

RULES SET UP BY TRUSTEES FOR USE OF THE LEROY BENFER

TELESCOPE

1. Any NCA member may borrow the Leroy Benfer telescope by signing a receipt accepting responsibility for the care and return of the telescope, and financial responsibility for replacement of any damaged parts. In the case of minors, this form is to be signed by a parent or guardian.

2. The telescope may be borrowed for an initial period up to one month, with renewals for periods of two weeks unless requested by another NCA member. The request for the telescope should be made to Mr. G. R. Wright. Members desiring the telescope for observing will be given priority.

3. The person borrowing the telescope will be given instructions in the use and care of the instrument.

4. Should an NCA sponsored public observation occur during the period of loan, the borrower will be advised of the date, and will be expected to bring the telescope. During the period of observation his assistance is requested, but he will not be held responsible should damage occur to the instrument at such time. At the request of the custodian of the Leroy Benfer telescope, the borrower shall make the telescope available for special observing groups.

(The form to be signed shall include borrower's name, address, telephone number, and acceptance of responsibility. Also name of chairman of Leroy Benfer telescope, with method of contacting chairman. Also period for which telescope is being borrowed.)

FIRST PUBLIC USE OF LEROY BENFER TELESCOPE was Tuesday, May 15 when Janet Perkins, Bob Wright, and Hoy Walls used it for constellation study with a Girl Scout troop from Chevy Chase. About 25 girls with their leaders enjoyed the observation under the clear skies. The public observation of May 6 was clouded out altho about 25 people showed up.

SEVENTH ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM at Georgetown on May 8 was Dr. William Markowitz of the Naval Observatory on "The Use of the Baird Birefringent Filter in Observing the Sun." There will not be another colloquium until fall.

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CALENDAR

June 2 "IBM MACHINES AND COMPUTING METHODS AT THE
Sat. U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY," Frederick H. Hol-
lander of the Observatory.

June 6 Observing at the NCA 5"
Wed.

June 7-9 Lunar Meteoric Phenomenon Observation Dates,
Lyle Johnson Program.

June 13 Public Night, Naval Observatory. (Passes
Wed. must be requested in advance.)

June 20 Observing at the NCA 5"
Wed.

June 21 American Astronomical Society Meetings,
Thu. 9:30 a. m. throughout the day, Lecture
Room, Fourth Floor East Building of the
Bureau of Standards.

June 22 American Astronomical Society Meetings.
Fri. Same as above.

June 23 American Astronomical Society Meetings,
Sat. 9:30 a. m.

June 30 Junior NCA Meeting, Science Service
Sat. Center.

Tuesdays and Fridays, 7-10 p. m. Telescope Making
Class, Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and
Upshur, N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, Instructor, Tele-
phone LO 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present only on
Fridays.

FREDERICK H. HOLLANDER,

June speaker, is a graduate of Columbia College in New York and is now working on a thesis for his doctorate at Yale. Prior to joining the Naval Observatory, he was an electronic physicist with the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. Mr. Hollander says there will be little or no mathematics in his lecture on the machines used at the U. S. Naval Observatory. The lecture will be kept as purely descriptive as possible in its explanation of the use of computing equipment to solve problems in astronomical research.

MEETINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY at the Bureau of Standards this month is an unusual opportunity for NCA'ers to hear a number of the top astronomers in the country. Papers will be given on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. On each of these days, at times to be arranged for the convenience of the members and their visitors, there will be escorted tours through the National Bureau of Standards and laboratories. The Society dinner will be held at 7:00 p. m. Friday. Beginning at 9:00 a. m. Friday there is a Symposium: Atomic and Molecular Spectra in Astrophysics, with Henry Norris Russell, presiding; Recent Progress in Stellar Spectroscopy, Otto Struve, University of California; Stellar Magnetism, H. W. Babcock, Mt. Wilson and Palomar; The Fundamental Standard of Wavelength, W. F. Meggers, National Bureau of Standards; Forbidden Transitions in the Spectra of Diatomic Molecules, G. Herzberg, National Research Council, Canada.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1951-52. The following were elected at the May meeting. President, Janet Perkins; Vice-President, Hoy J. Walls; Secretary, Miss R. F. Heisey; Treasurer, Mrs. Ione Alston; Trustee, James D. Crowell.

SKY AND TELESCOPE SUBSCRIPTION ACTION was tabled until September, because the result of the survey only gave a 50 percent return, Leo Scott reported.

IN MEMORIAM

The National Capital Astronomers mourn the untimely death of their fellow member, Mr. I. M. Halpern. Mr. Halpern, who was a lawyer, was stricken in court while representing a client and died unexpectedly on April 27. He was Past Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, REA Chapter. The classic comparison of his life to the shadow of a building, permanent and stable, in contrast to the seasonal shadow of the tree and the fickle shadow of the bird, was quoted at the service. Mr. Halpern joined the NCA in September 1948. He attended the League convention in Wellesley last summer, was chairman of the Housing Committee at the time of his death and was active in attending astronomical lectures and other events.

AAVSO CONVENTION at Georgetown University was attended by about 20 NCA'ers and was a wonderful experience for all. There were many interesting papers, among them one by John Lankford on the history of theories concerning variable stars. We had the chance to see many out-of-town Astronomical League members, Charles Leroy, Ed Bailey, the Lu Carics and others. The food was delicious. The Naval Observatory tour included the 12", 24", and 40" telescopes. At the Sterling Field Station demonstrations and commentary on the "dishes" used to receive radio signals from the sun were very interesting. The tour of the Naval Research Laboratory was accompanied by interesting talks. We were taken to the top of the big radio telescope there, the largest in the world.

NCA HOBBY SHOW AND PICNIC on May 19 was attended by over 50 people. From Norfolk and Richmond came Betty Fezekas, Daniel Slabej, Thomas W. Stone, and D. S. Ragland. Exhibits, Irene Warthen's movies of conventions, and Dr. Edson's talk on Mars accompanied by rare slides were followed by a picnic supper at Mrs. Norris'. Long to be remembered were Bob Wright's watermelon pickles, Mrs. Edson's prune-whip cake, and Bill Dworza's gorgeous "Astronomers" cake, made with a mysterious Greek recipe. Congratulations, Mabel Sterns!