

OBSERVATIONAL DATA

MERCURY is at superior conjunction on the 8th and the planet is poorly placed all month for observation. A conjunction with Jupiter occurs at approximately 9:18 P.M. on the 31st. VENUS is an evening star prominent in the west for about two hours after sunset. The planet is in conjunction with Jupiter at approximately 9:38 P.M. on the 22nd. MARS is in Sagittarius and rises before midnight. JUPITER is moving from Taurus into Gemini, is well down in the west at sunset and visible for only an hour or two. SATURN is just east of Spica, well up in the east at sunset and visible until nearly dawn.

The date of maximum intensity for the ETA AQUARID meteor shower is May 4. This shower averages ten meteors per hour.

---A. L. White.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR MAY

Date	Star	Mag.	Age.	Phase	E.S.T.
5	412 B. Taur.	6.0	3.2	D	8:16.1 P.M.
6	BD / 22° 1531	6.9	4.2	D	8:15.7 P.M.
7	BD / 19° 1896	6.9	5.3	D	11:00.8 P.M.
9	Omicron Leon.	3.8	7.3	D	11:25.3 P.M.
22-23	Pi. Capr.	5.2	20.5	R	4:00.6 A.M.

--- A.L. White.

NEW MEMBERS

Theodore D. Woolsey, 111 West Underwood Street, Chevy Chase, Md. OL 4-2096

* George M. Woolsey. Same address.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONVENTION--PITTSBURGH

Friday, May 28 - 8:30 P.M. Sky Show at Buhl Planetarium.

Sat., May 29 - 10:15 A.M. Casting Demonstration

1:00 P.M. Instruments Session

9:00 P.M. Allegheny Observatory Visit

Sunday, May 30- 10:00 A.M. Inspection Fecker Plant.

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P St., N. W. (6) NO 7-9621

4/27/50

STAR DUST
National Capital Astronomers

May 1954

Vol. 11, No. 9

MAY CALENDAR

- May 1 "ATOMS AND IONS IN THE SUN," Dr. Charlotte M. Sitterly, National Bureau of Standards. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P.M.
- 2 EXPLORING THE SKY. Joint program of NCA and National Capital Parks. Fort Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake Streets, N. W., 8 to 10 P.M.
- 15 JUNIOR MEETING. Commerce Department Foyer. 7:00 P.M.
- 15 DISCUSSION GROUP. OBSERVING THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN. Commerce Department Foyer. 8 P.M. (See inside for details).
- 21 OBSERVING AT THE NCA 5-INCH, NAVAL OBSERVATORY. 8-10 P.M.
- 28- Middle East Regional Convention of the Astronomical 30 League. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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

Most of our knowledge of the sun, the most important body in the universe so far as we are concerned, has been gained by studying its light through the spectroscope. In this way, astronomers have discovered that sixty-seven of the ninety-two elements found on the earth also occur in the sun. In recent years, astronomers have greatly extended our information in this field by sending up spectrographs in high altitude rockets and using new instruments that are sensitive to the ultraviolet, infrared and even the soft X-rays radiated by the sun. Dr. Charlotte M. Sitterly, one of our leading authorities on the composition of the sun, will discuss this interesting question

and the possibilities of future progress in gaining a closer acquaintance with our nearest star.

--- Benjamin Adelman.

THE MAY 15 DISCUSSION GROUP will be the last of the season. We will discuss the individual plans of the members concerning the Total Eclipse of the Sun of June 30th. We hope that everyone planning to go see the eclipse will be in attendance to tell about his plans, such as, place he intends to observe from, equipment he will take with him, and various phases in which he is particularly interested. From those who intend to take photographs we would appreciate learning about the film they intend to use, exposures, etc.

--- Bob Wright

THE EIGHTH WASHINGTON AREA SCIENCE FAIR. During the last several weeks a number of the Junior members of the NCA have had astronomy exhibits on display at the Science Fairs held in the Washington Area. Several of our members were given honors in the individual school and County Science Fairs entitling them to exhibit at the Washington Area Fair held in the Gymnasium of the American University. In the final judging several NCA members came out with honors. Grading is on three levels--seventh grade, eighth and ninth grade, and senior. Astronomy was judged in the Physiographical Sciences which included geology and meteorology in addition to astronomy.

This Eighth Annual Science Fair was sponsored by Science Service, Washington Academy of Sciences, District Council of Engineering Societies and the District Board of Education, and endorsed by the National Science Teachers Ass'n and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Many thousands of school pupils between the grades of 7 and 12 prepared exhibits for these science fairs. It would be impossible to begin to cover even one division, let alone the whole field. If you have never taken time out to see one of these fairs, put it on your "must" list for next year. You will be amazed at the scientific knowledge displayed.

--- Bob Wright

NOMINEES FOR NCA OFFICERS FOR YEAR BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 1954

FOR PRESIDENT

Benjamin Adelman - Two years in NCA - interested in all phases of astronomy, but particularly its history - has a Skyscope - handled publicity for NCA this past year.

Roger Smith - Two years in NCA - chief interest is in astrophysics - is constructing a reflecting telescope - has been on Speakers' Committee for past year and was on Exhibit Committee for 1953 convention.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Isherwood - Three years in NCA - chief interest is in observing - Vice President during past year and handled group observing - assisted with group observing every year - on Exhibit Committee for 1953 convention.

Bob Rhynsburger - Seven years in NCA - professional astronomer with the Naval Observatory, working in astronomy with 6" transit - finishing Master's degree at Georgetown with thesis in statistical astronomy - in charge of NCA Juniors in 1950.

FOR SECRETARY

Elizabeth Goerner - Four years in NCA - general interest in astronomy - Secretary during past year - worked on publicity for three years.

FOR TREASURER

Marion Marshall (Mrs.) - Two years in NCA - chief interest in observing - has 3" refractor.

John Lund - A member of NCA for one year - general interest in astronomy - making a 6" reflecting telescope

FOR TRUSTEE

Grace Scholz - Joined NCA in 1939 - chief interest in astrophysics - retiring President and past Vice-President and Trustee.

Jim Cracroft - Jim has asked that his name be withdrawn due to unforeseen circumstances which have developed since he accepted the nomination.