

Sidereal Times

SEPT 1981

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

This summer the AAAP has been active on several fronts. Our treasury is now up to a comfortable level thanks to a successful Star Wash on June 27th, and a contribution from the remaining funds of Cluster magazine. Another Star Wash will take place on Saturday, September 12th.

We have also started informal summer meetings on the second Friday of each month at the observatory; bring a chair and we'll provide the refreshments.

Once again I must make a plea for more AAAP members to take an active part in our organization. We especially need people interested in the observatory, and not just observers. We need volunteers willing to cut grass, sweep the floor, clean the restroom, and so on. We are the ones who wanted an observatory - let's all work to keep it a going concern.

Roxanne Peery

STAR WASH

Saturday, September 12th, Harrison Street Hook & Ladder, 10 am-5 pm. Volunteers are needed.

NEW SEASON BEGINS

September 8, Tuesday, 8 pm

Our regular monthly meetings resume at the Institute for Advanced Study with "The Bermuda Triangle Mystery—Solved," an excellent film based on the book by Larry Kusche, which examines the myths involved with a skeptical eye.

September 26, Saturday, 3 pm

AAAP Annual Picnic to be held at Knox Grove, Washington Crossing State Park (N.J. Side). Starting time is 3 pm.

October 2 - November 20, Fridays, 7:30 pm

Public observing sessions begin on Friday evenings at the planetarium in Trenton.

October 13, Tuesday, 8 pm

Dr. John Lowrance will talk about Electro Optic Sensors.

November 10, Tuesday, 8 pm

Dr. Ed Guinan will speak on Star Spots and Sun Spots.

The September meeting will be held at the Institute for Advanced Study on Olden Avenue in Princeton. Park in Area B and walk to nearest entrance. Meetings begin promptly at 8 pm.

Beginning with the regular October meeting, AAAP will meet in Peyton Hall on the Princeton University campus. (Check next month's issue for confirmation.)

Before regular Tuesday evening meetings, members may want to relax and enjoy dinner with the guest speaker at the Foolish Fox restaurant located at the junction of Routes 206 & 518 in Rocky Hill, NJ; 5:45 pm.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS

Many of you only know my name and that I assumed the position of Program Chairperson in May of this year. As a long-time members (I joined the club in 1967 with an interruption of several years), I have held the post of Secretary as well as my present job. During the MERAL Convention in 1972 I was the Exhibits Chairperson and that Spring I trekked to my second AAAP eclipse expedition. In 1976, I received my B.S. in Astronomy from Villanova University and four years later returned to the area and to the AAAP. Now I find myself again in office.

I will use my office to repay the AAAP for all that it has given me. My first step in this direction will be to discover how the AAAP can best serve its members. To this end, a telephone survey will be conducted soon, and confidentiality will be maintained throughout. Please take time to consider what you enjoy or are annoyed with regarding our club, especially with what the club could do to regain your interest.

One project now underway is the Education Committee. This group will be teaching Astronomy at the West Windsor Adult Education School, beginning September 28, 1981. This committee has its first meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 1981 at my home. The benefits of this group to the club members are threefold. First is what we shall learn from each other. Secondly is the giving of our astronomical experience to others, and lastly is the income we will receive for teaching. The group is open to all members of the club. Please let me know if you are interested in joining -- our committee could use your expertise.

A change in Members Nights is now in effect. These programs will be scheduled only when a sufficient number of people contact me. Those who will talk should indicate the length of their talks, and their audio-visual and other equipment needs. As in all previous Members Nights, the presentations are informal.

At General Meetings, after the speaker has surrendered the floor, we will serve refreshments. Donation boxes are provided for your contribution to the "Food Fund."

Thank you for affording me this opportunity to talk with you. We look forward to your response to the telephone survey. If we all work together, we can create a fresh and dynamic AAAP.

See you at the meetings!

Kurt

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