



VBAS Highlights for September

Public Programs for September

Amateur Stellar Spectrometry



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President's Message

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by Richard Norman

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by Richard Norman

VBAS Calendar of Events

Friday, September 5th, 2008, 7:30 PM

Observer's Evening

Presented by *Doug Horacek*

Thursday, September 11th, 2008, starting before 7 PM

Mars and Venus Conjunction Event

Location: *Fields south of the UAH Optics Building*

Saturday, September 6th and 13th, 2008, 7:30 PM

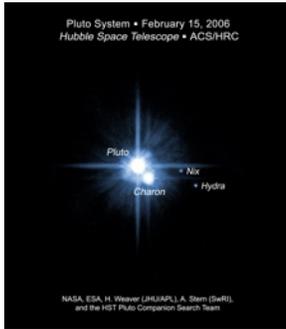
Planetarium Show: *Exploring Pluto*

below.)

(See the UAH campus map

Friday, September 19th, 2008, 7 PM

Regular Monthly Meeting



Pluto and its moons, Charon, Nix, and Hydra. (Image credit: M. Mutchler, A. Stern, and the HST Pluto Companion Search Team, ESA, NASA)

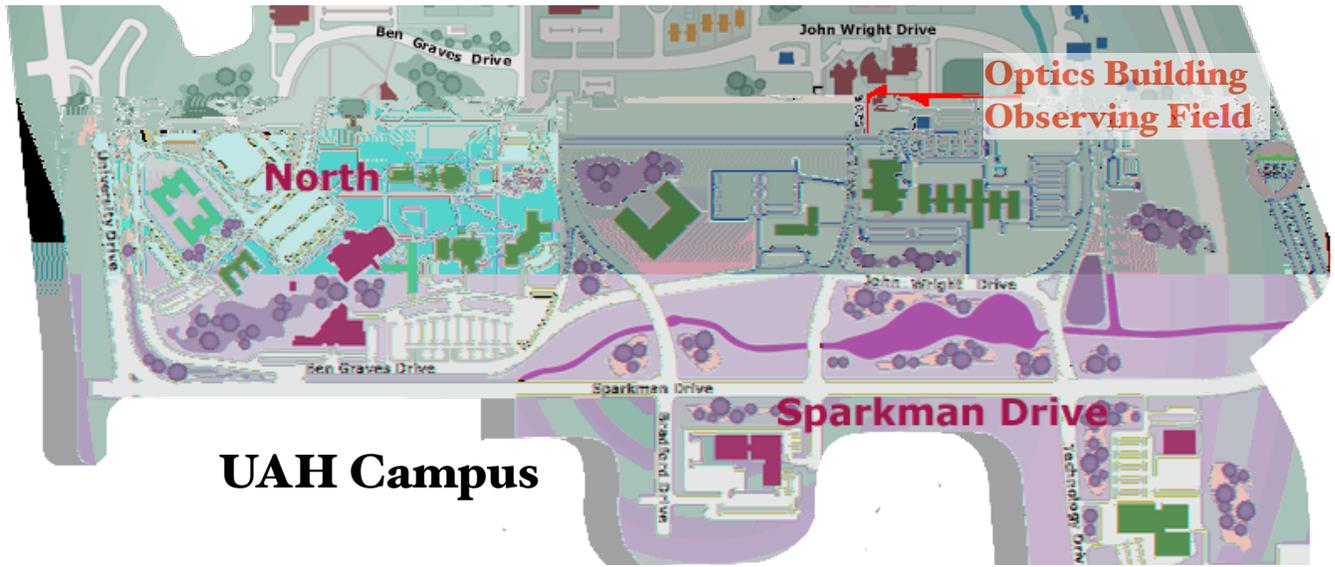
Saturday, September 13th & 20th, 2008, 3:30-5:30 PM

Planetarium Presenter Training Sessions

Sunday, September 7th, 2008, starting before 7 PM

Observer's Evening: *Double Jupiter Transit*

Presented by *Doug Horacek*



Saturday, September 20th, 2008, 7:30 PM

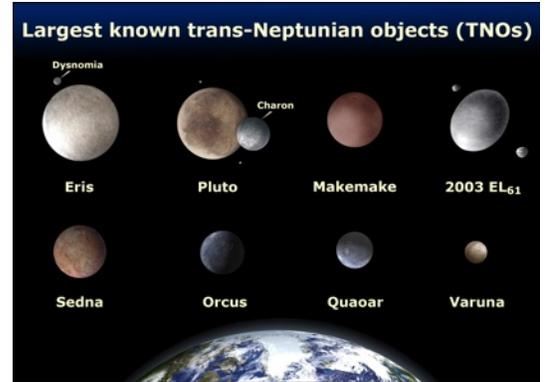
Planetarium Show: *Global Warming*
Presented by *Dan Satterfield*

Saturday, September 27th, 2008, 11 AM to 11 PM

Astronomy Day

Roger Reid

Space



The relative sizes of the largest trans-Neptunian objects as compared to Earth. (Image credit: NASA, updated by Wikimedia Commons)

Saturday, October 4th, 11th, & 25th, 2008, 7:30 PM

Planetarium Show: *Exploring Asteroids and Kuiper Belt Objects*

Saturday, October 18th & 25th, 2008, 3:30-5:30 PM

Planetarium Presenter Training Session

Friday October 24 - Saturday October 25, 2008

Fifth Annual Volunteer State Star Party

Location: *Meriwether Lewis Observatory Dark Sky Site, Summertown, Tennessee*

Presented by *Eric Johnson*



Ida and Dactyl: Asteroid and Moon (Image credit: Galileo Project, JPL, NASA)

The Student's Corner

by David Lofts



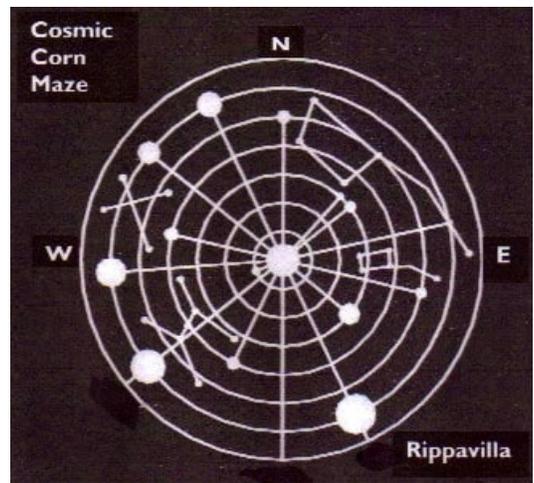
Hunter: age 9



Inspire Program members, left to right: Alok Patel, Brian Tremer, Cheyenne Flood, Megan Owen

Cosmic Corn Maze

by Melissa Snider

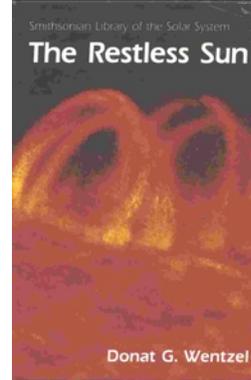


The VBAS Library

by Terry Owens

The

- Restless Sun



Space Travel, A History
Entering Space: Creating a Spacefaring Civilization

Portfolio of Lunar Drawings
Astronomy Before the Telescope

The Dark Night Sky
Wernher von Braun, Crusader for Space, A Biographical
Memoir
Astrophotography for the Amateur

Sky In a Bottle
The Star Guide, A Unique System for Identifying the
Brightest Stars
Making Friends with the Stars; A Guide for Teachers and
Parents
On Mars, Exploration of the Red Planet, 1958-1978

Stars and Outer Space Made Easy
Early Astronomy
The Sun in the Church, Cathedrals as Solar Observato-
ries
Color and Light in Nature
Glossary of Astronomy and Astrophysics

The Geology of the Terrestrial Planets

The Backyard Astronomer's Guide

Activity Report on the Swanson 21”

by Jeff Delmas, August 28, 2008



Tom Burleson, Jr. (left) and Wes Swift tackle improvements to the Swanson 21”.

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Huntsville Alabama Anime Society Planetarium Show

by Steve Sloan

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VBAS Member Meeting Minutes

7:30 PM on Friday, August 15, 2008

by Terry Owens

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Contributions to Via Stellaris

We welcome contributions to our newsletter that may be of interest to the astronomical community. Contributions are best sent by email to Steve Sloan at editor1@vbas.org. If you don't have access to email, you can send articles in either Word or ASCII format to Steve at 2110 Vilaret Dr, Huntsville, AL 35803.

Membership and Renewal

The VBAS currently has four categories of membership. All four include free admission to the planetarium shows; subscription to this newsletter; membership in the Astronomical League; and use of VBAS library and equipment. The four categories of membership, and the dues for each, are: REGULAR at \$24.00 per year, FAMILY at \$36.00 per year, STUDENT (must be full-time student) at \$12.00 per year, and LIFE at \$500.00. Newsletter Only is also available for \$12.00 per year. Membership renewal occurs for all members annually on March 1st.

All VBAS memberships came up for renewal on March 1, 2008. If you have questions regarding membership, please contact Gerry Conrad.

Please send your renewal to the Membership Secretary at VBAS, P.O. Box 1142, Huntsville, AL 35807. Make checks payable to the Von Braun Astronomical Society. If your mailing or email address changes, please report the new address promptly to the Membership Secretary, Gerry Conrad, at conrad1908@knology.net or 722-8212, to avoid missing issues of *Via Stellaris*.

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VIA STELLARIS



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Steve Sloan, *Via Stellaris* editor