

# SIDEREAL TIMES

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The next meeting of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton will be held on June 12, 1973 at 8 p.m. in Room A-07 of Princeton University's Jadwin Hall (in the Physics Dept.). Our speaker will be Mr. Carlton Chamblis and his topic will be:

"Life in the Universe"

Members are invited to dine with the speaker before the meeting at Emerson's Steakhouse located on Route 1 in Lawrenceville. The dinner will begin promptly at 6:15 p.m. The program chairman will meet the speaker at the Trenton Museum Planetarium.

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#### Observing Committees:

Several observing committees are in the process of being set up. These will allow members with the same observing interests to have star parties, and will allow members to report their observations to a central group so that they may be cataloged for further use, and the most important ones can be sent to the proper organizations. Chairmen are needed for many of the committees. If you can help please contact the director. Those committees now set up are: Occultations- John Church, Solar-Michael Clark, Planetary- Roxanne Tobin. Other committees, without chairmen as of yet are Deep Sky, Lunar, Variable Star, Meteor, and Naked Eye.

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**New Astronomy Magazine:** A new magazine called "Astronomy" has come into being. Published monthly, with a subscription rate of \$12, "Astronomy" is a "magazine that says in down-to-earth language, what astronomy is all about". It promises to be filled with color pictures and departments such as "Gazer's Gazette" and "Star Dome".

**Price Increase:** Meteor News has been forced through rising costs to increase its price to \$2 per year.

## Minutes of the May Meeting

Twenty seven people attended the May meeting of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, held in Jadwin Hall on May 8th, 1973. Our speaker was Mr. Ed Guinan of Villanova, and his topic was: "Eclipsing System  $\beta$  Lyræ".

Mr. Guinan explained how the system had puzzled astronomers, such as Otto Struve, for 30 years without finding a solution to the light curve.  $\beta$  Lyræ is an eclipsing system with a period of 12.93 days has an unusual companion, in that no one has ever been able to see it. Two theories expounded on by Mr. Guinan are that the invisible companion is a black hole (a hypothetical stage in a star when it becomes so dense that light is unable to escape) or that the two stars are almost touching each other. This would account for rapid mass transfer. During some stage of the systems' evolution one of the stars used up its fuel more rapidly than the other. It then expanded until it was touching the stability point of the Roche lobes and the system became unbalanced, sending matter flowing back and forth between the two stars.  $\beta$  Lyræ is observed by no less than 55 different groups throughout the world so that eventually astronomers will know some of the answers they now seek. Mr. Guinan's lecture ended at 9:45 p.m.

**Business Meeting:** In celebration of Copernicus' 500th birthday, the New Jersey State Museum Planetarium is holding a seminar on the "Copernican Revolution." This seminar will take place on October 27, and a fee of \$ 5 will be charged. The current show at the planetarium deals with solar eclipses( providing that their projector stays in working condition). SkyLab blasted off from Pad 39-A on May 14th, and after some difficulties the crew followed on the 25th. After discussing the coming year for the