



BACK BAY observer

The Official Newsletter of the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers
P.O. Box 9877, Virginia Beach, VA 23450-9877

EPHEMERALS may 2012

05/03, 7:00 pm
Boardwalk Astronomy
Near 24th St Stage
VA Beach Oceanfront

05/03, 7:30 pm
BBAA Monthly Meeting
TCC VA Beach
Building J, Room JC-12

05/19
Nightwatch
Chippokes State Park
Surry, VA

05/25, 7:00 pm
Night Hike
Northwest River Park

05/25, 8:30 pm
Garden Stars
Norfolk Botanical Gardens



Looking Up!

Greetings Skywatchers! I had the privilege of getting out to an outreach event last week. Many of you know that Garden Stars was how I got my start with the BBAA, and it's still one of my favorites to return to. I don't know if it's the combination of horticulture and astronomy (two of my favorite hobbies) or the wide age range it appeals to, but I do know that I will jump at every chance that I have to go to Garden Stars.

One of the projects, so to speak, that we're working on is restoring Garden Stars to its former glory. We are working with the Norfolk Botanical Gardens to make it more accessible, more affordable, and more promoted than it has been in years past. But for now, the reason I want to go to every Garden Stars is because there are so few of them. Rarity makes something more precious to us, and it is no different in this case. Just like everyone is clamoring to see the Venus transit, simply because there won't be another in our lifetime, so I want to contribute to an event that gave so much to me. That is the main reason that I want to bring Garden Stars back to the forefront of our events list; it reaches out to another whole group of people. And I don't want anyone, young or old, denied the chance of sparking what may become a lifelong interest.

Enjoy and treasure the events that mean something to you, and give back as much as possible.

Courtney Flonta, President

Editor's Note: It was a Garden Stars event that sparked Courtney's love of astronomy. She joined BBAA at age 13, became club President as a high school senior and plans to major in physics and astronomy in college.

CONTENTS

Ephemerals	1
Looking Up	1
NASA Space Place	2
Mt. Trashmore Report	3
Meeting Minutes	4
Tribute to Ted Forte	6-9
Member News	9
Calendar	10

NASA Helps Europe Study a Comet—Up Close and Personal

By Dr. Tony Phillips

Europe's Rosetta spacecraft is on its way to intercept comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. Comets have been intercepted before, but this mission is different. Rosetta aims to make history by landing a probe on the comet's surface while the mother ship orbits overhead.

"Rosetta is the European equivalent of a NASA flagship mission," explains Claudia Alexander, project scientist for the U.S. Rosetta Project at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "It will conduct the most comprehensive study of a comet ever performed."

Rosetta's payload contains 21 instruments (11 on the orbiter, 10 on the lander) designed to study almost every aspect of the comet's chemistry, structure, and dynamics.

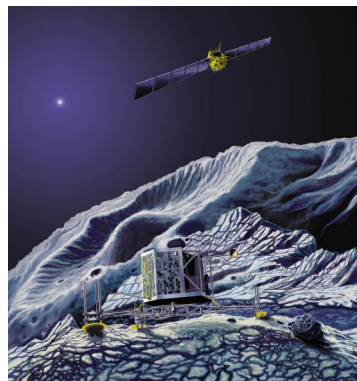
The main event of the mission will likely be the landing. The 100-kg lander, which looks a bit like a cross between NASA's old Viking Mars landers and a modern microsatellite, will spend two weeks fastened to the comet's icy surface. The European-built probe will collect samples for analysis by onboard microscopes and take stunning panoramic images from ground level.

"First the lander will study the surface from close range to establish a baseline before the comet becomes active," explains Alexander. "Then the orbiter will investigate the flow of gas and dust around the comet's active, venting nucleus."

Rosetta's sensors will perform the experiments that reveal how the chemicals present interact with one another and with the solar wind. Alice

and MIRO detect uncharged atoms and molecules, while IES detects the ions and electrons as the solar wind buffets the nucleus.

One problem that often vexes astronomers when they try to study comets is visibility. It's hard to see through the dusty veil of gas billowing away from the heated nucleus. The microwaves MIRO detects can penetrate the dust, so MIRO can see and measure its target molecules even when other instruments can't.



Rosetta's lander Philae will eject from the spacecraft, touch down on the comet's nucleus, and immediately fire a harpoon into the surface to anchor itself so it won't drift off in the weak gravity.

MIRO is one of several experiments focused on the comet's structural properties. It will determine the comet's dielectric constant, emissivity, and thermal conductivity to determine whether it is made of a powdery loose material, has a detectable layer of loose material, or is hard as rock.

"We want to find out whether comets have retained material from when the solar system formed," says Alexander. "If the ancient materials are still there, we can get an idea of what conditions were like at the dawn of the solar system."

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Back Bay Amateur Astronomer's
Observer

The BBAA Observer is published monthly; the monochrome version is mailed to members who do not have internet access. Members who do have Internet access can acquire the full color version on the Internet at <http://www.backbayastro.org/newslettersnewsletter.shtml>

Please submit articles and items of interest no later than the 15th of the month for the next month's edition. Please submit all items to: paultar@gmail.com or BBAA Observer, P.O. Box 9877, Virginia Beach, VA 23450-9877

President

Courtney Flonta
757-553-4418
astrogirl12@yahoo.com

Vice President

Mark Gerlach
757-434-4220
mgerlach@verizon.net

Treasurer

Bernie Strohmeier
757-630-0848
bdsjr@cox.net

Secretary

Kevin Swann
757-424-6242
kjswann@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Nick Anderson
nranderson.deepskyobserver@gmail.com

ALCOR

Bill McLean
preciousmyprecious@yahoo.com

Librarian

Bill Newman
billn59@verizon.net

RRRT Coordinator

Lawrence "Bird" Taylor
bird-taylor@cox.net
Kevin Weiner
kevin.weiner@cox.net

Scholarship Coordinator

Ben Loyola
benito@loyola.com

Newsletter Editor

Paul Tartabini
bbaa.newsletter@gmail.com

BBAA Meetings

The BBAA meet the first Thursday of every month except for July. While school is in session, we meet at the VA Beach TCC Campus. The May meeting will be held at TCC in Virginia Beach, Building J, Rm JC-12 at 7:30 pm. Directions available at www.backbayastro.org.

BBAA Internet Links

BBAA Website
www.backbayastro.org

Yahoo! Groups
tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/backbayastro

BBAA Observer Newsletter
www.backbayastro.org/observer/newsletter.shtml

Mt. Trashmore Star Party Observing Report

By George Reynolds

Wow! We had a very successful Mount Trashmore Star Party last night, Friday April 6. Though chilly, the weather for this one was the best we've had for this event for several years. Not a cloud in the sky! The "official" count for people coming through the gate was 845 -- and according to my unofficial count, at least half of those folks looked through my little telescope!

At the start of the event there were a dozen telescopes set up by astronomers on the southeast side of Mt. Trashmore, and by

the end of the night there were at least fifteen scopes there, not counting the ones brought by some of the visitors themselves. One man brought his own Galileoscope and a hand-held homemade scope.

While the sun was still up, several astronomers had solar-filtered telescopes and coronascopes aimed at "Old Sol" for early visitors to see sunspots and solar prominences.

Before the sun even went down, Jim

Continued on page 5

BBAA Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2012

The April, 2012 meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm in classroom JC-12 at TCC by Vice President Mark Gerlach. Those in attendance were Kenny Broun, Tom Flatley, James Friesen, Floyd Friesen, Mark Gerlach, Ben Loyola, Matt McLaughlin, Bill Mclean, George Reynolds, Bernie Strohmeyer and Kevin Swann.

The delayed start was due to a discussion of skyatnightmagazine.com's crossword puzzle preceding the meeting.

Treasurer's report: \$2543.23 general fund, \$2719.92 scholarship fund, \$5263.15 total.

Secretary's report: The reading of March's minutes was waived, as they are posted on the BBAA web site.

- Paul Tartabini is the new newsletter editor.
- Nick Anderson is the new Webmaster.

Visitors & Guests: Visitors Floyd Friesen (retired Navy pilot) & Jim Friesen (LAN installer). Attended Garden Stars event.

Schedule:

- **April 6 Fri.**, Mt. Trashmore Star Party
- **April 14 Sat.**, Yuri's Night @ Virginia Air & Space Center, Hampton - Honoring 1961 first space flight and 1981 first space shuttle flight. There will be a costume contest & any astronomy rep with a scope gets in free. Setup from 5 to 6pm on the 3rd floor observing deck. Alcohol & hors d'oeuvres will be available.
- **April 13 Fri.**, Skywatch @ Northwest River State Park
- **April 17 Tue.**, Girl Scouts @ Plaza Middle School Planetarium.
- **April 21 Sat.**, Nightwatch @ Chippoke.
- **April 27 Fri.**, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens.
- **April 28 Sat.**, Astronomy Day @ VA Beach Central Library. Setup before 10:00am
- **May 1 Tue.**, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk.
- **May 3 Thu.**, monthly meeting @ TCC.
- **May 11, 12 & 13**, East Coast Star Party @ Hampton Lodge Campground, Coinjock, NC.
- **May 11 Fri.**, Skywatch – cancelled due to East Coast Star Party
- **May 19 Sat.**, Nightwatch @ Chippokes
- **May 25 Fri.**, Night Hike @ NW River State Park
- **May 30 Wed.**, Garden Stars @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens

- **June 5 Tue.**, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk
- **June 5 Tue.**, Venus Sun Transit 5:03pm until Sunset. Will not happen again until 12/11/2117! TCC scope will be operational for this event.
- **July 3 Tue.**, Boardwalk Astronomy @ VA Beach boardwalk
- There is a 4 day astronomy league convention in Chicago that Tom Flatley may be able to attend 1 day

Old Business:

- Mt Trashmore star party April 6. Parking near the scopes is good & the golf card can help you bring a scope if you're late. Scopes should arrive between 2:30-6:30pm. The event lasts from dark (7:51pm) until 11pm. A solar scope will be available after 3pm.

New Business:

- Chippokes POC Jennica Walter would like a presentation this summer at the conference shelter (near the mansion) with electric & seating with possible observations (weather permitting.) She asked about the etiquette required. There have cabins & campers are present Friday & Saturday. Friday already has a program & Saturday they have canoeing from 6-9pm. It is 1.5 hr drive and 2 or 3 people usually show up for the Nightwatch event. Proposed primary date 5/26 with alternate 6/30.
- Princess Anne Library, Redmill Commons (near Nemo Recreation Center) also requests a presentation along the lines of the possible Chippokes one. The hours are Monday thru Thursday until 7pm. Best viewing and therefore proposed dates would be June 26-28, July 24-26 & August 22-23, 27-28.
- The newsletter will be emailed to all members once completed.
- People have asked "what are the benefits of joining BBAA?" We need to put this information out in addition to what our dues money pays for. Benefits are clearly spelled out on our brochure. Dues pay for: Reflector newsletter quarterly subscription, Liability insurance, Astronomical league dues, Dark Sky Association membership, permits, picnic food, printing brochures/hand-outs.
- Ted Forte asked in email if we need a public affairs officer (PAO). Jim Tallman & Dale Carey were interested. This discussion was tabled until next meeting due to low attendance.
- Ben Loyola asked about having some type of continuity of officer's list when the position changes hands. For eg, Matt McLaughlin stated he sent out welcome letters to new members. Kenny Broun made the 1st motion to start a list of monthly duties for each position. George Reynolds seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Continued on page 5

Meeting Minutes, continued from page 4

- Ben Loyola also mentioned that small & large organizations have paid secretary positions. It would be for approximately 5 hrs/month at an estimated cost of \$50. They would also go through the calendar & remind us of approaching events.
- Ben Loyola also asked if we should increase our advertising of events. The Vice President position is our outreach coordinator.

NOTE: do not to miss the Venus-sun transit June 5. It will not happen again until 12/11/2117!

Observers Report:

Cape Henry Collegiate event - Mark Gerlach, Chuck Jagow, Zachery Colvin, Cheryl Covin, Amber Colvin, and George Reynolds were there. Although it rained outside, we had a static display indoors and two display tables with free handouts.

Deep Creek Elementary event – Jim Tallman, Courtney Flonta & Mark Gerlach attended. It was a good night. Venus & Jupiter were observed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Mt. Trashmore Report, continued from page 3

Tallman located Venus in the daytime sky with his goto Celestron (a beautiful rig), which gave me the idea to do the same. Noticing the angle and the direction of Jim's scope, I crossed the field to my little "grab'n go" 80-mm refractor, aimed the tube in the general direction, then panned around the sky until I found Venus (I could not see it naked-eye). Success in just a few seconds! I kept my scope trained on the waning crescent of Venus for several hours, amazing people who didn't know that Venus had phases, like the Moon. Dale Carey nearby had his 8-in Celestron SCT on Venus also, so I then went to Jupiter, showing visitors the largest planet and at least three of its moons. I had to move the scope twice to keep Jupiter out of the trees, but it finally disappeared below the horizon about 9:30 pm, so I went back to Venus for a while. Later, Dale aimed his scope at the Great Orion Nebula, and had a beautiful clear view of the Trapezium.

The line at my scope was steady for hours, but I finally got a little break about 10:15 as it thinned out. I then aimed my little Orion ShortTube 80 rich field refractor straight up at the zenith to get Mars in the eyepiece. The next few groups of onlookers were treated to a view of the Red Planet, glowing warmly from above. About 10:40 pm no one else seemed to be coming. Dale and I packed up our scopes, and I took a walk down the line to visit the other astronomers and look through their equipment. I saw a lovely view of Saturn

in Jim Tallman's scope, bright orange Mars in Ted's ("Georgie's") 18-inch Obsession, and Polaris in Chuck Jagow's tricked-out 12-inch Dob, tied into his iPad, which was attached on the telescope tube. Bill McLean had the



Ted Forte shares the wonder of Mars with a youngster at the Mt. Trashmore Star Party in April.

Moon in his little scope, and Mark Gerlach's 10-inch Orion IntelliScope was aimed at Mizar and Alcor in Ursa Major. I somehow missed looking through Garry Mitchell's big 12-inch LX-200. Kent Blackwell was there with his 80-mm refractor and Chuck Dibbs had his 8-inch Orion Skyquest Classic Dob there. Chuck also projected some interesting videos on the side of a big white truck across the road from the scopes.

Compared to the last two cloud-wracked Mt. Trashmore Star Parties, last night's event was tremendous, the "best we've ever seen."

BBAA Says Goodbye to Ted Forte

Legendary member follows his astronomy dream to the dark skies of Arizona

This month *The Observer* is pleased to include a special tribute section to BBAA's "super member" Ted Forte who will be leaving for Arizona at the end of May to pursue his love of astronomy in the pristine skies of the American Southwest. Ted's extensive service to BBAA and Hampton Roads over the last 20 years has earned our gratitude, respect and admiration.

The following pages offer parting thoughts from Ted, warm reminiscences by close friends, and pictures of Ted in action, as teacher, friend, sharer of the heavens and amateur astronomer extraordinaire. Enjoy.

Thanks for the Memories

By Ted Forte

As I prepare to leave Virginia for darker skies, Paul has graciously offered me a bit of space to reminisce. Our club and its members have been a major part of my life for almost two decades and I am happy to say a few words about that.

I joined BBAA in August of 1995. What I remember most about joining the club is that I was very apprehensive about it. While I had been observing for about ten years, I was not a very active or experienced observer and I wondered how I would be received. But when I showed up at Northwest River Park with my Celestron 8-inch SCT, and set up next to Kent Blackwell, I was made to feel at home right away. His enthusiasm, then as now, was infectious.

My job kept me on the road quite a bit, so for my first several years in the club I was just an occasional face in the crowd. But as I was becoming more enamored of astronomy and of doing outreach events, I began accepting assignments at work that would afford me more opportunity to participate. My son, Adam, began to take part with me, and again Kent was welcoming. Kent took Adam under his wing and got him excited about both astronomy and photography. He also got him more involved in the club, Adam served as VP when Kent was president, and that started him down the path that would make him the club's first Horkheimer award winner.

Over the years, I have served as vice president, president, secretary, webmaster, skywatch coordinator, listowner of backbayastro and as chairperson for a number of committees; I was a leader in the efforts to achieve 501(c)(3) status, build an observatory for Norfolk State University and in creating the Astronomical League's Planetary Nebula Program.

However, all of that pales in significance to my warm memories of time spent under the stars with great friends. There were many quiet nights where just a few of us gathered at Coinjock, or Mark's House, or Cornland, or Chippokes or any of a dozen other spots. There is a string of East Coast Star Parties stretching back many years. There was a morning in a Suffolk field in 2001 when the sky was filled with more meteors than we could count. There were countless outreach events where we shared our passion with the uninitiated and felt the elation of seeing that spark of wonder in a child's reaction to her first look at Saturn. There was a constant sharing of discovery, of awe, of humor, of good food and drink, of star filled nights and of camaraderie and LED "campfires" under the clouds. Great memories that I will take with me, and also I hope, leave behind.

Arizona beckons. It is a Mecca for amateur astronomers and I am excited that I have the chance to achieve what I thought would always be just a dream. It is difficult to believe it's happening. My own observatory under pristine skies. Still, the dream is bittersweet. At each event I attend in these last weeks in Virginia I can't help but reflect on the fact that it is my last Skywatch, my last ECSP, my last BBAA outreach event and perhaps the last time I see a friend's face.



Many of you have found ways recently to say thank you to me for what I have given to this club. I don't quite know how to say thank you back; words are inadequate to express what this club has given to me.

Ted Forte

Reminiscences of our Time with Ted

Who better to describe Ted and what he has meant for BBAA than some of his closest friends. These remembrances show why Ted will be missed so much.

Mark Ost

One of the pleasures of life is the privilege to share time with kindred spirits in the mutual pursuit of a shared passion. Memories of observing with Ted Forte are complicated not by a lack of material or experiences but by fact that so much pleasant time, spent under the sky in all conditions, weather and otherwise, has passed under the bridge. Selection from great moments is difficult due to the sheer number of candidates. Those of you who have also shared this privilege will know what I mean when I said in all conditions "otherwise"; specifically the otherwise part!

I could describe frozen telescopes, wine bottles left mysteriously in my back yard, soft cursing in the night due to some arcane equipment malfunction, real or perceived, never to operator error, or three o'clock humor when all rational souls are in bed. But my words would fail and I have to fall back on the excuse, "you had to be there". I think that thanks to Ted I understand the Shakespeare quote: "We have heard the chimes at midnight, Master Shallow". That we have.....indeed that we have.

Kent Blackwell

I met Ted Forte under the stars about seventeen years ago at a public outreach program. Since that time we have become the closest of friends. Although we don't see each other socially too often, when an astronomical event takes place we're usually both involved.

Upon first hearing about Ted moving to Arizona I had mixed feelings. Although I couldn't think of anyone who deserved moving to clear, dark skies more, I was also sad that I would be missing a good friend.

I shall not only miss seeing Ted at BBAA

public outreach gatherings but also observing with him on a one-on-one basis at the Delmarva Stargaze at Tuckahoe State Park in Maryland. We've been trekking to Tuckahoe about fifteen years. I will also miss sharing "Kent movies" with Ted, Hali and his son Adam at my New Year's Eve parties. And who will replace them at my Oscars Party? Those parties have been a tradition for many years, and the entire family will be missed.

What will BBAA be like without Ted? What will East Coast Star Party in Coinjock, NC be like without him? He is always a terrific attribute, not only guiding beginners and advanced astronomers alike about what is in the night sky but also helping me with registrations and other star party chores.

We say goodbye to Ted, but hopefully I will have the opportunity to venture west to visit. It'll be a real challenge squeezing my 25" telescope on the airplane but observing will not be my primary reason for visiting. I just don't want to even think about this being the end of a friendship that has lasted nearly two decades.

I wish Ted and Hali Forte all the best that the future might hold, and hope they find Nirvana in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Ted, just remember, "We'll Always Have Coinjock."



Kent Blackwell and Ted Forte at the Delmarva Star Gaze XVIII Star Party at Tuckahoe State Park in Maryland. (April 2012)

Georgie June

My favorite memories of astronomy always include Ted. Sharing his love and knowledge of astronomy is what Ted does best. Over ten years ago when I first became active in BBAA, it amazed me how Ted could locate deep sky objects without the aid of a map or computer, and how he just wanted to tell you about what you were observing and answer any questions you had. Before long, Ted was teaching me so much by having me research different things like the H-R Diagram, Annie Jump Cannon, Binary Stars, the Herschel's, the list goes on and on. Not only was I learning a lot but Ted made astronomy fun!



How many astronomers does it take to fix a telescope? Ray Moody, Michelle Shin, Ted Forte, Roy Diffrient and Bill McClean (July 2010)

My favorite memories though are when we're all out observing together. There's nothing better than being with your best friends having flashlight fires, walking down imagers row at midnight, having your very own human-go-to, eating Dee's food, having a partay from 2 to 2, counting meteors, and acting like a bunch of silly teenagers. Even though I'm going to miss Ted sorely, I believe that great things (and I mean GREAT) will be happening for our friend Ted! I wouldn't be surprised if Comet Forte was right around the corner!

Ted, thank you for everything you've done not only for me but for BBAA! You have been such an amazing friend and an inspiration to so many of us and I'm going to miss you so much!! I wish you good health, love, and happiness in Arizona! Live the dream!

Jordan Bramble

The first time I met Ted Forte was at Skywatch in November 2007. That night, he showed me the Andromeda Galaxy, M13, and The ring nebula through his 18 inch Dobsonian. He also gave me advice on what kind of telescope I should get, an Orion XT10i, which I did end up getting. I remember being amazed at how knowledgeable he was. That time I spent talking to Ted Forte was what ultimately sparked my obsession with amateur astronomy.

Another memorable experience was when Ted took me to the RRRT at Fan Mountain for a weekend, so we could work on making repairs to the observatory. I spent that summer working on a project using the RRRT, with him as my mentor. I won the Jack Horkheimer award and runner up for the NYAA as a result of this work.

I will always remember Ted as the person who got me started in astronomy, and was always willing to teach me how to find a Deep Sky object or lend me the eyepiece I needed to view it. He has been a great mentor to me for nearly 5 years now, and I look forward to observing with him in Arizona one day soon.



Ted helping CJ fix his scope at last year's ECSP.

An Interview with Ted on his Future Plans

By Paul Tartabini

Unfortunately I joined BBAA too late to get to know Ted very well. I'm glad I had one opportunity to share a view of the Eskimo Nebula through my 8" Dob with him at my first Skywatch back in the Fall. That is why I found his story (see page 6) of a similar experience with Kent at the same site 16 years earlier quite inspiring. Even the great Ted Forte was once a beginner like me (and maybe you too).

Since I don't know Ted very well, I was relatively unfamiliar with his future plans in Arizona. It seems to me that Ted is pursuing an astronomy dream that many of us may have as well, and if we do not, one that we can certainly understand. I conducted the following interview to find out more about Ted's exciting plans.

Paul: Ted, can you give us a short description of where you're headed. I'm not talking about the street address, but rather what is it like for astronomy, what are the sky conditions?

Ted: Our new property is 4.5 acres of desert about 8 miles east of Sierra Vista AZ. It is in a wide valley between the Huachuca and Mule mountains just east of the San Pedro river. Sierra Vista is at altitude making the climate much more temperate than what is usually thought of when one thinks of southern Arizona. In fact the city's motto is "Its cooler than you think". The area is famous for its many varieties of birds, especially hummingbirds and is known as a wine producing area. They call my part of Cochise county "Napazona."

The sky can reach 7th magnitude, and 30% humidity (or less) is the norm. The lights from Sierra Vista, a town of about 40,000 or so, are blocked by my neighbors observatory (Which includes a 36" Dob, currently the largest amateur telescope in Arizona).

Paul: Can you tell us about your observatory and you're new equipment? I have heard you'll have a huge scope at your disposal, tell us about it.

Ted: The property has a large (30'x30') roll-off roof observatory that includes a 30" f/4.45 StarSplitter Dob made by Jim Brunkella who is no longer in business. The Galaxy mirror was redone by OMI (Optical mechanics Inc.) and has an acceptable figure. With the included Tele Vue ParaCorr, the scope will act more like an f/5. The scope is equipped with a Servo Cat dual axis drive system and has a wireless hook-up to a desktop computer running Megastar 5. It also has a filter slide bar with OIII, H-beta and UHC filters included. The observatory is large enough to accommodate my 18" and my 10" alongside the 30", has a mechanized roof and a warm room. Power to the scopes is provided by a built in power supply.

Paul: A 30" Scope! Wow! Have you ever looked through a scope that big before?

Ted: Yeah, I've looked through the 36" "Yard Scope" that used to make the rounds of all the big star parties and I've looked through "Hercules" which is what the Spokane WA club calls their 41.5" monster. And it really won't be that much of a jump from Kent's 25.

Paul: Is there anything you can say about your plans with *Sky and Telescope* Magazine?

Ted: My fourth article will appear in the June issue which is the next one to hit the stands. There is nothing definite, but I have the editor in chief's assurance that they will be looking for more articles from me in the future. After all, he took the time to add my name to the masthead as a contributing editor so I think he expects to continue using my stuff.

Back Bay Amateur Astronomer Club Member News

New Members

A warm welcome to the following members who have joined BBAA since March 2012:

Brenda Butler
Greg Doughty

Thank you for joining and we look forward to sharing the joys of astronomy with you.

Member Honors

Check out the June 2012 Issue of *Sky and Telescope*. On page 62 you'll find the article, "A Springtime Globular Cluster Tour," by our very own **Ted Forte**. Great article, Ted, way to go!



May 2012

BBAA Events	Special Outreach	Astronomical Events
3 BBAA Meeting	3 Boardwalk Astronomy	5 Full Moon
		12 Last Quarter
19 Nightwatch @ Chippokes State Park		20 New Moon
	25 Night Hike @ NWRP	22 Moon close to Venus and Zeta Tauri
25 Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Gardens		28 First Quarter

Sneak Peek into June

Tue 06/05/2012 Transit of Venus, some members will be at Mt Trashmore.
 Thu 06/07/2012 Meeting at TCC VA Beach, Building J, Room JC-12, 7:30 p.m.
 Fri 06/08/2012 Skywatch at Northwest River Park
 Sat 06/16/2012 Nightwatch at Chippokes State Park, Surry VA.
 Fri 06/22/2012 Night Hike at Northwest River Park, 7:00 pm
 Sat 06/29/2012 Garden Stars at Norfolk Botanical Gardens, 8:30 pm

