

Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

MAY 1980

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MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the AAAP will be held on Tuesday evening, May 13, 1980 at 8 p.m. in Peyton Hall of Princeton University on Ivy Lane off Washington Road in Princeton. Two NASA scientists will speak on the Space Telescope to be launched by the upcoming space shuttle. The Project Manager, Mr. George Levine, and the Instrument Scientist, Dr. David Lekrone, will come up from the Goddard Space Flight Center in Washington, D. C. to present this program for us.

The pre-meeting dinner will be held at the Foolish Fox Restaurant in Rocky Hill, N. J. (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.

JUNE MEETING

Dick and Roxanne Peery will talk on their safari to Africa at the June 10th AAAP meeting. They will show color slides of the February total eclipse of the sun they observed from Kenya and also show pictures of the animals in this exotic country.

APRIL MEETING

Prof. Wulff Heintz of Swarthmore College spoke on multiple stars at the April AAAP meeting. He pointed out that all dark companions of stars are not necessarily planets. There is a class of objects, Prof. Heintz calls black dwarfs, which are roughly ten to forty times more massive than Jupiter but still too small to shine by thermonuclear energy although they do emit heat generated by contraction. Of six alleged dark companions reported in the literature five have been proved to have resulted from uncorrected instrument errors and the sixth now has only a 50-50 chance of being real. Solar system creation may be a rarer phenomenon than previously thought.

BOARD MEETING

The AAAP Board of Directors will meet at 8 p.m. on Tuesday evening, May 6th at Dave Brown's home in Hopewell. Any member may attend but only Board members may vote. Please call Dave for directions (466-2696).

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

John Church, chairman of the nominating committee, has announced the following nominees for next year's AAAP officers to be voted on at the May business meeting:

Director: Roxanne Peery
Assistant Director: Kurt Goepfert
Program Chairman: Dave Brown

Treasurer: Doug Wurzler
Secretary: Harry Johnson

JOE RICHEY PASSES AWAY

Cdr. Joseph L. Richey, a AAAP member since the early sixties, died Friday afternoon, April 25th at Fort Dix Hospital of cardiac arrest at age 81. Joe had always been active in the AAAP serving on the program committee and as a leader in the study group sessions held for many years in the Association. A year ago he was awarded an Astronomical League certificate for outstanding and meritorious contributions to amateur astronomy. He was also a pioneer in amateur radio holding a coveted short call, K2AT. In lieu of flowers in Joe's memory, the family suggests a contribution to the Twin W Rescue Squad of Princeton Jct., N. J. 08550.

STAR WASH NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 10TH

The astronomical car wash, originally set for May 3rd, had to be postponed until May 10th due to a mix up at Borough Hall. On that Saturday the AAAP auto washing squad will man the hoses and brushes at the Princeton Fire House on Harrison Street between noon and 5 p.m. Come and help with the work or at least bring a dirty car to be washed for the reasonable price of only \$2. Please call star wash organizer, Doug Wurzler, at 799-0250 to volunteer assistance.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

The spring series of joint AAAP-New Jersey State Museum star parties will continue 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 bring portable telescopes to supplement our instruments at the Observatory. A keyholder will be assigned to have the building open by 8:30 p.m. for members not having keys and who may want to do some observing before the public arrives.

The water has been turned back on at the Observatory for the summer, and the toilet has been connected and is working. At its last meeting the Board of Directors voted to have a telephone installed in the Observatory for the convenience and safety of members using this facility. Incidentally, the planned April 26th Astronomy Day activities at the Observatory were rained out.

MERAL CONVENTION IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE COMING UP IN JUNE

The meeting of the Middle East Region of the Astronomical League will take place over the weekend of June 20-22, 1980 at Brandywine College on Route 202 about 5 miles north of downtown Wilmington, Delaware. The host is the Delaware Astronomical Society, and the program chairman is Emil Volcheck, 1046 General Allen Lane, West Chester, Pa. 19380, who should be contacted for details. Registration forms will be available at the May AAAP meeting. The registration fee is \$5 for singles and \$7 for families. Let's have some AAAP representation this year.

NEW AAAP MEMBER

John Eills
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