

NATIONAL CAPITAL ASTRONOMERS, Inc., of Washington,
D.C. STAR DUST Journal; David Nordin, Acting Editor
1225 Quincey St. N.E. Washington, D.C. 20017

STAR DUST



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STAR DUST



APRIL, 1969 ... VOL. XXVI - NO. VIII

NAME LEGALIZATION TABLED



GEORGE GOULD

At the March 1 meeting, the legalization of the present name of our group was again brought up by the chairman, George Gould, as it had been at the February meeting.

A motion to table the action till the April meeting was made by Bob Wright because of the scanty turnout caused by the snowstorm.

The chairman explained that the change, under the advice of of the assistant superintendent of corporations in the Recorder of Deeds' office in the District of Columbia, would be for the protection of the society.

The reason is that under the old law, the group is not permitted to own property or accept gifts, and in case of a possible law suit, the court could order to be sold, or returned to donors, the property now owned by our group.

The chairman explained that under D.C. law, the only people who have control of such business meetings are the elected trustees, and they have approved the ruling. But Mr. Gould and others in the group wanted to "do it properly," and wait for the next meeting. If the chairman is sustained in his action to make it an organizational meeting, the vote on the long-overdue action can be made.

AMENDMENT SUBMITTED

Mr. Gould said further that an amendment had been submitted by Past President Leo Scott, who drew it up and submitted it to Past President Margaret Noble. The amendment would have enabled the members to vote by mail to avoid the ballot at the following meeting. It could then have been discussed on the floor.

Relating the history of the name, Mr. Gould said that the original name -- National Capital Amateur Astronomers' Association -- was adopted when the group incorporated in the District in September, 1937, and was kept for ten years.

The change was adopted for the sake of brevity, but the association members didn't get around to file change with the Recorder of Deeds. The actual filing would be called "reincorporation." The new law, Model Corporation Law 1962, allows three years for any further reincorporation. Under the old law, that privilege has now run out.

FROM P.3
Superintendent, Joseph F. Stanfill, Jr.; Tour Director, Mr. Norman L. Nelson; Duty Astronomer, Mr. Seidelman; Time Service Mr. Percival; 26-inch Telescope, Mr. Bahall and Projectionist, Mr. McClain. 4

DISCUSSION GROUP REPORTS

At the February meeting, Jerry Hudson, Sheila Duck and Bob Bolster gave illustrated talks on their observations of solar halos, sun dogs, ice pillars and other atmospheric effects of sunlight. Included was a series of pictures of the anti-solar reflection seen on the ground beneath Bob McCracken's airplane. A most unusual and informative evening resulted.

THE MARCH SPEAKER

Dr. Donald Fairfield spoke to the NCA on the earth's magnetosphere. Detailed satellite observations of particle energies and magnetic field vectors were summarized with graphs. And he emphasized the lack of knowledge, which still exists, about the "neutral sheet" interface, separating sun and non-sun-directed fields in the geomagnetic tail. Dr. Fairfield believes that auroral-particle storage in the magnetic field does not play a large part in auroral morphology.

NEW MEMBER: David Nordin, 1225 Quincey St. N.E., Washington D.C. 20017 (Your acting editor) Phone: 832-8880 (p.m. and evenings)

C A L E N D A R

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A P R I L

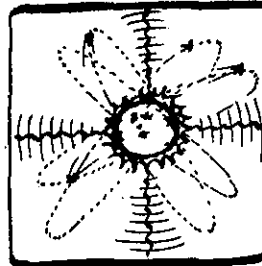
- 5 6:15 PM Dinner with the speaker at Bassin's Restaurant, 14th and Pennsylvania Ave. Reservations by noon Sat. with George Gould, 423-8777, or Bill Winkler, 736-3553.
- 8:15 PM April meeting at Dep't. of Commerce Building Auditorium, 14th and E St. John F. Meekins will speak on "Solar X-rays and the Orbiting Solar Observatories."
- 3, 5-10 PM Naval Observatory viewing through the five-inch telescope. Jim Krebs will be in charge. (Members are requested by the Navy not to enter any other than the main building, for registering, and Building 25, housing the telescope -- and to sign out when leaving. We are reminded that it is a privilege to use their equipment and we should comply with this rule.)
- 16, 8:15 PM Discussion group at Dept. of Commerce Auditorium: "The basic equations of stellar astrophysics." A summary of an excellent series of lectures given to undergraduates at the University of Chicago in 1965 by a Yerkes Observatory astronomer.
- 18 8-10 PM Observing through the five-inch telescope. (See above, April 3 note.) Naval Observatory; Larry White will be in charge.
- 20, 2:00 PM Prince George's Juniors meeting at Materials Center Planetarium.
- 26 Prince George's Juniors Bus Trip. All reservation forms for the trip must be returned to us by the April NCA meeting.
- TELESCOPE MAKING CLASSES, Tuesday nights: Materials Center, Bladensburg, Md. Ted Noble, Inst. 779-7946
April 1, 8, 15, 22
- April 4, 11, 18, 25 Palisades Community Center, D.C. Fri. nights.: Jerry Schnall, inst. (H.) EM2-8872; (O.) 557-3144

E I N S T E I N C H A L L E N G E D

SPECIAL NOTICE: (Why you should want to attend the Astronomical League Regional Meeting in June.) George Maurery, chairman of the meeting, has notified George Gould, NCA President, that he will be one of the featured speakers. Mr. Gould's topic will be: "Proving the Error of Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity." He will prove his theory that the clock paradox can be shown by varying speeds in Newton's celestial mechanics, demonstrating with stars in retrograde motion.

SPACE RESEARCHER TO SPEAK

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In March, 1965, SKY AND TELESCOPE published an excellent summary of our knowledge of emissions from the sun, the bulk of the X-ray observations coming from rocket flights. Since then, four solar observatories have been put into orbit, designed to observe in detail the solar activity at wavelengths shorter than 4,000 Angstroms.

Mr. John F. Meekins will bring us up to date on research results in the 1-100 Angstrom spectral region of solar activity when he speaks on:

"Solar X-rays and the Orbiting Solar Observatories."

The great variability of solar X-ray activity is important as a tool in "Space-Weather Forecasting" and for the clues it gives on the structure of solar flares and on the active corona.

Mr. Meekins is associated with Dr. Robert Kreplin's space research group at the Naval research Laboratory, a group in the forefront of solar research with rockets and satellites. He actively participates in White Sands Missile Range operations.

P. G. C. JUNIORS' MEETING HELD

On Sunday, February 9, the Prince George's County Juniors held their regular meeting. At this time it was decided that all future meetings would be held on the third Sunday of each month even though the minutes would be a month late in Star Dust.

Forms for the bus trip on April 26 to Edmunds and the Fels Planetarium were passed out and a good turnout was expected.

In the equipment department, two members brought in a pair of 3-inch objective binoculars to display. And the PGC Juniors' Edmund 6-inch (an instrument just recently remounted and collimated) was loaned

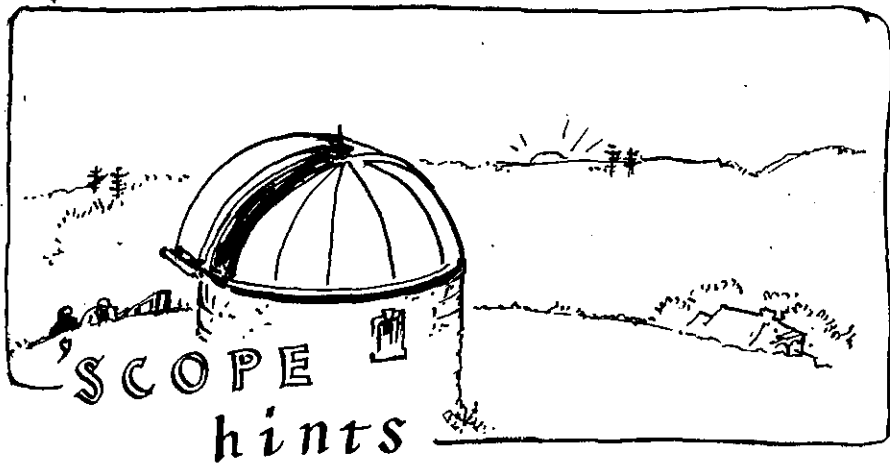
GROUP TOURS NAVAL OBSERVATORY

by Ken Crowley

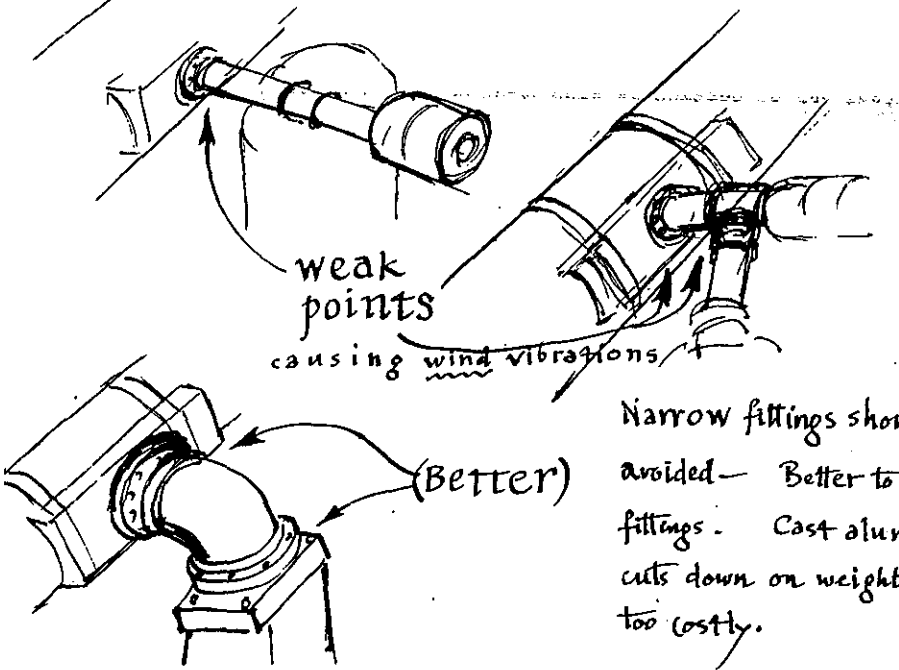
On Tuesday, February 25, over 30 junior and senior members took the night tour of the U.S. Naval Observatory. The tour included a short film on the observatory's history and a visit to the U.S. master clock. The highlight of the evening, however, was an observing session with the 26" Clark refractor.

Clear skies permitted unusual views of Messier 42 and the moon. We also learned something of the telescope's observing program under Washington's bright sky.

In conclusion, the National Capital Astronomers would like to express their special thanks to these people for a thoroughly interesting evening: Superintendent, Capt. J. Maury Werth; Deputy

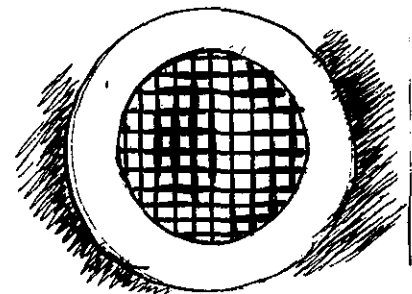


- mountings;



Narrow fittings should be avoided - Better to use wider fittings. Cast aluminum cuts down on weight, if not too costly.

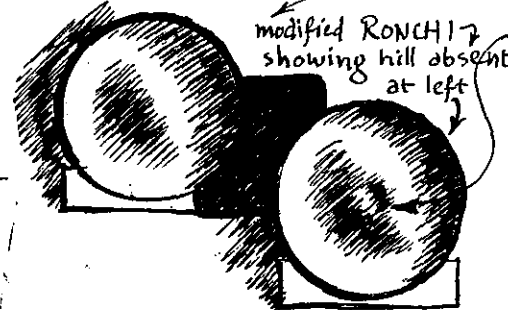
modified RONCHI test.



←
ORDINARY
TEST IMAGE
("Ronchi gram")

To get a powerful image with Ronchi test, bring grating to focus, producing familiar Foucault razor-edge image, but much more vividly, revealing things not seen with Foucault test - (fly's eye principle.)

REGULAR FOUCAULTS



a few rubs with jewellers rouge on thumb will take down the hill!

Juniors, cont. from p.3

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out to two of the members for the next month, so it can again be put to good use. In connection with the Messier Object Observation Program of the Junior Division, orders were taken for the booklet OBSERVE, and the group received instructions on how to record observations. This program is limited to Telescopes of 6-inch, or smaller aperture.

The PGC Juniors expect to have results by their next meeting.

Md.-D.C. JUNIORS VISIT PLANETARIUM

The Maryland-D.C. Juniors visited the Montgomery Junior College Planetarium on February 9, 1969. Mr. Alan L. Breitler, planetarium director, spoke to us about coordinate systems. The lecture helped to clear up some of the difficulties some of us are having in observing the Messier Objects. All members are reminded to bring their sketches of Messier Objects to the next meeting or mail them to Sheila Duck, 5617 Seminole Street, Berwyn Heights, Md. 20740.

VIRGINIA JUNIORS REPORT

On Friday, March 14, the Virginia Juniors held their meeting. The main topic was the up-coming bus trip to the FRANKLIN INSTITUTE and EDMUND SCIENTIFIC CO. Members were encouraged to get their forms filled out and returned to any of the adult advisors or to Ted Noble.

The deadline for reservations is the main meeting in April...So, Juniors...be sure to get your reservations in by the deadline!

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NCA TO JUDGE

The NCA will be judging the astronomy exhibits at four county science fairs in Montgomery, St. George's, Fairfax and D.C.; some in March and some in April. Awards will be one free membership, with Sky and Telescope subscription in both the senior high and junior high divisions.

VICE PRESIDENT CHANGES ADDRESS: William R. Winkler, 4423 Arnold Road, Apt. T4, Suitland, Md. (Old address: 4691 Homer Ave.) No change in phone: 736-3553, home; 440-7272, office.

ITEMS FOR SALE

Reflector, 6-in. Fibre tube; slow-motion knob, steel folding tripod....\$100.*

Field Telescope, 80mm., Carl Zeiss/Turret/with three eyepieces; with tripod....\$125.*

*Contact Robert Arnold, 1400 South Joyce, Arlington, Va. Phone: 521-1595

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: CASH INCOME AND OUTGO, FEBRUARY, 1969.

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INCOME		OUTGO	
Dues (2 members)	\$10.25	SKY AND TELESCOPE	\$4.00
Obs. Handbooks (8)	8.00	Star Dust	18.12
Timetables (11)	4.95	Speaker Dinner	7.00
		Postmaster, D.C.	
Total income, Feb.:	23.20	(Deposit)	15.00
Prev. balance(1/31/69)	\$588.55	American Ephemeris	4.00
TOTAL:	611.75	Total outgo, Feb.:	48.12
Less outgo, Feb.	48.12		
Balance, Feb. 28, 1969:	\$563.63	Jerome Schnall, treas.	3/3/69

(Please remember to pay your dues -- J.S.)

SPACE CORNER PROPOSED: UFOs? Wrong-way Satellites? (etc.)

Members who see unusual moving objects in the heavens are asked -- are requested -- to report them to Star Dust this month and to your "Space Editor," David Nordin (see new member) later. You are requested to make the reports as factual as possible, using if need be, your forefinger held at arm's length for angular measurement and keeping track of time and directions as best you can. If there are any (or not too many) we'll report them here.

NEW MATERIAL SOUGHT

MEMBERS NOTICING ANY ESPECIALLY INTERESTING NEWS items in publications other than Sky and Telescope (and Star Dust) are requested to send a brief typed or printed summary of them to the editor in time for clearing them (for publisher's permission). Please give source and date...thanks.