Jupiter were a pleasure to watch. The open rings of the former, along with the lovely color, make it a true delight for the senses. The Cassini Division was very clear. Jupiter is still the king, and it was so bright that I stopped the telescope aperture down to five inches. It helped increase the contrast and made the belts more distinct.

Partway through the evening things got quiet around the 12-inch. Something had gone awry with the electrics, and the operator was just

about out of business. He did not know the sky. He didn't know how to get to M-31, or anything else, except the planets. It pointed out how modern electronic gadgetry can be a two edged sword. When all you need to do is punch the data into the keypad, and the telescope does the rest, there's not much incentive to spending months and years learning the sky. As long as everything is working you can dazzle the crowd. However, if a quirky diode goes belly up, you might as well pack your gear and go home. I shall be eternally grateful that I became interested in our hobby during simpler times and had wonderfully patient, star hopping mentors in NOVAC to help me learn. I'm convinced that starting out with a planisphere, a dog, and the naked eye is the only way to go. Here's how it works: You study the planisphere during the commercials on the 11pm news. Then you take the dog for a walk before going to bed. Look up at the sky and find the constellations you studied on the planisphere. It won't be too long before you have a pretty good handle on where things are and when they are visible. The next step calls for binoculars and a simple sky chart, like Edmund's Mag 6 Sky Atlas. Only after you figure out how to work your way through the charts are you ready for a telescope. Electronic gee-gaws or not, you'll always know What's Up.

Get Ready for the 2001 Messier Marathon

Elizabeth Warner, 2001 coordinator
Craig Tupper

In France during the 1700's, Charles Messier was hunting for comets. He kept finding fuzzy things which weren't comets, so he made a list of them so he wouldn't waste his time on them again. The list grew to about 110 objects, and includes most of the finest star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae visible from the northern hemisphere.

It turns out that the objects on Messier's list are distributed in the sky so that in early spring it is possible to observe all of them in a single night-long observing session: a Messier Marathon. People have actually been doing it since 1977.

Why would you want to do that? Different people have different reasons. Some like the sense of accomplishment. Finding all 110 objects in a single night isn't easy, and you have to know the objects and their locations very well to do it. In addition, the 110 objects represent a wide sample of the objects in the sky. One can compare objects of the various types to each other, and gain a better understanding of how the universe is put together. There's also a kind of camaraderie which builds up between observers who are lunatic enough to stay up all night collecting faint fuzzies, and Marathon nights can be social occasions.

Each year NOVAC sponsors a Messier Marathon in late March/early April. The observing

sites are reserved for the entire week around the new moon, checklists are distributed, and observers compete with themselves and each other to find as many Messier objects as they can. Everyone who participates gets a certificate, and is recognized in the NOVAC Newsletter and on the club Marathon page at <http://www.novac.com/mm.html>.

There are no official rules, but there are some guidelines:

- All observations for a marathon should be made in the same night.
- You should only count objects you find yourself.
- Star hopping is the preferred method of finding things.
- Use of "digital setting circles" or computerized "goto" is strongly discouraged. (*Actually, it's cheating. -ed.*)
- Use of "manual" setting circles is acceptable.
- Reporting of results is on the honor system: report the total you feel comfortable with. Send your results to the Marathon coordinator.

2001 NOVAC Messier Marathon

2001 promises to be a good year for Marathon-ing. The moon will be new on the weekend of March 24/25, which is approximately ideal in terms of achieving a balance between the hard-to-get early evening and late morning objects. (Early in March the last few morning objects do

not get high above the southeast horizon before dawn; by early April the first few evening objects are sinking fast in the west at dusk.) Good Marathon-ing, for those determined to stay up all night, should be possible from March 20 through March 28. Even outside of those dates you may be able to do well, but the moon will limit you a bit, and will be a serious impediment on the weekends of March 16/17 and 30/31.

Although official observing dates for 2001 have not been set, it is reasonable to expect that all NOVAC sites will be open for observing (and Marathon-ing!) on March 23 and 24. Good results can be had at all of our official sites, but there are disadvantages to each: limited horizons at Savage and Mickey Gordon, and serious light pollution (especially in the crucial morning east) at Crockett. Additional advice for the marathoner is available from the SEDS homepage at <http://www.seds.org/messier/xtra/marathon/mm-tips.html>.

A sample Messier Marathon checklist is printed on the following two pages. This checklist follows the general search order of Hartmurt Frommert (of SEDS) and Don Machholz (author of The Messier Marathon Observer's Guide), with small changes made to group objects by Sky Atlas 2000.0 map number. Other checklists are available from the club website or SEDS website given above.

•	Seq. No.	Messier #	NGC #	Con	Obj	RA	Dec	Mag	Map
	1	M77	1068	Cet	SG	02:43.0	-00 01	8.9	10
	2	M74	628	Psc	SG	01:37.0	+15 47	10.2	10
	3	M33	598	Tri	SG	01:33.9	+30 39	6.7	4
	4	M31	224	And	SG	00:42.7	+41 16	4.8	4
	5	M32	221	And	EG	00:42.7	+40 52	8.7	4
	6	M110	205	And	EG	00:40.4	+41 41	9.4	4
	7	M76	650	Per	PN	01:42.4	+51 34	10.1	4
	8	M34	1039	Per	OC	02:42.0	+42 47	5.5	4
	9	M45	-	Tau	OC	03:47.0	+24 07	1.6	4
	10	M52	7654	Cas	OC	23:24.2	+61 35	7.3	3
	11	M103	581	Cas	OC	01:33.2	+60 42	7.4	1
	12	M79	1904	Lep	GC	05:24.5	-24 33	8.4	19
	13	M41	2287	CMa	OC	06:46.0	-20 44	4.6	19
	14	M93	2447	Pup	OC	07:44.6	-23 52	6	19
	15	M42	1976	Ori	DN	05:35.4	-05 27	4	11
	16	M43	1982	Ori	DN	05:35.6	-05 16	9.1	11
	17	M78	2068	Ori	DN	05:46.7	+00 03	10.3	11
	18	M1	1952	Tau	SR	05:34.5	+22 01	8.2	5
	19	M35	2168	Gem	OC	06:08.9	+24 20	5.3	5
	20	M37	2099	Aur	OC	05:52.4	+32 33	6.2	5
	21	M36	1960	Aur	OC	05:36.1	+34 08	6.3	5
	22	M38	1922	Aur	OC	05:28.4	+35 50	7.4	5
	23	M50	2323	Mon	OC	07:03.2	-08 20	6.3	12
	24	M47	2422	Pup	OC	07:36.6	-14 30	4.5	12
	25	M46	2437	Pup	OC	07:41.8	-14 49	6	12
	26	M48	2548	Hya	OC	08:13.8	-05 48	5.3	12
	27	M67	2682	Cnc	OC	08:50.4	+11 49	6.1	12
	28	M44	2632	Cnc	OC	08:40.1	+19 59	3.7	12
	29	M95	3351	Leo	SG	10:44.0	+11 42	10.4	13
	30	M96	3368	Leo	SG	10:46.8	+11 49	9.1	13
	31	M105	3379	Leo	EG	10:47.8	+12 35	9.2	13
	32	M65	3623	Leo	SG	11:18.9	+13 05	9.3	13
	33	M66	3627	Leo	SG	11:20.2	+12 59	8.2	13
	34	M81	3031	UMa	SG	09:55.6	+69 04	7.9	2
	35	M82	3034	UMa	IG	09:55.8	+69 41	8.8	2
	36	M97	3587	UMa	PN	11:14.8	+55 01	9.9	2
	37	M108	3556	UMa	SG	11:11.5	+55 40	10.7	2
	38	M109	3992	UMa	SG	11:57.6	+53 23	10.8	2
	39	M40	Win4	UMa	Double Star	12:22.4	+58 05	9.1	2
	40	M106	4258	CVn	SG	12:19.0	+47 18	8.6	2
	41	M101	5457	UMa	SG	14:03.2	+54 21	9.6	2
	42	M102	5866	Dra	SG	15:06.5	+55 46	10	2
	43	M94	4736	CVn	SG	12:50.9	+41 07	7.9	7
	44	M63	5055	CVn	SG	13:15.8	+42 02	9.5	7
	45	M51	5194	CVn	SG	13:29.9	+47 12	8.1	7
	46	M3	5272	CVn	GC	13:42.2	+28 23	6.3	7
	47	M53	5024	Com	GC	13:12.9	+18 10	7.6	7
	48	M64	4826	Com	SG	12:56.7	+21 41	8.8	7
	49	M98	4192	Com	SG	12:13.8	+14 54	11.7	7,B1
	50	M99	4254	Com	SG	12:18.8	+14 25	10.1	7,B1
	51	M100	4321	Com	SG	12:22.9	+15 49	10.6	7,B1
	52	M85	4382	Com	LG	12:25.4	+18 11	9.3	7,B1
	53	M84	4374	Vir	LG	12:25.1	+12 53	9.3	13,B1
	54	M86	4406	Vir	LG	12:26.2	+12 57	9.7	13,B1
	55	M87	4486	Vir	EG	12:30.8	+12 24	9.2	13,B1

•	Seq. No.	Messier #	NGC\#	Con	Obj	RA	Dec	Mag	Map
	56	M89	4552	Vir	EG	12:35.7	+12 33	9.5	13,B1
	57	M90	4569	Vir	SG	12:36.8	+13 10	10	13,B1
	58	M88	4501	Com	SG	12:32.0	+14 25	10.2	13,B1
	59	M91	4548	Com	SG	12:35.4	+14 30	9.5	13,B1
	60	M58	4579	Vir	SG	12:37.7	+11 49	9.2	13,B1
	61	M59	4621	Vir	EG	12:42.0	+11 39	9.6	13,B1
	62	M60	4649	Vir	EG	12:43.7	+11 33	8.9	13,B1
	63	M49	4472	Vir	EG	12:29.8	+08 00	8.5	13,B1
	64	M61	4303	Vir	SG	12:21.9	+04 28	10.1	13,B1
	65	M104	4594	Vir	SG	12:40.0	-11 37	8.7	13
	66	M68	4590	Hya	GC	12:39.5	-26 45	8	21
	67	M83	5236	Hya	SG	13:37.0	-29 52	7.6	21
	68	M5	5904	Ser	GC	15:18.6	+02 05	6.2	15
	69	M13	6205	Her	GC	16:41.7	+36 28	5.7	8
	70	M92	6341	Her	GC	17:17.1	+43 08	6.5	8
	71	M57	6720	Lyr	PN	18:53.6	+33 02	8.8	8
	72	M56	6779	Lyr	GC	19:16.6	+30 11	8.2	8
	73	M29	6913	Cyg	OC	20:23.9	+38 32	7.1	8
	74	M27	6853	Vul	PN	19:59.6	+22 43	7.4	8
	75	M71	6838	Sge	GC	19:53.8	+18 47	9	8
	76	M39	7092	Cyg	OC	21:32.2	+48 26	5.2	9
	77	M14	6402	Oph	GC	17:37.6	-03 15	7.7	15
	78	M10	6254	Oph	GC	16:57.1	-04 06	6.7	15
	79	M12	6218	Oph	GC	16:47.2	-01 57	6.6	15
	80	M107	6171	Oph	GC	16:32.5	-13 03	9.2	15
	81	M9	6333	Oph	GC	17:19.2	-18 31	7.3	15
	82	M18	6613	Sgr	OC	18:19.9	-17 08	7.5	15
	83	M17	6618	Sgr	DN	18:20.8	-16 11	7.5	15
	84	M16	6611	Ser	OC	18:18.8	-13 47	6.4	15
	85	M19	6273	Oph	GC	17:02.6	-26 16	6.6	22
	86	M62	6266	Oph	GC	17:01.2	-30 07	6.6	22
	87	M4	6121	Sco	GC	16:23.6	-26 32	6.4	22
	88	M80	6093	Sco	GC	16:17.0	-22 59	7.7	22
	89	M6	6405	Sco	OC	17:40.1	-32 13	5.3	22
	90	M7	6475	Sco	OC	17:53.9	-34 49	4.1	22
	91	M8	6523	Sgr	DN	18:03.8	-24 23	6	22
	92	M20	6514	Sgr	DN	18:02.6	-23 02	9	22
	93	M21	6531	Sgr	OC	18:04.6	-22 30	6.5	22
	94	M23	6494	Sgr	OC	17:56.8	-19 01	6.9	22
	95	M24	6603	Sgr	Star Cloud	18:16.9	-18 29	4.6	22
	96	M25	14725	Sgr	OC	18:31.6	-19 15	6.5	22
	97	M28	6626	Sgr	GC	18:24.5	-24 52	7.3	22
	98	M22	6656	Sgr	GC	18:36.4	-23 54	5.9	22
	99	M69	6637	Sgr	GC	18:31.4	-32 21	8.9	22
	100	M70	6681	Sgr	GC	18:43.2	-32 18	9.6	22
	101	M54	6715	Sgr	GC	18:55.1	-30 29	8	22
	102	M55	6809	Sgr	GC	19:40.0	-30 58	5	22
	103	M75	6864	Sgr	GC	20:06.1	-21 55	8	22
	104	M26	6694	Sct	OC	18:45.2	-09 24	9.3	16
	105	M11	6705	Sct	OC	18:51.1	-06 16	6.3	16
	106	M72	6981	Aqr	GC	20:53.5	-12 32	9.8	16
	107	M73	6994	Aqr	Quad. Star	20:58.9	-12 38	9	16
	108	M2	7089	Aqr	GC	21:33.5	-00 49	6.3	16
	109	M15	7078	Peg	GC	21:30.0	+12 10	6	16
	110	M30	7099	Cap	GC	21:40.4	-23 11	8.4	23

Crockett Park Observing Schedule

Below are listed the coordinators and backup coordinators for NOVAC's scheduled observing sessions at C.M. Crockett Park. For full details about observing at Crockett Park, see the club webpage. To volunteer as observing coordinator, please contact Tilly Smith (smithwt@navsea.navy.mil).

Date	Primary Observing Coordinator	Phone	Secondary Observing Coordinator	Phone
3/16/2001	Allan Mayer	703-403-0926	TBD	-
3/17/2001	Ed Witkowski	703-441-8428	TBD	-
3/23/2001	TBD	-	TBD	-
3/24/2001	Kim Bieler	301-608-2566	TBD	-
4/20/2001	TBD	-	TBD	-
4/21/2001	Allan Mayer	703-403-0926	TBD	-
4/27/2001	TBD	-	TBD	-
4/28/2001	TBD	-	TBD	-
5/18/2001	TBD	-	TBD	-
5/19/2001	TBD	-	TBD	-

Jeff's Observing Report

Jeff Stetekluh

Jeff's astronomical calculations are made for the Northern Virginia area. See credits at the end of this article.

Principle Club Observing Nights

Mar 23,24, 30,31
Apr 20,21, 27,28

Jupiter Eclipse Events on Principle Club Observing Nights

Mar 11 7:32 PM Europa Eclipse End (S -16 J 259 53)
Mar 11 8:32 PM Io Eclipse End (S -28 J 271 41)
Apr 21 8:44 PM Ganymede Eclipse Start (S -10 J 285 26)

The Sun

Mar 11 rises at 6:26 AM, sets at 6:11 PM
Apr 8 will rise at 6:42 AM, will set at 7:39 PM
Apr 8 rises at 6:42 AM, sets at 7:39 PM
May 13 will rise at 5:58 AM, will set at 8:12 PM

The Moon

Mar 16 Last Quarter
Mar 24 New Moon
Apr 1 First Quarter
Apr 7 Full Moon
Apr 15 Last Quarter
Apr 23 New Moon
Apr 30 First Quarter
May 7 Full Moon

Events

Mar 11 Mercury at Greatest Elong: 27.5°W (from Espenak)
Mar 20 Vernal Equinox (from Espenak)
Mar 29 Venus at Inferior Conjunction (from Espenak)
Apr 1 EDT starts
Apr 22 The Lyrid meteor shower peaks (from IMO)
Apr 23 Mercury at Superior Conjunction (from Espenak)
May 5 The eta-Aquarid meteor shower peaks (active Apr 19 to May 28) (from IMO)

The Planets

(* degrees elevation at sunset taking into account atmospheric refraction)
(Mag = apparent magnitude, Diam = apparent equatorial angular diameter)

Mar 11	Rises	Transits	Sets	Mag	Diam	Notes
Mercury	5:20 AM	10:36 AM	3:52 PM	0.2	7.1"	
Venus	6:56 AM	1:43 PM	8:31 PM	-4.5	51.2"	W, 26*
Mars	12:46 AM	5:35 AM	10:23 AM	0.3	8.6"	
Jupiter	9:48 AM	5:00 PM	12:16 AM	-2.3	37.4"	SW, 66*
Saturn	9:26 AM	4:26 PM	11:27 PM	2.3	17.4"	SW, 59*
Apr 8	Rises	Transits	Sets	Mag	Diam	Notes
Mercury	6:17 AM	12:19 PM	6:22 PM	-0.7	5.3"	
Venus	5:38 AM	12:05 PM	6:31 PM	-4.2	56.2"	
Mars	12:50 AM	5:32 AM	10:14 AM	-0.4	11.3"	
Jupiter	9:14 AM	4:29 PM	11:45 PM	-2.1	34.8"	W, 46*
Saturn	8:44 AM	3:47 PM	10:50 PM	2.4	16.8"	W, 36*

References for Jeff Stetekluh's Observing Report

Sun and moon rise and set times, moon phases and Galilean moon events are calculated using my software that is based on algorithms from the book "Astronomical Algorithms" by Jean Meeus, 1991. This includes Bretagnon's and Franco's VSOP87 (the 1987 version of Variations Seculaires des Orbites Planetaires) planetary theory, the Chapront ELP-2000/82 (ELP means Ephemerides Lunaires Parisiennes, although this work is not an ephemeris (a list of calculated positions) but rather an analytic theory (a series of periodic terms)) lunar theory and Lieske's theory E2 and E2x3 of Jupiter's satellites. The Preliminary NOVAC Observing Reports are created using my software; some of the algorithms listed above and the following as noted.
from Espenak: Fred Espenak's Twelve Year Planetary Ephemeris: 1995 - 2006; (NASA Reference Publication 1349, available at <http://www-lep.gsfc.nasa.gov/code693/TYPE/TYPE.html>); from S&T: Sky & Telescope's Evening and Morning Highlights for Skygazers, (available at <http://www.skypub.com>); from IMO: the International Meteor Organization calendar (<http://www.imo.net/calendar>); from AM: Astronomy Magazine's Highlights of the Night Sky (<http://www.kalmbach.com/astro/astronomy.html>)

New Members - December 8 through February 21

Joe Pierson

This directory is not to be reproduced or used for any commercial purpose

David Albers
5714 Barbmor Ct,
Alexandria, VA 22310
Home# - 703-313-0342
Work# - 703-934-6098
dave.albers@netiq.com

David & Kathleen Elliot
2629 Sheringham Dr,
Herndon, VA 20171
Home# - 703-716-4388
davide256@hotmail.com

Arpad Kovacsy
Integram, 8421 Hilltop Rd
Fairfax, VA 22031
Home# - 703-799-0619
Work# - 703-849-1700
adk@integram.com

Patricia Shahan
505 Anne Street,
Falls Church, VA 22046
Home# - 703-241-7568
peshahan@aol.com

Eugene J. Amobi
4401 Segehurst Drive #301,
Fairfax, VA 22033
Work# - 703-631-6925
eamobi@xybernaut.com

Warren, Joan & Jonathan Fishbein
8 Lakeside Overlook,
Rockville, MD 20850
Home# - 301-279-8961
Work# - 703-874-3857
wfishbein@aol.com

Celia & Sam Kozlowski
5911 Greentree Rd,
Bethesda, MD 20817
Home# - 301-571-4252
Work# - 301-402-4274
hooperc@nih.gov

Robert H. Sharify
20786 Dockside Terrace,
Sterling, VA 20165
Home# - 703-444-5659
Work# - 202-942-4960
droogierhs@aol.com

C. T. Carroll
11811 Federalist Way, #2,
Fairfax, VA 22030
Home# - 703-802-9147
Work# - 703-560-7448
snuffy519@aol.com

Jack Greenblatt
7905 Narcissus Ct,
Springfield, VA 22152
Home# - 703-451-5028
jgreenb@cox.rr.com

Jay Lough & Janet O'Keefe
8599 Sherman Ct,
Manassas, VA 20110
Home# - 703-335-6843
Work# - 703-742-2540
Jay.Lough@eds.com

Matt Sinclair
9706 Dublin Drive,
Manassas, VA 20109
Home# - 703-369-5589
matt999g@aol.com

Ed Chaffins
9124 Calder Ct,
Manassas, VA 20111
Work# - 703-607-4352
edward_chaffins@ngb.army.mil

Kurt & Beth Hassler
627 Meade Drive SW,
Leesburg, VA 20175-5011
Home# - 703-443-0252
khassler@loudoun.com

Mark N. & Mary Mallus
7023 Alicent Pl.,
McLean, VA 22101
Home# - 703-356-8327
Work# - 202-457-5728
mmallus@cbrichardellis.com;

Dotty Stahl
5012 Ganelon Court,
Annandale, VA 2203
Home# - 703-425-1064
Work# -
jstahl@cox.rr.com

Michael Colghan
4704 Philadelphia Place,
Annandale, VA 22003
Home# - 703-928-8079
mcolghan@erols.com

Arondo K Holmes
2144 Harpoon Dr,
Stafford, VA 22554
Home# - 540-658-1180
tcolmes@erols.com

Richard K. Moats
7817 Butterfield Ln.,
Annandale, VA 22003
Home# - 703-698-7964

Karla Stillwell
6225 Summer Pond Dr.,
Centreville, VA 20121
Home# - 703-815-7864
Work# - 703-218-3807
t3stillwell@hotmail.com

Chris Corbey
8816 Middleburg Ct.,
Manassas, VA 20109-3746
Home# - 703-335-8656
Work# - 202-357-1530
corbeyc@nasm.si.edu

Idris Hooper
6995 Manahoac Pl.,
Gainesville, VA 20155
Home# -
Work# - 202-488-8787
cairl@ix.netcom.com

David J. Quarton
P.O. Box 2065,
Merrifield, VA 22116
Home# - 703-281-9170
Work# - 703-339-3136
dquarton@starpower.net

Michelle Tomlin
5708 Glenwood Ct.,
Alexandria, VA 22310
Home# - 703-971-5534
vetti@worldnet.att.net

Kelley Demory
13385 Brookfield Court,
Chantilly, VA 20151
Home# - 703-378-5186
demorys@erols.com

Brian & Stefanie Jackson & Susan
Madonna
6013 Powells Landing Rd,
Burke, VA 22015
Home# - 703-2399256
Work# - 703-250-7387

Jim Reams
696 Old Hunt Way,
Herndon, VA 20170
Home# - 703-787-9693
Work# - 703-676-8767
reamsj@saic.com

Samir Unadkat
2014 Peach Orchard Drive #32,
Falls Church, VA 22043
Home# - 703-608-6400
Work# -
unadkat@hotmail.com

Tony DeRigge
2005 Wakefield St,
Alexandria, VA 22308
Home# - 703-780-5993

Alice M. Kottmyer
5709 Oak Green Way,
Burke, VA 22015
Home# -
Work# - 202-647-1861
kottmyer@erols.com

Floyd I. Roberson
4320 Lorcom Lane,
Arlington, VA 22207
Home# - 703-527-5863
Work# - 703-447-6757
rroberson@genuity.com

John Vernon & Nancy Sander
7524 Walnut Hill Lane,
Falls Church, VA 22042
Home# - 703-641-5954
Work# - 703-641-9595
hcv328@aol.com

Dean Whitaker
12162 Penderview Ln #1623,
Fairfax, VA 22033
Home# - 703-383-1437
Work# - 703-803-2431
dean_whitaker@sra.com

WELCOME!

Northern Virginia Astronomy Club
Statement of Cash Received and Disbursed
For the period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000

CASH RECEIVED:			
Membership Dues:			
Renewals	\$5,664.00		
New Members	2,496.00		
Patron-New Member	150.00		\$8,310.00
Interest Income			345.73
Library Book Sales			15.00
Dept. Store Telescope Making Kits			495.00
Donation			4.00
Kalmbach Book Discount			0.00
Total Cash Received			<u>\$9,169.73</u>
CASH DISBURSED:			
Newsletter:			
Printing & Assembly	2,002.70		
Postage	628.05		
Software for Newsletter	94.98		2,725.73
Astronomical League			
Astronomical League Dues			1,300.00
Observing Site Expenses:			
NOVAC Picnic:			
Picnic Permit	0.00		
Barbeque Food & Supplies	233.05		
Invitation-Printing & Postage	97.47		330.52
NOVAC Star Party:			
PA System Rental	79.33		79.33
Observing Site Improvements:			
Savage Farm			
Porta-Jon Rental	804.65		804.65
Webpage Hosting Service			270.00
NOVAC's ATM Group:			
Dept. Store Telescope Making Kits-Resale			550.00
International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)			100.00
Hotline Expense			180.00
Discovery 10 inch f/6 Telescope Purchase			928.00
Administrative:			
Liability Insurance	592.00		
Printing - Membership Applications	0.00		
Printing - Administrative	158.46		
Postage	310.32		
Supplies	225.10		
Personal Property Tax	33.64		
State Registration Fee	25.00		
Check Printing Charges	14.25		
State Corporate Filings Copies	10.50		
Bank Service Charges	18.00		1,387.27
Total Cash Disbursed			<u>8,655.50</u>
EXCESS OF CASH RECEIVED OVER CASH DISBURSED			<u>514.23</u>
Cash at beginning of period:			<u>10,820.25</u>
CASH AT END OF PERIOD			<u>11,334.48</u>
Cash At End Of Period			
Checks Received, Undeposited		0.00	
Checking Account		1,245.72	
Savings Account		3,355.31	
Certificate of Deposit Due 1/5/2001		2,842.15	
Certificate of Deposit Due 11/2/2001		2,208.75	
Certificate of Deposit Due 5/2/2001		1,682.55	11,334.48
Respectfully submitted,			
	/s/		
Pedro Martinez,			
Treasurer			

Dues increase to be voted on at March General Meeting

Michael Mills

The NOVAC Board of Trustees has approved to increase membership dues. The proposed new membership fee is \$25 per person, plus \$5 for each additional member at the same address. Before this increase can go into effect, it must be voted on and approved by a quorum at a General Membership meeting. The vote will be held at the General Meeting on March 11.

NOVAC's Projected 2001 Budget

Revenues			
Membership Dues			
Renewals Regular & Additional		\$6,186.00	
New Members Regular & Additional		2,400.00	
Total for Membership			\$8,586.00
Interest Income			300.00
Total Revenues Expected			\$8,886.00
Expenditures			
Newsletter			
Printing		\$2,300.00	
Postage		700.00	
Total for Newsletter Expenditures			\$3,000.00
Astronomical League Dues			\$1,690.00
Library			
Books		\$ 100.00	
Total for Library			\$ 100.00
Observing Site Expenses			
Porta-Jon Rental for Savage Farm		\$ 878.00	
Other Improvements		222.00	
Total for Observing Site Expenses			\$1,100.00
NOVAC Annual Picnic			
Picnic Permit-Year 2001		\$ 120.00	
BBQ Food & Supplies		180.00	
Invitations-Printing & Postage		100.00	
Total Picnic Expenses			\$ 400.00
NOVAC Star Party			
Publicity		\$ 25.00	
Printing		35.00	
Lightsticks/Necklaces		240.00	
Miscellaneous		200.00	
Total Star Party Expenses			\$ 500.00
10inch Dept. Store Telescope Project			\$ 700.00
Hotline Expenses			\$ 180.00
NOVAC WebPage Expenses			\$ 305.00
Science Fair Prizes			\$ 100.00
Astronomy Day			
Publicity (Printing & Postage)		\$ 40.00	
Lightsticks		30.00	
Total Astronomy Day Expenses			\$ 70.00
Slide Show Presentation Project			\$ 200.00
International Darksky Association Membership			\$ 100.00
New Projects			\$ 500.00
Administrative			
Liability Insurance		\$ 650.00	
Printing-Membership Applications		80.00	
Printing-Stationary		60.00	
Printing Administrative		170.00	
Postage		350.00	
Supplies		300.00	
State Registration Fee		25.00	
PerBank Service Charge		60.00	
Personal Property Tax		10.00	
Total for Administrative Expenses			\$1,705.00
Total Expenditures			\$10,825.00

Expenses per member by category

Category	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Newsletter	\$4.87	\$5.91	\$8.64	\$6.43	\$6.71
International Darksky Membership	\$0.00	\$0.31	\$0.26	\$0.24	\$0.22
Astronomical League	\$2.57	\$2.65	\$2.68	\$3.07	\$3.78
Administrative	\$ 3.33	\$ 2.78	\$3.15	\$3.27	\$3.85
Operations	\$ 9.14	\$ 6.48	\$5.90	\$6.11	\$9.66
Total	\$19.91	\$18.13	\$20.63	\$19.12	\$24.22

Support The IDA

Join the International
Dark-Sky Association

www.darksky.org

Upcoming NOVAC Meeting Programs

Sean O'Brien

March 11
Education Under the Dome
 Sean O'Brien:

What kind of educational activities can be pursued in a planetarium? NOVAC V.P. and Albert Einstein Planetarium program manager Sean O'Brien will show some examples. Of course, the best way to find out about planetarium education is to get "under the dome" yourself! But this will be a great introduction.

April 8
 TBD

For more information, watch the club website at www.novac.com as the date approaches.

PLEASE NOTE: the schedule of speakers is subject to change. Please check at <http://users.erols.com/ctupper/NOVAC/speakers.htm> for the latest info prior to the meeting. What's YOUR interest? Let ctupper@erols.com know. Come share and learn about YOUR favorite topic!

National Capital Astronomers Meetings

Elliott Fein

Saturday, March 3, 7:30 P.M. - NCA meeting, at the Lipsett Auditorium in Building 10 at NIH, will feature Dr. Pamela Clark talking to NCA about "Motivation and Scope of the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous Mission".

Saturday, March 3, 5:30 P.M.
 Dinner with the speaker and NCA members at
 Frascati Ristorante Italiano
 4806 Rugby Ave
 Bethesda, MD
 301-652-9514

NCA has regular monthly meeting September through June on the first Saturday of the month (unless it is a holiday weekend like September 2 is this year) at 7:30PM. at the Clinical Building in the Lipsett auditorium at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Montgomery County, Maryland, just a little north of Washington, D.C. You can get to their meeting by exiting at the Bethesda Medical Center stop on the Red Line of the Metro.

NOVAC Public Outreach Programs

Ed Witkowski

Date	Place	Group	Theme
3/17/2001	Mickie Gordon Park	Loudoun County Parks	General Stargazing
4/21/2000	Franklin Park	Loudoun County	Loudoun County Earth-Eco Day

Notes:

The 21 April event is an Earth Day Fair at Franklin Park. Daytime sunspot viewing with possible info booth with nighttime stargazing. More information will follow on this event.

Please come out.

Contact Ed Witkowski for more information or to let him know you will be helping out. Ed's e-mail address is edwski@erols.com.

NOVAC Officers 2001

President

Ed Karch 703-621-3263
karch@karch.com

Vice President

Sean O'Brien 703-823-3325
sean.o'brien@nasm.si.edu

Secretary

Renee Pleasant 540-752-2478
kayakker@aol.com

Treasurer

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

NOVAC Trustees 2000

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

Ian Keith 703-751-0542
ik7565@erols.com

Pete Johnson 703-830-7513
pjohnson1@cox.rr.com

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

Alex Lim 703-222-0419
alexander.lim@mci.com

Directors

Membership Director:

Joe Pierson 703-680-6343
jmpierson@home.com

Public Events Coordinator:

Ed Witkowski (H) 703-441-8428
edwski@erols.com

Important NOVAC Numbers

NOVAC Info. Hotline 703-758-4455
 Crockett (Chris Bresnan) 540-788 4867

cbresnan@msn.com

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

Arlington Planetarium 703 358-6070

NOVAC's Web Page

<http://www.novac.com>

Webmaster

Grep Piepol
GPiepol@aol.com

NOVAC Newsletter

Editor

Michael Mills
mjmills@fpcc.net

Distribution

John Nusbaum

Contributors in this issue

Elliott Fein Al Schumann
 Ed Karch Craig Tupper
 Steve LaBrenz Bob Parks
 Rob Lentini Elizabeth Warner
 Pedro Martinez

Upcoming Events

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
M A R C H	25 •Observing at <u>MG/Savage</u>	26	27	28	1	2 FIRST QUARTER	3
	4	5	6	7 •Board Meeting	8	9 FULL MOON	10
	11 •General Meeting 7 pm @ GMU	12	13	14	15	16 LAST QUARTER •Observing at all sites	17 •Observing at all sites •Public Outreach
	18 •Observing at <u>MG/Savage</u>	19	20 Messier Marathon	21 Messier Marathon	22 Messier Marathon	23 •Observing at all sites •Spruce Knob Trip Messier Marathon	24 NEW MOON •Observing at all sites •Spruce Knob Trip Messier Marathon
	25 •Observing at <u>MG/Savage</u> •Spruce Knob Trip Messier Marathon	26 Messier Marathon	2	28 Messier Marathon	29	30	31
A P R I L	1 FIRST QUARTER •Daylight Savings Time Begins	2	3	4 •Board Meeting	5	6	7 FULL MOON •NASM Astronomy Fair
	8 •General Meeting 7 pm @ GMU	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15 LAST QUARTER	16	17	18	19	20 •Observing at all sites	21 •Observing at all sites •Public Outreach
	22 •Observing at <u>MG/Savage</u>	23 NEW MOON	24	25	26	27 •Observing at all sites	28 •Observing at all sites •AL Astronomy Day
	29 •Observing at <u>MG/Savage</u>	30 FIRST QUARTER	1	2	3	4	5

NOVAC Notices and Benefits

Discounts on *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy*.

As a member of NOVAC, you can get astronomy magazine subscriptions at a discount. To obtain *Sky & Telescope* for \$29.95 (instead of the standard \$37.95), make your check out to "Sky Publishing Co." You can subscribe to *Astronomy Magazine* for \$29.00 for one year. Make your check payable to "Kalmbach Publishing Company". In each case, note on the check: "new subscription" or "renewal." If a renewal, include your customer number. Send your check to Treasurer Pedro Martinez, Jr., 6319 Anneliese Dr., Falls Church VA 22044.

You can also order any publication directly from Sky Publishing at a 10% discount. Just mention the Club Discount Plan and that you are a member of NOVAC.

Discount on Books

NOVAC is participating in the discount book sales program offered by Kalmbach Publishing. They will sell our members any astronomy-related book in their catalog for 25% off the list price when we send in a group order. Kevin Brown is coordinating the sales. If you are interested, please see him at a meeting, or call him at home (703) 503-9523 to place an order. Make your check payable to "NOVAC" for the price of the book minus the discount, when you place the order. We anticipate doing this 3 - 4 times a year if demand warrants.

Club Telescopes and Binoculars

NOVAC makes available three six-inch Newtonian reflectors for club members to check out, free of charge, and use for a limited time.

One telescope is a Celestron model SP-C6 on a Super Polaris German equatorial mount and wood tripod. The telescope comes with Orion Ultrascope 10mm and Meade MA 25mm eyepieces with 1.25-inch barrel sizes.

The second telescope is a homemade six-inch f/5 reflector on a Dobsonian mount, and comes with a 25mm Kellner eyepiece. It is easy to transport to dark sky sites, and easy to use.

The third telescope is a six-inch, f/8 Meade Dobsonian reflector.

To borrow a telescope you will need to show your NOVAC observing pass and leave a \$500 (for the Celestron) or \$250.00 (for a Dobsonian) security deposit. To borrow the Celestron, contact Doug Mistler at (703) 437-0513; for the Dobson, contact Bob

L'Hommedieu at (703) 978-0946. Note: Checks must be made payable to "NOVAC". The club also has a pair of 10x50 binoculars available for members to borrow. They are kept in the club library in the GMU lecture hall, and can be checked out after the regular monthly meeting, for a period of one month. Please show your observing pass.

NOVAC Library

NOVAC has established a library at George Mason University for use by NOVAC members. Books may be checked out and returned only at the monthly meetings. Members may check out books for one month at a time. To borrow books, see NOVAC Librarians Pedro Martinez or Craig Tupper at the monthly meeting.

The NOVAC library seeks book donations to the library. If you have any astronomy books or materials you are thinking of discarding, please consider a donation to the NOVAC library.

A complete list of all library holdings is posted on the NOVAC website.

General Membership Meetings

General Membership Meetings are held at George Mason University (GMU), Fairfax Campus, off Ox Road (Rt. 123) on the second Sunday of every month. To reach GMU, take either Rt. 66 to Ox Rd. (South) or Braddock Rd. to Ox Rd. (North). Enter GMU at the main entrance off Ox Rd. (University Drive) and proceed to Parking Lots F, G, or H for free parking. Pay Parking is also available in the Parking Garage.

The meetings are in the Lecture Hall, next to Fenwick Library, on the North side of campus across Patriot Circle from the parking lots. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month. Members who are not trustees, but are interested in attending, should contact a club officer or board member for further information.

NOVAC On-line

NOVAC maintains an e-mail mailing list. Messages sent to the list include reminders about scheduled observing sessions, announcements for unscheduled sessions, requests for quick observing session summaries, MIR observability predictions, etc. To subscribe to the list, send a message to majordomo@his.com with the body "subscribe novac <your e-mail address>". You should soon thereafter receive a reply welcoming you to the list and describing how to navigate it in more detail. There is also a digest subscription option, which sends each

day's traffic in a single message the following day. To subscribe to this option, send a message to majordomo@his.com with "subscribe novac-digest <your e-mail address>" in the body. If you would like more information about listserv commands, send a message with "help" on a line by itself.

For additional information, send a message to Bob L'Hommedieu, bobcat@erols.com.

NOVAC Observing Site Rules

C. M. Crockett Park:

NOVAC has access to Crockett Park on Friday and Saturday of the two weekends closest to new moon. before and after the new moon. This access is dependent upon members serving as observing coordinators. If you would like to observe at Crockett park, please consider serving as coordinator when possible. For a schedule of observing nights and coordinators, as well as complete rules governing access to the park, please visit <http://www.novac.com/crockett.html>.

Savage Farm Site: Weekends (Friday/Saturday/Sunday): NOVAC has unlimited access to the park for all weekends.

Weekdays (Monday-Thursday.): For unscheduled observing sessions, contact the park manager, Paul McCray, at (703) 729-0596 or <wodtrail@erols.com> at least 24 hours in advance, and leave a message with your phone number or e-mail address. You may use the site for that session *unless* you hear from Mr. McCray stating otherwise.

No loud radios, alcoholic beverages, or loose pets. Pick up after yourself, and do not leave any trash behind. Make sure the gate is locked whenever you are in the park, and when you leave. We are guests of the NVRP and could have our access to this site revoked at any time if it is abused.

Mickey Gordon Regional Park:

There is a light pole on the road entering the park and it is a problem near the entrance of the park. It is better to set up further back in the park, or on a lower field behind the baseball diamond to escape the light.

The park is available without notice to all members seven days a week. As sports season begins, we will post the schedule when the lighted baseball facility will be in use.

Directions to NOVAC Observing Sites

C. M. Crockett Park:

From the Washington, D.C. area, go west on I-66 to Exit 43A in Gainesville onto Rt. 29 South toward Warrenton. After 11.8

miles on Rt. 29, stay left (toward Culpeper), to bypass Warrenton (but still on Rt. 29 S.) Go about 1 mile to the Rt. 643 exit, Meetze Road. Turn left (East) on Rt. 643. Go 7.5 miles on Rt. 643. Watch for the C.M. Crockett Park sign on your right, and turn right into the Park Entrance Road.

Alternate directions to Crockett

From Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia, go West on I-66 to exit 44. (234 bypass around Manassas). Take 234 bypass to Rt. 28 West. Stay on Rt. 28W for about 13.7 miles, through Nokesville, Catlett and Calverton. Turn right at Rt. 643 (store/gas station) on corner). Go 1 mile to Crockett Park entrance road on left.

Savage Site:

From D.C., I-66 West to Route 17 North. Stay on Route 17 North until it intersects with Route 50 at Ashby Gap. Turn left onto Route 50 and go 1.0 mile and turn right on Route 601. Continue on Route 601 (Blue Ridge Mountain Road) for 8.4 miles (about two miles past the main gate of the FEMA installation). Turn right at the park entrance after passing the gateposts with *Belle Allee* and *Ball Alley 1875* on your right.

The park entrance on Route 601 is marked by a small NOVAC sign. As you turn into the park, go straight ahead until you reach the gate, which is secured by both a keyed padlock and a combination lock. These locks are located to your left behind the gate as you face it from the outside. The combination is on your NOVAC observing pass. **Always** lock the gate behind you. The NOVAC lock **must be locked to the keyed lock, not to the chain**, to allow emergency access by the fire department. Drive to the observing area (the stone patio next to the house). There is very limited parking at the observing area itself, so please park in the parking area on the right as you face the patio.

Alternate Directions to Savage via the Dulles Toll Road

Take the Dulles Toll Road west to the Dulles Greenway. Take the Greenway west about 14-15 miles to where it ends at Rt. 7 near Leesburg. Stay in the left-hand lane to go to the exit for Rt. 7 West. Take Rt. 7 West for about 18 miles to Route 601, Blue Ridge Mountain Road, which is at the top of Snickers Gap and

marked by a flashing yellow light on Rt. 7. Turn left onto Rt. 601 and continue 2.4 miles to the park entrance, which is on the left about two-tenths of a mile past a driveway on the left with a stone wall marked with the name "Ben Lomond." There is a white "NOVAC" sign nailed to a large tree to the right at the entrance to the somewhat rutted gravel driveway that leads to the park. Drive up to the white gate at the top of the hill. The combination for the gate is on your observing pass. The driveway curves down and around to the right to the observing area after you pass through the gate. Please lock the gate behind you and remember to use parking lights only as you approach the observing area, which is on the left as you reach the lawn in front of the old house.

Parking at the observing area itself is much more limited at Savage than at Crockett or Mickey Gordon. Try to leave an access lane to the area around the stone patio. If possible, unload your telescope and then park your car away from the area. There are plenty of places to park around the lawn and even south of the old house. This will allow those who arrive later to have access to whatever spots remain without having to lug equipment across the lawn. If you plan to leave early, please be considerate of others and either pack up away from the stone patio or avoid using backup lights when you drive down to pack up your equipment.

Mickey Gordon Regional Park:

The park is located on Rt. 50 fifteen miles west of the intersection of Rt. 28 and Rt. 50. It is only a 20-minute drive from the Centreville area and should be a convenient site for most members in western Northern Virginia. Directions to the park: take Rt. 66 west to Rt. 28 north. Take Rt. 28 to Rt. 50 West. Go 15 miles until you see the brown Mickey Gordon Regional Park sign. Make a right on Rt. 627, Carters Farm La. Go a few hundred yards to the park entrance on the left. The park has a gate but should never be locked.

Site Coordinates

Here are the locations of four observing sites as provided by NOVAC members:

- Savage: 39° 04.7' N; 77° 51.7' W
- Crockett: 38° 37' N; 77° 43' W
- Big Meadows: 38°32' N, 78°26' W
- Little Bennett Regional Park: 39°17.0' N, 77°17.5' W
- Mickey Gordon 38°58.58' N, 77°42.31' W

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Membership in the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club is \$18.00 per year and is open to anyone interested in astronomy or the sciences. Additional memberships at the same address without additional copies of the newsletter are \$6.00 per person. Contact Joe Pierson 15091 Jarrell Place Woodbridge, VA 22193 703-680-6343 jmperson@home.com

All notices of change of address should be sent to Joe Pierson. Please include both old and new addresses.

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NOVAC members are invited to submit articles for publication in the *NOVAC Newsletter*. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted. Send article submissions to the Editor, Michael Mills mjmills@fpcc.net, (703)333-5075, 5001 Ridgewood Road, Alexandria, VA 22312.

The deadline for submissions is three weeks in advance of publication, e.g., April 10 for the May/June newsletter.

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MVP is Coming to Town

Suggest an urban observing site near you

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The Northern Virginia Astronomy Club
c/o Joe Pierson, Membership Director
15091 Jarrell Place
Woodbridge, VA 22193

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**Dues Increase to be
Voted on at General
Meeting, March 11**

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