

# Sidereal Times



November, 1976

Editor: Jack Power

## NEXT AAAP MEETING

The November meeting of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton will be held on Tuesday, November 9, in the Planetarium of the New Jersey State Museum at 7:30 p.m. Please be prompt as no one will be admitted after the program begins.

Our speaker this month will be AAAP Director Dick Peery. Dick will use the planetarium to give an imaginative and informative talk, "Introducing Celestial Navigation." (Celestial navigation is the determining of position and course based on observation of the sun, moon, planets, and stars.)

Prior to the meeting, the informal pre-meeting dinner will be held at the Inn of Trenton, just across the street from the Museum, at the corner of West State Street and Calhoun Street. AAAP members should meet in the Top of Trenton restaurant at 5:45 p.m.

Parking for the November 9 meeting may be had at the rear of the State House complex around the Planetarium. Access is via the parking lot entrance at Willow Street.

## SUNSPOT MINIMUM

The Space Environment Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced that there are indications that the sunspot minimum for Cycle 20 may have been reached in July, 1976. The smoothed sunspot number may be 10. Cycle 21 sunspots have been appearing since November, 1974.

## OBSERVING SESSIONS

The State Museum Planetarium and the AAAP continue to hold observing sessions at the AAAP observatory site in Washington Crossing State Park each Friday night until November 19. Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Planetarium, and, if the weather is clear, the group will proceed in their cars to the Park Nature Center. There will be a variety of telescopes available for observing. In the event of unfavorable weather there will be a planetarium program on any one of a number of astronomical topics. AAAP members are urged to support these sessions by bringing friends and telescopes.

*AAAP Newsletter*



### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

A great many AAAP members are not taking advantage of their membership by attending the meetings. Program Chairman John Church is doing a fine job of providing interesting speakers at each meeting, no easy task. This is your organization, so it is in your interest to attend its meetings and other activities.

### PRINCETON UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSES

Princeton University Observatory has just announced the dates upon which it will be open to the public in 1976-77. Dates are Monday, November 1, Thursday, December 2, 1976, Wednesday, February 23, Monday, March 28, and Tuesday, April 26, 1977. Times are from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. On clear nights the 4½ and 9 inch Clark refractors will be used to observe. On inclement nights an illustrated, non-technical lecture will be given at 8 p.m. and observing will depend on the status of the sky after the lecture.