



Brian M. Cudnik

B. S. Physics & Astronomy - Northern Arizona University, 1994

M. S. Astronomy - San Diego State University, 1998

Selected Papers

Cudnik, B. M. "Observations of the inner coma of C/199501 (Hale-Bopp) - gas and dust production". *Planetary and Space Science*, **53**, Issue 6, 653-658, 2005.

Cudnik, B. M. "Multi-Wavelength CCD Observations of the 15 November 1999 Mercury Transit and the 'Gray Drop' Phenomenon". *Solar Physics*, **29**, issue 2, p. 197-214, 2004.

Cudnik, B. M.; Dunham, D. W.; Palmer, D. M.; Cook, A.; Venable, R.; Gural, P. S. "Ground-Based Observations Of Lunar Meteoritic Phenomena" *Earth, Moon, and Planets*, **93**, Issue 3, 145-161 (2003).

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Cudnik earned a B.S. degree in Physics and Astronomy from Northern Arizona University in 1994 and an M.S. degree in Astronomy from San Diego State University in 1998. He started part-time work with the Prairie View Solar Observatory (PVS0) project in November of 1998 through an outreach technician position at Rice University. This work became full-time, with the transfer of employment from Rice to Prairie View A&M University in April 1999, making his involvement in the project a full-time effort. Until 30 September 2001, before a transfer to his current position as Physics Laboratory Specialist, Mr. Cudnik worked with PVS0, establishing an observing program, publishing several conference proceedings and refereed papers, and mentoring a number of students along the way.

Some of the research that Mr. Cudnik had been involved with over the years included photometric studies and modeling of the over-contact (meaning the stars are physically joined together in a sort of peanut shape) eclipsing variable star W Corvi, narrowband imaging of Jupiter (this project and the W Corvi one were done during his undergraduate years), and narrowband imaging and photometry of the comet Hale-Bopp for his M.S. thesis. He has also done work with solar active regions (sunspot groups) and their flaring activity; and also worked with optical phenomena in planetary transits (crossings) of the Sun. He has also taught introductory astronomy laboratories and courses in university and community college settings, and has been involved in public outreach programs involving "star parties" and planetarium shows.

He is currently involved with the ongoing management and improvement of the laboratories within the Physics department, and is assisting with Project XLR8. He also is active in coordinating observations of lunar meteor impacts. He has lived in the Houston, Texas area since June 1998 with his wife, Susan, whom he married in June 1995.

Mr. Cudnik is the author of the book "Lunar Meteoroid Impact and How to Observe Them" - Springer 2009.

Other Papers:

Cudnik, B. M.; Dunham, D. W.; Palmer, D. M.; Cook, A.; Venable, R.; Gural, P. S. "The Observation and Characterization of Lunar Meteoroid Impact Phenomena" Earth, Moon, and Planets, 93, Issue 2, 97-106 (2003).