

Sidereal Times

October 1983

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

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

Editor: Dave Brown

Director: Kurt Goepfert

AAAP OCTOBER/NOVEMBER '83 CALENDAR

- 1) 10/7 (Fri.) - 7:30 pm. Beginning of Friday evening Fall Public Observing sessions, which continue throughout October. Details below.
- 2) 10/11(Tues.) - 7:30 pm. 1983/84 NOVA series starts off with Art Esposito's personalized tour for viewing the "Fall Skies".
8:00 pm. Dr. Jill Knapp of Princeton University will speak on "Dying Stars". October's meeting will be held in Princeton's Peyton Hall, with our "meet-the-speaker" dinner set for the Foolish Fox Restaurant, Route 206, Rocky Hill @5:45pm.
- 3) 11/4-6(Fri-Sun) - Beemerville, NJ field trip for interested AAAPers. Dark, moonless skies in store. Still time to sign-up; see details below.
- 4) 11/8 (Tues.) - 7:30 pm. Marc Halfon hosts the November NOVA session. His topic: "Measuring Astronomical Distances".
8:00 pm. Dr. J. R. Thomson, former Chief Engineer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center will review the "Development of the Space Shuttle's Engines".

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The splash of color on the trees and those crisp, clear evenings serve as gentle reminders that Fall is with us once again. If the excellent Autumn skies do not offer sufficient incentive to lure some of us back to our telescopes perhaps some of our planned Oct/Nov activities will: a) Don't miss Art Esposito's NOVA talk on Fall observing. This month's session promises to just as enjoyable as Art's previous talks on the Winter and Summer skies.

b) Come out and join the Public at the AAAP Observatory Friday nights throughout October. You just might enjoy turning someone else on to astronomy.

c) Finally, the Beemerville Weekend promises to be a unique and highly interesting time for the AAAP. Come out and see how dark New Jersey skies can be!

AAAPicnic Averts "Washout": Despite the efforts of tropical storm "Dean", the AAAP prevailed in being able to hold our annual Club Picnic on Sunday, 10/2/83. Though the turn-out was light (weather-related in part), all of us in attendance enjoyed the excellent (abundant) food and interesting conversation. We were even able to catch a glimpse of Jupiter through the Club's 6" refractor before closing up the Observatory.

QB Mall II - a "Success": Despite some last minute changes in location and facilities, the AAAP scored its second success in promoting Astronomy (and the AAAP) among the greater Trenton community. Over 77 shoppers showed a definite interest in our activities. We handed out over 200 Club brochures and related astro-paraphanelia. We've already picked up one new membership from this outing and expect several others to follow.

Thanks again go to Jay Albert for a superior effort in organizing and coordinating this AAAP activity. Thanks also to: Art Esposito, Roxanne Peery, Larry & William Gross, Kurt Goepfert and Signe Hanson for manning the table; Don Monticello for constructing our display rack; and John Church, Jack Power and the Peerys for lending their excellent astrophotos and charts.



AAAPers At The Quakerbridge Mall. Manning the Table (from l. to r.): Jay Albert, Kurt Goepfert, Larry Gross and William Gross.

Beemerville Weekend Openings: Dave Brown advises there's still time to sign-up for the AAAP's weekend outing in Beemerville (Sussex County) NJ. Contact Dave at 466-2696. Cost is \$9.45 per person.

AAAP Earns Additional \$125.00: Dick Peery was able to sell for the AAAP two telescope tubes and associated brackets, all of which were formerly attached to the Club's 10" reflector. Dick's efforts earned us a nice \$125.00 sum. Thank you very much, Dick.

Welcome New Members: The attached Membership Roster shows five new members added since our summer hiatus: Michael Bodden, Robert Corless, William Sharp, James Theiss, Jr. and Albert Zampirri. Welcome aboard, gang!

OCT/NOV DUTY ROSTER (Observatory Phone 737-2575)

Friday	Person	Phone	Friday	Person	Phone
10/7*	R. Peery	397-3140	11/4	NO ASSIGNMENT+	
10/14*	K. Rahlfs	215-493-0561	11/11	D. Brown	466-2696
10/21*	M. Halfon	443-5866	11/18	A. Esposito	396-3630
10/28*	H. Johnson	382-2680	11/25	NO ASSIGNMENT	

*denotes Public Observing - open AAAP Observatory 8:00 pm
+Beemerville Weekend

FOR SALE: Superbly set-up 12.5" F/6 Newtonian. Integral off-axis guider, electric focus, dual-axis drive corrector and rotating rings. Cold camera, dry ice maker, seven Clave eyepieces. Observatory building included. Reasonable price. Contact: John Simpson, 366 Gallup Rd., Princeton 08540. Phone 924-8996/days; 924-8497/evenings.