The
Rosette Gazette

Volume 17, Issue 12 Newsletter of the Rose City Astronomers December, 2005

In This Issue:

RCA is a member of the Astronomical League.
http://www.astroleague.org

RCA General Meeting
Monday, December 12th, 6:30 PM
Winter Social and Holiday Potluck

In keeping with annual tradition, the December meeting of the Rose City Astronomers will be a holiday buffet and social gathering for all family members to be held in the OMSI Cafeteria.

Each member is asked to bring a dish to serve 10-12 people.
If your last name begins with . . .

- **A to G, please bring a dessert**
- **H to S, please bring a main dish**
- **T to Z, please bring an appetizer or side dish**

Plates, silverware, and beverages/ice will be supplied by the club. Just bring your dish along with a serving utensil and enjoy the holiday spirit of the RCA membership.

The Holiday Social is a great event to pick up some excellent holiday deals! Save time to shop at the RCA Sales Table for your favorite astronomy gifts. In addition, the Swap Meet will be back by popular demand and there will be ample empty tables around the room for everyone who is interested in displaying items for the Swap Meet.

There will also be tables provided for interesting celestial displays. If you have taken any astronomy pictures this year and want to share them, this is your ideal opportunity. Members also bring their latest inventions and "astro stuff." If you have a fun gadget, item, or tool, please bring it in and show it off to the rest of the membership!

Note that December 12 is the SECOND Monday of the month rather than our usual third Monday. We hope to see everyone there!

New Moon	First Quarter Moon	Full Moon	Last Quarter Moon
December 1	December 8	December 15	December 23

Club Officers			
President	Carol Huston	(503) 629-8809	StarsCarol@comcast.net
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Subscription Director	Larry Godsey	(503) 675-5217	larrygodsey@comcast.net
SIG Director			
Youth Programs Director	Jenny Forrester	(503) 504-8070	jenny@theforrest.org

RCA MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

One of the benefits of RCA Membership is a reduced rate subscription to Sky & Telescope and Astronomy magazines. The RCA member rate for Sky & Telescope Magazine is $32.95 for one year. The RCA member rate for Astronomy magazine is $34 for one year or $60 for two years. For more information go to the RCA web site and click on any of the links for magazines. Larry Godsey, 503-675-5217, Subscription Coordinator, will be taking renewals and new subscriptions at the Magazine Table before General Meetings. Please make checks out to "RCA" and allow two months for your subscription to be renewed.

President's Message

By Carol Huston
December 2005

The Holidays for Astronomers

During the holiday season, people start looking around for gifts for their loved ones and friends. For the astronomy enthusiast in your life, this can present you with a number of opportunities as well as challenges. If you are unfamiliar with astronomy gear, take some time to connect with a seasoned member to get some advice. A good start would be contacting the New Member Advisor, Jim Reilly, who has a listing of mentors who can help you figure out a number of different things. Any of the board members could also give you some assistance with this.

First of all, if you are interested in a buying a telescope, it is important to do some research before you buy. A rule of thumb: if a telescope makes claims about having "450 power!" (450X) or more, don't buy it. There are lots of cheap instruments readily available on the market -- in local department stores or local discount stores -- that do not perform very well for astronomical use. There are several articles and booklets in the RCA Member Library that provide information on choosing a telescope and appropriate accessories. Again, talk to other club members. The variety of instruments RCA members have range from binoculars to large reflectors, from refractors to Schmidt-Cassegrains. Each instrument has its advantages and disadvantages, so it is important that you determine your needs in order to match them up with the equipment that fits them the closest.

There are other great accessories and ideas for your astronomy enthusiast. The RCA Sales Table at each general meeting has a myriad of books, charts, calendars, lights, t-shirts, and gadgets, etc., that are priced way below regular market for members' benefit. The annual calendars are out now and they have spectacular celestial images on them as well as handy astronomical information.

And, a gift membership to RCA also makes a wonderful gift that keeps giving the whole year. We prepare a nice certificate and include a member packet to make a wonderful presentation to an individual or family.

A reminder: RCA's Holiday Social gathering will be held the SECOND Monday of December (December 12) at OMSI in the cafeteria section. We hope to see you all there for our annual potluck!

Awards

Patrick L Hanrahan,
Messier
Award Number 2242
All 110 Messier Objects

For more info visit:
http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/obsclub.html

During RCA's November general meeting, the 2006 RCA's Officers were elected as follows:

- President – Carol Huston;
- Vice President, Membership – Ken Hose;
- Vice President, Communications – Matt Brewster;
- Vice President, Community Affairs – Jeff Sponaugle;
- Vice President, Observing – Matt Vartanian;
- Treasurer – Ed Epp;
- Secretary – Andy Phelps.

Telescope Workshop

When: Saturday, December 17, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

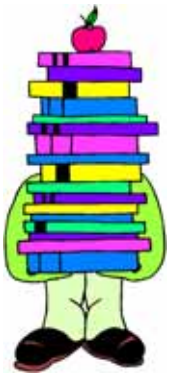
Place: Technical Marine Service, Inc.
6040 N. Cutter Circle
on Swan Island

For more information contact:

Director: John DeLacy johncdelacy@comcast.net

Assistant: Don Peckham don@dbpeckham.com

RCA Library



The Rose City Astronomers maintains a comprehensive club library of astronomy related articles, books, CDs and videos. These items can be borrowed by members through checkout at the general meetings for a period of one month with renewals available by phone or e-mail to the club library director, Jan Keiski.

The RCA library is constantly growing through many donations and the purchase of new materials. A listing of library materials (PDF format) can be found at the library web page: http://www.rca-omsi.org/library.htm

Jan Keiski (jikeiski@comcast.net)
503-539-4566

Orientation Meeting for New RCA Members

If you have joined our club recently, or have little experience with astronomy, you might be uncomfortable about seeking answers to any number or questions: what to buy, what to see, when and where to look, what does NGC stand for, and other questions that reveal your inexperience. All of us in the club began there too, so let us help you with a new-member* orientation at 7PM, Friday December 9th at the home of Jim Reilly, the RCA New-Member Advisor. (Feel free to come later, I will be up until 10 if you're still shopping for that perfect astronomy gift!) We will spend an hour or two talking about astronomy: I'll fill you in on some of my astro-experiences (including memories of when I was new at this) and you can ask questions about this great hobby. I will not have every answer on the spot, but together we can figure out the next person to ask & we'll find the answers!

Some of the topics we'll cover:

- Club resources and how to access them.
- How to prepare for and participate in star parties.
- Helpful tips on what you'll need to get started.
- Introduction to observing programs.
- Generic review of equipment (with props!).
- Volunteer opportunities with RCA.
- Question and Answer (more than one of each, if necessary!)

Please RSVP by contacting Jim Reilly (503-493-2386, or jimrpdx at granitic.net); let me know how many are coming with you so I can grab the right number of chairs. Remember also to bring along your new-member packet for reference; I'll have a few spares, just in case. This informal session will be geared to helping you make the most out of your participation in RCA, so feel free to pass along any advance questions and topics when you RSVP.

** You don't have to be absolutely new! Slightly used members are also welcome.*

Additional information and map at:
http://www.xprt.net/~spacer/astro/newmem.htm

A SAMPLING OF TELESCOPES FOR THE AMATEUR ASTRONOMER—PART 12

By John W. Siple

Unitron Model 114 2.4-inch altazimuth refractor telescope. An example from the 1970s of museum quality, it is easily worth $600-700.

The ancient Japanese religion of Shinto, written as the Way of the Gods, stresses "right practice" and "sensibility" in everyday life. In business, these seemingly esoteric principles were applied to the manufacture of a new line of refractor telescopes introduced in October 1951. Called Unitron, a union of the words *uni* (meaning one) and *tron* (throne)[1], these telescopes shook the world of amateur astronomy for decades to come.

The ever-popular Unitron Model 114 (Product No. 16501), a 2.4-inch f/15 altazimuth refractor telescope, was imported into the U.S.A. from Tokyo, Japan by United Trading Co. (later Unitron Instruments Corporation). Located in Boston, Mass., their instruments could be purchased either by mail order or directly from the showroom. The list price remained constant at $125 until the early 1970s, but then rose dramatically as a result of inflation. United Trading Co. expended considerable resources to publicize its telescopes; *Sky & Telescope* magazine carried so many of their advertisements that it became known as *Sky & Unitron.* The outside back cover often showed Model 114 with all of its bells and whistles; many a youngster, attracted by the telescope's obvious quality and special features, saved every penny from their newspaper routes to garner one of the prized marvels.

Beginning amateur astronomers forty or fifty years ago, as today, were faced with some basic models to choose from. Back then, the choice was far more limited. In general, the budget allowed for either a 2.4-inch or 3-inch refractor, or a 4 ½-inch Newtonian reflector (buying a Criterion Mfg. Co. Dynascope 6-inch was another avenue often taken). Unitron refractors were considered at the high end of the chain, with dreamy altazimuth mountings, where the observer manipulated the motions

(Continued on page 5)

Model 114's workhorse, an air-spaced, achromatic 2.4-inch (60mm) objective lens of 35.4-inch (900mm) focal length.

{This article is intended for informational purposes. The author can be contacted through RCA.}

Advertisement from the *UNITRON ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPES Including the New OBSERVER'S GUIDE.* ©1958, United Scientific Co.

A SAMPLING OF TELESCOPES *(Continued from page 4)*

with precision-geared micrometric controls; a corrosion resistant duralumin (a lightweight, strong alloy of aluminum often used in aircraft construction) optical tube finished in glossy white; furniture quality mahogany tripod legs and fitted storage cabinet; and a carefully-figured objective lens that imaged objects with crystal clarity.

The coated objective lens is fully corrected for spherical and chromatic aberration. Astigmatism and coma, along with any other optical interferences of the diffraction image, are at a minimum. The specifications are marked in white lettering along with the Unitron name on the inner cell that holds the lens. Prior to about 1958, the cell and focuser had an engraving of 62mm for the diameter of the lens, instead of the more commonly seen 60mm during the high demand years of the 1960s and '70s. An outer lens cell, which is permanently mounted directly on the telescope tube, is threaded to accept the inner cell holding the objective lens. Unusual for Japanese 2.4-inch imported refractors, the fully-baffled optical tube has an outside diameter measuring 2.7-inches. (Many refractors from that era house lenses in metal tubes not much bigger than the nominal diameter of the lens itself—oversized tubes, such as those used in Unitron refractors require fewer light baffles, and restrict harmful eddies and pockets of air turbulence to the outer boundary for a steadier image.)

In August 1955, a new mounting bracket or cradle was added to the altazimuth mounting as a replacement for the original-style mounting flange. This permitted the observer to rotate the optical tube assembly 360° and to position it lengthwise for proper balance. In the late 1950s several other minor changes in the design occurred: metal knobs and wing nuts on the mounting were replaced with neoprene (the single knob on the focuser was also changed); the sharp, metal leg tips at the end of the tripod legs for anchoring the telescope into place at the observing spot went to nose-cone shaped plastic; and a 6 x 23.5 or 4 x 19 viewfinder was substituted in place of the smaller 5 x 16 version. Still an instrument that stood out in craftsmanship and appearance, sales skyrocketed as result of the Apollo Moon Program and then continued on at a high pace.

Early 1950s 2.4-inch tube and integral mounting flange. Unitron is truly the king of refractors.

The Unitron refractor has a suite of quality observing supplies. To avoid fumbling eyepieces in the dark, an ingenious device called a Unihex is inserted into the focuser. At the simple flip of the rotary wheel, one of six eyepieces of the person's choice snaps into position for viewing pleasure. Alternatively, an erecting prism for revealing terrestrial panoramas, or a star diagonal for astronomical viewing, can be substituted in place of the Unihex. Four 0.965" eyepieces are included with the telescope, but the accessory package was often modified over the lifetime of production. A solar projection set is an extremely useful add-on, since partial and total solar eclipses can be monitored with complete safety at a comfortable distance from the observer's chair.

The winter night sky has many secrets that the hidden powers of the Unitron refractor can divulge to the patient observer. Pointing the telescope in the direction of Orion's Sword, we find ourselves in the midst of what John Herschel described as, "The breaking up of a mackerel sky when the clouds of which it consists begin to assume a cirrus appearance...." A sight to behold in *any* telescope, the little 2.4-inch Unitron refractor proves its worth by resolving the quadrangle of stars known as the Trapezium, or θ^1 Orionis, at M42's heart into its four components (CD: mags. 5.1, 6.7; sep. 13.4"; p.a. 241°, and AB: mags. 6.7, 7.9; sep. 8.8"; p.a. 31°). In a Clave Paris 10mm Plössl eyepiece (90x), the 2.4-inch shows the multiple star system embedded in a swirling mist of glowing, greenish star stuff.

The Lady and the Unicorn, La dame à la licorne, a triumph of artistic talent of the Middle Ages in Europe.

The constellation Monoceros the Unicorn, occupying a privileged position just to the east of Orion the Hunter and in the winter Milky Way, first appeared on star charts drawn up by Johannes Kepler's son-in-law, Jakob Bartsch, in 1624[2]. The glory of the Unicorn was captured in the famous The Lady and the Unicorn Tapestries, woven in Flanders in the early 16th century. A total of six tapestries, considered collectively as one of the world's greatest art treasures, represent the six senses: hearing, sight, smell, taste, touch and love (A mon seul dèsir—panel shown at left)[3].

(Continued on page 6)

A SAMPLING OF TELESCOPES *(Continued from page 5)*

Glowing fiercely at the Unicorn's right cornet[4] is (Sir William) Herschel's Wonder Star or β Monocerotis, the finest triple star in the heavens. A Cave Orthostar 6.6mm ocular (136x) gives a grand view where the multiple star system appears as a slender triangle of closely knit, matched white suns (AB: mags. 4.7, 5.2; sep. 7.3"; p.a. 132°, and BC: mags. 5.2, 6.1; sep. 2.8"; p.a. 106°—all are spectral type B2). Light left the tertiary star system 700 years ago in its long traverse to earth.

Dangling like a multi-faceted jeweled amulet from the Unicorn's face is the astrophotographer's favorite, the Rosette Nebula. At 90' in breadth, nearly three times the apparent diameter of the Moon, the nebula is so large that its most heavily illuminated portions are designated with separate NGC numbers (2237, 2238, and 2246). Occupying the central hole of this nebulous wreath or annulus is the glittering star cluster NGC 2244, its brightest dozen members forming a distinctive rectangular shape in the 2.4-inch Unitron refractor. Far from city lights, this interstellar complex can be glimpsed as a star-like object with the unaided eye. The extremely hot O-type stars of NGC 2244 are the source of ultraviolet radiation that causes the nebula to fluoresce, and their strong solar winds have swept the immediate area clear of gas and dust, accounting for the cloud's striking visual appearance. The star cluster's lucida, 12 Monocerotis, is a yellow giant star shining at magnitude 5.85. A Tele Vue 40mm Plössl eyepiece (22.5x), with a relatively wide field, is best suited for observing the region and star cluster. Using a Lumicon Oxygen-III filter, the northwest quadrant (NGC 2237-8) of the Rosette Nebula dominates, and appears as a wide ghostly arc. A pair of binoculars is also an ideal choice for looking at the Rosette Nebula because of its size and low surface brightness—10 x 70s bring out major portions of the celestial ring nicely. Large amateur telescopes can take greater advantage of Deep-Sky, UHC (ultra-high contrast) and Oxygen-III filters, where not only filamentary structure is evident, but localized small spots called globules (places of future solar systems) are seen. The entire complex is 4,900 light years away and has an estimated diameter of 90 light years.

Shining down on earth from the heavens, and in the position of the Unicorn's eye, is Plaskett's Star (V640 Monocerotis). The star is found just to the north of the Rosette Nebula (theorized to be part of the structure), and lies 1.5° to the southeast of 13 Monocerotis. First studied in 1922 by J. S. Plaskett of Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (Victoria, B.C.) through their huge 72-inch reflecting telescope, it was the most massive spectroscopic binary system found in our Galaxy during the last century. The visual magnitude is 6.05 and both supergiant stars are of type O8, with strong emission lines in their spectrum. The two components weigh in at 51 and 43 times the mass of the Sun. They are exchanging considerable amounts of material because of their close proximity to each other, and this mass transfer is significantly modifying the evolutionary history of the system. At 53x with a Tele Vue 17mm Plössl eyepiece in the Unihex, this bluish-white star, which helped earn John Stanley Plaskett the Bruce Medal in 1932, appears as a lone wolf in its region of space.

The Unitron Model 114 2.4-inch altazimuth refractor telescope, masterfully engineered and built to last for generations, is an archetype of post World War II era, high-end (and relatively expensive) refractors. Unitron instruments, stored away in attics and closets for decades, when reactivated for astronomical observations, perform just as well when they were first purchased. There are no buttons to push, no mouse-clicks to be made, no computer icons to follow. A wonderful feature for restorers of fine vintage instruments is the interconnectedness or interchangeability of Unitron parts. This makes replacement of a lost or broken part a reality, since the manufacturer of Unitron equipment, Nihon Seiko Kenkyusho, Ltd., stopped production in 1989. The market for collectible telescopes is driven by both demand and condition. A well kept, functional Model 114 with its original accessories and case(s) can bring $450-700 in today's marketplace.

ENDNOTES

[1]Scottish tron is also spelled tröne. Taken literally in Old French, tröne translates into throne. Other interpretations are open for discussion.

[2]The exact dating of the constellation Monoceros the Unicorn is uncertain. Considered a modern constellation, with stars none brighter than 4th magnitude, the first to plot the stars into a recognizable pattern is speculative. There is evidence that it may have existed in antiquity as a known entity.

[3]Readers might find Chevalier's bestselling book worth investigating. It is a fictionalized account, grounded on historical fact. Jean Le Viste, a main character in her novel, who reputedly commissioned the tapestries, was a nobleman in the Courts of Valois Dynastic Kings Louis XI and Charles VIII. In 1489 he became head of one of the Royal Courts of Justice. Chevalier, Tracy. *The Lady and the Unicorn.* New York: Penguin, 2004.

[4]Selected anatomical points throughout Monoceros are based on Johannes Hevelius's 1687 work *Firmamentum Sobiescianum sive Uranographia*. A critique about Johannes Hevelius of Danzig, a uranographer (celestial cartographer) of high standing, can be found in *Uranometria 2000.0, Vol. I*, pages XXIII-XXV, by Tirion, Rappaport, and Lovi.

THE OBSERVER'S CORNER

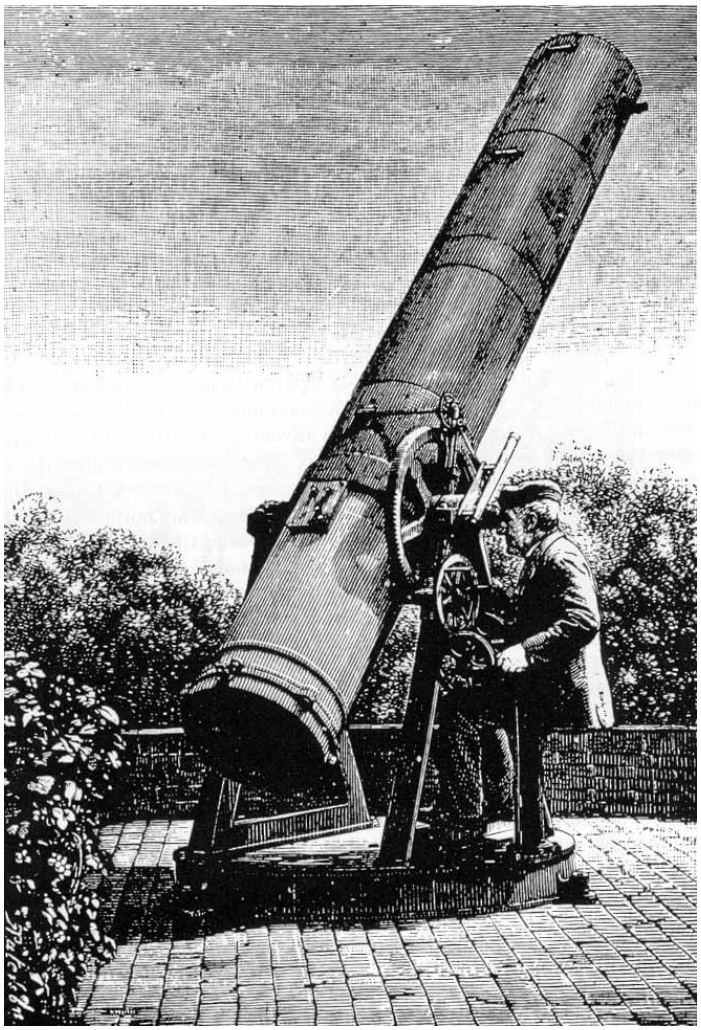
Howard Banich

Some interesting and significant telescopes of the past

I've recently read two books regarding the history and development of the telescope. Aside from gaining some insights into how this remarkable instrument came to be in all its present forms, a few of the telescopes described struck a chord of intrigue. And that's the subject of this article.

The first Naysmith focus telescope

You may have seen or read about the "Naysmith focus" on some of the worlds largest telescopes. This is when the focus of the telescope's optics are directed to the outside of the scope through the center of the altitude bearing, which enables an observer, camera or other instruments to be securely mounted in a fixed position.



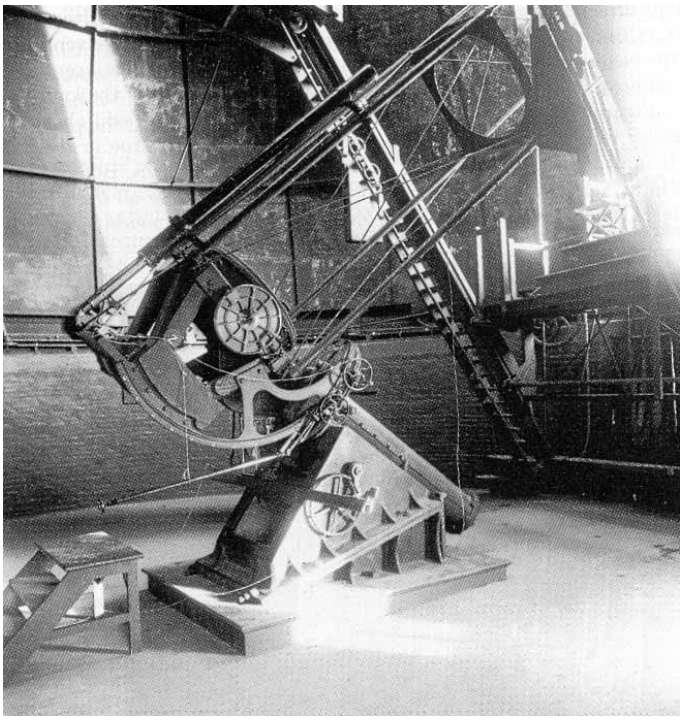
This novel and convenient arrangement was first built by Scottish engineer James Naysmith in approximately 1845 in the 20"alt-az telescope pictured above. Naysmith's interest was primarily studying the moon, and eventually worked with James Carpenter to write an 1871 book on their theory of lunar crater formation.

The optical arrangement is essentially a Cassegrain with a flat Newtonian mirror intercepting the light beam and sending it to the outside of tube, in this notable case in the center of rotation of the altitude bearing. This scope also represents one of the first successful convex Cassegrain secondary mirrors.

Naysmith referred to his telescope design as making "Gigantic telescopes at once Easy and comfortable", which I'm sure his was. It's not difficult to imagine a modern alt-az drive and goto system attached to Naysmith's telescope, and how much fun it would be to ride with the telescope while it slewed and tracked objects. How cool would that be?

The Crossley Reflector

In 1879 G. Calver made a 36" silvered glass mirror for Edward Crossley, an amateur astronomer from Halifax, England. What makes this mirror interesting was that it had an f5.8 focal ratio, a huge decrease in what was normal for the day (f10 to f9-ish). Crossley donated his telescope to Lick Observatory in 1895 and in 1900 the mirror was refigured and remounted into the instrument shown in this photo:



What grabs my attention are the four truss tubes with 8 guy wires to stiffen the optical assembly. So in essence this was the first string telescope, which was rediscovered by the RCA's Dan Gray a few years ago.

The Crossley reflector is often considered the first modern reflector because of its silvered glass mirror, equatorial mount and scientific productivity with photography and spectrography.

(Continued on page 8)

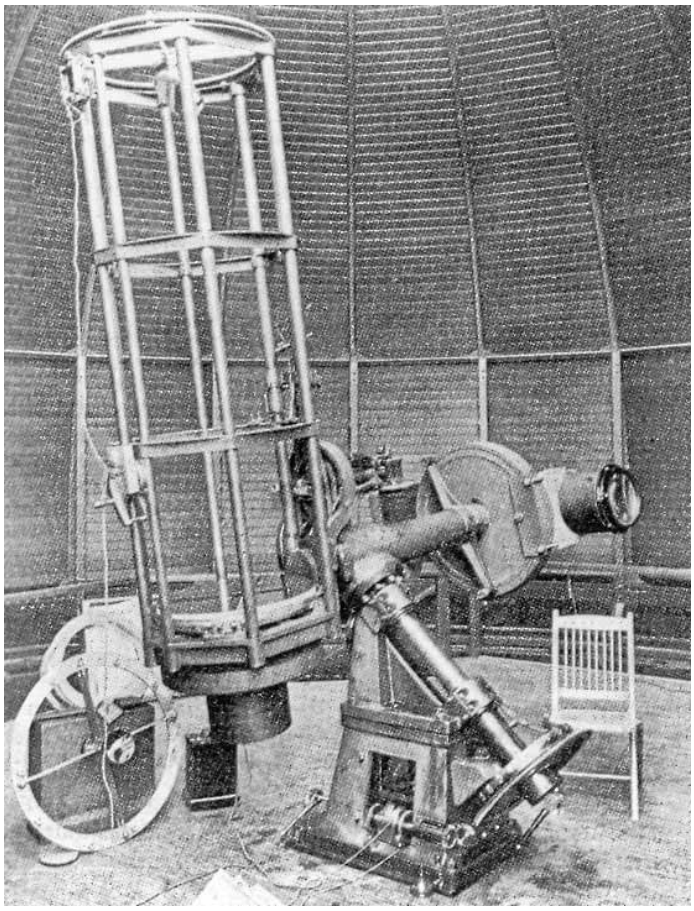
The Observer's Corner *(Continued from page 7)*

Ritchey's 24" f3.9

However, R.N. Wilson, the author of *Reflecting Optics*, volumes 1 and 2 makes the case that the first telescope to possess all the characteristics of a modern telescope was another instrument. In 1901 George Ritchey (of Ritchey-Chrétien optical system fame, among other achievements) built a 24 inch f 3.9 silvered glass mirror telescope with a German equatorial mount.

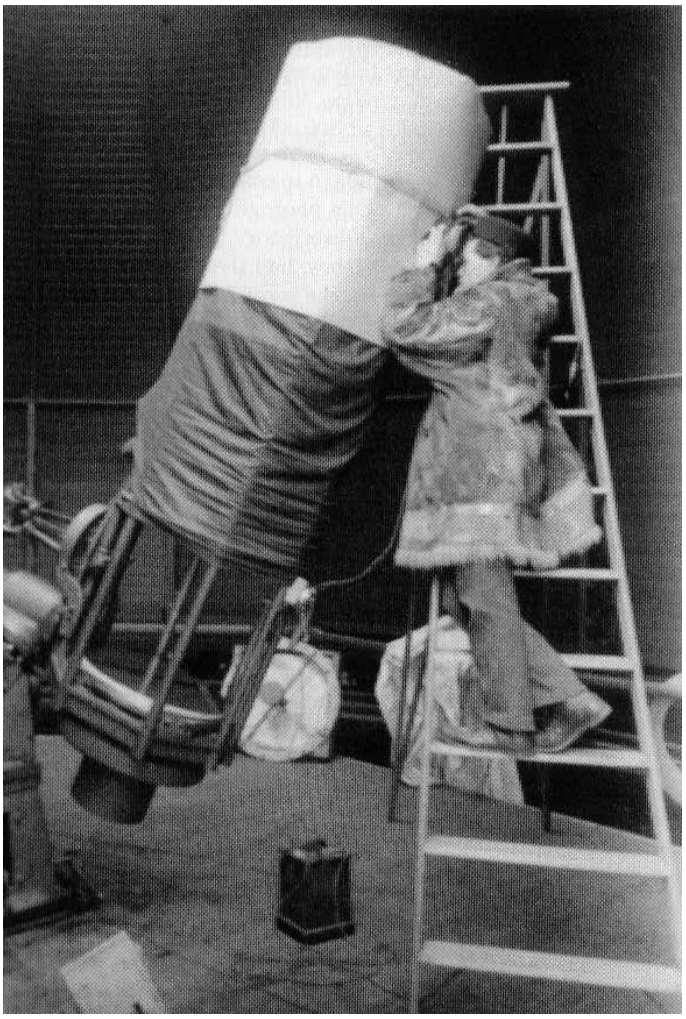
This was by far the fastest large mirror made at the time and enabled Ritchey to photograph large numbers of external galaxies that showed how photographically productive a fast reflector could be. It paved the way for Ritchey's work on the 60 inch, 100 inch telescopes and later G.E. Hale's 200 inch telescope.

The first photo shows the Ritchey scope soon after its completion at Yerkes Observatory:



First of all, the utter familiarity of the design is striking. The scope is set up as a Newtonian, but note the Cassegrain secondary cage and mirror at the bottom left of the photo. Right next to it is what looks like a battery for the motor drive. There also seems to be a camera attached to the counterweight. The optical assembly is remarkable in that the six tube open frame work tube is a design that's been making a comeback lately in amateur scopes of similar size.

However, the next photo is my favorite because it shows Ritchey observing at the Newtonian focus.



Anyone with a large Dobsonian can immediately identify with this photo. A 24 inch f 4-ish truss tube telescope with a cloth shroud (note the front end extension, which I imagine was black on the inside) and with the Newtonian focus accessible with a ladder is not unusual today. A scope this size is probably mounted as an Dobsonian today, but then it's also more likely to have a goto drive too.

Ritchey's 1901 scope was seen as significant advance at the time, and yet comparable scopes are now relatively commonplace amateur instruments, and that's pretty amazing. Sure, all sorts of technology that were once considered cutting edge are now readily available, but that doesn't have to lessen our appreciation for what can be considered the forerunner of today's large amateur reflector.

References

Reflecting Telescopes, volumes 1 and 2
R.N. Wilson
Springer-Verlag

Stargazer, the life and times of the Telescope
Fred Watson
Da Capo Press

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2005
OMSI Classroom 1
Matt Vartanian for Ken Cone

Board members present: Peter Abrahams, Patton Echols, Larry Godsey, Ken Hose, Carol Huston, Jan Keiski, Bob McGown, Dareth Murray, David Nemo, Greg Rohde , Matt Vartanian, Sameer Ruiwale

Non-board members present: Andy Phelps, Bob Bond

Board Reports

- Secretary's Report – Matt Vartanian for Ken Cone: Quorum (12) met with 12 voting members present.
- Treasurer's Report – Ed Epp: $ 17,015 balance on hand. The CT-12 form, due mid November, was sent to the Department of Justice several weeks ago. The amendment to the annual report was sent to the Secretary of State with the $50 fee in August. Our insurance was paid in July ($497.34)
- VP Programming – Matt Brewster: November meeting in planetarium; December is pot luck on second Monday; January is the information fair.
- VP Observing – Matt Vartanian: Nominal
- VP Community Affairs – Jeff Sponaugle: No report.
- VP Membership – Ken Hose: $593 membership income, 22 renewals and 4 new members. Total is 265 member families.
- New Member Advisor – Jim Reilly: No report.
- Media Director – Patton Echols: Nominal.
- Sales – Sameer Ruiwale: $261 in sales for October
- Book Library – Jan Keiski: Nominal
- Telescope Library – Greg Rohde: New solar scope ready for use. All other scopes in use.
- IDA – Bob McGown: Nominal.
- Magazine Subscriptions – Larry Godsey: $459.60 magazine sales for October.
- Webmaster – Dareth Murray: Nominal
- Site Committee – David Nemo: Nominal
- SIGs, OMSI, Alcor, Gazette, and JRCA: No report

Old Business

- NRWAL had a meeting with insufficient attendance to get vote. Will arrange online vote in November. Carol discussed ways that she felt NRWAL could be of benefit to RCA including addressing light pollution issues, and youth programs.
- GAP discussion: Carol stressed that we should all be aware that communication to our membership is crucial. Discussion followed regarding new members and special star parties with educational component. Several ideas suggested.
- Phone Line Report: Patton responded to several calls asking for information.
- November 6 through December 4: Matt Vartanian
- December 4 through January 2: Jeff Sponaugle
- January 9th through February 6th: Carol Huston

New Business

- Galileo awards: Awards committee discussed potential candidates.
- OMSI liaison: Ken Hose makes a motion and Greg Rohde seconds that Jan Keiski become OMSI liaison. Motion passes.
- Site Committee brought forth a proposal to initiate a fundraising campaign. Discussion followed focusing on two topics: On which types of sites and how many sites should the site committee focus? What dollar amount should the target goal be? Other discussion about donor recognition, a presentation at the January general meeting, and payment options. Patton made motion to accept the site committee's proposal to continue site search for three sites and proceed with a fundraising effort to target $110,000. Sameer seconded. Motion passed.

Nominations Committee

- Patton reported that Andy Phelps had expressed interest in the position of secretary and would join the slate to run for that position in the RCA board election. The slate will be presented and voted at the November general meeting as follows: President – Carol Huston; Vice President, Observing – Matt Vartanian; Vice President, Communications – Matt Brewster; Vice President, Public Affairs – Jeff Sponaugle; Secretary – Andy Phelps; and Treasurer – Ed Epp.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

ALCON EXPO 2007

Portland, Oregon

Anyone interested in being on the Astronomical League Conference Committee for the conference in Portland in 2007, please contact Dareth Murray - darethlee@comcast.net

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry
Rose City Astronomers
1945 SE Water Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97214-3354

December 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December 2005

Dec 5	Mon	RCA Board Meeting	OMSI Classroom1	7pm
Dec 12	Mon	RCA General Meeting	OMSI Auditorium	7:30pm
Dec 17	Sat	Telescope Workshop	Swan Island	10am—3pm

January 2006

Jan 9	Mon	RCA Board Meeting	OMSI Classroom1	7pm
Jan 16	Mon	RCA General Meeting	OMSI Auditorium	7:30pm

The RCA General Meeting falls on the third Monday of each month. We usually meet in the Auditorium at OMSI, next to the Murdock Planetarium. Occasionally the meeting is held in Murdock Planetarium. Check here each month for details, or look us up at the RCA web site (http://www.rca-omsi.org).

RCA CLUB INFORMATION
Message Line: (503) 255-2016
Web Site: http://www.rca-omsi.org