

# Sidereal Times

September 1983

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

(Address: P.O. Box 2017, Princeton, N.J. 08540)

Editor: Dave Brown

Director: Kurt Goepfert

## AAAP SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER '83 CALENDAR

- 1) Fridays - 8:00 p.m. Member's night observing at the AAAP Observatory. Public sessions begin in October. See Duty Roster below.
- 2) 9/13 (Tues.) - 8:00 p.m. September's "double bill" features Art Esposito's "Stellafane Report" followed by a Kitt Peak astronomy film: **STARS, GALAXIES AND THE SOUTHERN SKIES.** (Bart Bok describes Cerro Tololo observing programs - Astronomy "Southern Style".) Please note there will be no Nova session this month. Premeeting dinner at the Foolish Fox restaurant at 5:45 p.m.
- 3) 9/24&25 (Sat/Sun)- AAAP Weekend at the Quakerbridge Mall - details below.
- 4) 10/1 (Saturday) - AAAPicnic at Washington Crossing State Park. Refer to attachment for details.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hope you all enjoyed your summer - I sure did. With the Labor Day weekend over it's back to school for some and back to our normal meeting schedule for the AAAP.

Before we look forward to our Fall '83 programs, we should catch up a little on the various activities which kept AAAPers busy this past summer.

**"Starwash" Success Detailed:** The AAAP's 9th carwash held on Saturday, July 9 generated an all-time high income of \$253.50! Many club members pitched in to make this result possible: Art Esposito, Leith Holloway, Kurt Goepfert, Signe Hanson, Dick & Roxanne Peery, Larry Smith, Scott Smith, Robert Sanders, Jay & Mike Albert and the Monticello clan. Excellent work, gang!!!

For history buffs the eight starwashes held previously generated funds as follows:

STARWASH	DATE	\$\$	STARWASH	DATE	\$\$
I	7/21/79	177.00	V	6/3/81	203.00
II	11/3/79	072.50	VI	9/12/81	174.12
III	5/10/80	165.75	VII	10/12/82	169.00
IV	7/80	Rainout	VIII	5/21/83	098.00

**AAAP vs. TOKAMAK:** On Tuesday, July 12th, several AAAP members visited the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory for a "customized" tour of this impressive facility, including a look at the TOKAMAK fusion reactor.

Jay Albert did another fine job in organizing this educational and highly interesting tour. Thanks, Jay.

**Stellafane News:** Art Esposito reports that at least four AAAPers visited the pleasant green mountains of Springfield, Vermont to attend the 49th annual meeting of amateur astronomers over the August 6, 1983 weekend.

Art will provide more details on the "Stellafane Experience" to all interested AAAP members during the September meeting.

**New AAAP Keyholders:** Over the summer Mike and Don Monticello earned their own key to the AAAP Observatory by successfully completing keyholder training and certification.

Hopefully other new members will follow through on their training in the near future. Congratulations, Mike and Don!

**Observatory Receives Two "Grants":** Club members Leith Holloway and Jay Albert have recently made important donations to improve the AAAP Observatory. Thanks to Leith, we now own a power mower, which will help keep those monster weeds away from our door.

Jay Albert has provided a Celestron finder scope to facilitate use of the Club's 10" reflector.

Both items have already been put to good use. Thanks again to both of you.

**Quakerbridge Mall Weekend News:** Jay Albert is currently rounding up display materials for the AAAP two-day session at the QB Mall Community Booth over the September 24/25 weekend.

At this time Jay is looking for a few Club members to help man (or woman) the booth and talk "astronomy" to the shoppers. Interested AAAPers should call Jay at 443 - 6191 or speak to him at our 9/13 meeting. This duty could definitely be a lot of fun.

If you can't volunteer, please stop by the Mall to check out our displays. You might just be impressed.

**Beemerville, N.J.:** Our field trip to the dark, clear skies of Sussex County is set for Friday through Sunday, November 4-6. Heated quarters and super observing will cost \$9.45 per person. We need at least 15 attendees.

Bring family and friends; the camp is large, so the more the merrier. Catered meals are available at reasonable prices if the group chooses. Contact Dave Brown (466-2696) no later than 30 September 1983. Don't pass up this **excellent** opportunity.

**Note:** Please contact Dave even if you previously stated your interest.

**SEPT/OCT DUTY ROSTER** (Observatory phone 737-2575)

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>
9/9	P. Kane	882-1275	10/7*	R. Peery	397-3140
9/16	D. Wurzler	737-9353	10/14*	K. Rahlfs	(215) 493-0561
9/23	K. Goepfert	(201)584-3882	10/21*	M. Halfon	443-5866
9/30	M. Monticello	882-1257	10/28*	H. Johnson	882-2680

\*denotes Public Observing Session

**FOR SALE:** 10" F/8 Newtonian. Homemade, fiberglass tube, finderscope, equatorial mount. No eyepieces or clock. Best offer. Contact: Tim Tinkham, 349 Walnut Ln. Princeton, N.J. (924-1799).

**FOR SALE:** 8" F/8 mirror with cell-\$85. 12½" Cass. mirror system-must inspect. Contact D. Brown (466-2696).



# AAAPICNIC

DATE: Saturday, October 1, 1983

TIME: 3:00 pm

PLACE: Knox Grove, Washington Crossing State Park, NJ

RAIN DATE: Sunday, October 2nd same time & place

DETAILS: Our annual AAAP Picnic will coincide with the new moon. Clear, late September skies (hopefully) will allow some great observing after we consume vast quantities of hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and soda.

Daytime/nighttime frisbee, touch football and general goodtimes are also on tap for the weekend, so don't delay sending in the application below.

COST: 1. \$5.00 per person (under age 12 is free). Please pre-register no later than September 28th.

2. For those who wish to bring their own food, or simply participate in the observing session, there will be no charge.

CONTACT: If any questions, contact either Marc Halfon, 443-5866 or Kurt Goepfert (201)584-3882

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Yes! We'll be at the AAAP Picnic.

Name John Church  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

AAAP Member ☐ non-member ☐ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people at \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of children under 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
Total number of people \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: The Amateur Astronomers Association of  
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Send to: P.O. Box 2017, Princeton, NJ 08540