

Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

APRIL 1980

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APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the AAAP will be held on Tuesday evening, April 8, 1980 at 8 p.m. in Peyton Hall of Princeton University on Ivy Lane off Washington Road in Princeton. Prof. Wulff D. Heintz, Director of the Department of Astronomy at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, and a noted authority on double and multiple star systems, will be our speaker. The title of his lecture is: "Multiple Star Puzzles."

The pre-meeting dinner will be held at the Foolish Fox Restaurant in Rocky Hill (on Rt. 206 near Rt. 518) beginning at 6 p.m. Members generally meet in the bar for drinks at 5:45 p.m. before dinner.

MAY MEETING

Two NASA scientists will speak on the Space Telescope at the May 13th AAAP meeting. The Project Manager and the Instrument Scientist will come up from the Goddard Space Flight Center in Washington, D. C. to talk about the NASA telescope to be launched by the upcoming space shuttle. The annual AAAP elections will also be held at this meeting.

MARCH MEETING

At the March Members' Night AAAP meeting Rick Clark, Pat Kane and Harry Johnson gave an amusing slide show entitled, "Mr. Mike," which was a puppet spoof featuring photos taken at our Observatory. Your editor gave a repeat airing of his talk on astrology advising AAAP'ers of the futility of trying to stamp out this ancient pseudo-science. Roxanne Peery previewed the talk she and Dick Peery will present in June on their recent safari to Kenya, Africa to see the total eclipse of the sun, and Dave Brown told about progress on his telescope construction.

BOARD MEETING

The AAAP Board of Directors will meet at 8 p.m. on Tuesday evening, April 1st at Doug Wurzler's apartment in Plainsboro (24-09 Pheasant Hollow Drive). Any member may attend but only Board members may vote. Please call Doug for directions (799-0250).

ASTRONOMY DAY ACTIVITIES

The AAAP will participate in the nationwide observance of Astronomy Day on April 26th by holding an open house at our Observatory in the Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, N. J. Roxanne Peery has been appointed Astronomy Day Chairperson to organize our effort. We plan to show sunspots and Venus during the day if it is clear. Please call Roxanne (397-3140) for further details or to volunteer assistance.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

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The spring series of seven joint AAAP-New Jersey State Museum star parties will start on April 11th and will continue on every Friday night through May 23rd. The public meets at the Museum in Trenton at 8:30 p.m. and after a brief planetarium lecture drives to the Observatory if it's clear, arriving about 9:15 p.m. Members are encouraged to come and bring portable telescopes to augment our observatory instruments. Please reach the Observatory via Brick Yard Road from its northern access off Church Road in Titusville. A keyholder will be assigned to have the Observatory open by 8:30 p.m. for members not having keys and who may wish to get in a little observing before the public arrives.

Construction will resume on the Observatory on the first warm, dry Saturday in April to complete the remaining tasks. Please call Leith Holloway (924-2480) for further details and to volunteer your services.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Wall Street Camera Exchange in New York City has offered us \$125 for the three-dimension projector donated to the AAAP by Joe Richey. Marc Halfon has volunteered to ship it to this camera store. This year's first "Star Wash," astronomical car wash, has been scheduled for May 3rd in the same place, the Princeton Fire House on Harrison Street. Rick Clark bought the AAAP's collection of spare issues of Sky and Telescope magazine. He and Pat Kane observed 102 Messier objects in a marathon observing session at our Observatory on the night of March 15-16th. Joe Richey is home now after spending three weeks in the Princeton Hospital with a respiratory problem. Karl Koehler writes from Arizona that he has just about finished laying the 3,000 bricks on the wall of his new round observatory in his back yard.

PLANETARIUM SHOW FEATURES AAAP

The March and April planetarium shows at the New Jersey State Museum will include information on the AAAP, its members and its observatory. It will be shown at 2 and 4 p.m. each Saturday, Sunday and holiday from March 8th through April 27th. Additional showings are scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursdays and at 2 p.m. daily during the weeks before and after Easter. Be sure to go and see photos of our members and other amateur astronomical activities in New Jersey.

AAAP AWARDED FIFTY-THOUSAND DOLLAR RESEARCH GRANT

The National Center for Atmospheric Research at Boulder, Colorado has given the AAAP \$50,000 to study the correlation between the scheduled dates for public star parties and inclement weather along the east coast of the United States. Our Association has been selected for this important research because of the strikingly strong relationship exhibited during last fall's series of Museum star parties.

NEW AAAP ROSTER

Attached to this mailing is an updated roster of the Association listing 58 current members. Please keep this for future reference since a new one may not be published for some time.