

Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

FEBRUARY 1980

EDITOR: Leith Holloway
(609) 924-2480

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the AAAP will be held on Tuesday evening, February 12, 1980 at 8 p.m. in Peyton Hall of Princeton University on Washington Road in Princeton. Dr. Gareth Williams of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory of NOAA in Princeton will be our speaker. His topic is: "The Weather and Climate on Jupiter."

The pre-meeting dinner will be held at Good Time Charley's Restaurant on Route 27 in Kingston, N. J. at 6 p.m. Members may meet in the bar about 15 minutes earlier for drinks before dinner. Notice that this is a different restaurant from where we usually have dinner.

MARCH MEETING

The AAAP meeting on March 11th will be another members' night. Start thinking now about what you may be able to tell the rest of us about your special interests in astronomy. Talks by individual members should last from about 5 to 20 minutes.

JANUARY MEETING

Several films were shown at the January AAAP meeting. The first film showed the astronomical observing facilities at the National Observatory on Kitt Peak near Tucson, Arizona. Dick Peery showed two short films. The first presented spectacular time lapse movies of the motions in the atmosphere of Jupiter. The second film was a computer simulation of the Voyager fly-by of Saturn. Between films John Church told us about the triple conjunction of Jupiter and Mars this winter and spring.

BOARD MEETING

The AAAP Board of Directors will meet at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 5th at Harry Johnson's home in Ewing (12 Gloucester Lane). Any member may attend but only board members may vote. Please call Harry (882-2680) for directions to his house. (Ask for Harry, Jr.)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Rick Clark and Roxanne Peery were presented Astronomical League full membership Messier Club certificates at the January AAAP meeting. Since Roxanne unfortunately was sick and not present, Dick Peery accepted the certificate on her behalf. These certificates, signed by AL president, Robert R. Young, certify that the recipients have observed all 107 Messier objects. Congratulations to our two very keen observers. The attractive new Sidereal Times masthead was designed by AAAP member, Marc Halfon, to whom the editor expresses his gratitude.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

Regular Friday night observing sessions will not be held this month, but any member not having an Observatory key may call a keyholder and arrange an observing session at their mutual convenience. A list of keyholders and their telephone numbers was published in last month's Sidereal Times. If you go, keep in mind that weather and road conditions in the Park may make access to the Observatory difficult at times this month. Remember to approach the Observatory via Brick Yard Road headed southward from its intersection with Church Road in Titusville. John Church has prepared a list of predictions for favorable lunar occultations of bright stars to occur at the Observatory in the next several weeks, and this is posted on our little bulletin board near the opening mechanism crank. If you have never observed an occultation, this is a good month to see one.

ASTRONOMICAL RETREAT

At the January meeting there was insufficient interest in attending an outing and star party at Princeton University's camp at Blairstown this spring. Our program chairman, Dave Brown, still thinks that some kind of camp-out next spring or summer may be worth considering. A less formal arrangement for the campsite might make the scheduling more flexible and increase the chances of picking a date with clear skies. Watch future issues of Sidereal Times for more details.

BOOST YOUR ASSOCIATION

As you may have noticed, we have not gained any new members for several months. Advertising our meetings in the public media has not always been very fruitful in attracting new people. A more effective way of spreading the word about our activities may be for members to talk about the AAAP among their friends. Each of us must know other scientifically-minded persons who may be interested in joining our organization. Why not post a notice about our meetings on the bulletin board at your office, school, church or club? Your friends may not be aware of the AAAP or your participation in it.

AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ASSOCIATION
of PRINCETON, INC.
Post Office Box 2017
Princeton, New Jersey 08540



JOHN A CHURCH
11 PRINCETON PLACE
PRINCETON JCT NJ 08550