

# OBSERVATIONS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

★ President: Edwin Lurcott  
★ Treasurer: Steven Lurcott

**JULY 1994**  
(VOLUME 2, NO.7)

★ Vice President: Mike Tucker  
★ Secretary: Nancy Armstrong

## JULY MEETING OF CCAS

The July meeting of CCAS will be held on Saturday, July 16, 1994, at 8:00 PM at the headquarters of the Brandywine Valley Association (BVA). This is the second of the three summer observing sessions being held jointly between the CCAS and BVA. Members and friends of both organizations are invited. There will be a brief business meeting before we go to the field for observing. CCAS members are encouraged to bring their telescopes so there will be enough available for all to observe. Those bringing 'scopes might come early to set them up in the daylight. Electricity may be available. If you are new to this activity, there will always be members willing to assist you in setting up and observing with your 'scope. Lawn chairs, binoculars, and bug repellent might be good items to bring.

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## JAMES MULLANEY SPEAKS TO CCAS & BVA AT THE JUNE 16 MEETING

While the skies did not cooperate with us at the June 16th meeting of the CCAS and BVA, we were treated to a very informative and inspiring presentation by James Mullaney, past curator of the Buhl Planetarium in Pittsburgh and author of the book, The Finest Deep-sky Objects. He explained that any objects outside the solar system can be considered a deep-sky object. This description would include all of the stars, double, variables and exotic as well as the non-stellar objects, nebulae, clusters, galaxies and quasars. He said when you look through a telescope, the photons that left the object many years ago enter your eye and become a part of you. You, therefore, have part of the universe within you and you become more keenly aware of your place in time and space. The more people that have this experience the better off the world will be.

Mr. Mullaney made references to his many articles published in Sky & Telescope magazine. They were: "Deep-sky Objects that Do Something" (November, 1990), "Exploring the Herschel Catalogue" (September, 1992), "The Delights of Observing Double Stars" (March, 1993) and most recently "Making the Photon Connection" (June, 1994).

The society was indeed privileged to hear Mr. Mullaney's presentation and wishes to thank him for his willingness to give it to our young society.

The meeting was well attended by members and friends of both the BVA and CCAS

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## COMET - JUPITER CRASH UPDATE

According to Sky & Telescope, J.P.L. has updated the predicted times of impact of the Comet Shoemaker-Levy fragments striking the cloud tops of Jupiter. There now appears to be 3 impacts which may be at times when Jupiter is visible from Eastern U.S. Fragment B will hit about 11:07 PM EDT, July 16th, fragment F at 8:40 PM EDT, July 17th and fragment U at 8:25 PM EDT, July 21st. These times are approximate and subject to later revision. You may obtain the latest revisions by calling Sky & Telescope's Skyline at 617-497-4198. The impacts themselves will not be visible but Jupiter's rotation will bring the impact point into view in an hour or two. The impact of fragment B will occur just about the time Jupiter sets and we may be too far east to see any affect of that impact.

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## TIM RYAN RESIGNS AS EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF "OBSERVATION"

The executive committee of CCAS reluctantly accepted the resignation of Tim Ryan as editor and publisher of the CCAS newsletter "Observations." Tim volunteered those duties from the very beginning

of CCAS in August 1993 and has edited , published and mailed "Observations" each month until May of 1994. Other time consuming obligations (he's writing a technical book) required him to give up the CCAS duties. Tim also printed 200 copies of the pamphlet describing CCAS which was distributed at the Astronomy Day display table in Exton Square Mall last April 16th.

The executive committee wishes to thank Tim on behalf of the entire society for the splendid job he has done for us.

We wish him well in his new writing efforts and we hope he will be able to join us again soon.

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### NANCY ARMSTRONG TO PUBLISH FUTURE ISSUES OF "OBSERVATIONS"

Our secretary, Nancy Armstrong had agreed to use her computer to edit and publish our monthly newsletter, "Observation." The June issue was done by her husband ,Dave for which we thank him very much. Nancy will be accepting contributions of articles by members of the society for future issues. Members are encouraged to submit write-ups of their favorite topics, experiences, or observation. They may be hand written or typed. Let us hear from you!

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### IT'S MILLER CLUSTER TIME

In the early evening skies of July and August , there are more than two dozen globular clusters which can be observed. They vary from 5.1 (naked eye) to 9.4 magnitude and present a challenge to observers using any sized telescope.

In the 1920's, Harlow Shapely at Harvard Observatory, was able to determine the distances to many of these clusters. He found that they were distributed in the form of a halo around the Milky Way galaxy. This fact determined the size of our galaxy and the sun's position in it.

Attached is a list of 27 globular clusters with their right ascension, declination and magnitudes. See how many you can find.

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### AUGUST MEETING OF CCAS

The August meeting of CCAS will be held on Friday the 12th at 8:00PM at the headquarters of the Brandywine Valley Association, 1760 Unionville-

Wawaset Road (Rte. 842), 6 miles west of West Chester, PA.

The topic for the evening will be the observation of the Perseid meteor shower that is scheduled to be at maximum on that night. Members and friends are invited to observe from a field adjacent to the headquarters building. Telescopes are not needed for this activity, but some may wish to observe other objects and therefore members are encouraged to bring 'scopes.

This will be the last of the summer observing sessions. Beginning with the September meeting, the society will resume its regular 7:30PM, second Tuesday of each month schedule. Location will be in the planetarium (room 186) Schmucker Science Center of West Chester University.

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### NEW CCAS MEMBERS WELCOMED

Four new members signed up to join CCAS at the June 16th meeting. We welcome them into the society. They are:

Bob Hartje  
Jammie Hassert  
Mathew Koon  
Richard Koon

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### CCAS MEMBERSHIP GROWS TO 27

Membership List as of July 1, 1994

Nancy Armstrong	George Reed
Debbie Athens	Tim Ryan
Tom Egan	Connie Shapiro
Hugh Harber	Chuck Shorten
Bob Hartje	Mathew Shorten
Jammie Hassert	Holly Silverthorne
Bill Hollenshead	Francis Spickler
Mathew Koon	John Stolar
Richard Koon	John Stulak
Peter LaFrance	Rodger Taylor
Edwin Lurcott	Mike Tucker
Steven Lurcott	Emil Volchech, Jr.
Sandy Maxwell	Rolf Zimmer
Gary Norton	

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### CCAS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For further information on membership or society activities you may call Edwin Lurcott (610) 436-0387.

# GLOBULAR CLUSTERS OBSERVABLE ON JULY OR AUGUST EVENINGS

MESSIER NUMBER	CONSTEL- LATION	(2000) RIGHT ASCENSION	(2000) DEC- LINATION	MAG- NITUDE
M 68	HYDRA	12 <sup>h</sup> 40 <sup>m</sup>	-26° 45'	8.2
M 53	COMA BERN.	13 13	+18 10	7.7
M 3	CANES VEN.	13 42	+28 23	6.4
M 5	SERPENS	15 18	+2 05	5.8
M 80	SCORPIUS	16 17	-22 59	7.2
M 4	SCORPIUS	16 24	-26 32	5.9
M 107	OPHIUCHUS	16 33	-13 03	8.1
M 13	HERCULES	16 42	+36 28	5.9
M 12	OPHIUCHUS	16 47	-1 57	6.6
M 10	OPHIUCHUS	16 57	-4 06	6.6
M 62	OPHIUCHUS	17 01	-30 07	6.6
M 19	OPHIUCHUS	17 03	-26 16	7.2
M 92	HERCULES	17 17	+43 03	6.5
M 9	OPHIUCHUS	17 19	-18 31	7.9
M 14	OPHIUCHUS	17 38	-3 15	7.6
M 28	SAGITTARIUS	18 25	-24 52	6.9
M 69	SAGITTARIUS	18 31	-31 21	7.7
M 22	SAGITTARIUS	18 36	-23 54	5.1
M 70	SAGITTARIUS	18 43	-32 18	8.1
M 54	SAGITTARIUS	18 55	-30 29	7.7
M 56	LYRA	19 17	+30 11	8.2
M 55	SAGITTARIUS	19 40	-30 58	7.0
M 71	SAGITTA	19 54	+18 47	8.3
M 75	SAGITTARIUS	20 06	-21 55	8.6
M 72	AQUARIUS	20 54	-11 32	9.4
M 15	PEGASUS	21 30	+12 10	6.4
M 2	AQUARIUS	21 34	-0 49	6.5

THIS LIST WAS TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE JULY, 1994,  
ISSUE OF "OBSERVATIONS", NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.