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# **The Shoreline Observer**

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## ***Newsletter for the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association***

**President - Phil Sherman   Vice President - Arlin Ten Kley   Secretary/Treasurer - Mike Henry**

**Mike Henry, Editor 396-0509**

**November 1994**

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### **November Meeting**

The November meeting of the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association will be held on Thursday November 17th, beginning promptly at 7:00 PM in the West Ottawa Middle School Planetarium.

Business meeting.

Sandy will give a tour of the November night sky.

Mike will be giving a demonstration of home computer use in astronomy.

Don will be bringing refreshments.

### **Star Party**

Our next Star Party will be on Friday December 2nd at the Vivekananda Monastery. For those of you who may not know, we have access to a 22" telescope. If you need directions please contact me (Mike) and I will get you at map.

### **Dues are still due**

Although we have received many membership dues, there are still those of you that haven't paid. Please try to take care of this at the next meeting. There are many bills due soon and the treasury is limited.

### **New Club Officers**

At the September meeting the following people were ~~suckered into~~ elected for SA<sup>3</sup> Board positions:

President	Phil Sherman
Vice President	Arlin Tenkey
Sec/Treasurer	Mike Henry

A special thanks goes to our previous board of Mark, Gary and Phil. Phil feels brave enough for another 2 years at Bill Knapp's. Good luck to all!

## **Behind the Milky Way:**

### **Unveiling a galaxy**

The fuzzy arc of the Milky Way has fascinated skywatchers for millennia. But this patchy collection of gas and dust - the disk of our galaxy - takes up some 20% of the sky, blocking from view a sizable chunk of the universe.

What lurks behind the disk of the Milky Way?

A new study supports the notion that the hidden region teems with galaxies, some of them within our own cosmic backyard.

An international team of astronomers began its work by using a radio telescope to search for emissions of atomic hydrogen gas located outside - but in the same part of the sky as - our galaxy. Such radio emissions can penetrate the Milky Way's veil of gas and dust, if the extragalactic gas moves at a different speed than the rest of the galaxy.

The team now reports that it has found a previously unknown galaxy, a spiral neighbor only 10 million light-years from the Milky Way. Astronomers dubbed the galaxy Dwingeloo 1 in honor of the 25 meter radio telescope at Dwingelo, the Netherlands, through which it was first viewed. The galaxy probably belongs to a nearby group of galaxies that includes IC342, Maffei 1, and Maffei 2.

Unlike another nearby galaxy recently discovered behind our own, Dwingelo 1 lies too far away for the Milky Way to devour it. But it

does seem to reside close enough to effect the motion of the Milky Way and its family of galaxies, known as the Local Group.

Ofer Lahav of the University of Cambridge in England and his colleagues including Harry C Ferguson of the Space Telescope Institute in Baltimore detail their work in the Nov 3 NATURE.

The group found that the location of the newfound galaxy coincides with a dim, unidentified feature on photographic plates taken as part of the Palomar Sky Survey. Lahav and his confirmed their finding with the Westerbork radio telescope in Hooghalen, Netherlands. They also imaged the galaxy in visible light with the William Herschel Telescope in the Canary Islands, Spain.

In a commentary accompanying the NATURE report, David Burstein of Arizona State University in Tempe notes that the new discovery may rank among the first of many galaxies found behind the murk of the Milky Way. "It is encouraging to see the veil of the Milky Way slowly lifted, and we await with anticipation the full unveiling," he writes.

**P.S.** Sorry about the poor print quality, but the laser printer I normally have access to is not working. Better print next month.