

Stellafane 2011

President's Message

There's a quote usually attributed to Woody Allen which goes "eighty percent of life is just showing up". The other side of this idea is that given all the people who could show up, most don't. Showing up is a positive act and should be celebrated.

We have three monthly sky watches and they only work because members show up. We schedule many other sky watches and they only work because members show up. Our outreach only works because members show up.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the club members who show up: thank you!

★ John Bishop
NHAS President 2011

Highlights for This Month

This month we had our annual trek to Stellafane, as well as several sky watch events—some successful, some not so successful.

I call special attention to **Rich Schueller's** acquisition of a large number of Pelican cases (and similar brands) that were destined to be thrown away. Thanks to Rich, they have found new homes, and NHAS's educational outreach efforts are several hundred dollars richer.

★ Paul Winalski
NHAS Secretary 2011

Stellafane, July 28-31

This was my first year at Stellafane and my first year as a member of NHAS. My wife couldn't make the

trip so I went to Vermont alone. It was such a pleasure to see the NHAS dining fly and logo as soon as I arrived, and that is where I immediately navigated to. Conversations with the folks in NHAS, and their giving me the grand tour of the place and all the great telescopes, really made the trip enjoyable for me.

★ Richard Byrd



The permanent observatories at Stellafane (John Rose photo)

After a very long work week I drove to Stellafane first thing Saturday morning. A little fog in a few spots, but a nice drive. Arrived about 7 AM and headed over to the swap tables. Put the leftover Library Telescope eyepieces on Dan Smith's table. Spent the morning wandering around the swap tables. A lot of interesting stuff and some really nice deals. Perhaps regretfully I passed on a number of eyepieces. I did buy a Criterion RV6 for \$120. I guess after nineteen years of Stellafane swap tables I am learning to limit my impulse buying. But not totally. When I was a kid I dreamed of owning an RV6. I bought a 10" Cave Astrola a few years ago for the same reason!



NHAS tent (John Rose photo)

Towards noon I headed for the club tent and the cook out. **Joel Harris** did an excellent job with the hamburgers and hot dogs. I ate too much. After hanging around the tent for a while decided I better get up to the Pink Club house and see what was going on over there. Checked out the scopes on display, including Joe Derek's 12.5" equatorial. Headed back to the club tent and eventually walked down to the Flanders Pavilion for some ice cream and listened to the talk on the availability of borosilicate glass. A lot out there but hard to get in small quantities.



Observing field at Stellafane (note Roger Greenwood's borged Obsession) (John Rose photo)

Having eaten too much at lunch I skipped the Chicken Barbecue and settled for a grilled cheese sandwich. Didn't win anything at the prize drawing so headed back

the tent. Unfortunately a long week at work had me running out of steam rather early so didn't walk over to the Pink Club house after dark. Hung around the tent enjoying the night sky and looks through other people's scopes. Not sure just when I headed for my truck and a nap. 2:30 or so. Sunday morning started cleaning up the club site then headed for breakfast about 7:00 AM. The blueberry pancakes were terrific! Site was pretty well cleaned up around 9:00 so headed for home. Now the long wait till next years Stellafane!



The pink club house at Stellafane (John Rose photo)

Also a special thanks to **Gardner Gerry** for bringing the club tent and Joel Harris for cooking.

★ John Rose

About a year ago, I was working with a contact on a project for work. While he was visiting me at my office, I showed him some of my astrophotography. He told me of someone at his company who also was into astronomy and that I might be interested in some equipment cases they get as returns and promptly discard. Of course I was interested so I went over to look at a few of the styles he uses.



Star trails over Stellafane

Wow! What luck! Plastic watertight cases (that are not necessarily made by a certain manufacturer) Perfect for housing a small telescope, binoculars,

eyepieces or whatever. Then it hit me, if I could get a load of cases that we could sell at Stellafane, we could have some additional money for the EOC outreach events. I tried for several weeks not hearing from my contact until the beginning of the week. I went over to his building and out he came with a rolling rack of cases! Between the eight I had previously and this load, we had thirty cases to sell (mind you I had to fend off employees from his company and mine in order to get them for NHAS, and there was a line).

I wasn't able to make the event so I gave **Gardner Gerry** a call and he graciously came over to transport them. I had just finished checking out the cases making sure there wasn't anything in them that shouldn't be (don't ask) when Gardner arrived. He had just backed into my driveway and had gotten out of his truck when I said, "Stop, wait right there." I hit the opener and up came the door. I really wish I had my camera ready because the look on his face was beyond description. He knew I had "quite a few" cases for him to take, but when he saw the four foot stack in front of him, he was rolling with laughter. "Oh My Gosh!!! How am I going to fit all that?"



Gardner Gerry hawks Pelican (and other brand) cases at the NHAS Stellafane swap table (John Rose photo)

Well, after a few aborted starts, we found a packing scheme that got them all into his truck. Then a thought came to him, How in heaven is he going to get the NHAS canopy in there as well? "Well, I can put my scope, mount and clothes in the back seat, my pack on the front seat, but the canopy has to go in diagonal. I'm gonna need

help! (with a chuckle)" There were a few sizes there, a 1500 (9), 1520 (20), 1540 (5), one 1600 size and an odd one. The cases had the top lid foam and the internal die cut foam that held the equipment so essentially I considered them without foam. Typical cost of replacement foam from Nalpak.com is around \$30 which is a very good deal.

Well needless to say, he got them to up there. Saturday morning I received a text message telling me that all the cases were sold by 8 AM. The NHAS EOC pulled in \$580 from the sale!!! Thanks Gardner!!!! Go have breakfast.

I can't promise that I'll find the same mix or be able to get as many again next year, but I'll see what I can do. I hear you all now, what about next week?

★ Rich Schueller

We came in Thursday late and had to borrow a lantern to set up. We couldn't find our flashlight. It was hard to pick a tent site this year.

As is traditional, we have some rain, and this year some got in the tent.

Some meteors kept me up—people were watching them.

At the swap table I sold the astronomy chair Linda purchased last year (didn't work on uneven ground). I sold the mount which came with the scope that **Ed Ting** brought to Messier Marathon many years ago. The mount was fixed by **Steve Forbes** and it languished in my garage. It was sold for \$65 and the funds were given to **John Rose**.



Good stuff cheap at the Stellafane swap tables (John Rose photo)

I purchased a weather station and the owner required me to Tasco OTA. That was used to pay off the gentleman who tried to sell me the

mount. He was quite pleased with this.

Lunch was great, thanks again Joel. Joel and I hiked up to the pink club house. Talked to a lot of people.

Linda and I split the chicken dinner in the afternoon.

At the raffle I won a hat, because of all the Stellafane T shirts we purchased over the years.

We had a great time.

We had to get back by 1 PM to take delivery of a brand new 1300 hour tractor. And Linda had to go pick more blueberries.

★ Larry Lopez

I went all three nights and was assistant cook for the Saturday lunch. Our diet has been improving. The lunch menu now includes Angus and vegiburgers. As usual, Joel did most of the work and deserves a big thanks.

Thursday was clear but not as transparent as Saturday night.

Friday was a washout. There was a brief period of perfect sky about 2 AM Saturday morning. Just about everyone had gone to sleep, anticipating a long Saturday night. I got to see a sight I doubt I'll ever see again. I saw the Milky Way and a beautifully still sky with Jupiter shining above dozens of tents with no one out observing. The clouds started to return about five minutes later so people didn't miss an extended period of excellent skies.

Attendance seemed sparse as always on Thursday with no increase on Friday due to the weather. By the time of the talk on Saturday, attendance seemed near normal. I had heard reports of 500 - 1000 attending, which would be low.

The swap tables had some great items. Among these were the NHAS used Pelican equipment cases for \$20 -25. Many of our members bought one and Gardner didn't have quite as many to haul Saturday. Proceeds went to the club. I grabbed a used Big Barlow for about 80% off and a new-in-box polar alignment scope for my mount for about 1/2 price.

I took a 4" refractor. Observing highlights for me were white light solar observing Saturday afternoon along with **Mike Townsend** and **Linda Lopez**, who had H α scopes also. The seeing was surprisingly good by mid-afternoon and the sunspot views were stunning. We had a good comparison of the Veil with and without filters. We could see the entire Veil in the eyepiece. I also set about to accomplish the "Four Gleaming Globulars" observation suggested in an old Televue: M22, M28, NGC 6638 and NGC 6642 in the same field. It's tough. We couldn't do it Thursday night, but Mike Townsend, **Gardner Gerry**, and I were able to do it Saturday night using an NP-101 and a 21 Ethos. It's a good target for large binoculars or short focal length refractor, the darker the skies the better.

A host of other objects including Jupiter was also seen. I'll leave reports on them to others.

★ Andrew Jaffe

Board of Directors Report

I took the leftover Eyepieces and eyepiece racks from the Library Telescope Program to Stellafane.

Dan Smith put them out on his table. I had thought of putting together some thing about the LTP to display with the eyepieces, but a lot of extra hours at work didn't leave me any time.

We did well except with the 6MM Explorer IIs. I am planning a "fire sale" on these at the next meeting.

And meetings after that if need be.

Larry and **Linda Lopez** sold a mount for the club. **Joel Harris** purchased a C14 dew shield and donated it to the club. LTP leftovers \$135 and \$65 from Larry and Linda.

★ John Rose

BoD Chairman 2011

Goffstown Public Library Sky Watch, 27 July

I went to our sky watch for a the Goffstown library last night. The location was the water district's

barn. The good part was that the location was easy to get to, there was a convenient parking lot next to a large field with low horizons in all directions, it was far away enough from Manchester that the sky was dark and there were far fewer mosquitoes than in the location we used in previous years. The bad part was that the barn had several motion-activated lights shining on the parking lot and creating glare onto the observing field. Every time a car drove into or out of the parking lot, the lights would go on for several minutes.



The new Goffstown observing field (Ted Blank photos)

I took my OA-6.5 and put it on the Osypowski platform. It was still perfectly collimated (hurray for a solid tube!). As usual, the tracking platform worked perfectly and painlessly.



Marc Stowbridge aligns his scope.

As it's summer, the Sun didn't set until late and it wasn't fully dark until 9:00 PM. For the non-dark part of the evening, I started out showing Arcturus. I'd tell people to note the color and later on I defocused it to about five rings and explained how this pattern showed the wave nature of light. As soon as I could find Saturn, I showed Saturn for about half an hour. The planet was low and the seeing was only fair, so the finest detail visible was the shadow of the rings on the

planet. Titan went in and out of visibility to the preceding side. Nonetheless Saturn was a big hit with the public.



On a dark night, who needs a telescope?

I then went on to show the usual suspects: M13, Albireo, the Double-Double, M27, M8, M81 and M82. I finished up at 10:30 PM showing the North American Nebula with a two-inch eyepiece and a nebula filter (DGM Optics NBP). By then it was quite dark at the zenith: enough so that M27 was bright in the eyepiece without a filter. M81 and M82 were clearly visible at the same time in a 42mm (40x) eyepiece at either side of the view; my “customers” were thrilled to see galaxies. M8 barely showed nebulosity in an unfiltered view but was impressively nebulous in a filtered view. M13 showed many individual stars and a pretty granular core with tiny sparkles. The North American Nebula showed “Central America” and most of “North America” though the “Florida” and “New Mexico” parts did not show up and thus the resemblance to the actual continent was less evident.



Our photographer, Ted Blank (Paul Winalski photo)

There was a lot more light pollution towards the South and closer to the horizon so I spent most of my time

on the objects higher up and more to the North and West.



Night view of the observing field (Al Navarro photo)

If that field had been shielded from the passing traffic by a row of little trees and the motion-triggered lights had been turned off, the location would be superb. Other than a small light dome from Manchester in the South-west, there is very little visible light pollution.

I recognized **Gardner Gerry, Paul Winalski, Herb Bubert, Marc Stowbridge, and Al Navarro**. I know there were other club members there but I can't recall their names. There were about thirty members of the public; several of them stayed quite a long time. Briana Palma, the reporter from the *Hippo* weekly, was there for the first hour or so.

★ John Bishop

YFOS, 30 July

I went to YFOS on Saturday. The Clear Sky Chart predicted a very good night for the location which is in the “Green zone” of the light-pollution map.

It was a very good night. Due to the date, sunset was late and twilight lingered for a long time, but from 9:30 PM to midnight when I started packing up it was great. The darkness was mag 5-plus. My test was the dimmest star in the bowl of the Little Dipper which was visible with direct vision. The sky was transparent. The seeing was good but not great over the top of the sky but nearer the horizon it was poor. Mosquitoes were present in very large numbers around 8:00 PM, landing on the telescope and hovering around me (but not biting because I had put on bug repellent). They were thick enough that as I was setting up, when I brushed my

hand over my head, I would brush off several mosquitoes—they felt like lots of little grains of sand. Luckily they vanished shortly after the Sun set and it got cooler. Dewing started as soon as the Sun set and got heavy later on. All together, conditions were unusually good for New Hampshire.

I started by looking at Saturn in the twilight. Poor seeing that close to the horizon meant that I only saw one moon (Titan) and no detail beyond the shadow of the rings on the planet.

I went on to do a mini-Messier Marathon and toured the M-objects in the far South as I rarely get a chance to see that part of the sky. Many stars in M22 resolved and even with a light sky it stood out well early in the evening (though I came back after full dark to admire it some more). The big surprise for me on this tour was M55, which is another big bright globular cluster in the far South that resolves many stars. It looked really good! If it were higher up in the sky, I think it might be another famous show-off object for Northern observers. M6 and M7 were visible just above the horizon; I don't often have the chance to observe them but they were not only visible, they were clear and focused sharply despite being so low (a contrast with Saturn, which was higher up but more fuzzy; I can't explain that difference).

Nebulae showed really well, most showing up as bright and obvious even in unfiltered views. M27's “football” shape was so bright that it was hard to see the even brighter “dumbbell” shape inside it which is what one usually sees. Both sides of the Veil and the North American Nebula were visible unfiltered though of course more extension and more detail could be seen with a filter. The dark lanes in the Trifid (M20) showed in averted vision. M16 and M17 were bright and justified their names (Eagle and Swan).

Galaxies were a bit disappointing as the outer disks didn't show up as well as I've seen them in the past at

this location. That might be because I was using a 9-inch rather than a 16-inch! M51's spiral arms flashed in and out. M82 didn't show the starburst detail I've seen other times in smaller telescopes. M108 and M102 were nice slivers of light.

I used the Sky Commander and it performed well, though it gradually got a bit "off". Objects would be outside of the field of view but they would be close. One oddity I noticed was that the Sky Commander software locates M101 and M102 in the same place but it will find M102 if you specify its NGC number. I know the "real identity" of M102 is a point of discussion and not settled; Sky Commander is obviously a believer that M102 is just a duplicate observation of M101 rather than a non-duplicate observation of NGC 5866.

The Rob Teeter structure was great as usual. Alignment of the finder and collimation were very close after I reassembled the telescope, enough so that I didn't bother re-collimating. Motions were smooth and got compliments from others who looked through my telescope. The dew was heavy enough that I could wipe my hand along the mirror box and produce a stream of water but the interior never dewed up and the heated secondary remained clear.

Other telescopes there included an 8-inch standard Newtonian commercial Dob and an 11-inch Starmaster. It was very clear to me that my OA-9.0 was better than the 8-inch standard Newtonian. I thought it gave as good or better views than the 11-inch, but even if I'm a biased observer, the comments of others who looked through my telescope makes me think it's close. The Starmaster was on an equatorial platform which made it more comfortable to use and let the owner use higher magnifications.

I was also trying out an adjustable observing chair. It made observing objects near the horizon much more comfortable but was less convenient

than a ladder for objects near the zenith because climbing up to or down from a seat took more time than taking a step up or down a ladder.

★ John Bishop

Dunbarton Public Library Sky Watch, 8 August

This event, which featured a bonfire and s'mores, was held to celebrate delivery of Dunbarton's library telescope. I gave an indoor presentation and afterwards we walked to the open field next to the library for the sky watch itself—attended by several NHAS members. We received this kind letter of thanks from Becky, Cassiopeia, and Jason Barolw-Dubrow:

"On behalf of the Dunbarton Public Library and community, thank you all for coming! The kids are still talking about it and we hope to have a sky watch maybe this winter so the younger crowd can see Orion etc... before they go to bed. But thank you for driving out and joining us. It was the first time many of the kids (and some adults) looked through a telescope, so that was very exciting. I personally hope it will inspire some of them to check out their new telescope and give it lots of exercise."

★ Paul Winalski

Deerfield Library Sky Watch, 10 August

I could blame it on the weatherman. I could blame it on the clear sky clock. But I will take the blame for the crummy weather that socked us in at Deerfield. My bad call. There was a nice big opening in the clouds as predicted by Clear Sky Chart but it passed us by to the West right at sunset, and after that not even the almost-full moon was visible. (That takes some serious cloud cover.) Yuck.

However, many thanks to the large group who came out and set up scopes—**Matt Amar, Gardner Gerry, John Bishop, Bob Veilleux, Al Navarro**, several former members who happened to

live in the area, and probably a few people I missed seeing because I was inside the Library.

We had about fifteen people for the indoor talk, including four kids who were good sports about participating in the demonstrations, but no matter how long I stretched things out the clouds just would not break.

The Deerfield Fire Chief was very kind to come by and extinguish all the lights on the outside of the firehouse (next door to the library). With those lights off, this was a DARK location, and will be very good if we can reschedule the outdoor observing part and get the firehouse dark again.

I am taking an online remedial course in Meteorology, so my future weather predictions will all be 100% reliable - honest!

★ Ted Blank

A cloudy night comment:

"I attended the Skywatch in Deerfield last evening and was sorry that weather conditions didn't permit a closer inspection of your members' telescopes and, of course, a view through them. The lecture and overall experience inspired me into look into becoming a member of NHAS."

Excellent job and thank you!

★ Bill Steele

Madison Old Home Week Sky Watch, 10 August

When **Ted Blank** finishes his course in Meteorology, he can tutor me... The Clear Sky Chart said clearing about 8 or 9 in Madison, and sure enough, it did! For about thirty minutes, while there were sprinkles being blown in from clouds off to the side.

Paul Winalski made the looonnnggg trip and was very good company whilst we huddled under the picnic tent as it rained. I might need to take a class in Marketing, too, as millions of people did not come out to join us in anticipation of the brief clearing.

I spent some time showing about ten people how to use their Library Scope, after licking the ketchup

from my fingers. (Good food was had, with ice cream, too.)

We have a pretty wonderful Club!

★ Marc Stowbridge

I left Merrimack for the two-hour drive to Madison under clear skies. Alas, the sky watch was not to be. Once I got north of Concord, the clouds gathered and became very mean-looking indeed. When I reached Moultonborough, I had to drive through a truly fierce thunderstorm—visibility was so bad that I had to slow to 5 mph. But then there was a break in the clouds, and a spectacular, intense double rainbow extending from horizon to horizon in front of me, lit by the Sun setting behind me. The clouds gathered again, and I was again pelted with rain by a fierce thunderstorm. But then it cleared again, and there was a *second* magnificent double rainbow!

It was obvious by now that there would be no chance of a sky watch, but since I'd come this far I figured I might as well drive the rest of the way to Madison. I arrived, under hopelessly overcast skies, just as the vintage cars were leaving. I stayed for a while to talk to **Marc Stowbridge**, who was there with the Madison library telescope.

Astronomy-wise, it was a futile journey, but the two best rainbows I've ever seen in my life made it worthwhile.

★ Paul Winalski

Boy Scout Camporee Sky Watch, Newington NH, 12 August

Rich DeMidio and I met **Ted Blank** for an early dinner at Panera in Portsmouth, then followed him to the sky watch location, which was only about ten minutes away. We arrived to find hundreds of scouts and leaders camped at the school, found our observing location, and started setting up. Other members present were Rags, Ken C., Don and Melinde and perhaps some others, forgive me if I have forgotten anyone! I used the Takahashi FSQ106 with extenderQ and found Saturn in the twilight. The view was

so popular I left it tracking until Saturn disappeared into the trees. After Saturn departed the sky I turned to Albireo and later ϵ Lyrae. I also had my 15x70 Skymaster binoculars on the JD oak parallelogram mount viewing the moon which was nearly full. We all had lines at the scopes for two full hours, in which I estimated at least 200 of the scouts there came by to observe with us.

★ Gardner Gerry



Rich DeMidio and Obby (Gardner Gerry photo)

We had a very nice night with several hundred scouts coming by for views in the scopes. Present were **Ken Charles, Gardner Gerry, Rich DeMidio, Dave "Rags" Gilmore, Don and Melinde Byrne, Mike O'Shaughnessy, Ted Blank**, and **Jim Moe** from Portsmouth. There were lines at every scope for most of the night, so thanks to everyone for coming out. The scouts hit their pillows around 10:30 and we began packing up around 11:00. The full moon was a bit of an annoyance, but several bright Perseids streaked across the sky, as if to tell the Moon that however brightly she shone, she could not extinguish Perseid meteors, at least not all of them. We tried to show everyone Saturn before it set, then lots of double stars, clusters, etc.

★ Ted Blank

I have been unable to participate in NHAS events for a long time, but everything aligned on Friday 8/12, so I attended the Scout Camporee in Newington organized by Ted Blank. It was a beautiful night and I was busy from dusk to when the scouts when to bed after 10 PM. It was cool, clear, and not many bugs but the ones did dare to bother us were quickly chased off by my

ThermaCELL mosquito repellent (those work great).

I estimate that we had 300 people (probably a conservative estimate) visit us. I had Obby and showed the scouts Saturn, Albireo, M57, NGC 457 (ET Cluster), and M13 even with a Full Moon. When looking at M57 (Ring Nebula), I particularly enjoyed explaining to the audience what a planetary nebula is and how it represents our Sun's ultimate demise. Several scouts also had fun with the ET cluster calling out various Asterisms, but no one said it was a lobster ☹ Many of them asked great questions in terms of my type of scope, how it works, and of course how much it cost. There were also several adults who kept me company with brisk conversation about many Astronomy topics. It was very intellectually challenging and stimulating.

After the scouts when to bed, several of us observed a bit more while chatting in general and even noticed a few Perseids while packing up. I looked at the double double in Lyra through Gardner's Tak and it was breathtaking. I cannot believe how sharp the image was. Absolutely incredible. I had also brought my 21mm Ethos (purchased back during the TeleVue anniversary sale) but never used it. It just did not seem right with a Full Moon for first light so I decided to save that for a special occasion at YFOS or some other event where everyone can enjoy.

Hoping to participate in more events moving forward. My thanks to Ted for organizing a wonderful event.

★ Rich DeMidio

NHAS July 2011 Business Meeting

The July business meeting was held at the St. Anselm College on 15 July 2011, our President, **John Bishop**, presiding.

President's Report

Our annual trip to Stellafane is coming up soon. **John Rose** will be the coordinator. **Joel Harris** will be the chef. We have volunteers to

bring the tent and other club items. Please tell John Rose if you plan to go, and keep him up to date on all the logistics.

The Sidewalk Astronomy event in Portsmouth on 8 July was successful. We set up at 7:30 or so. There were a lot of people expressing a lot of interest, although we could only show Saturn and the Moon.

Board of Directors

John Rose reports that the surplus eyepieces from the Library Telescope Program are for sale to members for \$10 apiece. Any that remain will be sold at Stellafane.

The Board has purchased a tripod and drives for the Lunt scope.

Joe Derek hasn't had a chance to inspect the YFOS buildings yet.

Steve Forbes claims that he gave a mower to the club. It's not clear if this is on our books.

Membership

Bill Steele reports that the next Astro course will be Astro 201: The Titan Mount, 29 July at YFOS. If there is a workshop or course you'd like us to present, let Bill know.

Total membership is now 148. New members: **Elizabeth Sanford** (Manchester), **Todd Witkum** (Manchester), **Kenneth McKenzie** (Eaton), **Chester Organ** (Freemont).

Webmaster

Matt Marulla reports that our move to cloud computing is working.

Be careful when posting events to the club calendar. The word "skywatch" triggers a skywatch notice on the main web page, even if the word only appears in a comment on the calendar entry for a business meeting.

Public Observing

No report.

Astrophotography

Gardner Gerry reports that there has been little activity due to the poor weather. But see the Pictures forum on the website for some recent member images.

Educational Outreach

Rich Schueller reports that we are looking to purchase an iron meteorite for use in outreach events.

The Library Telescope Program continues to astound. We need more foster parents for telescopes. A questionnaire was sent to libraries participating in the LTP. The responses have been very positive.

Oceanside Photo and Telescope in California is offering to supply the LTP with telescopes, eyepieces, and cleaning tools for 12-145scopes.

We want to make sure that we don't over-commit to this program. We have a core group of twenty people fostering scopes; we don't want more than three scopes per foster parent. We should start moving the fostering task over to libraries or high schools or scouting groups.

John Bishop suggested that we put together a course on fostering library scopes.

Marc Stowbridge reports that he has been in contact with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada in Calgary, who are modeling their LTP on ours. Lowbrow Astronomers in Ann Arbor Michigan have ordered a couple of scopes. Groups in Nevada, San Jose, California, Ohio, and Florida are setting up LTPs.

The scopes donated by OPT are expected in mid August. We will hold a "scope modification party" when they arrive.

Miscellaneous Business

We are all set for guest speakers for the remainder of this year. We still need to schedule speakers for 2012.

Gadget of the Month

Rich Schueller has access to Pelican-like equipment cases in three sizes. He is looking to bring several to Stellafane for sale at \$15-\$20, proceeds to go to the EOC fund.

Book of the Month

John Schonle presented The Backyard Astronomer's Guide by Dickinson and Dyer. This book is for people thinking about getting into astronomy, newbies, and those getting back into the hobby. It

explains what you need and what to avoid. This is the answer to "how do I get started."

Evening Presentation

Ted Blank presented "Resonate!", a guide on how to give an effective and entertaining public sky watch indoor presentation.

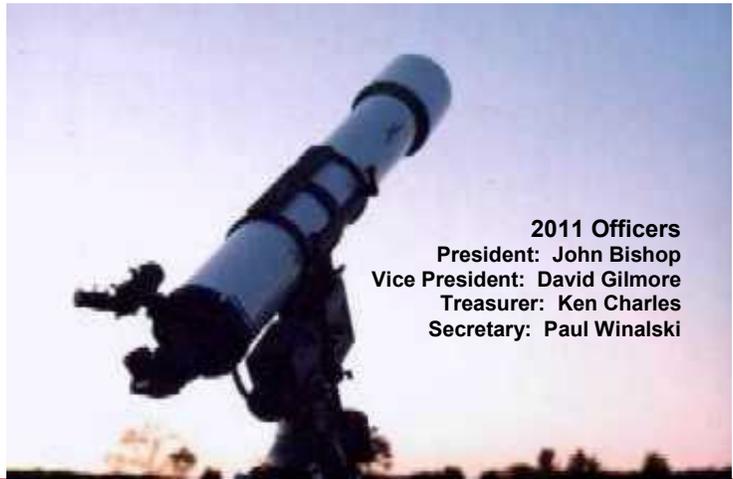
The Bottom Line

Starting Balance:	\$7939.24
Deposits/Credits:	
Membership:	60.00
Total :	60.00
Accounts/Paid:	
Rich Schueller (Lunt mount)	228.95
Rich Schueller (LX70 Vback)	32.00
United Services (porta-potty)	54.88
Marc Stowbridge (LTP)	890.08
Total:	1205.91
Net Account Balance:	\$6793.33
Petty cash drawer:	\$100.00
Cash Balance:	\$6893.33
EOC Share:	\$1673.93

Membership: 148

New Members:

Elizabeth Sanford, Manchester NH
 ★ Ken Charles
 NHAS Treasurer 2011



2011 Officers
President: John Bishop
Vice President: David Gilmore
Treasurer: Ken Charles
Secretary: Paul Winalski

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E-mail articles to the Editor.

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How to Join N.H.A.S.

Write to us:

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Send E-mail to:

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Use our web site:

<http://www.nhastro.com/>

This month's contributors:

John Bishop, Richard Byrd, John Rose, Rich Schueller, Larry Lopez, Andrew Jaffe, Ted Blank, Marc Stowbridge, Gardner Gerry, Bill Steele, Rich DeMidio, Ken Charles

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NHAS Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Coffee House Night	August 26	5:00 PM	YFOS
Astro 101: Intro to Astrophotography	August 26	7:30 PM	YFOS
Rey Center Sky Watch	August 27	8:30 PM	Curious George Cottage, Waterville Valley NH
Discovery Center Sky Watch	September 2	7:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Sidewalk Astronomy	September 3	7:00 PM	Market Square, Portsmouth NH
Educational Outreach Committee Meeting	September 8	6:30 PM	Manchester City Library, Manchester NH
NHAS Business Meeting	September 16	7:30 PM	St. Anselm College, Manchester NH
Runels Camp Sky Watch	September 16	7:30 PM	Camp Runels, Pelham NH
Library Telescope Modification Party	September 17	12:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Coffee House Night	September 23	5:00 PM	YFOS
Rey Center Sky Watch	September 24	8:00 PM	Curious George Cottage, Waterville Valley NH
Astro 101: Deep Sky Objects	September 30	7:30 PM	YFOS