

January 1986

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

Thursday, January 9, 1986 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker this month is Dr. Brian Marsden of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. He will speak "Transitory, Irregular, and Sometimes Periodic Celestial Visitors with Caudal Appendages". Dr. Marsden did his undergraduate work at Oxford University and received a PhD in astronomy from Yale University. Since 1968 he has been the director of the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams, and since 1978 has been the director of the Minor Planet Division.

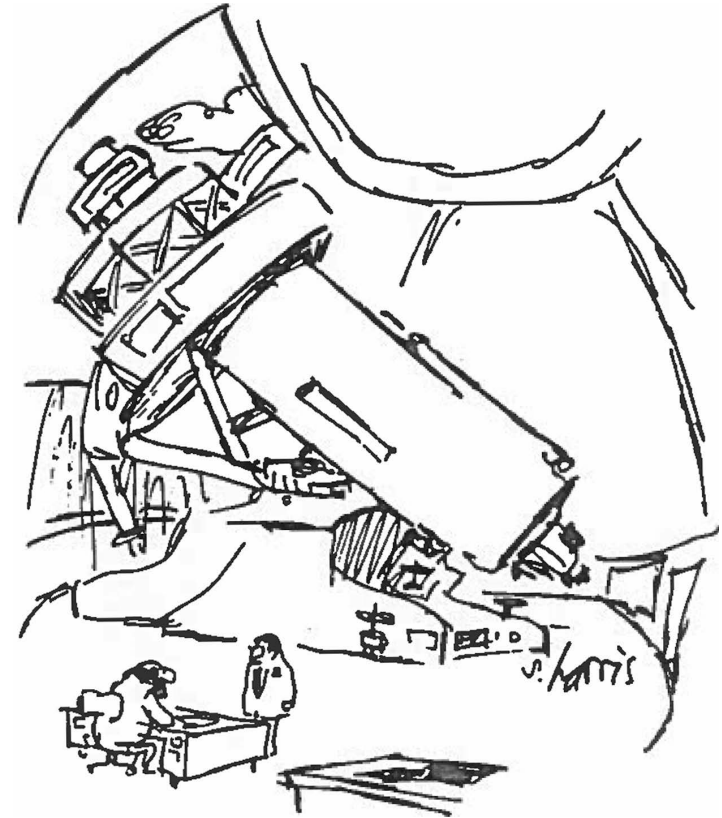
Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6:00 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Ave., at Rt. 16, near the Rt. 2 rotary in Cambridge.

The NOVA program on Halley's Comet that features the ATM's will be broadcast on Tuesday, January 21 at 8:00 PM.

Channel 7 will broadcast a spot about the ATM's on January 2nd as part of the 6:00 PM news.

Gerald Skinner has donated eight years of Sky & Telescope and a complete set of Meteoritics Magazine to the club.

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



"It's always the same thing—the sun, a few clouds, and that's it. I'd like a transfer to the night shift."

## February 1986

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

Thursday, February 13, at 8:00 PM

This month's meeting will be a "Show and Tell" evening, open to anyone who has slides, photographs, or stories to share. This is your chance to dig out the best of your recent astrophotos, or to display your latest telescope-making project. The meeting promises to be lively and entertaining.

Executive board members: Please arrive by 7:30 PM! Prior to the regular meeting, we will discuss the matter of the club's donation to the Stellafane land fund.

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, as well as some club members in particular, have received a good deal of notoriety over the last month as Comet Halley slowly makes its way southwestward in the sky. Many club members were on hand for a record-breaking turn-out of over 160 comet watchers on Saturday, January 11. The weather cooperated (in spite of the fact that Mario Motta showed up with his scope). In addition to the Haystack observing sessions, several members brought their telescopes to a public school in Waltham on January 8, to show the comet to crowds of kids and adults under somewhat less than ideal conditions (downtown Waltham in frigidly cold weather!). Members also helped out at the Harvard

Observatory open night on January 16. Articles about the club and the comet have appeared in numerous local papers, including a feature story in the Boston Globe Calendar. The club was also featured on two local television programs, and gained national exposure in the NOVA science program, broadcast January 21 on public television. Our illustrious President, Tai Mentall, was featured prominently in the NOVA program (and promo spots leading up to the program), along with Steve O'Meara. Lesser (but no less enthusiastic) parts were played by Keith Danskin, Robin Foster, Leo Jennings, Mike Mattei, and Pat Quinn. NOVA science editor Linda Garmon thanks everyone who froze while NOVA filmed us looking at the comet.

Thanks to Ed Wallner for the copy of "Ice Crystal Haloes" by R.A.R. Tricker. Thanks also to Les Kenderes and Tom Sciascia for donating, on videocassette, a copy of the Chronical and Nova programs featuring the club.

A copy of "Astrophotography for the Amateur" was left at the January meeting, and is being held for the owner by Gary Walker.

Stellafane needs your help to survive! The Springfield Telescope Makers have negotiated the purchase of 30 acres of land very close to the current site. The price of this land is \$60,000. The STM's have \$12,000 in their land fund, \$5,000 of which has been used for a down payment on the property. They must raise an additional \$48,000 before March 15 to avoid having to take out bank loans and bear the additional cost of the interest payments on those loans. Please send your contribution, however large or small, to Doug McGregor, Land Fund Chairman, 4 Russell Avenue, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819. Make checks payable to Springfield Telescope Makers. Your donations are fully tax-deductible.

## March 1986

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

Thursday, March 13, 1986 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker will be Dr. Nat Carlton of the Center for Astrophysics, who will speak on "Radio to X-ray Views of Active Galactic Nuclei," including quasars, Seyfert galaxies, and related objects. Dr. Carlton received his Phd in Physics from Harvard in 1956. At the Center for Astrophysics since 1963, Dr. Carlton served as Chief Scientist for the Multiple Mirror Telescope.

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.

Bonaire Trip Members: There will be a meeting of all those signed up to go to Bonaire after the club's regular meeting breaks up, so please plan to stay for the meeting.

For Sale Nikonos-II 35mm underwater camera. Perfect for the Bonaire trip. Call Dick Koolish or see him at the meeting. \*\*\* C-5 tube assembly with 20mm Lrile and Celestron photo tripod. \$350. Robert Greland, P.O. Box 8882, Government Center, Boston, MA 02114.

Thanks to the efforts of Adrien Levesque and others, the club has finally been granted tax exempt status by the IRS. This means that your donations of cash, equipment, books, etc., are now tax-deductible.

Summary of Executive Committee Decisions: The Executive Committee met on February 19 to discuss several proposals:

PA System: A complete PA system is available for our use in Phillips Auditorium, and we have permission to use it.

Clubhouse telephone and answering machine: Pat Quinn will investigate lock-up devices on a business or residential phone installation and get price quotes for answering machines.

Official Mailing Address for Club: The volume of mail the club receives is low, so it is not clear that this is necessary. Discussion to be reopened once tax-exempt status is assured.

ATM Contribution to Stellafane Land Fund: The Executive Committee has decided to contribute \$1000 to the Land Fund, and also encourages club members to make individual donations. A letter will accompany the Club's donation, offering suggestions on how the Springfield club might raise more money by increasing camping and registration fees for Stellafane.

Light Box: Pat Quinn and Ken Laurie will organize a design committee to plan and build the light box.

Silvering/Aluminizing Location: The current spray location at the clubhouse is suggested as a temporary location for those wishing to perform their own aluminizing. As an alternative, Pat Quinn will investigate outside sources for aluminizing.

## April 1986

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

Thursday, April 10, 1986 at 8 00 PM

Our speaker is Richard Barc, president of Barc Engineering Company, which is in its 15th year of service to universities, hospitals, and research and development firms in the Boston area. Dick's topic is "Machining Techniques." Dick is an experienced technician, machinist, materials testing specialist, and tool and die manufacturer. He is also a licensed glider, power aircraft pilot, and expert sailor

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.

Few of us realize it but there is a full-service telescope and astronomical accessories dealer just outside Boston. Starfinders Company is run by Robert Hubert, an ATMOB member. Contact him for further details on the merchandise he carries: The Starfinders Company, P.O. Box 244, Harvard, MA 01451, telephone 456-8786.

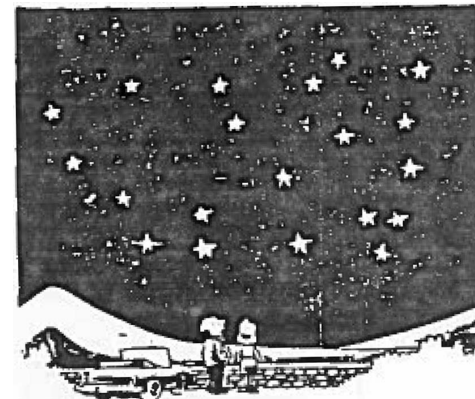
C-5 tube assembly with 20mm Erfle and Celestron photo tripod. \$350 Robert Greland, P.O. Box 8882, Government Center, Boston, MA 02114.

Tom Lucia would like to hear from anyone who can build him a simple grinding and polishing machine, not larger than 100-125 pounds (617) 372-5807

WANTED: Equatorial mount with clock drive on pedestal or tripod to handle a 6 inch F/8 Newtonian. Nothing fancy - wanted for inexpensive sale or donation to a local Massachusetts Audubon Sanctuary (Stony Brook in Norfolk, MA) to accommodate public viewing. Call Jim Kile at 863-5500 x2508 (days).

7 inch reflector, metal tube assembly, equatorial mount on pedestal. Viewfinder and two eyepieces included. Excellent condition. \$250. Contact G. Taylor, (617) 655-4767

8 inch F/6 Dobsonian, Meade optics, focuser, mirror cell. Novack diagonal holder and spider. Easily fits into back seat of car. Comes with 2 eyepieces and solar filter \$350. Charles Kitchin, 26 Crystal Street, Pinehurst, MA 01866. 663-6002 (home), 935-5565 x2582 (work)



*"Actually, I feel insignificant no matter what I look at!"*

The Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics sponsors free programs in popular astronomy for the general public on the third Thursday of every month. The "Observatory Nights" feature a lecture, film and, weather permitting, telescopic observing on the observatory roof.

The lectures are non-technical, but they are intended for adult and high-school audiences. No tickets or reservations are required, however, seating is to the capacity of the hall and filled on a first-come basis. Doors open at 7:30 pm and programs begin at 8:00 pm. Upcoming lectures are:

May 15 - "Amateur Astronomy and Telescope Making: Some Personal Perspectives" by Robin Foster and Patrick Quinn, Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston

June 19 - "The Search for Planetary Rings" by Corbin Covault, Department of Physics, Harvard University

July 17 - to be announced

August 21 - "Astronomy in the 21st Century" by Rick Tresch-Fienberg, Center for Astrophysics

September 18 - "Masers" by Jim Moran, Center for Astrophysics

All programs are held in the Phillips Auditorium.

May 1986

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

Thursday, May 8, 1986 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker for this month hasn't been completely determined, but most likely will be a member of the Voyager Plasma Physics Team from the MIT Center for Space Research.

Join us for dinner before the meeting at Joyce Chen's at 6:00 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge Ave., at Rt. 16, near the Rt. 2 rotary in Cambridge.

Club elections will be held at the June meeting. A nominating committee was elected at the April meeting. The committee consists of Ken Launie (chairman), Ted Kochanski, and Scott Milligan. The nominating committee will report its choices for officers at the May meeting. Members may offer nominations from the floor at the annual meeting provided that written notice containing the names of the persons to be nominated and signed by at least seven club members is filed with the secretary at least 10 days before the annual meeting (June 12th).

## June 1986

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

Thursday, June 12, 1986 at 8:00 PM

Our speaker will be Dr. Stanley H. Zisk of MIT's Haystack Observatory. Dr. Zisk specializes in planetary studies and has built high-performance receivers for Haystack's dish antenna. Data from the receivers is used to generate surface maps of the planets. His talk is entitled "Exploring the Moon and Planets with Radar."

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.

Club elections will take place at this month's meeting. The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers for 1986-1987:

President:	Tal Mentall
Vice President:	Pat Quinn
Secretary:	to be announced
Treasurer:	Bill Murphy
Members at Large:	Mario Motta, Frank Novotny

For Sale: New single-axis quartz drive motor and hand control box for Celestron Polaris mount, \$95.

New 10 inch Newtonian mirror cell, \$16.

Lumicon non-rotating helical focuser, \$37.

Back issues of Astronomy Magazine, 1975 - 1981, \$2 - \$3 each. Back issues of Sky and Telescope, 1965 - 1981, \$1 - \$2 each. Back issues of Deep Sky Magazine, #1, #10, and #11, \$2 each.

Wanted: Counterweights to fit 3/4 inch shaft.

For any of these items, contact: Eric Bunn, 23 Davis Rd., Apt. C - 14, Acton, MA 01720. Phone: 264 - 0505.

John Martin, president of the Springfield Telescope Makers, has invited ATM08 members that would like to see the new land and/or help clear it, to join a Saturday work party. Major work parties will start on Saturday June 7 and continue every other Saturday until the Stellafane Pre-Convention, one week before Stellafane. Work consists of clearing out the existing main building on the new site and clearing overgrown fields for camping.

Hand cross-cut saws and tree limb clippers are preferred. No chain saws please! Heavy gloves for the many thorny plants and good boots for the lower stubble are strongly suggested.

The new land is expected to be open for free camping this year. Please respect others by turning off your car headlights if you enter or leave the site during the night.

John Martin has also invited ATM08 members to the Stellafane Pre-Convention, starting Saturday, July 26, and running until the convention on Aug 1 and 2. A great deal of work needs to be done on both the old and the new land for the convention.

The Stellafane swap table sign-up chart will be available at the June meeting. The last two highly successful swap tables were manned by only a handful of members. This made the convention a little less pleasant for those members. Please help make the convention pleasant for all our members by signing up to help out at the swap table.

If you need more information about helping out at Stellafane, please contact Pat Quinn, (603) 673-3606, or John Martin, (802) 875-2562.

## July 1986

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

Thursday, July 10, 1986 at 8:00 PM

This month's meeting will be a Show and Tell night. You'll have another chance to see the results of all the Comet Halley expeditions and an opportunity to see slides of members' latest astronomical projects. Everyone's slides are welcome.

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.

There are two interesting articles on astronomy around the Pacific basin in the July issue of Sky and Telescope. "Comet Halley: An Appreciation," by Chet Raymo, and "Tales from the Pacific," by Steve O'Meara.

Although most people think Halley is "gone," it is still visible at about 7th magnitude in Sextans and is still being observed at our Saturday observing sessions in Westford. We would not be surprised if more people saw Halley at next month's Stellafane convention than saw it at the 1985 Stellafane meeting. It will be visible in large amateur telescopes until September. On July 28 Halley, at 2.81 A.U. from the Sun, slows to less than the average speed of Mars for the first time since August 1985.

On July 10th, if the sky is clear, look for a beautiful grouping of the crescent moon, Venus, and Regulus.

An interesting item from the June 7th issue of Science News: About 4 years ago, researchers at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, were puzzled by a large blob in the map generated from data recorded by the Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer (TOMS) aboard the Nimbus-7 satellite, as it passed over Mexico. According to the computer, the blob was not due to ozone. Then the researchers realized that they were looking at a plume of sulphur dioxide from the El Chicón volcano. TOMS became not only a way to map atmospheric ozone, but also a powerful tool for observing eruptions from space. TOMS has now been used to follow eruptions for 16 volcanoes.

For Sale: SSP Photometer, \$475. Contact Tom Lucia at 372-5807.

Help Wanted: Looking for one or more persons interested in optical fabrication of all sorts of optics, large and small. Looking for experienced person, or someone with some mechanical aptitude willing to learn. Located in Cambridge. For more info, call Steve Fantone at Optikos Corp., 354-7557.

John Martin, president of the Springfield Telescope Makers, has invited ATMOS members that would like to see the new land and/or help clear it, to join a Saturday work party. Major work parties will start on Saturday June 7 and continue every other Saturday until the Stellafane Pre-Convention. The Pre-Convention starts on Saturday, July 26, and runs until the convention on Aug 1 and 2. Work consists of clearing out the existing main building on the new site and clearing overgrown fields for camping. If you need more information about helping out at Stellafane, please contact Pat Quinn, (603) 673-3606, or John Martin, (802) 875-2567

## September 1986

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

Thursday, September 11, 1986 at 8:00 PM

Dr. Ursula Marvin will present a film entitled "Search for the Tunguska Meteorite," which includes Soviet film clips from early expeditions. Dr. Marvin has been a geologist with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory since 1961. She is also a lecturer in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard. She earned her BA degree in History from Tufts, and her MA and PhD in Geology from Harvard.

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.

## Upcoming Events

**Annual Club Picnic:** Saturday, September 6, starting at noon at the Clubhouse in Westford. (Rain date Sept. 13).

**Partial Solar Eclipse:** Friday, October 3; visible across most of North America. Check S&T for times.

**Astro-Assembly:** Saturday, October 4, Seagrave Memorial Observatory, Scituate, R.I.

## Space Artist Dies

The dean of astronomical artists, Chesley Bonestell, died June 11 at his home in Carmel, CA. He was 98.

## It's Here!!

The 30 inch mirror is here! Frank Novotny has transported it from Ohio to the clubhouse. The mirror has an 11 inch central hole, is made of Cer-Vit material, and weighs in at a little over 200 lbs. Some rough measurements indicate that the radius of curvature is greater than 92 inches and the focal length is greater than 46 inches, making the mirror a fast F/1.5 - 1.6. These measurements indicate that the mirror is of Ritchey-Chretien (hyperbolic) design, and not a simple parabola. The mirror has a coated surface with some mold on it due to its 10 years of storage. Attempts will be made to clean the mold, but it's believed that the mold detracts only 10-15% from the total light gathering surface, so it's not too bad. The mirror will be used "as-is" for making initial test observations. The mirror will be at the September meeting and thereafter out at the clubhouse.

## For Sale/Trade

**For Sale:** Spotlight prints not sold at Stellafane will be for sale at the September meeting and at the club picnic.

**For Sale/Trade:** Dynamax 6 inch complete with drive corrector, solar skreen (2 inch reduced aperture), star diagonal, 18mm, 12.5mm, 6mm standard 1 1/4" orthoscopic eyepieces. Beautifully stained mahogany and varnished wedge and tripod with brass trim. Worth at least \$800. Will trade for either 10" F/4.5 Dobsonian with accessories or 12" F/4.5 Dobsonian without accessories. Or, will sell for \$550 or best offer. See Dave Aucoin or call 899-0796 after 6 pm.



OCTOBER 1986

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

Thursday, October 9, 1986 at 8:00 PM

The topic will be "Astronomy In The 21st Century" Our speaker will be Dr. Rick Tresch-Fienberg of The Center For Astrophysics who is currently co-investigator on a team developing an array camera for the NASA IR Space Telescope facility, which is to be a long lived satellite observatory for infrared astronomy in the 1990's.

Dr. Tresch-Fineberg first began thinking of a career in physics and astronomy while attending the George Ellery Hale Junior High School in LA, named for the builder of the Mt. Palomar 200" telescope, when he was given a 2" telescope as a 12th birthday present. While watching the Apollo Moon Landings on television, he resolved to go to college to study physics and astronomy. While an undergraduate at Rice University he was involved in rocket studies of sub-atomic particles and electromagnetic fields in the Aurora Borealis for which he received a BA in 1978. He then entered Harvard University, earning his Master's degree in 1980 and a PhD in 1985, the latter for his thesis research on the use of two-dimensional electronic arrays for imaging galactic and extra-galactic objects at IR wavelengths. Dr. Tresch-Fienberg teaches introductory astronomy to non science majors at Harvard and serves on the Editorial Staff at Sky and Telescope magazine.

Please join us for dinner with the speaker before the meeting at the Joyce Chen Restaurant at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge avenue in Cambridge, at Route 16, near the (former) Route 2 rotary.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Late Reminder...

ASTRO-ASSEMBLY- Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4, Seagrave Memorial Observatory, North Scituate, RI. Skyscrapers Inc. annual convention, featuring talks, observing, a swap table, and much more, including telescope, astrophotography and "Astro-Bakeoff" competitions. For further information or directions, call Brian Magaw at (401) 568-8424 or Steve Siok at (401) 885-1608.

### CUSTER INSTITUTE ANNUAL ASTRONOMY JAMBOREE

Friday through Sunday, October 24 - 26, at the Custer Institute, Main Bayview Road, Southold, L.I., NY. Custer Institute is on the North Fork of Eastern Long Island. For further information, contact Warren Hamburger at (516) 223-7878 or Tom Carey at (516) 757-7501.

The following is the 1986-1987 meeting schedule, with the corresponding bulletin deadlines. We are happy to publish news notes, as well as information about items for sale or wanted (hopefully at least vaguely astronomical). Send to: Ken Launie, 15 Salem Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

<u>MEETING DATE</u>	<u>BULLETIN DEADLINE</u>
October 9	September 24
November 13	October 29
December 11	November 25
January 8	December 23
February 12	January 28
March 12	February 25
April 9	March 25
May 14	April 29
June 11	May 27

### FOR SALE

TeleVue 2.5X Barlow in excellent condition. Asking \$55.00. Call Eric Bunn at 264-0505

DECEMBER 1986

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

Thursday, December 11, 1986 at 8:00 PM

The topic will be "Bubbles in the Universe- Nature's Largest Structures." These features were recently discovered by researchers at HCO, and the discovery is one of the most exciting events in recent astronomical research. Our speaker will be Dr. Valerie deLapparent of the Harvard College Observatory. Dr deLapparent earned her BA in physics, her MA in astrophysics and her PhD in Astronomy at the University of Paris. Her diversions include tennis and tapdancing.

Please join us for dinner with the speaker before the meeting at the Joyce Chen Restaurant at 6 PM. The restaurant is on Rindge avenue in Cambridge, at Route 16, near the (former) Route 2 rotary.

#### BULLETIN BOARD

Dave Heustis has announced the revival and reorganization of the Aurora Alert Hotline, which is a phone network that lets members know about an aurora quickly, as it's happening, rather than a week or two later. The basic idea is that you receive one phone call and make two. Ed Wallner will coordinate the Boston area network and anyone interested in participating should let him know at: 32 Barney Hill Road, Wayland, Mass 01778 or by phone at (617) 358-7938, or at the next meeting. If you write, be sure to let him know how late you can be called (not everyone wants to be woken up at 3 AM)!

#### FOR SALE

Bausch and Lomb 8000: 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain with wedge, tripod, equatorial head, clock drive, piggyback camera mount, 3 eyepieces, original cases, 8 x 50 finder, all in perfect condition. \$1250.00, call Gene Lyons at 688-5221 (H) or 275-9200 x 2657 (W)

Complete bound set of Sky and Telescope from Volume 1, Number 1 to the present. Contact Dennis DiCicco for more information at 443-8493.

Refractor: 3 1/4" f9 (30"f.l.) with Jaegers lens, cell, focuser and tubing. No mount. Will sell for cost of lens alone, \$90.00. Contact Kerry Hurd at the meeting or write to P.O. Box 1404, Littleton, MA 01460.

8" f5 Newtonian with full thickness 1/20 wave Coulter mirror from 1970. Equatorial mount, Unitron 10 x 40 finder, 3 eyepieces. \$450.00, Call Phil Rounseville at 527-1080.

#### REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you'd like to help with refreshments at our monthly meeting on a rotating basis, please see or call Tal. Remember, the club reimburses the expenses.

The following is the 1986-1987 meeting schedule, with the corresponding bulletin deadlines. We are happy to publish news notes, as well as information about items for sale or wanted. Send to: Ken Launie, 15 Salem Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 or call either 577-3603 or 491-6855.

MEETING DATE	BULLETIN DEADLINE
January 8	December 23
February 12	January 28
March 12	February 25
April 9	March 25
May 14	April 29
June 11	May 27