

Stellafane

Library Telescope Program in London, England

While this contains much that is apocryphal, or at least wildly inaccurate, it's still quite nice.

We have done good!

Tomorrow, the world!

Thank you all for your continued support.

"Dear Marc,

"I just wanted to update you on our progress with this project at Westminster Reference Library and thank you once again for all your support.

"We started lending out telescopes in April and it's generated a lot of interest. We have also had three workshops on using telescopes run by Nicholas Joannou from the Royal Astronomical Society. They have all been fully booked.

"We have arranged an Astronomy Month in September to publicly launch the project with a view to holding regular astronomy events in the library from then on. I am pasting details of the Astronomy Month programme below.

"The Project has also attracted quite a bit of press attention. I am attaching a cutting from Westminster Extra and a link to some other online articles.

<https://londonist.com/london/books-and-poetry/lendmeyourtelescope>

<https://www.getwestlondon.co.uk/news/west-london-news/call-stargazers-westminster-reference-library-14830764>

"We have been contacted by journalists from several publications including Astronomy Now so there are more articles pending.

"We also have details of the project on our website and we have made a short leaflet which is attached.

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/borrow-telescope>

"Thank you again for everything you have done to inspire and support us in this project, none of this would have happened without you."

* Marc Stowbridge

Outing Club Sky Watch, New London NH, August 4

The event took place as scheduled. **Herb Bubert, Joe Derek, Steve Forbes, Gardner Gerry, and Paul Winalski** were there from NHAS with scopes. The site has excellent horizon views in all directions and is free from artificial lighting, except for a couple of lights from the church across the street and lights from passing cars. Setting up further back in the field would help. New London's skies are very dark. Early cloudiness cleared out, but it was a very damp night. We had 53 people attending. I showed Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Albireo, 61 Cygni, M27, M11, M13, M17, NGC 7662, and NGC 457.

We received this letter of thanks from Fred Sladen, the event's organizer:

"On behalf of the Outing Club and Nights Hill Nature Park, I want to thank you and your fellow members

for a fantastic night. It was perfect timing for the clearing of the skies, and for the rest of the night, wonderful sky. I have received a lot of feed-back from folks who attended, and all say it was a very special experience and they all learned so much they did not know about the universe. Your special expertise and willingness to share your knowledge is commendable and a special gift that you provide to the general public."

* Paul Winalski

Madison Old Home Week Sky Watch, August 7

As usual, the turn out was relatively small, but very enthusiastic. Five or six families came with kids five-ish to teens. We looked at three planets, some globular clusters, a galaxy or two and other bright things. The sky was very dark and weather was warm and breezy. It was a nice night with people who are becoming old friends.

* Marc Stowbridge

Derry Public Library Sky Watch, August 8 and 9

This event was held on consecutive nights. About twenty people attended **Steve Rand's** talk on the 8th.

The sky watch on the 9th took place under clear but damp skies. **Gardner Gerry** and **Paul Winalski** were there with scopes. About fifteen people attended. We mainly viewed the planets Jupiter and Saturn, but we also saw a very nice fireball.

* Paul Winalski

Stellafane 2018, August 9-12

Unfortunately the weather for this year's convention was not good. While getting ready to leave for the convention Saturday morning I listened to the National Weather Service radio. The 4:00 AM report from around New England was fair in Burlington VT, cloudy everywhere else and rain in New York City. When I left at quarter to five there was some mist on the windshield. Drove through intermittent rain showers some heavy most of the way there. In Walpole NH, though, the clouds were looking much lighter to the north and saw some breaks in the clouds.



Joe Derek's Stellafane setup. (Joel Harris photo)

When I checked in at the registration gate I asked if the swap tables were in the usual location and was told they were. If the weather was bad or would be soon they would have been set up in the Flanders Pavilion. While heading to the swap tables it had obviously rained earlier. Fortunately the rain held off for rest of the morning. Good sized swap meet with all the regular tables full and a number of sellers setting up on tarps on the ground or their own tables. It being my twenty-seventh trip I am getting better at keeping the "at that price buy it just in case" under control. I am afraid I will never get that totally under control! I did buy several eyepieces, one for another member who had not gone; a counterweight with a G5 mount attached that needs repair, a 90 mm F11 Meade refractor; a set of the Webb Society Observing Guides; and a few other items.



Joel Harris relaxes before the NHAS cookout. (Larry Lopez photo)



Mike Townsend relaxes. (Larry Lopez photo)

Late morning, with the swap tables clearing out, I headed off to the club barbecue. Unfortunately no one was able to bring the club canopy. Joel Harris brought a ten foot pop-up canopy. With only a dozen members (about half the normal number) showing up for lunch it was adequate. The Springfield Telescope Makers had been doing some brush and tree clearing to the northeast of where NHAS sets up. There was a complaint about losing shade, but it will be nice on a clear night for observing in that direction.



It's dog eat dog at Stellafane. (Larry Lopez photo)

After lunch I caught the bus to the Pink Clubhouse. Not many scopes set up. It started to rain shortly after I got there and things cleared out pretty quickly. I headed back to the main field. I stopped and bought a new sweatshirt and then did the one thing a rather regret--I bought some raffle tickets. I headed over to the Flanders Pavilion and listened to the last talks., then back to the club site

and hung around there for a while. I did not win anything so headed home. I should have skipped the tickets and left several hours earlier. It was an extra long ride home as I got stuck several times behind vehicles doing anywhere from five to twenty miles an hour under the speed limit.

Talking to people there had been some decent observing Thursday and Friday evenings. All in all I still had a good time and now it is the long wait till Stellafane 2019.

* John Rose

Hooksett Public Library Sky Watch, August 14

The event took place as scheduled under damp and hazy skies. Paul Winalski gave the indoor presentation. Unfortunately only a few people showed up. Gardner Gerry and I were there with scopes. Jupiter put on a real show--simultaneously we had Io transiting and shadow transits from Io and Callisto. We got excellent views of a waxing crescent Moon and of Venus and Saturn. Because of the light pollution from the Moon and from Manchester, I concentrated on double stars (61 Cygni, which was in the indoor presentation, Albireo, Mizar). But I also found carbon star V Aquilae, M11, M3, and NGC 457.

* Paul Winalski

Joppa Hill Observing, August 24

With the weekend weather looking promising, I had posted a notice on the club chat list that I and another member were planning on going to the parking lot at Joppa Hill. This is land owned by Bedford NH Parks and Recreation, located on Joppa Hill Road not too far from Route 101. Insects are not too bad there and it has decent horizons. Except for traffic there is minimal direct light pollution.

While the weather reports from the National Weather Service and the Clear Sky Chart looked good, there was some unexpected haze building up. This was apparently from forest

fire smoke from the west coast and not accounted for in the weather reports I was watching. This significantly reduced transparency to not much more than the Moon, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Venus and a few of the brightest stars. At times the atmosphere was very steady and Saturn was superb.

I counted five telescopes setup and I believe eight club members. Easy to count the telescopes. They are fixed while people tend to come and go. The last of us left about quarter past eleven. Poor transparency was disappointing but it was still an enjoyable evening for all.

✧ John Rose

NHAS in the News

The August 13 issue of *The Laker* had an article about the series of solar observing sessions that **Marc Stowbridge** and **Alvin See** have been holding at Castle in the Clouds each Monday in July and August.

As mentioned earlier, the article on library telescopes in the August 3 2018 edition of the *Westminster Extra* in London, England credits Marc Stowbridge and NHAS as the inspirations for Westminster’s LTP.

✧ Paul Winalski

Cancelled Sky Watch Events

The evening sky watch at Castle in the Clouds was clouded out.

Sky watches for Brookline Public Library, the New Boston Farmer’s Market, and the Taylor Community were rained out.

✧ Paul Winalski

Carbon Star of the Month

WZ Cassiopeiae is a red giant pulsating semi-regular variable at RA 00^h01^m16^s, DEC 60°21'19". It is located a couple of degrees to the North of β Cassiopeiae.

Its spectral class is C-N7. It also exhibits an unusually strong lithium line at 6707 Å. The visual magnitude varies between 6.3 and 8.8 in a semi-regular fashion due to pulsations with periods of 186 and 366 days. Currently it is magnitude

7.5 and dimming. Surface temperature is about 3095°K. At a distance of about 1590 light years, the star’s diameter is 360 times that of the Sun and it shines 12,400 times brighter.

WZ Cas has an optical companion—HD 224869, an A0 main-sequence star. Together they form the wide (58 arc-seconds) double OΣΣ 254. Although the companion is a white star similar to Vega, its close proximity to the deeply red carbon star makes it appear blue. The color contrast of OΣΣ 254 puts Albireo to shame.

✧ Paul Winalski

NHAS August 2018 Business Meeting

The August business meeting was held on August 10 at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, our President, **Marc Stowbridge**, presiding.

YFOS

We have been offered the use of an excavator to deal with the rock problem. **Larry Lopez** is scheduling a work session.

Public Observing

NHAS had a large number of public observing events on Stellafane weekend. Rain ended up cancelling them all.

EOC/LTP

There are no library telescope builds scheduled.

NHAS donated two telescopes to a high school Astronomy club.

Evening Presentation

The Discovery Center gave us their Planetarium presentation on NASA missions.

The Bottom Line

Income and expense report for the month of July 2018:

Income:	
Membership:	130.00
General Fund Donations:	1.00
EOC Donations:	9.00
NHAS Logo Wear Sales:	40.00
Bank interest:	Pending

Total Income: 180.00

Expenses:

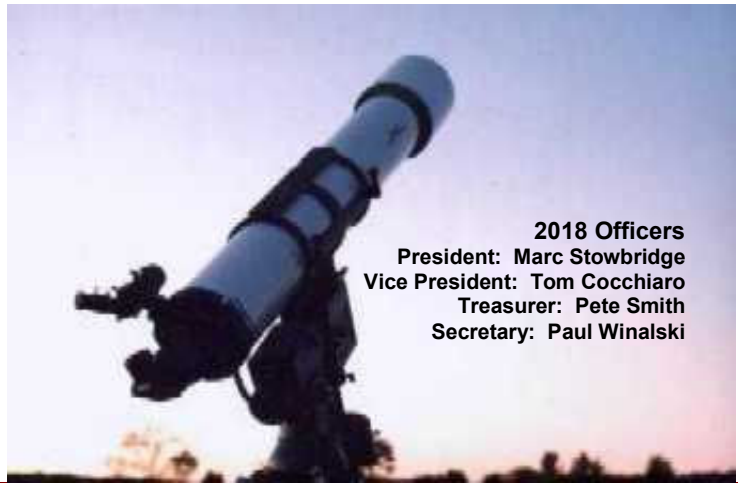
NEFAF Contribution:	500.00
PayPal Fees:	7.27
Website:	58.46
YFOS tables/supplies:	112.96
Total Expenses:	678.69

Net Income: 498.69

Cash Balance: \$14651.30

✧ Pete Smith

NHAS Treasurer 2018



2018 Officers
President: Marc Stowbridge
Vice President: Tom Cocchiaro
Treasurer: Pete Smith
Secretary: Paul Winalski

DEADLINE September 2018 Issue: 5 October 2018

E-mail articles to the Editor.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS – Notify the Treasurer of changes to postal or e-mail address.

How to Join N.H.A.S.

Write to us:

NHAS
 P.O. Box 5823
 Manchester, NH 03108-5823
 Attn: Treasurer

Send E-mail to:

info@nhastro.com

Use our web site:

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

This month's contributors:

Joel Harris, Larry Lopez, John Rose, Pete Smith, Marc Stowbridge, Paul Winalski

New Hampshire Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 5823
Manchester, NH 03108-5823



NHAS Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
NHTI Astronomy Class Sky Watch	September 4	8:00 PM	New Hampshire Technical Institute, Concord NH
Acadia Night Sky Festival	September 5-9		Bar Harbor ME
Discovery Center Sky Watch	September 7	7:00 PM	McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, Concord NH
Coffee House Night	September 8	5:00 PM	YFOS
Rey Center Sky Watch	September 8	8:30 PM	Curious George Cottage, Waterville Valley NH
GSAMA Aviation Day	September 9	9:00 AM	Concord Municipal Airport, Concord NH
New England Fall Astronomy Festival	Sept. 14-15		UNH Observatory, Durham NH
NHAS Monthly Meeting	September 14	7:30 PM	UNH Observatory, Durham NH
Sidewalk Astronomy	September 15	6:00 PM	Market Square, Portsmouth NH
Smyth Public Library Sky Watch	September 17	6:00 PM	Smyth Public Library, Candia NH
Kingston Community Library Sky Watch	September 18	6:30 PM	Kingston Community Library, Kingston NH
Plaistow Public Library Sky Watch	September 19	6:30 PM	Plaistow Public Library, Plaistow NH
Taylor Community Sky Watch	September 25	7:30 PM	Taylor Community, Laconia NH
Hill Library Sky Watch	September 26	6:30 PM	Hill Library, Strafford NH

