

The Howard Astronomical League

General Meeting

January 18, 2018



Introductions

Upcoming Events

HAL Events

March 17th at 7:15pm – Members' Star Party, Alpha Ridge

March 24th at 7:30pm – Public Star Party, Alpha Ridge

Regional Events

Feb 12-18 – Winter Star Party, Florida Keys

HAL Business Tonight

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Observatory Report
3. Election of 2018 HAL Officers (End of meeting)

HAL 2017 Financial Summary

- 2017 Starting Bank Balance: \$7,629
- 2017 Income
 - Memberships: \$5,040
 - Equipmt sale: \$1,140
 - Other: \$398
- 2017 Cash added to Bank: \$6,578
- 2017 Expenses
 - Recurring: \$2,160 (Note 1)
 - Non-recurring: \$2,693 (Note 2)
- 2017 Cash spent from Bank: \$4,853
- 2017 Ending Bank Balance: \$9,354

Note 1: AL, Insurance, Website, Mailbox

Note 2: Materials and supplies needed to keep HALO operating and in good condition

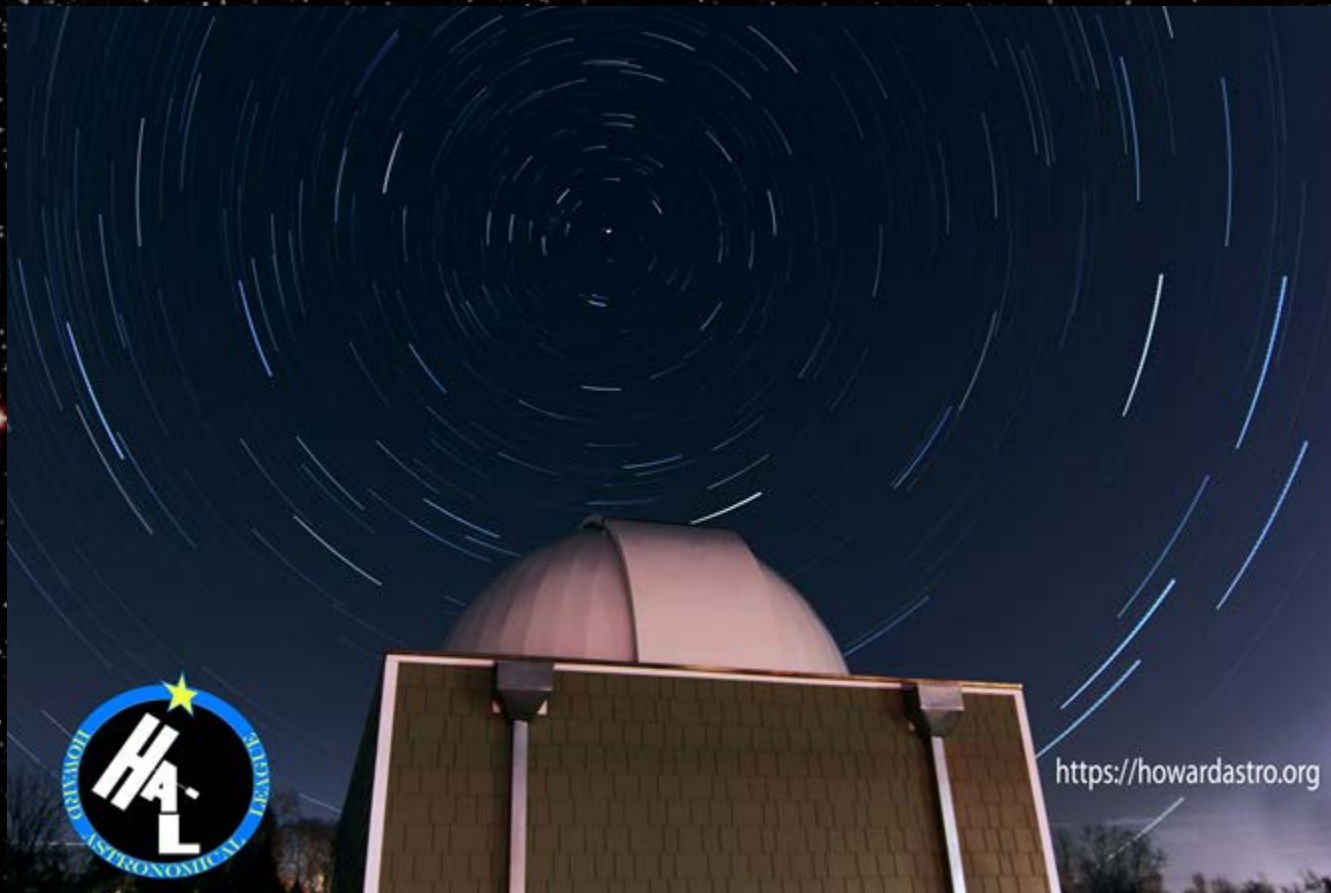
HAL Membership Stats

12/31/15: 234

12/31/16: 219

12/31/17: 263

Howard Astronomical League Observatory Update



2017 Alpha Ridge Events

- 10 Public Star Parties
- 9 Members Only Star Parties
(Only 2 of 9 not clouded out!)
- Solarfest w/ HCR&P

2017 Key Purchases

- QHY5III290C Webcam for Planetary Use to supplement Mallincam Universe
- Upgraded pier to desk wiring from USB2 – USB3. Needed for QHY. Increases frame rate.
- Purchased new Dell Laptop. USB3 port added plus.
- Purchased new wheels/tires for 16” Meade wagon
- Purchased steel shelving to organize storage area
- Purchased new door flier box. Kept stocked.
- Purchased “recycle” boxes and signage for Solar System Walk

Behind the Scenes

- Trained a couple new CTOs, but lost just as many. Still need more.
- Starting research to automate scope
 - Easier to use for CTOs
 - Better CTO retention
 - Show more objects, more quickly to attendees
 - Support member observations
 - Need to remove & weigh Watson OTA soon

HAL Library - Still to Come

- HAL's original charter calls for building an observatory (done) and a library (in progress)
- Have books – some in HALO, some in other locations, books are on-line, with check-out tools in place
 - Check library contents here:
<https://www.howardastro.org/library/memprintlib.php>
- Still need to build book shelf storage in HALO, inventory books, complete parts of process, and then roll-out to members.

Astronomically Interesting

January 31st: Eclipsed super blue moon – we only see the beginning as the moon sets that morning before totality is reached

March 18th:

- Interior planets visible in the evening sky at sunset
- Exterior planets visible in the morning before sunrise



Guest Speaker

Dr. Avi Mandell

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Planetary Systems Laboratory

**Hot Jupiters and Lava Planets:
Exploring the Diversity of Exoplanet Environments**

Member's Astrophotos and Sketches

Gary Frishkorn

Orionid Fireball with Persistent Train 10/21/2017 8:01 UT

6x8 degree subframes, f/2.4 ISO:1600 5 sec. exposures, Bellatrix at top edge



8:01:25



8:01:32



8:01:40



8:01:47



8:01:54



8:02:02

Orionid Fireball with Persistent Train 10/21/2017 8:01 UT

6x8 degree subframes, f/2.4 ISO:1600 5 sec. exposures, Bellatrix at top edge



8:02:09



8:02:16



8:02:24



8:02:31



8:02:38



8:02:46



Joe Bohanon, Star Trails
(Image spanning two years)



Matt Krutar
HAL Public Star Party
December 2nd, 2017



Super Moon

HAL Public Star Party, 02 Dec 2017
Watson Telescope, MallinCam Universe
David Stein and Jim Johnson



“Glory”

A photo by Herman Heyn during a flight from St. Louis to Baltimore
The Weather Book, Jack Williams, Vintage Books (1997)

Joel Goodman slides used to
promote HAL at the American
Astronomical Society's APOD
presentation on January 9, 2018



<https://howardastro.org>

2017 SUPER MOON

Photo by Richard Orr

"There are nights
when the wolves are silent
and only the moon howls"

George Carlin



2018 HAL Election

Only one nominee for each of the six elected HAL Board positions:

President:	Jim Johnson
1 st VP:	Mike Krauss
2 nd VP:	Bob Dutilly
Secretary:	Paul Montanaro
Treasurer:	Bob Savoy
Events Coordinator:	David Stein

Entire Slate was Elected!

Election Wrap Up

2017 Board – Thank you!

2017 – 2018 Transitions

- David Stein replaces Joel Goodman as Events Coordinator
- Appointed positions (at 2/18 Planning Mtg)
 - Joel Goodman replaces Chas Rimpo as Observatory Director
 - Chas Rimpo stays on as Webmaster

President's 2018 Priorities

Overarching Theme

Member input and involvement

- Improve usability of HALO/Watson telescope
- Continued emphasis on visual observing
- Make progress in updating the HAL website
- Grow the membership base

Thank You!

Next month's meeting is on Thursday,
February 15th, 2018 at 7 PM

Guest Speaker

Dr. Thomas S. Barclay

TESS Mission/Science Support Center