

SIDEREAL TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ASSOCIATION OF PRINCETON

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 10: *Dr. Andy Britten, an eye specialist, will tell us how and why the eye works in his talk "THE EYE AS A SENSOR".*

Tuesday, April 14: *Ed Greaney, president of New Jersey Amateur Astronomers will tell us about the NJAA and their observatory at Voorhees State Park which houses a 26" Newtonian. Dave Brown will round out the program with his short talk on the amateur astronomer's library.*

All meetings will be held at the Institute for Advanced Study on Olden Lane in Princeton, and begin promptly at 8:00 p.m.

An informal dutch treat dinner will be held before each meeting at the Foolish Fox (at the corner of Routes 518 and 206). We meet at the bar around 5:45 p.m. It's a pretty good chance to meet the speaker and have a good time, so we hope to see you there!

The February meeting was held on the 10th at the Institute and featured Dr. Scott Tremaine. His topic was one that many of us have heard about, the discovery of the rings of Uranus.

BOARD MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, March 2nd (8:00 p.m.) at the home of Dave Brown. Any member is welcome to attend. Call Dave if you need directions. The meeting will be primarily concerned with mapping out plans for the completion of the observatory this summer. If you have ideas or suggestions we'd like to hear from you.

OBSERVING / OBSERVATORY NEWS

As of the beginning of January the observatory was out of commission due to the cold weather which caused the floor to heave. It is impossible to open the roof of the observatory at all and the three doors have not fared much better. Because the two closet doors are jammed shut it was necessary to disconnect the burglar alarm. Should any member go out to the observatory in the near future please check on how things are doing, and make doubly sure the door is locked when you leave. Feel free to call Roxanne Peery (397-3140) or Leith Holloway (924-2480) to report any problems.

Even though the observatory cannot be used a roster is included below just in case we have an early spring thaw. Let's hope things clear up before the public sessions start.

OBSERVATORY ROSTER

April 17: Leith Holloway
 April 24: Kurt Goepfert
 May 1: Roxanne Peery
 May 8: John Church
 May 15: Kurt Rahlfs
 May 22: Doug Wurzler
 May 29: Pat Kane

June 5: Leith Holloway
 June 12: Kurt Goepfert
 June 19: Roxanne Peery
 June 26: John Church
 July 3: Kurt Rahlfs
 July 10: Doug Wurzler
 July 17: Pat Kane

The AAAP and State Museum Planetarium will begin the spring series of public observing programs on Friday, April 10. The series will run for seven weeks concluding on May 22. The program begins at the Planetarium at 8:30 p.m. and, on clear nights, the group should arrive at the observatory at 9:30. On cloudy evenings a full length Planetarium program will be presented.

PLANETARIUM ASTRONOMY COURSES

This spring the Planetarium offers three different courses on astronomy reaching adults, children in grades 5 through 8 and a short three week introductory course for children in grades 1 through 4. Any member who is interested in these courses is invited to call Dick Peery at 292-6333 for further information and an application form.

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY COMING

National Astronomy Day is Saturday, May 9. The AAAP will be holding its first *Star Wash* of 1981 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. that day at the Harrison Street Hook and Ladder Fire Company. The cost is still \$2 per car and volunteers are needed. Contact Kurt Goepfert at (201) 584-3882 if you wish to help, or see any club officer at the regular meeting.

That evening, weather permitting, the AAAP and Planetarium will host a star party beginning at 8:30 p.m. at the Planetarium and proceeding to the observatory. Again, volunteers are needed.

At the museum that day there will be special planetarium shows, lectures on meteorites (utilizing specimens on loan from NASA) and demonstrations at the solar observatory on the museum roof. Astronomy related films will also be shown. All museum events are free and the museum will be open from 1 to 5 p.m.

NOTE

If the present water crisis continues it may be necessary to cancel the Star Wash. Members will be notified in such an event-- but we'd still like volunteers. Hope for rain!