

Subject:	Re: Amateur Astronomers and the Hubble Space Telescope
From:	John D. Ruley (john.ruley@ForesightST.com)
To:	grlewycy@yahoo.com;
Cc:	cgainor@shaw.ca; george.lewycy@nyct.com; mutchler@stsci.edu; villard@stsci.edu;
Date:	Wednesday, October 25, 2017 5:19 PM

George,

Many thanks. I'm going to use Max's page as our reference in the archive. We would also be interested in the other material you have. If you could copy it onto a DVD and mail it, that would be most helpful. My address is:

John D. Ruley
 1002 Sycamore Ave
 Modesto CA 95350

Our contract is coming to an end soon, and I don't know whether I will have time to enter everything you send into the archive database - but I can add the DVD to the permanent collection so the material will be properly preserved.

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"Let's make it happen. Foresight helps."

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From: george lewycy <grlewycy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 6:51 AM
To: John D. Ruley
Cc: 'Chris Gainor'; George Lewycy; George Lewycy; mutchler@stsci.edu; villard@stsci.edu
Subject: Re: Amateur Astronomers and the Hubble Space Telescope

Hello Mr Ruley & Dr Gainor,

That page is actually from Max Mutchler (mutchler@stsci.edu) who worked with me at STScI along with other amateurs (who I am still in touch with if needed). I was in Cycle 2. I had a link to it but it wasn't online and I saved the file for reference. Over the years you learn web sites come and ago and people move so I got in the habit of making PDFs and/or keeping the html.
<http://maxmutchler.wixsite.com/stsci> <http://archive.li/1b2bb>

Amateur Astronomers and HST

archive.li

I included Max and Ray Villard in this email. Ray is the News Chief and very familiar with the Amateur program also and would have info on the later cycles which I don't know about. 13 Amateurs participated between 1990-1997.

 I have a collection of files here as well, if its easier for me to send you a a DVD let me know!
 I scanned some from the reference and technical documentation I used for the proposal & instruments.

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/>

Interview from 2015: <http://motherboard.vice.com/read/open-mic-night-at-the-hubble-telescope>



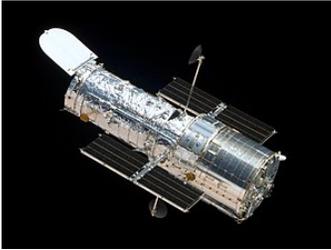
Open Mic Night at the Hubble Telescope

motherboard.vice.com

In the 1990s, the Space Telescope Science Institute accepted proposals from amateur astronomers for a few hours of telescope time.

Amateur observations & Giacconi announcing the Amateur program

from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hubble_Space_Telescope#Amateur_observations



Hubble Space Telescope - Wikipedia

en.wikipedia.org

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is a space telescope that was launched into low Earth orbit in 1990 and remains in operation. Although not the first space telescope ...

The first director of STScI, **Riccardo Giacconi**, announced in 1986 that he intended to devote some of his director discretionary time to allowing amateur astronomers to use the telescope. The total time to be allocated was only a few hours per cycle but excited great interest among amateur astronomers.^[113]

Proposals for amateur time were stringently reviewed by a committee of amateur astronomers, and time was awarded only to proposals that were deemed to have genuine scientific merit, did not duplicate proposals made by professionals, and required the unique capabilities of the space telescope. Thirteen amateur astronomers were awarded time on the telescope, with observations being carried out between 1990 and 1997.^[114] One such study was "Transition Comets—UV Search for OH". The very first proposal, "A Hubble Space Telescope Study of Post-eclipse Brightening and Albedo Changes on Io", was published in *Icarus*,^[115] a journal devoted to solar system studies. A second study from another group of amateurs was also published in *Icarus*.^[116] After that time, however, budget reductions at STScI made the support of work by amateur astronomers untenable, and no additional amateur programs have been carried out.^{[114][117]}

Record Unit 7416, Giacconi, Riccardo, Riccardo Giacconi Papers, 1955–2002
https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/siris_arc_217571

the announcement: <http://www.nyskies.org/articles/pazmino/aa-hst.htm>

Press Release 1986 <http://www.warrenastro.org/was/newsletter/WASP-1986-September.pdf>

Giacconi's announcement was at AAVSO's 75th Anniversary

[https://books.google.com/books?id=IWDIG_CppAQC&pg=PA272&ots=20y1ieG1nD&dq=%22Riccardo%20Giacconi%22%20%22amateur%22%20%22hubble%22%20%221986%22%20%22aavso%22&pg=PA272#v=Nobel+Laureate+Riccardo+Giacconi+\(then+Director,+Space+Telescope+Science+Institute\)+at+the+dedication+of+the+Birch+Street+Headquarters,+announcing+during+his+keynote+speech+that+he+is+giving+a+portion+of+his+discretional+observing+time+on+the+Hubble+Space+Telescope+to+amateur+astronomers,+August+6,+1986](https://books.google.com/books?id=IWDIG_CppAQC&pg=PA272&ots=20y1ieG1nD&dq=%22Riccardo%20Giacconi%22%20%22amateur%22%20%22hubble%22%20%221986%22%20%22aavso%22&pg=PA272#v=Nobel+Laureate+Riccardo+Giacconi+(then+Director,+Space+Telescope+Science+Institute)+at+the+dedication+of+the+Birch+Street+Headquarters,+announcing+during+his+keynote+speech+that+he+is+giving+a+portion+of+his+discretional+observing+time+on+the+Hubble+Space+Telescope+to+amateur+astronomers,+August+6,+1986)

Nobel Laureate Riccardo Giacconi (then Director, Space Telescope Science Institute) at the dedication of the Birch Street Headquarters, announcing during his keynote speech that he is giving a portion of his discretionary observing time on the Hubble Space Telescope to amateur astronomers, August 6, 1986

Cycle 1 & 2

Cycle 1 1990 <https://www.upi.com/Archives/1990/04/09/Amateur-astronomers-get-to-use-telescope/8374639633600/>

Amateur Astronomers Will Use NASA's Hubble Space Telescope - I'm listed here

Cycle 2 1992 http://hubblesite.org/news_release/news/1992-23

Announcements, technical manuals, my posters, end of the amateur program

I was one of the amateurs and I was just at GSFC in April for a Titan conference which I researched using the HST's GHRS

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/>

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/AmateurWorkingGroupAnnouncement.pdf>

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/Demist%20HST%20Amateur%20Program%20199706097105.pdf>

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/PosterLewyckyExperience%204.pdf>

about my experience which I had a poster at GSFC in April along with my science poster also at GSFC

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/PosterLewyckyScience%203.pdf>

http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/proposal_instructions_001.pdf

http://georgenet.net/hubble/files/techdetails_amateurhst_001.pdf

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/bio/New%20Jersey%20Hubble%20Amateurs.pdf>

http://georgenet.net/hubble/bio/hubble_amateurs.pdf

Feel free to ask any questions you might have

Sincerely

George Lewycky

10/25/2017

Print

George Lewycky
gr1ewycky@yahoo.com
<http://georgenet.net>

WORK# 646 252 8882

From: John D. Ruley <john.ruley@ForesightST.com>
To: "gr1ewycky@yahoo.com" <gr1ewycky@yahoo.com>
Cc: 'Chris Gainor' <cgainor@shaw.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2017 2:37 PM
Subject: Amateur Astronomers and the Hubble Space Telescope

I'm an archivist under contract to NASA's Goddard Research Center, where I'm part of a team documenting the operational history of the Hubble Space Telescope. My colleague Dr. Chris Gainor has found some information on your web page at:

<http://georgenet.net/hubble/bio/amateur.html>

Which doesn't seem to be readily available elsewhere. May we have your permission to make that material publicly available through GSFC's Hubble Space Telescope Operational History Archive?

John D. Ruley

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