

The Middlebury College Astronomical Society

Article 1: Name and Seal

The name of the organization shall be "The Middlebury College astronomical Society."

The seal of the Middlebury College Astronomical Society shall be Kepler's "De Motis Stellae Martis," which depicts his observations of the retrograde motion of Mars, surrounded by an abbreviation of the motto "Non est ad astra mollis e terris via," or "There is no smooth way from the Earth to the stars," from line 437 of *Hercules Furens* by Seneca the Younger.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the organization is:

1. To take full advantage of Middlebury's 6.2-magnitude skies by enabling and promoting the observation of astronomical objects with the naked eye and other optical devices
2. To promote fellowship and the joyful spirit of cooperation and discovery that have long characterized the amateur astronomy community
3. To award successful and careful astronomical observation with the issuance of a diverse array of official observing certificates to members who complete various observing goals
4. To engage in outreach to local children and adults with an interest in astronomy
5. To promote advanced theoretical and applied student study of physics, astrophysics, observational astronomy, and optics
6. To contribute to major national amateur astronomy-based research foundations with timely and valuable observation data
7. To increase awareness of significant advances and important issues in the increasingly international astrophysics and space development sector
8. To provide a forum for student interest in amateur and professional astronomy
9. To maintain a library of astronomical textbooks, almanacs, star charts, observing guides for the collective use of Society members.
10. To promote the creation and preservation of a night sky free of light pollution and light trespass through membership in and support of the International Dark Sky Association
11. To train members in the art and science of amateur telescope-making
12. To strengthen astronomical interest on campus by holding presentations by society members and by sponsoring guest lectures for the general public
13. To maintain a supply of optical devices suitable for observing and available to all members

Article III: Membership

Membership is open to those who are:

- a) Students of Middlebury College;
- b) College faculty and staff approved by two-thirds of Society members, or
- c) Certain public figures, such as scientists or noted amateur astronomers, who are approved by two-thirds of Society members and who consent to admission as honorary, non-voting members.

Article IV: Magistrates

Magistrate positions will be open to any member of the club who is also a Middlebury College student. Seven magistrates (President, Vice President, Chief Coordinator, Historian, Librarian, Optician, and Treasurer) will be elected each academic year, and shall work tirelessly fulfill the following duties:

The President shall:

1. Serve as the primary, corresponding public representative of the group when so called upon,
2. Disseminate group-wide communications and organize general and special meetings,
3. Welcome new members, and
4. Informally promote the Society and its public events to the student body at large.

The Vice President shall:

1. Maintain the official, up-to-date membership roster,
2. Recruit and support new members,
3. Arbitrate magistrate-related meetings, and
4. serve as a public representative of the group when so called upon.

The Chief Coordinator shall:

1. Organize and formally promote guest lectures,
2. Organize and formally promote special events,
3. serve as a public representative of the group when so called upon

The Historian shall:

1. Record the dates and circumstances of noteworthy events in the history of the Society,
2. Produce and distribute summaries of such noteworthy events to interested parties
3. Administrate and verify the completion of the observing programs, to distribute Observing Certificates at general meetings
4. Produce and distribute documents produced by the Society for the use of members, such as observing logsheets
4. serve as a public representative of the group when so called upon

The Librarian shall:

1. Maintain a list of the astronomical almanacs, catalogs, textbooks and manuals available to members of the Society
2. Preserve, organize, and increase the number of astronomical almanacs, catalogs, textbooks and manuals available to members of the Society
3. Administrate the borrowing of books from the society's collection and ensure their safe return
4. Oversee the transfer of award certificates to members upon his or her verifying their successful completion of one of the Society's observing programs
5. Service as a public representative of the group when so called upon

The Optician shall:

1. Repair, maintain, and increase the amount of optical equipment available to members of the Society
2. Maintain a list of said optical equipment and the properties of its components
3. Administrate group-member usage of optical equipment
4. Become familiar with and instruct members in the proper usage and operating practices of optical equipment
5. Service as a public representative of the group when so called upon

The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep accurate records of finances and report on such at meetings
2. Maintain the Society's budget
3. Interface with the SGA Finance Committee
4. Service as a public representative of the group when so called upon

Article V: Elections

Magistrates will be elected by a simple majority prior to March 15. At least 60% of the club's members must be present for an election to take place. If a magistrate cannot fulfill his or her responsibilities for an indefinite period of time because of an unpredicted circumstance or an emergency, a special election may be called by the President to vote for a replacement magistrate. In the case that the President is to be replaced, the Vice President may call for a special election. Elections to fill vacancies created by graduation, transfer, or resignation of a student shall be held at the nearest standard weekly meeting before the vacancy is anticipated.

All elections will proceed by secret ballot. A given member must have attended 60% of standard weekly meetings in the preceding academic year to enter a vote.

Article VI: Meetings

Meeting shall be held:

- a) Weekly on a regular basis,
- b) When the President deems one necessary to the interests of the Society,
- c) During significant or otherwise notable astronomical events, such as: solar or lunar phenomena, major meteor showers, the presence of a comet, aurora-inducing electromagnetic storms, a prominent conjunction, and the occurrence of a syzygy.

In addition, any Magistrate may call a special meeting in circumstances contingent to the successful fulfillment of their magisterial duty.

Article VII: Committees

The Chief Coordinator will work with the other magistrates and group members to develop the appropriate committees for each major event, such as a guest lecture.

Article VII: Faculty Adviser

The membership agrees to maintain an adviser from the Middlebury College faculty or staff, as required.

Article IX: Affiliations

Affiliations will be with The International Dark Sky Association, The American Association of Variable Star Observers, The International Occultation Timing Association and The Astronomical League.

Article X: Discrimination Policy

This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section IIA of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organizations Policies section of the Middlebury College Handbook will immediately become policies adopted by the Middlebury Astronomical Society.

Article XI: Ratification

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Article XII: Amendment

- A. The constitution must be amended by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Approved as to form: October 14, 2007