



A publication of the *Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers*
January, 2002

Editor: Mark Huss
Web site: dvaa.org

Monthly Meeting

Friday, Jan. 11, 2001

SCEE



"ICECUBE: The Future of High Energy Neutrino Astronomy"

Ignatio Toaboda, our South Pole correspondent!

January Schedule Of Events



Fri. 1/11 7:30 p.m.	Monthly Meeting SCEE
Fri./Sat. 1/11-12	Dark Sky Observing French Creek or Honeybrook
Thu. 1/17 7:30 p.m.	ATM Meeting, Marilyn Michalski's Kimberton, PA
Wed. 1/23 7:30 p.m.	Messier Meeting, John Bajtelsmit's Rosemont, PA

Amateur Telescope Makers

Bob Midiri



On December 18 we had our monthly meeting at the home of John Symborski. Probably due to the upcoming holidays we had a small (but enthusiastic) group. I just want to mention a few projects that were on the table that night.

Scott brought over his almost finished 12.4" F5.5 BVC mirror. Scott is this close to being finished (I'm touching my index finger to my thumb, with no space in between - you get the idea). As of right now his mirror appears to be in great shape, he just has to remove a little glass just before zone 4 of the 5 zones Vince measured with the *Couder Mask*. Scott, being a perfectionist, will work on this using a small 2.5" pitch lap, then smooth his surface with the six inch figuring lap afterward. His mirror looks smooth, but Scott felt that he could make the surface more so.

Having a smooth surface helps tremendously in low contrast features. Comparing for instance two mirrors with an excellent figure of 1/10 wave, the mirror with the smoother surface will be a better performer, by the simple fact of less light scatter across the mirrors surface. This

would be noticeable especially when observing the low contrast features of Jupiter.

John Symborski is working on removing the play from his DS 16 equatorial mount in the RA axis. I mentioned to John that Meade used to sell an option for these mounts called *seal master* bearings. These would be the preferred bearing if attempting astrophotography with that setup, so maybe he can get a hold of these-which would more then likely reduce the play he now has in the mount.

A discussion with Barry Johnson on ways of wiring the telescope secondary for a dew heater was another topic. Barry suggested the flat wire tape utilized in doll houses. Contact him if you would like to learn more about ideas regarding a dew heater system for your scope.

I brought over a pair of 8x42 Meade Safari pro binoculars that *Astronomics* are blowing out for \$69.95. These are made in Japan with BAK-4 prisms, have a very wide 8.2 degree field, and are very light weight. They also incorporate a unique design: When you get the binoculars in focus for observing star clusters, you can *lock* the focus. I have had problems of focus drift with my other hand held binoculars. When viewing differing areas of the sky, I would have to keep re-focusing my older pair of binoculars. This design seems like a good idea for those of us who have this problem.

The next meeting will be at The Prez's house on Thursday, January 17th. Hope everyone has a Happy Holiday.

Without A Telescope

Bart Thorn



Happy New Year! Now is the time when we make our resolutions like doing more observing, getting out to more DVAA events, using all the new astronomical gadgets we received as presents, getting the next Astronomical League certificate, etc., etc. The holidays have rushed by again; the coldest nights of the years are here. Hopefully, you got some of the best winter observing aids - warm clothes.

With this time of year comes an annual reminder to dress warmly!! If you are new to observing, don't let the cold

<i>President</i>	Marilyn Michalski	610-933-0497	<i>Observing</i>	Bart Thorn	610-584-4363
<i>Vice President</i>	Harry Orland	610-896-1733	<i>Welcoming</i>	Richard McMurray	215-886-1856
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<i>Member at Large</i>	Donald D'Egidio	610-544-4064	<i>Refreshments & Sales</i>	John Symborski	610-446-6356
<i>Program</i>	TBD		<i>Library</i>	Dave McDugall	215-886-7454
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