

NEW MEMBERS

- James Q. Gant, Jr., M. D., 6729 Second Street, N. W.
Washington 6, RAndolph 6-5400
- Clyde A. Lofland, 5440 Brier Ridge Road, Falls Church,
Va. No phone.
- *Villard S. Griffin, Jr., 2805 Cameronmills Road,
Alexandria, Va. KIng 8-5788

CHARTER MEMBERS OF NCA- In 1937 when our group first got organized about 35 or 40 persons were charter members of the original organization, "NATIONAL AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.," - the NAAA. According to NCA records 8 of these charter members are present members of NCA. They are: Eleanora B. Davis; Clarence DeW. Herreshoff; Charles T. Kemmerer; Katherine Koetz, U. S. Lyons, Mabel Sterns, Martha F. Stewart, and Irene Warthen. Mr. Lyons was very active in getting the group under way and was its first Vice President. Impetus for getting the group organized was the interest in getting a planetarium for Washington.

NOTES

"RADIO STARS," by A.C.B. Lovell, professor of radio astronomy at the University of Manchester, is a very worthwhile article in January SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. In the same issue Albert G. Ingalls reports on some curious amateur observations of the moon.

There are some 620 examples of the cluster-type variables known to astronomers.

The moon seems generally to be composed of shades of yellow and gray; however, tints of green have been distinguished on the Maria Humorum, Crisium, and Serenitatis. Palus Somnii shows a golden-yellow to light brown hue, and Mare Frigoris is dull yellow-green. A dull reddish area was once observed in a small crater.

Jewell Boling, 1717 P St., N. W.

NO 7-9621

STAR DUST

National Capital Astronomers

April 1953

Vol. 10, No. 8

APRIL CALENDAR

Date

- April 4 "THE NATURE OF RADIO ASTRONOMY," Mr. Fred T. Haddock, Jr., Naval Research Laboratory
Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
- April 18 DISCUSSION GRUOP. 8:00 p. m. Commerce Auditorium.
- April 19 EXPLORING THE SKY. National Capital Parks-
NCA joint program. Fort Reno Park, 40th
and Chesapeake Street, N. W. 8-10 p. m.

Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p. m. Telescope Making Class,
Rocsevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur Sts.,
N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, Instructor. Telephone LO
5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Tuesdays.

"THE NATURE OF RADIO ASTRONOMY" - Some interesting discoveries have recently been made in the comparatively new field of radio astronomy. Through the study of radio emissions from the sun, moon and various stars, made by members of the Radio Division of the Naval Research Laboratory, new interpretations have been advanced for certain physical attributes of these bodies.

Fred T. Haddock, Jr., who is the speaker at our April meeting, will present a brief overall survey of the field of radio astronomy, with emphasis on its rapid growth. The subject matter of his talk includes a comparison between radio and light waves, regarding their generation, transmission and detection; some astronomical discoveries in the field of radio astronomy, and some practical possibilities in the new field.

Mr. Haddock is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has received his M.S. (Physics) degree at the University of Maryland. He has been with the Naval Research Laboratory since 1941, specializing in microwave antenna research and has received a commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for the design and development of a submarine radar antenna during the recent war. Mr. Haddock has also been with the eclipse expeditions at Attu, Alaska, in 1950 and at Khartoum, Sudan, in 1952. He is at present with the Radio Division of the Naval Research Laboratory. His lecture will be illustrated with slides.

—Abraham Robinson

SPECIAL DISCUSSION GROUP OF MARCH 21 was one of the most successful events NCA has ever put on. Around 100 persons came out during the afternoon and evening. A number were from out-of-town. Invitations had been extended to Norfolk, Richmond, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Schenectady astronomical groups. The General Chairman for the session was Mr. Leo Schoenig of Pittsburgh. The following were the topics for discussion and the Discussion Leaders: BALANCING TELESCOPES - Joseph C. Boyle; RADIO ASTRONOMY - Charles M. Little; CONSTRUCTION OF TELESCOPES AND ACCESSORIES - Leo Schoenig; ASTRONOMICAL OPTICS - Arthur A. Hoag; PHOTO-ELECTRIC PHOTOMETER - Arthur A. Hoag; PHOTOGRAPHY IN ASTRONOMY - general discussion.

THE NCA 5" ALVAN CLARK REFRACTOR has been mounted in Building 25 on the Naval Observatory grounds and is ready for use. The clock drive is not in operation at present, but this will not interfere with general observing. Since the general operation of the telescope and the roof is the same as in our present location, it has not been thought necessary to revise the list of members who may receive the key to the building. Regular NCA members are entitled to be added to the list to obtain the key. If you wish to obtain this privilege, please contact Mr. H. J. Walls, Oliver 2-5395; and he will make arrangements to meet you at the Naval Observatory. The NCA membership card will admit you to the grounds.

In this connection, we wish to remind all members that it is only through the courtesy of the Naval Observatory that we are allowed this privilege. We must therefore mind our manners and conduct while on the grounds. We have been advised that a record will be kept by the guard at the gate, and we must show our membership cards upon entering.

NCA WIDENS ITS REACH - During the past several months we have widened the distance between a few NCA members. Lt. Cmdr. David H. Minton was looking forward to flying a run between the U. S. and Germany, but wound up going to a Navy school in Monterey, California. Col. Charles H. Mitchell has been transferred from Walter Reed to Japan, and his family hope to follow him soon. Edward S. Jackson finished his term of drafted service at Fort Belvoir, and returned to California, taking a bride with him. We are sorry to lose these active members and wish them continued interest in amateur astronomy in their new locations.

BRING YOUR PORTABLE TELESCOPE to the first National Capital Parks - NCA observing night for the season, Sunday evening, April 19, 8-10 p.m. The location this year will be the same as in the past, Fort Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake Streets, N. W. If the night is clear we will need your telescope for observing the moon, and your help in identifying the planets of spring. Mr. Isherwood will be in charge. Please let him know at the next meeting if you can participate.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN HANDBOOKS have been received. The price is fifty cents. Contact Elizabeth Fazekas for your copy, or see her at the next meeting.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - the new address for Commander David Minton is 117 Moreel Circle, LaMesa Village, Monterey, California.

VENUS is now rapidly becoming lower in the west and is due to disappear entirely from the western sky within a few weeks.