

# Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

JUNE 1980

EDITOR: Leith Holloway  
(609) 924-2480

## JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the AAAP will be held on Tuesday evening, June 10, 1980 at 8 p.m. in Peyton Hall of Princeton University on Ivy Lane off Washington Road in Princeton. Present AAAP Director Roxanne Peery and her husband Dick, a former AAAP Director, will speak on the total eclipse of the sun as observed from Kenya, Africa on February 16, 1980. Their talk will be illustrated with color slides of the eclipse and of wild animals photographed on a safari into the wilds of Kenya.

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.

## MAY MEETING

Mr. George Levine, NASA engineer and Project Manager, spoke on the Space Telescope at the May AAAP meeting. This 2.4-meter aperture reflecting telescope is tentatively scheduled to be launched into a 500-km high orbit by the upcoming Space Shuttle in 1983. It will afford astronomers a sevenfold improvement in resolution and a 50-fold increase in light-gathering power over earth-based telescopes and expand the volume of the observable Universe by about 350 times. At the business meeting the slate of officers listed in the May issue of Sidereal Times was elected into office. Congratulations to our new and re-elected officers!

## SUMMER CONVENTIONS

There will be no regular AAAP meetings in July and August, but there are three amateur astronomy conventions taking place this summer which you may wish to attend. This year's Stellafane meeting will take place on August 8th and 9th in Springfield, Vermont. For more information or to pre-register (for \$5) write Dennis di Cicco, 94 Pierce Road, Watertown, Mass. 02172. The National Astronomical League Convention will be held on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas over the July 4th weekend this year. For further details write Convention Chairman, Ron Price, 1622 Northview Circle, Garland, Texas 75040. Finally, the MERAL convention will be held in Wilmington, Delaware on the weekend of June 20-22, 1980. See last month's Sidereal Times for more details on this meeting. Material on all three of these meetings will be available at the June AAAP meeting.

## NEW AAAP MEMBER

Jason Albert (609) 443-6191  
17 Jeffrey Lane  
East Windsor, N. J. 08520



FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that I assume the reins of the AAAP from Leith Holloway. I have served as an officer for many years and I guess becoming Director was inevitable. I look forward to the next year. Some of the things I hope to accomplish this year are to increase membership, activities and publicity. If you have any suggestions or ideas, feel free to call any of the officers. Leith, who will also be turning over his duties as editor of Sidereal Times to my husband, Dick, has done an excellent job in the past but harkens to new interests. From now on announcements for Sidereal Times can be sent to the Peery household. See you on June 10th.

Roxanne Peery

ASSOCIATION NEWS

The May 10th "Star Wash" at the Princeton Fire House was quite a success. We washed about 80 cars and took in \$170. Many of the public enjoyed seeing sunspots through Kurt Goepfert's telescope. At the May AAAP meeting John Church was awarded an Astronomical League certificate for outstanding and meritorious contributions to amateur astronomy for his restoration of the AAAP 6-inch refractor, his scholarly research into its history and for serving the Association as Program Chairman and Director among other things. The AAAP recently donated \$20 to the Twin W Rescue Squad of Princeton Jct. in memory of Joe Richey. In his audit report presented on May 13th Jack Schroth announced that the AAAP books were found to be in good order, but he offered some helpful suggestions for improvements in our financial record keeping. During the past year AAAP income and expenses have totaled over \$2,000.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

Our observatory now has a telephone. Please make a note of the number which is 737-2575. Doors have been installed on the bathroom and closet in the building, and the wall between these two rooms is to be completed soon. The spring AAAP-New Jersey State Museum star parties concluded with the May 23rd observing session. Five out of seven of the scheduled nights were clear enough for astronomical observing of some kind. Now that the observatory is nearly completed we need to think about equipping it for its functions. We need eyepieces, a short wave radio for time signals, a chair or two, a fire extinguisher, and a small ladder so that Leith Holloway can have his 7-foot ladder back. If you wish to make a donation of one of these items, please call Roxanne Peery (397-3140).

Amateur Astronomers Association  
of Princeton, Inc.  
Post Office Box 2017  
Princeton, New Jersey 08540



FIRST CLASS MAIL

JOHN A CHURCH  
11 PRINCETON PLACE  
PRINCETON JCT NJ 08550