



# Calendar of Events January – May 2005



## Dazzling Winter Skies

Friday, January 14, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
*Oak Ridge Observatory*

Boasting the brightest stars of any season, the clear and cold winter night sky is dominated by Orion the Hunter and Taurus the Bull. Join us as we explore a vast star factory (the Great Nebula in Orion); a thousand-year-old supernova remnant (the Crab Nebula); and the magnificent Double Cluster of young stars in Perseus that shine and twinkle like stellar diamonds. **Please be sure to layer your clothing and don't forget to wear hats and gloves!**

*This event takes place at Oak Ridge Observatory, 40 Pinnacle Road, Harvard, MA.*



## January

**"Dawn of the Space Age"**  
Thursday, Jan. 20 – 8:00 p.m.  
Jonathan McDowell, CFA



The years between the 1957 launch of Sputnik and President Kennedy's 1961 declaration of the Moon race were filled with dramatic moments. But most history books still tell the story as it was known in the 1960s, even though both the United States and the former Soviet Union recently declassified vast amounts of material. Whose rockets were really more reliable? Was the contemporary perception of a Soviet lead correct? McDowell will shed light on these questions and more as he tells the true story of the **Dawn of the Space Age**.

*Observing through telescopes follows the presentation (weather permitting).  
Dr. Jonathan McDowell writes a weekly electronic newsletter and a monthly Sky & Telescope column on current space missions.*



## "A Telescope Reborn"

Thursday, February 17 – 8:00 p.m.  
Dan Fabricant, CFA

A pioneer of new technologies throughout the past two decades, the MMT Observatory in Arizona tested such innovations as a six-mirrored telescope, a rotating building, and computer-guided motion control, while simultaneously making remarkable discoveries. Now transformed into a single-mirror telescope with a suite of cutting-edge instruments, the new and improved MMT will continue its pioneering tradition in the 21st century, promising more incredible discoveries from **A Telescope Reborn**.

*Observing through telescopes follows the presentation (weather permitting).  
Dr. Dan Fabricant has led the development of new instruments for the MMT and is now planning for a giant 25-meter-diameter telescope.*



## February

**Sci-fi Camp-o-Rama!**  
Saturday, February 26

**Hardware Wars – 7:00 p.m.**

If you missed this classic, this may be your last chance! San Francisco filmmaker Ernie Fosselius made the most successful 12 minute short film of all time in the 1978 *Hardware Wars*, an inspired mock-trailer for a nonexistent, cheapo rip-off of *Star Wars*.

**A Grand Day Out – 7:15 p.m.**

Wallace and his furry pal Gromit find themselves desperate for "a nice bit of Gorgonzola," but their refrigerator's empty and the local cheese shop is closed for a holiday. Since the moon is made of cheese, Wallace decides to build a rocket ship and blast off for a cheesy lunar picnic!

**Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Movie – 7:50 p.m.**

*Each year, Hollywood makes hundreds of movies. This is one of them!*  
This cult television show makes a successful transition to the big screen as Mike and the 'bots lay waste to the '50s sci-fi yarn *This Island Earth*. This nonstop, hyper-literate salvo of comedy riffs has CAMP-O-RAMA written all over it!

