



MAY 2008

Astronomical Society of Long Island, Inc.

<http://www.asliclub.org>

Meeting Information: Meetings are held each Wednesday night at 8:30 P.M. in the Schure lecture hall of NY Institute of Technology, on Northern Boulevard in Old Westbury. Club Officers: President: Mal Speer, Vice President: Ken Spencer, Treasurer: John Vogt, Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Macedonio, Recording Secretary: Rich Tyson. Board members include Rich Quan, Steve Lieber, Peter Pastore, Tony Pirera, Joel Moskowitz, Sam Storch, Fred Cadieu, and Maria Haas. Bulletin Editor: Sam Storch.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MAY 2008:

May 7: Observing Session Night, **at the VANDERBILT PLANETARIUM**. You should bring your own telescope and binoculars. This is a great night for beginners to get some help from the old-timers, too. DIRECTIONS: Please ask at a meeting or contact one of the members listed at the top of this page. In the event skies do not permit observing, an alternate program will be presented at the planetarium.

May 10: Lunar occultations of stars in the Beehive Cluster, M44, in Cancer.

May 14: Views of Comet Holmes, by Frank Melillo. Remember how this comet surprised and excited us just months ago? What has become of it? Find out tonight!

May 17 (weekend:) This is the planned date for a "crew" to assemble the Pod Observatory.

May 21: Recoating my Primary Mirror, by Tony Pirera. Many of us enjoyed the tour of Spectrum Thin Films last month, and now Tony Pirera will describe the planned coating of the mirror in his 28-inch Dobsonian. (Rescheduled from last month.)

May 21 into 22: Later Tonight— Jupiter rises around midnight and will be moonless for about 20 minutes!

May 28: Chandra and His Mass Limit, by Dr. Fred Cadieu, Physics Department of Queens College, CUNY, and ASLI. From Sirius B to the Standard Candle— once again, changing our entire view of the universe.

SPECIAL NOTE: In June, we will begin a trial period of having ALL MEETINGS at the Vanderbilt Planetarium.

OBSERVING SESSIONS EACH MONTH:

Purchase or renew your LI State Park "Stargazing Permit" NOW! You will need the new \$15 fee and a copy of your vehicle registration for presentation at the Permit Office at Long Island State Parks HQ near exit 37 of the Southern State Parkway.

Robert Moses State Park: (LISPRC PERMIT REQUIRED) We observe from the northwest corner of the western half of Field No. 2, on clear Sunday evenings around third quarter or new moon.

"Out East" Observing: Members planning to go "out east" for observing on clear Friday and Saturday nights should let a few of the other members know of their plans; this will make it easier to coordinate everything smoothly, and to plan for enough coffee.

CLUB NEWS BRIEFS:

THE POD HAS HATCHED! At this time, our "Pod Observatory" is in storage at the Custer Institute, and since the weather is going to get warmer soon, we're seeking volunteers to be part of the assembly team. Please let Mal, Ken, or John know at a meeting; it's time to get our new observatory up and running!

VANDERBILT OBSERVING DATES FOR THE REST OF THE 2007 into 2008: We will be observing from the Vanderbilt Planetarium on June 11, July 9, August 6.

ASLI MUGS, RED NIGHT LIGHTS, AND OTHER GOODIES ARE STILL AVAILABLE , AND THEY ARE TERRIFIC! Ask at a meeting. The Coffee Mugs (only \$5) have the deep blue outside and the correct, white inner surface so that your coffee color can be properly gauged (precise titration is an art!). The bright red LED lights (merely \$3 each— you will want more than one!) are VASTLY cheaper than the stuff you see in the ads, and only ours have the club logo!

ASLI Decals: That new telescope will look even classier with a genuine ASLI decal— available with adhesive on the back, as for a telescope tube, or with adhesive on the front, as used on car windows. Show a little spirit for a buck! Pick one up at the next meeting.

OBSERVING REPORTS: Any reports out there? Submit to Sam Storch for inclusion. If by e-mail, <samstorch@yahoo.com> will get it to me.

FIGHT LIGHT POLLUTION!!!