

AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ASSOCIATION

My Slice of the Night Sky: p. 12

2022 Volunteers Totals: p. 6

The Guide Star

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January 13, 2023, Zoom-Only

January Talk: “Incredible-Maui-Stargazing Tour”

While the Hawaiian Islands are best known for always-sunny weather, beaches, surfing, and luaus, the Astronomical community associates the islands with several great observatory sites such as those on Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa (in fact, 28 observatories). Our guest speaker for the club’s January 13, 2023 meeting (7:30 pm start), **Bob Thibadeau**, Ph.D., takes on a different Hawaiian astronomical journey with his presentation “**Incredible-Maui-Stargazing Tour**”. According to Bob, “One of the preeminent astrophysics observatory sites is located on the volcano peak at Haleakala on the Island of Maui. Jan Roberson, a life member of the Maui Amateur Astronomy Club, runs a private tour of the evening sky at the Haleakala National Park with her own 12” Orion Dob. If you go on the 5-hour tour, called “Maui Stargazing,” she sends you a personalized PowerPoint presentation of what you saw that night. See this amazing Tour by a fellow Amateur Astronomer.” Bob will tell the story of Jan and her fascinating tour.



- Here's more info sources on these tours and the Maui astronomy club:
- Maui Stargazing Tour: <https://www.mauistargazing.com/>;
 - Maui Astronomy Club: <http://mauiastronomyclub.org/about-the-maui-astronomy-club>;
 - Phone: 808-298-8254



Note: Upper right photos: “Sunset and Stargazing” Tours Van (Jan Roberson inset)

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Window for Membership Renewals Closes This Month (1-31-23)

With the busy holiday season behind us, now is a good time to renew your AAAP dues for 2023. We’ve entered the “grace period” this month with the absolute positive deadline of January 31, 2023. Sorry, after this date we must remove your name from the membership database.

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2022 AAAP Service Award Winners Announced



Rich Dollish



Betty Arenth



Diane Yorkshire



Frank Muto

Please know that when the AAAP Executive Committee selects service award winners each year, it's always a hard choice because there are so many supportive members to consider. So even if you were not selected this year, we appreciate you and everyone's contributions. We're pleased as Pleiades to announce the following AAAP service awardees for 2022:

- **Rich Dollish** – George G. Lindbloom Award: In addition to coordinating and helping out with our off-site star parties, Rich has been key contributor to the VA Observatory program.
- **Betty Arenth** – Lois J. Harrison Award: Betty has been a consistent volunteer at Wagman star parties and has helped with humdrum but important tasks such as parking cars.
- **Diane Yorkshire** – Lois J. Harrison Award: In addition to serving as Recording Secretary, Diane has helped out at many Wagman star parties this year as a receptionist, and with her "Passport to the Universe" program for kids.
- **Frank Muto** – Nova Award: Like Betty and Diane, Frank has also been a dependable helper at Wagman star parties, handling tasks such as setting out and retrieving the portable signs ("No Alcohol" etc.). Frank has posted several fine astrophotos over the course of the year.

See page 6 for the final tally of AAAP event volunteers for 2022.

January Meeting Lecture Goes Hawaiian

(Continued from front page.)

Bob Thibadeau joined the AAAP in November. He has been with Carnegie Mellon University since 1979, specializing in Cognitive Science, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning. He is also one of the founding Directors of the Robotics Institute at the university.



Meeting Mechanics

- The January meeting will be Zoom-only this time. This way we don't have to risk cancellation because of bad winter weather.
- An all-hands email will be sent to all AAAP members with the full run of Zoom info.

Lunar Occultation of Mars Clouded Out (So What Else Is)

The much-anticipated Moon-Mars occultation on December 7 was blocked by a deep cloud cover over the entire Western PA area. Sure enough there were clear or partly cloudy skies on the days leading up to and after Dec. 7. If any AAAP members happened to see or photograph the occultation while out of town, please email Guide Star Editor **Eric Fischer** (ericfischer501@gmail.com). Note: A quick check on-line revealed no locally-visible lunar occultations of planets through at least 2027. Double-drat!

