

watch your wallet!!! – nova hunt scam and rentascopes in general

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Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2008–03/msg00126.html>

- *From:* advicegiven <newvariables@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 5 Mar 2008 12:35:56 –0800 (PST)
-

Remember this one?

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Meade–Uncensored/message/8319>

or possibly the words of a professional might help

<http://www.spacebanter.com/showthread.php?p=412715>

and the guy attacking the professional is the same guy as the nova hunt campaign announcer, another alias.

Or maybe you don't even know this one:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/narrowband/messages>

Not many posts, read them all. Notice how the asking for money increases in intensity and how Martin and Hannah play their roles, then check the message headers and find all their posts came from the same originating IP and modem (gotta pick the right one, lots of them are internal yahoo IPs, these ones are near the bottom), despite one supposedly being in Dublin and the other in Daventry. It's a semi-dynamic IP system too, and other cases on other groups of them emailing at about the same time from the same modem, despite being in countries that don't have a common IP based telecom service. Yes, the money would have gone to the project, and telescope time would have been rented, but notice the tone of the emails from those two, and the interplay. Hundreds of US dollars needed to use the scopes.

Usually Hannah complains bitterly about people after Martin's been corrected for making a false statement or making big claims about his projects.

Common stuff. Been going on for years.

Join the yahoo group binary stars uncensored. Look through the archives. See Martin talk to all aliases there who agree that all his work should be published. Know how to look up the IP addresses? Do

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so, see he's talking to himself sometimes. This isn't just lots of different email addresses being used, he signs himself as different people, and they even talk to each other at times (like the guy who asks the other alias if he was they guy who shared a telescope with him at Ayers Rock one summer. Both supposedly in different countries. Both using UK modems, although supposedly not from the UK, and at times having used the same modem, when all is traced through time).

Everybody must understand that if they want to set up an astronomical project with rented robotic telescopes, if they present any sort of programme of their own they are eligible to set up an account for themselves and be in charge of it themselves and have full access to what they are paying for.

These "project" groups that contract in are independent of the renters, if you pay them they get a discount but are in control of the telescope use.

Some people misunderstand and think it is the rental companies at fault. Nope, doesn't work that way. There is one group GRAS is affiliated with in a semiofficial sort of way, RASO, formerly called RAS (suspiciously sounding like the real RAS, but meaning Remote, not Royal) which Martin isn't in charge of anymore, but he used to be.

Nevertheless. When spending you money cut out the middle men and decide how you want to spend it yourself. Or don't bother spending it. Rentascopes can be very expensive as they are an ongoing expenditure, not a one off cost.

Don't be fooled by people who write prolific blogs and massive home webpages all about their science projects. Go straight to where their published work is listed on those sites. See what those journals are and check out what level they are at. If you can't find them, or they sound like small simple journals to you rather than famous long standing ones, and the work is very sparsely spread over years, how can this group be achieving the results it claims? Don't listen to the complaints and cries of lack of fair play. Quite a few amateurs get published in a wide range of places, regularly. As long as the work passes muster and is at least part way scientific.

As the guy in the first link says. Beware! It's your money, look after it.

PS I bet this one gets voted only one star from one user!

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