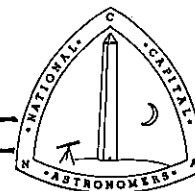


401
.579
c.2★

STAR DUST



JUNIOR DIVISION

Officers elected in September:

Robert Milkey, Chairman
Roy Troxel, Coordinator
Michael Mattingly, Secretary
Samuel Friedman, Data Keeper and Librarian

They had been performing their duties unofficially throughout the summer and the elections gave them official status.

The Junior Division has begun a series of tape talks with the Croydon group of the Junior Astronomical Society of Great Britain. The talks contain a diversity of subjects including origin of the solar system and craters of the moon, as well as news reports from each group.

The Juniors are carrying on five major projects with a leader assigned to each--drawing the moon, Roy Troxel; drawing Jupiter and Saturn, Mike Mattingly; solar project, Sam Friedman; Cepheid variable star photographing, Lewis Acker; drawing Mars, Stephen Klingelhofer.

The boys are pleading for help in these projects from regular members. Even one session with them would be appreciated. Also, junior astronomers in Virginia are begging for someone to activate a group on that side of the river.

Junior astronomers made a day of it October 11th. The group meeting discussed the origin of the solar system. About 15 attending went on to Bob Milkey's house for dinner followed by Dr. Sperling's discussion of the possibility of life on other planets. From there they went to Klingelhofer's to observe Mars and listen to tapes from England.

"Astronautics" is the topic for discussion in November.



August officials of the Junior Division: Standing: Michael Mattingly, Lewis Acker (Junior Regional Chairman, Astronomical League), Stephen Klingelhofer (Junior Editor).

Seated: Roy Troxel, Samuel Friedman, Robert Milkey

Editor: Mabel Sterns, 1833 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.
Production: LtCol. Russell C. White and Sam C. Feild, Jr.
Distribution: Lisa Dimick, 1305 No. Longfellow St., Arl. Va.

November, 1958 Vol. XIV, No. 3

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 1 Saturday. DEMONSTRATION OF GYROSCOPES by Mr. Leonard E. A. Batz, AC Spark Plug Division, General Motors Corporation.
- 3, 10, 17, 24 Mondays. TELESCOPE MAKING 7:30-10, Chevy Chase Community Center, Conn. Ave. and McKinley St., carpenter shop in basement. Hoy Walls and assistant instructors.
- 7, 14, 21, 28 Fridays. ASTRONOMY CLASS 8 p.m. Guy Mason Community Center, Calvert Street off Wisconsin Ave. (Georgetown). U. S. Lyons, instructor.
- 8 Saturday. PICNIC at Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Griggs', Boyds, Md.
- 8 Saturday. JUNIOR DIVISION, 2 p.m., Chevy Chase Community Center, lounge.
- 15 Saturday. DISCUSSION GROUP, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Auditorium; "Meteors" led by Bob McCracken.
- 29 Saturday. NCA OBSERVING at the 5" with Bill Esherwood. 7:30 at Naval Observatory. Take your membership card. Mars, if it is high enough to clear the trees, and Saturn, to be observed.

MR. LEONARD E. A. BATZ, Scientific Gyroscope Advisor, AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors, currently is promoting a broader interest in science with special emphasis on the use of gyroscopes in aircraft, missiles, and space vehicles.

TEN NEW GLASS-PUSHERS were attending the telescope class early in October in addition to the five who started last year. Three are working on 8-inchers, three on 4 1/2", and the rest on 6". Ages run from 10 up, including a girl or two among the most junior. Mr. Walls has been assisted by Everett Neville, M. R. Jones, and Bob McCracken. No registration fee or tuition; pay only for material.

THE ASTRONOMY CLASS began too late for this issue. Mr. Lyons was going to use the book "Astronomy Made Simple" by Meir Degani, but students would not be required to buy it. The class is free.

BOOKS AT A DISCOUNT--10% on technical books, 20% on nontechnical--may be obtained at George Friend Book Shop, 922 9th Street N.W. At the time this is written, "Astronomy Made Simple", mentioned above is on hand at 80¢, regular price \$1. The Astronomical League will take your order for astronomical books at 10% less than list price.

MISS GRACE SCHOLZ, past president of NCA, was married to Mr. Armand Spitz, September 27th, at Colorado Springs, Colorado. Although they will spend considerable time in Washington, the two will make their home at Yorklyn, Delaware.

SARAH AND NELSON GRIGGS cordially invite all NCA members to a chow and star party at their home in Boyds, Maryland, from dusk till dawn on the night of Saturday, November 8th. Plenty of hot chili and coffee will be available all night long. Arrangements for carless members may be made with the Field Trip Committee at the business meeting. Guests are invited to bring whatever additional food and drink they may desire.

Please bring telescopes and other optical equipment. Also warm wraps. In case of overcast, a social hour will take place indoors no rain date is contemplated.

Please arrive while it is still light, say around 4 p.m. Directions: Out route 240, Washington Pike, toward Frederick, to route 121, 4 miles beyond Atomic Energy Commission; left 2 miles on 121 to Old Baltimore (dirt) Road. Right down the hill, .6 mile on L.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED in October:

Mabel B. Duvall, 1818 23rd St. S.E., Wash. 20, D.C.	LU 2-9239
William C. Thomas, 1705 N. Pocomoke St., Arl. 5, Va.	JE 3-8679
Stanley Weintraub, 1730 Lamont St. N.W., Wash. 10, D.C.	DU 7-3897
Erick William Wolf, 3302 Chatham Road, Adelphi, Md.	HA 2-9366
Eva Maria Wolf, 3302 Chatham Road, Adelphi, Md.	HA 2-9366

Juniors

Charles James Grant, 712 North St., Falls Church, Va.	JE 4-5988
Alan Pritchett, 305 Wasp Lane, McLean, Va.	

OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR NOVEMBER

Mercury is moving from superior conjunction to greatest eastern elongation which will be reached November 20th.

Venus is too close to the sun for observation, superior conjunction occurring on the 11th.

Mars is in Taurus and is visible all night. The closest approach to the earth is on the eighth, and the planet reaches opposition on the 16th.

Jupiter is too close to the sun for observation, conjunction being on the fourth.

Saturn is too low in the southwest at sunset and sets within two hours.

The date of maximum intensity for the Taurid meteor shower is November fifth. The Leonid shower is on the 16th. They average 12 and 20 meteors per hour, respectively.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS DURING NOVEMBER

Date	Star	Mag.	Phase	Age	Time (EST)	PO
3-4	Gamma 4 Leo	5.7	R	23.1	4:48.2 AM	276
13	Beta Cap	3.2	D	3.2	5:45.4 PM	3
12	Beta Cap	3.2	R	3.2	6:13.3 PM	317
15	128B Aqr	6.6	D	5.3	8:20.1 PM	31
19	Zeta Psc	5.6	D	9.3	6:40.5 PM	8

A. L. White, Astronomy Editor

NOVA SEARCH PROJECT

Preparations are nearly complete for beginning an observational program of nova search in cooperation with the American Association of Variable Star Observers. Two areas wide apart in the sky are picked by each group in this program so that one or the other will be visible in the evening at any time of the year. Of our two areas the one now in favorable position for observation is in the middle of Cygnus, between 30 and 40 degrees north declination, and between 19 h. 40 m. and 20 h. 20 m. R.A. A detailed map and a photograph of this area will be duplicated for distribution to those in NCA interested in taking part in this project.

The procedure is for each person to study the map and photograph until he is thoroughly familiar with the area. Then he will be asked to examine the area briefly each clear night, if possible, and report the time of observation and the lowest full magnitude brighter than which it is reasonably sure that there are no objects unaccounted for in the area. These normally negative reports will be consolidated once a month by Mr. Isherwood and sent to AAVSO. If an object is found in the area that cannot be accounted for, the observer should get in touch with Mr. Isherwood at once and he will ask others working on the project to try to confirm the presence of the object. If it is confirmed within our own group, it will be reported as a possible nova to the AAVSO where further confirmation will be attempted. From time to time the AAVSO will report to us possible novas found by other groups in their chosen areas, and we may be asked to try to confirm them.

All those wishing to take part in this project should contact Mr. Isherwood, 4304 55th Avenue, Bladensburg, Md. (AP 7-9419), so as to receive the duplicated material when it is ready.

BOB McCracken and BOB Wright made front-page news October 11th with their observation of Pioneer I at 4:44 A.M., two minutes after blast-off. Mrs. Wright saw it also, and the three of them were besought, quoted, misquoted, and photographed by newspaper, television, and radio newsmen. Altogether they watched the various parts about five minutes, then called official headquarters to report. Even to hear later about the event was exciting.

TO MR. AND MRS. NEVILLE our thanks are extended for another successful star party. There must have been nearly 50 who picnicked at Fort Hunt picnic grounds and enjoyed a cloudless, moonless sky. For constellation study there was just enough glow to subdue the faint, unfamiliar stars, leaving clear outlines to keep one from getting "lost". The coffee pot and fireplaces were just far enough away not to interfere, and provided cozy warmth.

PATRICK MORETTI was the genial telescope operator on NCA observing night at the 5-inch. Only a few turned out, so each one had long and frequent turns at the scope which is now in good condition.

HOY WALLS is fortunate in having access to a 16-inch metal lathe which a friend of his acquired. This will enable him to make parts for a mounting to accommodate a telescope up to 12 inches in size.