

The MD - DC NCJA met on April 13, at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church. The topic of our discussion was "Solar Eclipses", with the main emphasis on the coming eclipse, July 20th, in Maine. We discussed the "hows and whys" of eclipses and then concluded the discussion with a look at the best observing sites and the various instruments which could be used for viewing and photographing an eclipse.

There will be no discussion meeting of the MD - DC Juniors in May as most of us are planning to attend the Philadelphia trip on May 11.

JUNIOR CONVENTION

All Juniors are urged to come an hour earlier to the May NCA lecture and attend the 12th General Convention of the Junior Division. The Convention will begin at 7 P.M. in the meeting room behind the Commerce Department Auditorium. The agenda includes the nomination and election of junior officers for the coming year and reports of the Barlow and By-Laws committees. We hope to ratify the new Junior By-Laws during this meeting.

Ernest Goodwin, Jr. Editor

TELESCOPE HOUSING FOR SALE

Lyle Johnson is building a larger observatory with roll-off roof at his new home and so has no further use for the telescope shelter that housed for several years his 10" and 16" reflectors.

This shelter is a little house that can be rolled off to the side on tracks when the telescope is to be used. Inside dimensions are about 3' wide, 7' high and 5 1/2' deep. It will accommodate a telescope with a tube that is about 6 1/2' high when in the vertical position.

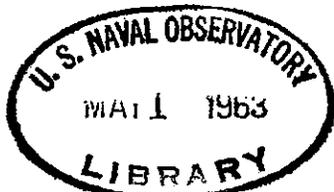
It has a 2x4 framework and 1/2" diagonal sheathing covered with aluminum. It bolts together and is now in six sections which can be loaded into a trailer or pick-up truck by two men.

It does need some repairs but is in general good condition. At present prices the materials alone would cost about \$100. Lyle says that he will sell it for half of that. Anyone interested should call Lyle Johnson at WE 4-8060.

* STAR DUST



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9

ASTRONOMICAL APPLICATIONS OF IMAGE INTENSIFIERS



Dr. Fredrick from the Leander McCormick Observatory, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, will be the guest lecturer at our May meeting. Dr. Fredrick has worked in all phases of Astronomy. His dissertation was a comprehensive study of the system of VV Cephei. He spent most of the past four years studying the astronomical applications of image intensifiers at Lowell Observatory under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution. He has been concerned chiefly with the infrared and spectroscopy in the one micron region. It is upon this work that he will speak to us. Continued on page 2.

CALENDAR FOR MAY

- 3 STARPARTY for the Washington Junior Academy of Sciences at 8:30 PM at Ft. Reno Park. Come and bring your telescope. For details call Robert McCracken OL 4-3321.
- 4 ASTRONOMICAL APPLICATIONS OF IMAGE INTENSIFIERS Dr. Fredrick speaker at the Dept. of Commerce Auditorium 8:15 P.M. Business meeting and election of officers follows.
Dinner with the speaker, Occidental Restaurant 6:30 PM. For reservations call RE 6-4321 before noon Saturday. All members are invited.
- JUNIOR CONVENTION at 7:00 P.M. in Room 1851, Dept. of Commerce.
- 10, 24 TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS at McLean High School in Fairfax, Va., from 8 to 10:30 PM with Grady Whitney in charge.
- 11 PHILADELPHIA TRIP to Franklin Institute and Fels Planetarium. For details see page 2.
- 15 OBSERVING AT THE FIVE INCH with Larry White at the Naval Observatory grounds from 8:30 to 10:30 P.M.
- 18 DISCUSSION GROUP Movie on "The Orbiting Solar Observatory" Dept. of Commerce, Room 1851 at 8:15 P.M.
- 3, 17 VIRGINIA JUNIORS meeting at the Westover Baptist Church Room 234, 1125 N. Patrick Henry Drive, Arl., Va. 8:00 PM.
- MAKSUTOV CLUB on Friday evening 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. at the Chevy Chase Community Center with Hoy Walls.

CALENDAR CONTINUED

TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS on Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 10:00 PM at the Chevy Chase Community Center with Hoy Walls.

TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS on Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Bladensburg, Md. with William Isherwood.

MAY LECTURE Continued

Dr. Fredrick received his B.A. and M.A. from Swarthmore College and his Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Pennsylvania in 1959. He was a Research Assistant at Sproul Observatory from 1953 to 1955, Research Associate at Flower and Cook Observatory 1955-1959; and Astronomer Lowell Observatory from 1959--1963. At present he is Astronomer, Director Leander McCormick Observatory; Associate Professor, Chairman Department of Astronomy, University of Virginia.

PHILADELPHIA TRIP***YES???

A total of thirty-five persons have registered for the bus trip to the Franklin Institute and Fels Planetarium in Philadelphia on Saturday May 11, 1963. The smallest size bus we can obtain is a forty-one passenger bus. It is necessary that this bus be filled for us to make the trip. If you wish to register for the trip call Miss Thelma Cressy at CO 5-6343 or Bob Wright EV 4-6748. If you have registered and not paid please send your check (payable to NCA) to Bob Wright, 202 Piping Rock Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland.

All money must be paid by the May meeting or the trip will be cancelled. You will enjoy the trip, why not go?

Departure will be at 7:30 A.M. from the Dept. of Commerce. A stop will be made at the Edmunds Scientific Company on the way. They have written us that they will have a gift for each person on the trip.

MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD

Congratulations to Mrs. Margret Noble, who was awarded the Distinguished Teacher Award of the area-wide Joint Board on Science Education. This award was given to twelve area teachers for their outstanding work. Her co-workers expressed special pleasure that she "who is not only a fine teacher, but a wonderful person, as well" should receive this citation. The award included a three day trip to New York City, with special visits arranged to the Bell Telephone Laboratory, and the Research Laboratories of the International Telephone and Telegraph Association.

Mr. Noble recently completed the supervision of the NCA Astronomy Course.

NEW MEMBERS REGULAR

Donald Y. Gilmore, 5516 Johnson Ave., Bethesda 14, Md.
William Marihugh, 214 Terrace Court, Vienna, Va.
John J. Wison, 7922 Lynnbrook Dr., Bethesda 14, Md.
William Woodworth, 2207 Seone Court, Falls Church, Va.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Marvin E. Bishop, 804 s. 3rd, Apt. F, Las Vegas, Nevada

APRIL LECTURE *** INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE QUIET SUN

The 18-month International Geophysical Year provided scientists with world-wide synoptic observations of the earth, its atmosphere, and the space around it. These data, still being reduced and analyzed, have already led to many scientific discoveries such as the Van Allen belts. The IGY reawakened the study of relationships between solar and terrestrial phenomena. However, like most scientific undertakings, IGY uncovered many new mysteries while solving old ones. Since IGY occurred during a period of maximum solar activity, scientists would now like to know how the phenomena observed during IGY change with a reduction in the activity on the sun. For example, how does cosmic ray intensity depend on the level of solar activity?

The April NCA speaker, Dr. Robert Fleischer, coordinates National Science Foundation programs for the forthcoming 24-month-long IQSY (in 1964-5) which will attempt to answer some of the questions raised by IGY. Furthermore, during this period of relative solar quietness, phenomena can be studied uncompounded by overlapping geophysical events characteristic of years of sunspot maximum. The disciplines encompassed by this world-wide effort include geomagnetism, meteorology, seismology, studies of the ionosphere and aurora, and many others. As in the case of IGY, the IQSY data will be collected in various regional World Data Centers and distributed to the scientific community as rapidly as possible for all to analyze in their own particular ways.

Dr. Fleischer pointed out the great unscientific accomplishment of this international research in geophysics. This is that the very global nature of the IGY and IQST programs improves communication between scientists on each side of the Iron Curtain and thus contributes to better international understanding.

Leith Holloway

NOMINATIONS FOR 1963-64

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of candidates for office in the National Capital Astronomers

President:	Mrs. Ellen Stolarik
Vice Pres.:	Mrs. Margaret Noble, Daniel Spitz
Sec.	Theodore Noble, Morton Schiff
Treasurer:	Arthur Etienne
Trustee:	Robert Mc Cracken, Henry Metz

Additional nominations can be made at the May Meeting. It is most important that you attend the May business meeting and cast your vote.
