

A WORD ABOUT VOTING. If the Junior Members of the NCA get the right to vote in the January meeting, let us remember that, as voting Juniors, we have a duty as well as a privilege. We must inform ourselves about both sides of the question and vote for what we think is best for the NCA first, and the Juniors second. We must defend our rights, but we must not throw them away through unwise use.

A LARGER ATTENDANCE AT MONTHLY JUNIOR NIGHTS would be a heartening sign of Junior activity. The Junior nights usually last from seven-thirty or eight until ten o'clock. Note the date of the next Junior Night and plan to attend. The evenings, noted on the first page of each STAR DUST, are always Fridays or Saturdays so that they don't interfere with homework.

AT INSTRUCTION NIGHT recently, Miles Davis joined John Lankford in the privilege of obtaining the key to the five-inch. Instruction night is a wonderful opportunity to learn the operation of the telescope and obtain permission to use it.

LEO CARROLL, Junior Star Dusts's first editor and active Junior member moved to Bayside, L. I. recently. The NCA Juniors will miss his ready smile, fantastic theories, and Boston accent. Far fewer variable star reports will come from Washington now.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS are John Lankford and Carl Werntz.

VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS have been hard at work all month. Observations reported were as follows:

Morgan Cilley	50	John Lankford	10
Carl Werntz	33	Miles Davis	4
		John Edmonds	3

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A REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1948 has been a great year for the Junior NCA. February marked our first big step, for then we were given permission to qualify for the use of the five-inch. In June, two of our members wrote papers for the Astronomical League Convention in Milwaukee. Leo Carroll gave a summary of the progress in variable star observing, and John Lankford told about the planets visible through a small telescope.

Now we bring you the second issue of JUNIOR STAR DUST, another milestone in the history of the Junior NCA. Also this month, the first issue of the JUNIOR REGIONAL NEWSLETTER will come out. It is for young amateur astronomers in the Middle East Region of the Astronomical League. The Committee member representing NCA Juniors and responsible for their contributions to the publication is John Edmonds. Tommy Walsh, John Lankford, Miles Davis and John Edmonds have contributed articles which we think you will find interesting.

At the January meeting, it will be decided whether the Juniors will or will not have voting privileges. Notice of a proposed amendment to the By-laws was brought up at the December meeting. The amendment, if adopted, will give junior members the right to vote on all issues with junior votes counted as one-half the vote of a regular member.
--John Edmonds

JUNIOR NIGHT TOPICS

For January - The Winter Skies.
For February- The Telescopic Planets.

PLANETS AND METEORS FOR JANUARY, 1949

MERCURY is an evening star all month; it will be in the constellations of Sagittarius and Capricornus. The time to get a good observation of Mercury is around the 17th, when it will be at greatest elongation east of the sun. On this date the planet will be half illuminated, and its magnitude will be -0.5. Its distance will be 123 million miles.

VENUS is a morning star all month, rising about 4 A.M. in the constellations of Scorpio and Sagittarius. It is about magnitude -3.4. On January 1st its distance will be 137 million miles.

MARS is still in the evening sky, but it is too remote from the earth to be observed. On the first of the month it will be 214 million miles away.

JUPITER is now in the morning sky, but too close to the sun to be observed. On the first it will be 572 million miles away.

SATURN is approaching opposition and is rising at about 9 P.M. in the constellation Leo. Its magnitude is 0.6, and its distance will be 798 million miles on the 15th.

URANUS is high in the sky on the Taurus-Gemini boundary. It is of magnitude 5.8. This makes it a naked eye object. Its distance on the 15th will be 1,684 million miles.

NEPTUNE is in Virgo and rises about 1 A.M. It is of eighth magnitude, and its distance on the 15th will be 2,798 million miles.

METEORS for January are the Quadrantids on the 2nd and 3rd with Draco as radiant, and the Cygnids on the 17th with Cygnus as radiant.

PLANETS AND METEORS FOR FEBRUARY, 1949

MERCURY is in conjunction with the sun on the 2nd and moves into the morning sky. The best time to observe this planet will be around the 28th.

VENUS is close to Jupiter in the morning sky. It will be in the constellation of Sagittarius and fairly well placed for observation an hour before sunrise. On the first of the month its distance will be 148 million miles.

MARS is too close to the sun to be observed. On the 17th of March it will be in conjunction with the sun and in the morning sky.

JUPITER is in the morning sky, but very close to the sun. On the 15th its distance will be 554 million miles.

SATURN comes into opposition on the 21st at 1 P.M.. It will be in Leo and of magnitude 0.4. Its distance on the 21st will be 769 million miles. The ring system has an apparent diameter of 45", and it is open 9° toward the earth.

URANUS is in Taurus all month; it is well placed for observation. Its greenish disc can be made out with a power of about 60 diameters. The distance in the middle of the month will be 1,717 million miles.

NEPTUNE is in Virgo all month. It is approaching opposition and rising about 1 A.M. On the 15th its distance will be 2,753 million miles.

METEORS for February are the Aurigids on the 5th, with Auriga as radiant.

--John E. Lankford

OCCULTATIONS

Jan.	Object	Magnitude	Immersion	Hour	Angle
4	3425	4.6	4:11.7 PM	2	W
4	3434	7.4	7:17.2 PM	5	W
5	3535	5.2	6:25.6 PM	3½	W
7	214	6.4	6:17.9 PM	0	
9	442	6.9	5:16.6 PM	2½	E
9	457	6.5	11:01.6 PM	3	W
10	460	7.0	12:22.7 AM	4½	W
10	582	5.8	7:53.8 PM	½	W
10	594	6.9	10:49.5 PM	2	W

All on the dark edge; eastern standard time.