

Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

Editor: Dave Brown

Director: Kurt Goepfert

AAAP FEB/MARCH CALENDAR

- 1) 2/1 (Tuesday) - 7:30 p.m. Board of Directors meeting at Kurt Rahlfs home.

- 2) 2/8 (Tuesday) - 7:30 p.m. "NOVA" Session conducted by Kurt Rahlfs.
Topic: "How to Use a Telescope - Part II."
Refracting telescope's history and use will be discussed.

8:00 p.m. Princeton University's Mario Vietri will explore the "Origin of SO Galaxies."
Premeeeting dinner at the Foolish Fox in Rocky Hill at 5:45 p.m.

- 3) 3/8 (Tuesday) - 7:30 p.m. "NOVA" Session conducted by the AAAP's premiere astrophotographers, Dick and Roxanne Peery. The Peery's will present an overview of their equipment and techniques and will display some of their best astrophotos.

8:00 p.m. Mr. Gary Mamon of Princeton's Astrophysical Sciences Department will investigate the nature of "Interacting Galaxies."

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Since September we have tried to improve communications within the Club as evidenced by regular roster updates. We have also tried to involve our many new members in the exciting science-hobby of astronomy by conducting special programs for novices and scheduling regular observing sessions for all members.

To tie these themes together, we are developing a questionnaire which we will ask all of you to complete next month. The information collected will form a AAAP "data base" which will allow us to quickly link members with similar interests and equipment.

Kurt Rahlfs will store this data in his new computer. Throughout the future months we will publish various summaries to let you know more about your fellow members than the names and numbers which appear on the Club roster.

Your interest and timely response is the key to the success of this idea. We'll talk about this more next time.

CONSTITUTED BY-LAW REVISION FINALIZED:

It wasn't easy, but we've finally collected enough votes to permit adoption of the by-law revision recognizing the existence of our Club observatory. Thirty members responded with "yes" tallies.

We should all be grateful that this slot in the newsletter will be devoted to other items in the future. Thanks to all respondents.

OBSERVATORY SCHEDULE THAWING OUT:

With winter moving right along, active use of the AAAP observatory at Washington Crossing State Park (N.J.) is not far off. Next month's newsletter will give the duty roster for March and April. Public observing will begin the second week in April for four consecutive Fridays.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

The attached membership roster shows continued growth for the AAAP over the list prepared in November. Our newest members include: John Reeves, Robert Slusher, and Don Sprague and his family. Welcome aboard!

See you on February 8!