

Sidereal Times

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SIDEREAL TIMES
JUNE 1977

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EDITOR: Jack Power

MEETING NOTICE

The June meeting of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton will be held on Tuesday, June 14, (Flag Day) at 8:00 p.m. in the Jadwin Hall, Room A-07, Princeton University.

Our speaker will be Mr. Kay Sears of the S*T*A*R Astronomy Society, Inc., Keyport, New Jersey. He will discuss his home constructed Photometer with which he has traced the light curve of Nova Vulpeculae.

The Meet-the-Speaker dinner will be at the Prime Rib, Route 1 South, south of the Princeton Circle, at 5:45 p.m.

MAY MEETING

Mr. Rodger Gordon of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Society gave an interesting talk on the optical specifications for determining the optical quality of a telescope. In particular, he reviewed the many advertised optical claims for the Celestron telescopes and compared them with measured optical values. He indicated that Celestron stretched their optical claims somewhat.

The elections of the officers for 1977-78 was held and the following were elected to office:

Director - Dick Peery
Assistant Director - Roxanne Tobin
Secretary - Dave Brown
Treasurer - Leith Holloway
Program Chairman - Steve Shutt

We wish the officers a very successful year. The Director and the Program Chairman would like the members to indicate their wishes and desires for program content, also speaker suggestions.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

Bill Phillips, our Observatory Chairman, is looking for workers for the Saturday 9 to 3, or so, work sessions. Any help will be appreciated. Just report to the Nature Center site Saturday mornings in the N.J. Washington Crossing State Park. By the time you read this, the foundations will have been poured and much of the preliminary work finished. Congratulations to the too few hardy, dedicated individuals. If you cannot contribute labor or material, monetary contributions will be gratefully accepted.

ITEMS FOR SALE

A new paragraph for the TIMES. If you have any items for sale or trade, please let the Editor know of them.

NEED NEW HOME FOR:

1. 12 1/2 inch f/6 Cave Astrola
Observatory Newtonian Reflector together with 6 inch f/10 guidescope.
Extra goodies negotiable. Price - open - trades?
2. 8 inch f/7 Optical Craftsman Reflector with some eyepieces, tracking
oscillator pedestal pads, etc. Price - \$400.00

Don Schricker
Stevens Lane, RD #1
Vincentown, NJ 08088
Phone: 609-859-2188

Don was a guest of Carl Koehler at the May meeting. He is a transplant from the West Coast. He left behind a beautiful home-built observatory but he hopes to duplicate it at his new home. Don, AAAP invites you to become a member of the Association and we hope you will accept. 73.

EDITOR'S NOTE TO MEMBERS OR FRIENDS

I am still looking for short items concerning the doings of the hobby. You folks must be doing something interesting with your hobby that will interest all of us. Why not let the rest of us know about it. You might generate a companion with the same interest. It's more fun to work with someone.

The Editor had a visit from a friend from the Hartford, Conn. area recently. He was Ed Tiltow. We have two hobbies in common - amateur radio and Solar observation. He brought along his Celestron 5 and his Day Star H-alpha filter. Though the Sun has been quiet and devoid of sunspots lately, the view of the prominences around the limb of the sun were spectacular. There were also a number of "worms" or, more properly, filaments on the Sun's face. These produce the prominences when seen on the edge or limb of the Sun. Ed, whose amateur radio call letters are WIHDQ, and I have been keeping weekly schedules via amateur radio for several years to compare observations. His purpose for the Solar observations is for the predictions of radio propagation conditions which are published monthly in an amateur radio publication, QST. Updated weekly bulletins are also transmitted via amateur radio.