

## **JANUARY 1985**

The January meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, January 10, 1985 at 8:00 PM

### **Annual Amateur Night/Show and Tell**

Our speaker will be Michael Rudenko, 29, a computer programmer and amateur astronomer, who recently gained international attention by co-discovering a comet. Formerly associated with Harvard College Observatory, Michael has been actively hunting novae and comets for the past four years, using a 6 inch refractor. Tonight he will share his comet-hunting expertise with us.

Also featured at tonight's meeting will be ATM's who would like to share their slides, experiences, and pet projects with the rest of the club. The floor will be open to anyone who has something to show or tell. If you have special projector requirements, please call Max ben-Aaron before the meeting.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary.

### **CLUBHOUSE NEWS**

Attendance figures for Saturdays at the clubhouse: Nov 11 (26); Nov. 17 (29); Nov. 24 (15); Dec. 1 (24 - an exceptionally clear night). One observer was able to resolve a .5 arc second double star, because the seeing was excellent.

The clubhouse is now in very good structural condition. Front and side roof repairs were completed last month. The hole in the north wall was excavated and repaired, thanks to diligent teamwork.

### **In Memory of Walter Singer**

The club was saddened to learn of the death of Walter Singer, who passed away suddenly last month. Walter was a judge at Stellafane for many years, and was also active in the Astronomical League. He hosted many observing sessions for amateurs from our club in New Hampshire, along with members of the Keene Astronomical Society.

### **S&T Hotline**

Want the latest news on astronomical events? Just dial (617) 497-4168 for Sky and Telescope's sky news - a weekly summary of the latest celestial events, updated every Friday. (The same news is already available through CompuServe, if you are a subscriber.)

### **Teachers in Space**

Are you a teacher looking for a career change? Or maybe just a chance to do something few people will ever do? Glen Chaple has application forms if you are interested in applying to be the first teacher in space on an upcoming Space Shuttle mission. See Glen at the meeting if you would like a form.

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Congratulations to Dave Huestis and Tina Pala, who recently became engaged.

The February meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, February 14, 1985 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker this month is Dr. Lawrence Taff, a member of Lincoln Laboratory's technical staff at M.I.T. Dr. Taff is the author of the widely acclaimed book, Computational Spherical Astronomy, and is on the editorial board of the Astronomical Quarterly. Dr. Taff was formerly a research associate at the University of Pittsburgh and at the University of Rochester, where he received his doctoral degree. Dr. Taff's talk will discuss near-earth space surveillance of meteors, asteroids, satellites, and other space debris.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary.

### CLUBHOUSE NEWS

Attendance figures for Saturdays at the clubhouse: Dec. 10: 28, Dec. 17: 19, Dec. 24: 5, Dec. 31: 18.

Peter Collins searched for 1900 hours before discovering a nova. His discovery was confirmed by Janet Mattel of the AAVSO. Others were able to see it on the night of January 5.

Kerry Hurd has completed an informal survey of the cloudiest and clearest months of 1984. His findings: The clearest month of 1984 was June; the cloudiest was December

18 inch Paul Jones mirror, 1 5/8 inch thick, Blanchard back and fully ground edges for easy mounting. Excellent figure in actual use, probably 1/4 wave. Complete with fitted hardwood travel case. Contact Jim Meketa, 244-3866 (eve.); 786-6168 (days).

### Comet Halley News

Looking for a good vantage point from which to observe Comet Halley, but don't want to leave the country? Consider Key West. At 24 degrees north latitude, it's one of the most southerly points in the U.S. that is easily accessible by car. Light pollution should not be much of a problem on this island, the southernmost of the Florida Keys.

Sky and Telescope's Sky Line - a weekly taped summary of astronomical news - reports that Assistant Editor Steve O'Meara spotted Comet Halley visually as a 19th magnitude object and followed its motions for several hours. O'Meara breathed bottled oxygen while observing through a 24 inch reflector at the summit of Mauna Kea in Hawaii. O'Meara's sighting on January 23 (UT) marks the first visual observation of Halley since E.E. Barnard last glimpsed the comet in the spring of 1911 using the 40 inch refractor of Yerkes Observatory.

Consider this: one glimpse at Comet Halley links you with King Harold of England, who, upon seeing the comet in 1066, regarded it only as an omen of misfortune. King Harold was defeated by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. The Bayeux Tapestry records Harold's fears as the comet blazes overhead. (In 1682, Halley saw the same comet, calculated its orbit, and almost correctly predicted its return.)

APRIL 1985

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The April meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, April 11, 1985 at 8:00 PM

This month's speaker will be announced at the meeting.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary.

Attendance figures for Saturdays at the clubhouse:

March 16: 33 - the seeing was excellent and everyone was able to see Mercury, before it clouded up around 9 pm. March 23: mostly cloudy - no observing.

Volunteers are needed for spring cleanup out at the clubhouse, scheduled for April 13.

Mario Motta is organizing a trip to Aruba or Curacao, north of the Venezuelan coast, to view Comet Halley next year. Halley will be 30 degrees above the horizon in dark skies. The cost of the trip will be around \$500, including round-trip air fare and double-occupancy hotel. See Mario at the meeting for more details. The Florida Keys, originally considered as a favorable viewing site, were ruled out due to the possibility of haze at or near the horizon.

Club elections are approaching. The nominating committee will be elected at this month's meeting. Officers will be nominated at the May meeting, and the

*I am saddened to report, that on April 1st at 6 P.M., I had the distressing duty to declare Tom Britton dead of a heart attack.*

*All those who knew Tom Britton knew he was a dedicated and giving member of the club.*

*As head of the shop in Groton he came early every Saturday to open and left late the next day to close the shop.*

*He gave encouragement and support to all he met and promoted Amateur Astronomy in many ways.*

*He claimed to have little knowledge of astronomy or telescopes, yet he won a prize at Stellafane for his Poncet Platform.*

*I cannot give a total accounting of his virtues in this short article but a synopsis of his last day, I feel, give a measure of the man.*

*Tom died while filming a commercial that would air on Channel 56 to benefit and promote this astronomy organization and astronomy day this month.*

*After one and a half hours of attempting to restart his heart by every means available, Tom died. Even in death Tom continues to give; he has donated his body to Tufts Medical School for medical science.*

*As a former Tufts medical student I know his body will be treated with the respect it deserves for this unselfish act.*

*We have all lost a central figure of the club and a close friend. GOD REST HIS SOUL.*

Mario Motta

## MAY 1985

The May meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, May 9, 1985 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker will be astrophysicist Fred Whipple, who's talk is entitled "Personal Reminiscences of a Life in Astronomy." Dr. Whipple is best known among astronomers for his widely accepted theory of the nature of comets -- that they are largely balls of frozen gases, chiefly methane, ammonia, and water ices.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary.

At last month's meeting, many members contributed donations in memory of Tom Britten. His wife has given the club's donation, totalling \$126, to Ipswich High School, and has specified that the money be used for astronomy teaching materials.

Members interested in subscribing to Telescope Making magazine at the club reduced rate of \$7.50 for 4 quarterly issues are asked to mail their checks to Steve Siok, 86 Spring Road, N. Kingstown, RI 02852 or see Steve at the meeting.

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 1985-86, to be voted on at next month's annual meeting:

President: Tal Mantall

Vice President: Pat Quinn

Secretary: Robin Foster

Treasurer: (to be announced)

Membership Sec'y: Dick Koolish

Article XI, Section 1 of the club Bylaws states: "...Members shall have the right to offer additional nominations from the floor of the annual meeting, provided only that a suitable written notice, containing the name or names of the person or persons to be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting and the signatures of at least seven members, is filed with the Secretary not less than 10 days prior to the date of the annual meeting."

Several Halley's Comet expeditions are being planned by club members:

-Bonaire, island off the north coast of Venezuela, April 1-7, 1986: estimated cost \$650-700 per person, including air and hotel, based on double occupancy. To sign up, see Mario Motta at the meeting or write him at 7 Bishop's Lane, Lynnefield, MA 01940.

-Arequipa, Peru, April 1-14, 1986 (approx. dates), also visiting Machu Picchu, ancient Incan fortress city in the Peruvian alps. Contact Jim Meketa at the May or June meeting or call 244-3866 (home) or 786-6168 (office).

## JUNE 1985

The June meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, June 13, 1985 at 8:00 PM

This month's talk is entitled "Optical Telescope Arrays for High Angular Resolution," presented by Dr. Wesley Traub of the CFA.


Dr. Traub received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin before joining the CFA in 1968. His research has concentrated on the field of stratospheric chemistry (the composition of the ozone layer) but his broader interests include techniques for using combinations of telescopes.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary.

Congratulations to Pat Quinn and his wife Loni, who were married on June 1.

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 1985-86 to be voted on at this month's meeting:

President: Tal Mentall  
Vice President: Pat Quinn  
Secretary: Robin Foster  
Treasurer: Bill Murphy  
Membership Sec'y: Dick Koolish

  
"After the meeting last month I received sev. questions about my giving up the post of treasurer. Yes, I am in excellent health. Leaving was my idea and nobody else's. I've been an officer of some sort for 20 years, 15 as treasurer and secretary before that. I will still be visible. I will still give advice when asked. I still do and will always love the club. We have a good group of younger people with good ideas. There is nothing worse than anyone who thinks they are indispensable. I thought it was time to allow new blood to join in and make it their club. The club and I should seek new horizons. How about judge at Stellafane (hint, hint)? Or, member at large for the club?"

Yours in Astronomy,  
Anna Hillier, Outgoing Treasurer

For Sale: Mint condition Televue Renaissance telescope, 4" F/5.5 with 2" diagonal and 1 1/4" adapter, 2" 32mm Televue wide-angle eyepiece. Brass tube, no mount. In original packing. \$750. Meade DS 16" F/4.5, 2" focuser, equatorial mount (no clock drive). \$1250. Bob Sherburne, Tyngsboro: 649-3376 (home) or (603) 669-9800 (work).

Update on Halley's Comet expeditions being organized by club members:

-Bonaire, April 1-7, 1986. Est. cost \$650-\$700 per person, includes air and hotel. Contact Mario Motta by the end of June at 7 Bishop's Lane, Lynnfield, MA 01940. Mario reports that Keith Danskin recently returned from the Bonaire site, where he observed down to mag. 7.2 naked-eye.

-Arequipa, Peru, April 1-14, 1986, also visiting Machu Picchu. Contact Jim Meketa: 244-3866 (home) or

Thanks to Woodrow Crooks of Braintree for donating his collection of Sky and Telescope, 1952-78. A few missing issues in the clubhouse collection were inserted, with the rest to be sold at the club's swap table at Stellafane. Mr. Crooks, a former ATM member, also donated a 6 inch mirror blank and parts for a mounting. Thanks to Steve DeLuca for picking up the magazines and taking them to the clubhouse.

Thanks also to Sky Publishing for donating unbound sheets of both the color and black and white editions of Tirion's Sky Atlas 2000, for sale at the Stellafane swap table. They also donated loose charts from the AAVSO Variable Star Atlas, as well as more back issues of Sky and Telescope.

Update on Halley's Comet expeditions being organized by club members:

-Bonaire, April 1-7, 1986. Est. cost \$650-\$700 per person, includes air and hotel. Contact Mario Motta, 7 Bishop's Lane, Lynnefield, MA 01940.

-Arequipa, Peru, April 1-14, 1986, also visiting Machu Picchu. Contact Jim Meketa: 244-3866 (home) or 786-6168 (work).



**Amateur Telescope Makers  
of Boston, Inc.**

*Including the Bond Astronomical Club*

*Established in 1934  
in the interest of Telescope Making & Using*

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD 1984-85**

##### **PRESIDENT**

Max ben-Aaron, 61 South Rd., Bedford, MA 01730, 275-7257

##### **VICE PRESIDENT**

E. Talmadge Menlall, 115 Pine Ridge Rd., Waban, MA 02168, 964-5286

##### **SECRETARY**

Robin Foster, 14 Concord Ave., Apt. 707, Cambridge, MA 02138, 576-3191

##### **TREASURER**

Anna S. Hillier, 18 Spring St., Lexington, MA 02173, 861-8338

##### **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Richard M. Koolish, 212 Park Ave., Arlington, MA 02174, 646-6086

##### **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

William E. Knight, 7 Shornecliffe Rd., Newton, MA 02158, 969-6548

James W. Gagan, 17 Bellevue Ave., Revere, MA 02151, 284-5573

##### **PAST PRESIDENTS**

1981-83 Kenneth J. Laurie, 15 Salem St., Cambridge, MA 02139, 577-3603

1979-81 Philip R. Shutt, Whitney Rd., Harvard, MA 01451

1977-79 Paul Valletti, 14 Marret Rd., Burlington, MA 01803, 272-8946

#### **COMMITTEES**

##### **OBSERVING COMMITTEE**

Dennis Milon, 8 Grant St., Maynard, MA 01754, 897-7532

##### **SHOP COMMITTEE**

Thomas J. Britton, 329 Linebrook Rd., Ipswich, MA 02139, 356-4864

Kenneth J. Laurie, 15 Salem St., Cambridge, MA 02139, 577-3603

##### **STELLAFANE**

Dennis diCicco, 60 Victoria Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776, 443-8493

## SEPTEMBER 1985

The September meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, September 12, 1985 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker this month is William E. Shawcross, managing editor of Sky and Telescope magazine. Bill has been with Sky Publishing Corp. for 29 years. His talk is entitled "Mystery On the Desert - The Nazca Lines." Bill earned an A.B. in Physics at North Carolina, a Masters in Biology at Harvard, and this year he will complete a second Masters at Harvard in Anthropology. He has been on extended field trips to Peru and to the Yucatan. He is also a self-avowed computer freak.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary in Cambridge.

The club received a letter from J.T. Karaku, Assistant to the Director of Haystack Observatory, informing us of a lapse in our responsibilities to ensure that the lights in the warehouse adjacent to the clubhouse are turned back ON at the end of a night's observing session. This has caused the guard to report a malfunction, and two electricians were sent to check the system. Haystack installed the cut-off switches at our request, for our convenience. We MUST remember to turn the warehouse lights back on. The letter has been posted in the clubhouse to serve as a reminder.

Over the past few months, several items have disappeared from the clubhouse. Carl Hein is missing a 12 1/2 inch mirror in the polishing stage. A Zenith Trans-Oceanic radio and a book, "Applied Optical Engineering," are missing, and Tal Mentall can't find his mahogany micrometer knife-edge tester. As a result, the optical supply room is now locked to protect valuables.

We are certain that Hippocrates smiled his approval when the swift actions of his servant, Dr. Mario Motta, probably saved Mike Mattei from a more severe heart attack than the one he experienced at Stellafane. Mario was with Mike when he complained of weakness. Mario recognized the symptoms and rushed Mike to the hospital. We are all grateful for Mario's alertness and we look forward to Mike's full recovery.

Comets Giacobini-Zinner and Halley were observed at Stellafane. Halley was faint, but right on course for its perihelion passage in February, 1986.

**For Sale:** Jaegers 3 1/4" F/15 objective, mounted and coated. Jaegers heavy duty equatorial mount, coupling, and 60 inch-high pedestal, aluminum tube with rack and pinion focuser. Mount and tube together with the 3 1/4" objective make an excellent scope. All excellent condition. Asking \$350. Robin Foster, 576-3191 (eve), 577-8500 x4723 (days).

## October 1985

The October meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, October 10, 1985 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker this month is Stephen O'Meara, Assistant Editor at *Sky and Telescope* magazine. Steve's two-part talk is entitled "Halley from Hawaii - The first visual sighting since 1911," and "Rendering Comets - A Forgotten Art." Steve is an accomplished amateur astronomer and visual observer who discovered "spokes" in Saturn's rings 4 years before the Voyager spacecraft photographed them and whose most recent observing feat was the first visual sighting of Comet Halley since E.E. Barnard last glimpsed the comet in 1911. Steve's drawings of his visual observations of comets have appeared in various astronomical publications. As a side interest, Steve "chases" volcanic eruptions in such places as Hawaii and New Zealand.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary in Cambridge.

Harvard Observatory sponsors public lectures and observing sessions on the third Thursday of each month in Phillips Auditorium, beginning at 8 pm. They would appreciate the assistance of any ATM-ers who wish to volunteer to help operate the telescopes, or we are welcome to bring our own telescopes for public viewing. Electrical outlets are available on the roof for powering clock drives.

Paul Valletti reviews one of the latest in a long line of books to hit the streets in anticipation of the return of Comet Halley. Paul's review of "Halley's Comet!" by Francis Reddy will appear in an upcoming issue of *Astronomy* magazine. Excerpts from the review are included here courtesy of Paul. "Francis Reddy's 60 page notebook will provide an authoritative observer's guide to this celestial event...The jewel of this whole manual is the twenty star charts which were prepared by Reddy and Richard Berry, an Astromedia specialist who edits Telescope Making magazine. The charts were computer plotted using Berry's software and have white stars on a blue background. The constellation patterns are delineated with black lines. In daylight, the patterns are easily recognized and at night, when a red flashlight is used, the patterns magically disappear and the stars resemble the sky view with a dark background..."

**For Sale:** 8" F/8 mirror with metal mounting cell (mirror may need re-aluminizing and overcoating), elliptical diagonal for use with 8" mirror, mounted in holder but minus the spider, Eastman Kodak Aero Tessar 4" F/6 camera lens, in two parts (objective and field lens), wide angle erfle eyepiece, 2 1/8" diameter, 68 degree field, spiral focusing, 18mm galoc wide angle eyepiece, 3.5mm orthoscopic eyepiece, astronomy and cosmology books. All prices negotiable. Roy Ralston, 127 Second St., Cambridge, Ma 02141. 466-8000, ext. 453 (work) or 492-3855 (home).

Jaegers 3 1/4" F/15 objective, mounted and coated. Jaegers heavy duty equatorial mount, coupling, and 60 inch-high pedestal, aluminum tube with rack and pinion focuser. Mount and tube together with the 3 1/4" objective make an excellent scope. All excellent condition. Asking \$350. Robin Foster, 576-3191 (eve),



NOVEMBER 1985

The November meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, November 14, 1985 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker this month is Barbara Welther of the Center for Astrophysics, who will speak on "The Many Worlds of Harlow Shapley". Ms. Welther has a B.A. in Astronomy from Wellesley College and a Masters degree in the History of Astronomy from Harvard. She is a member of the AAVSO, and a member of the American Astronomical Society's Historical Astronomy Division, and the History of Science Society. She has presented many papers to the AAS and AAVSO meetings.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Avenue, at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary.

Members of the Executive Committee are requested to arrive by 7:30 PM to discuss whether it is feasible for the club to acquire the 30 inch mirror from Owens-Illinois.

It's time to pay the piper. Members who have not paid their club dues are urged to do so at once. The deadline is December 1.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!! The producers of NOVA, the popular science series on Channel 2, are preparing a program on Halley's Comet and they have asked the club to be a part of it. After the meeting, WGBH will be filming on the roof near the 9" Clark refractor. Members are asked to bring their homemade telescopes, particularly those suitable for comets. WGBH is asking that we commit ourselves to a rain date of the next night (Friday, Nov. 15) around 10 pm. Though realizing that Thursday is a school night, the producers encourage members to bring their school-age children to be part of the filming. Kids should be able to stay up until at least 11 pm. In advance of the meeting, the WGBH Science Editor is planning to visit the clubhouse this

Saturday at 6 pm (rain or shine) to answer any of your questions and talk about the show. So plan to be out at the clubhouse on November 9, and also plan to come and be a part of the filming on November 14. And don't forget your scopes!!

WANTED: Teacher for Astronomy classes grades 4-8. July 7-25, 1986 at College Academy, Bradford, MA. 4 classes, 5 days a week for three weeks. Gross pay \$815. If interested, call Pam Alexander at the Hood School in Derry, NH. 1-603-432-1250 (work) or 1-603-437-0362 (home).

Clubhouse News: Greg Chase reports minimal damage to the clubhouse from Hurricane Gloria. The drill press motor was rewired on Sept. 28. The equipment room was given a more reliable electrical source on Oct. 5, requiring substantial precision conduit bending. On Oct. 12, red lighting was completed for the front entranceway. Paint scraping followed by a power paint job was performed by Gary Walker. On Oct. 19 the Sky and Tel store room was organized with additional shelves.

Volunteers interested in participating in the Comet Halley information service being organized by the Center for Astrophysics, please see Robin Foster at the meeting. The Center expects to be inundated with calls and requests for information on how and where to observe Comet Halley, and welcomes the participation of club members in helping to provide information on the comet to the public. A few people have already responded, and we would like to see more participation.

FOR SALE: 11x80 Essential Optics binoculars. Need collimation. \$80.00. See Tal Mentall, 964-5286. 5 inch f/5 air-spaced objective with spacer, but no cell. \$175.00. See Tal Mentall. 5 inch o.d. x 17 3/8" aluminum tube. \$15.00. See Tal. Nikonos-II, underwater 35mm camera. Completely manual, no exposure meter or range finder. Perfect for the Bonaire trip. \$200. Dick Koolish, 646-6086.

December 1985

The December meeting of the Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston, Inc., will be held in Phillips Auditorium at Harvard College Observatory on:

Thursday, December 12, 1985, at 8:00 PM

Our speaker this month is Dr. George S. Mumford of Tufts University, who will speak on the "History and Mythology of Comets." Dr. Mumford has a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Virginia. He is the author of the well-known "Cloudy Night Book" and the "Halley's Comet Activities Manual."

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Ave. at Route 16, near the Route 2 rotary in Cambridge.

Members of the Executive Committee are requested to arrive by 7:30 PM to discuss the club's purchase of a public address system.

Congratulations to Mario Motta and wife - they are the proud parents of Justin, born November 20. By the way, Justin can look forward to seeing Halley's Comet in 2061, when he'll be an old man of 75.

**BLOOM COUNTY** by Berke Breathed



Thanks to everyone who participated in the nova viewing for an upcoming show on Halley's Comet. It was mighty cold on the roof of the observatory, but everyone was in good spirits and we made a strong showing for the club. And don't forget to watch the show on Channel 2, at 8 PM on January 21.

A Waltham school would like to have about six ATM's bring their telescopes out on January 8, 1986, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. If interested, please call Eilish Connaughton at the South Middle School, 520 Moody Street, Waltham, during the day at 893-8050, ext. 425.

The Boston Bicycle Coalition is sponsoring a Halley's Comet bike ride, Sat.-Sun. December 7-8, leaving from Harvard Square and going out to the Littleton Youth Hostel. Total distance is about 63 miles (over 2 days). The group will include a professional astronomer, Doug Mink, to help locate and observe the comet. The group will meet for lunch on Saturday, cycle out to Littleton, and then return Sunday. Cost for the overnight stay at the Youth Hostel is \$ 8.00. Bring down jackets and sleeping bags, thermal underwear, and binoculars or a telescope. Space is limited, so call to reserve with Mark Spain, 267-2563.

