

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR OCTOBER

Date	Star	Mag.	Age	Phase	E. S. T.
3	27 Ari	6.4	17.8	R	8:41.1 P. M.
4-5	14 H ¹ Tau	6.4	19.0	R	12:18.4 A. M.
24	8 Aqr	6.6	9.2	D	8:56.8 P. M.
25	C ¹ Cap	5.3	10.2	D	6:38.0 P. M.
25	117 b. Cap	7.1	10.2	D	7:05.2 P. M.
25	C ² Cap	6.2	10.2	D	7:05.2 P. M.
27	Kappa Psc.	4.9	12.3	D	9:22.4 P. M.
27-28	BD 1 ⁰ 4731	7.1	12.4	D	12:49.8 A. M.

—A. L. White

OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR OCTOBER

Mercury is close to the sun during the first part of October, inferior conjunction being on the 13th. The planet reaches greatest western elongation on the 29th and may be seen near Spica low in the southeast before sunrise. Venus is an evening star but is too close to the sun for easy observation. Mars is in Virgo and rises about two hours before the sun. Jupiter is close to Regulus and rises about two hours after midnight. Saturn is too close to the sun for easy observation. The date of maximum intensity for the ORIONID meteor shower is October 22. This shower averages 20 meteors per hour. On the 15th at 11:00 P. M. (E.S.T.) the Milky Way spans the heavens from east to west crossing just north of the zenith, and passing through Auriga, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cygnus, and Aquila.

—A. L. White

NEW GREEN SPOT OBSERVED ON MARS - The National Geographic reports that at Mars' close approach last year, a new large green area developed on its surface. It was the greatest surface change ever observed on the planet.

THE SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN for September is devoted exclusively to articles on This Planet EARTH.
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 Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P Street, N. W. (6) NO 7-7693

STAR LUST

National Capital Astronomers

October 1955 Vol. 13, No. 2
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OCTOBER CALENDAR

- Oct. 1 (Sat.) "DO NEARBY STARS HAVE PLANETS"? Dr. Peter van de Kamp, Director of Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Department of Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P. M.
- Oct. 9 (Sun.) EXPLORING THE SKY, Joint program of the NCA and the National Capital Parks. Fort Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N. W. 7-9 P. M. This is the last of our joint observing programs for the general public this season. Come and bring your telescope.
- Oct. 15 (Sat.) DISCUSSION GROUP with Bog Wright on "AN OBSERVING PROGRAM FOR ALL AMATEURS." Commerce Foyer, 8:00 P.M.
- Oct. 22 (Sat.) NCA PICNIC. Rock Creek Park Picnic Grove No. 17. One-quarter mile south of intersection of Military Road and Oregon Avenue, 4-10 P. M. Bring your picnic supper and telescope or binoculars if you have them. See story inside.

Each Saturday morning, Telescope making class at Chevy Chase Community Center, 5600 block of Connecticut Avenue, 9-12 A. M. For more information contact Mr. Hoy Walls at Oliver 2-5395.

"DO THE STARS HAVE PLANETS?" - The growing interest in the possibility of space travel has led many people to wonder whether the stars have planets circling around them, like our sun. Why don't the astronomers just look for them through their telescopes? Actually, the problem of discovering extra-stellar planets is very difficult for planets are much dimmer than stars and the planet of even a nearby star would be invisible in our most powerful telescopes. Dr.

van de Kamp is taking another approach. A planet might be invisible yet could be detected by its gravitational pull on its sun.

Dr. van de Kamp is the Director of the Sproul Observatory. Until recently, he was Program Director for Astronomy of the National Science Foundation. His specialty is the study of the nearest stars, a field in which he is a worldwide authority.

---Benjamin Adelman

PICNIC AND OBSERVING SESSION, Rock Creek Park, October 22, Saturday, 4-10 P. M. Picnic Area 17, South of Oregon Avenue and Military Road, N. W., near St. Johns School. Rest rooms, water, fireplace. Hot coffee will be served. Invite your friends and families. Bring a picnic lunch and telescope, if you have one. There will be a first-quarter moon. Picnic will be held if cloudy, cancelled if raining. Come with or without telescope. Area visible from bus stop at Oregon Avenue and Military Road, N. W.

---Thelma Cressy

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE FOR
1954-1955 SEASON

NEW MEMBERS:

Regular 35
Junior 12

---Elizabeth Goerner, Chairman

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBOX - The NCA received a letter in September from Barney Franklin, Jr., of Silver Spring, who would like to become a member. As he has cerebral palsy, Barney asks us to assist him with rides back and forth to our meetings. We hope to have a ride for him to come to the October lecture and would appreciate, as will Barney, any assistance members who live in Silver Spring can extend. Please contact your secretary at the next meeting or at home on JA 7-4130 in regard to this matter.

---Tove Neville

NEW MEMBERS

Fides von Hassel, 1750 16th Street, N. W., DU 7-4296
Claude C. Walker, 1340 Girard St., N. W. (9) RA 6-3655

*Winston K. Walker, 1340 Girard St., N.W. (9) RA 6-3655
*Donald Weitzman, 7821 Morningside Drive, N.W. RA 3-8658

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Ben Adelman, 310 Livingston Terrace, S. E.
Sylvia Bush, 5456 Madison Way, Cheverly, Maryland,
AN 4-3344
Thomas Frontenac, 4223-C Silver Hill Road (23)
V. Griffin, Home: 2805 Cameron Mills Road
Mailing Address: Emmet House,
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va.

L. Siegel; Wesley Hotel, 2131 O Street, N. W.
HO 2-9100, Ext. 330
Lt. Col. C. E. Fay, Jr., G-3, Div. HQ USAREUR,
APO 403 c/o Postmaster, N. Y.

CORRECTIONS FOR FALL ROSTER OF MEMBERS - The new fall roster of members will be out shortly. If you have had a change of address or phone number which has not already been given to the secretary or treasurer, please notify the secretary:

Mrs. Glen Neville
1549 North 17th Street
Arlington, Virginia
Phone: Jackson 7-4130

PAY YOUR DUES. Dues must be paid on or before October 1 (the date of our October lecture meeting). Otherwise your subscription to SKY AND TELESCOPE will lapse. If you have misplaced your bill phone our Treasurer, John Lund, at UNION 4-8909 or pay him at the October 1 meeting.

YEARLY REPORT FOR 1954-1955 SEASON
TELESCOPE MIRROR MAKING CLASS

Amount Purchased

Mirrors and Blanks	\$211.95
Express Charges	12.98
Storage Equipment	1.80
	<u>\$226.73</u>

Receipts and Expenditures

\$ 4.15	Cash on hand (Irene)
<u>241.25</u>	Received from class
245.40	
<u>226.73</u>	Disbursed
18.67	
.12	Cash on hand (Irene)
<u>\$ 18.55</u>	Turned over to NCA

Number of Telescopes

- 2 Started
- 1 Finished
- 3 Some being worked- some not.

---Irene Warthen

COMMITTEE TO CARRY ON TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS - Miss Warthen who has had complete responsibility for the mirror grinding class for many years has accepted Saturday employment which will preclude her from conducting the class. Miss Warthen has done a big job with the class and deserves a "Thank you" and "Well done!" from the entire membership. Mr. Walls has agreed to head a committee which will conduct the class in the future. This committee is: Hoy Walls, Chairman; Irene Warthen; Bill Isherwood; Joel Lubar; Bob Core; Dana Law.

CONVENTION REPORT

Those of us who trekked over to Louisville, Kentucky, over the Labor Day-weekend for the Middle East - Great Lakes Regional Convention, found it a trip well worthwhile. Louisville is a city of gracious hospitality, and facilities at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary are outstanding.

The convention began Friday evening with registration and a "Get Acquainted" period, in which all delegates were welcomed. Saturday morning sessions began at 10:00 with our own Bob Wright presiding. Bob was thoroughly at home with his task, even though he only knew at the very last moment that he would be required to serve. The Regional Chairman, Nash Anderson, of Norfolk, was unable to attend. Bob presided over the morning's business, which concluded with a demonstration of mirror silvering by a member of the Louisville Astronomical Society.

The major business of the afternoon was the election of officers of the Middle East Region. Two N. C. A. members were elected to office: Ione Alston, as Secretary, and Betty Fazekas as Chairman. Also elected were Adam L. Ott, Jr., of Pittsburg, Pa., as Vice Chairman, and Aubrey Husted of Norfolk, Va., as Treasurer.

Most of the Saturday evening session was given over to a very fine Junior program. Mr. Clarence Johnson, League Junior Chairman, began this session with a fine discussion of the methods of interesting juniors in astronomy as a hobby and perhaps a vocation. Numbers of papers were given by the younger set which were of interest to all.

Bob finished the evening, with his demonstration "A New Method of Projecting Astronomical Subjects." Many of us will remember his very interesting Discussion Group on this. After the close of formal sessions the Louisville Society members set up a battery of telescopes on the campus lawn and we observed thru scattered clouds.

Sunday afternoon we visited the Miller Telescope of the University of Louisville. This instrument was demonstrated by Dr. Walter Lee Moore of the University staff. After inspecting the telescope, we came down to one of the classrooms for a short instrumentation session. This session saw another N. C. A. member in action. Joel Lubar gave a very fine extemporaneous discussion, "A New Mirror Testing Method."

From this session we drove to Dr. Moore's home, outside the city, where the dreams of the Louisville Society were culminated in the dedication of a 20" reflecting telescope. The Society has been grinding the mirror as a club project for about 15 years!

As we awaited the dark, ladies of the Louisville group served us a delightful picnic supper. And as shadows began to lengthen, Bob took over as Observation Chairman of the Astronomical League, and gave us a short pep talk on Observation. He turned the floor (or was it grass) over to Grace Scholz, who spoke of "What You Can Do For The League, and What The League Can Do For You." She outlined the numerous projects of the League, and mentioned some ways in which we can help the League. After she finished, Bob called the business of the Convention to a close.

She concluded the evening looking thru the new 'scope, as well as several others of the Louisville Astronomical Society.

It was a good convention, those of us who went wish the rest of you had come along!!!!

---Betty Fazekas

THE AUDIT COMMITTEE, appointed at the regular meeting of June 4, 1955, to audit the Treasurer's books and report to the members in September, presents the following report:

The Committee met with the Treasurer, Mr. John Lund, at his home on the evening of August 17, 1955, and audited his books which were found to be in order. As a result of the said audit, we present the following:

Statement

Cash on hand from last audit:	\$ 306.25
Receipts:	965.27
Total:	<u>\$1271.52</u>
Disbursements:	1180.04
Balance on hand	<u>\$ 91.48</u>

Respectfully submitted,
 Audit Committee
 A. Robinson
 Stanley Davis, Chairman

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT
 September 1954 to September 1955

Cash on hand 9-54	\$306.25
RECEIPTS:	
Dues	653.30
Mirror Making Class	230.50
Subscriptions to SKY AND TELESCOPE other than regular members	26.00
ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE BULLETIN	13.50
CANADIAN HANDBOOK	12.50
MARYLAND TIME TABLES	3.00
Contribution to STAR DUST	25.00
Found on secretary's desk	.50
Overdeposited in bank	.97
Total receipts	<u>\$965.27</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:	
Cash refunds for overpayment of dues	1.30
Garth Optical Company	211.95
SKY AND TELESCOPE	256.08
ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE BULLETIN	15.00
CANADIAN HANDBOOK	13.31
MARYLAND TIME TABLES	18.38
JUNIOR ASTRONOMER	10.50
Astronomical League dues	21.40
Printing of publicity pamphlet	60.00
Lecture fees	122.00
Bates Duplicating Company, Inc.	181.71
Stationery, stamps, envelopes	113.80
Joint Committee of Press Relations	1.00
Rental of sound system in auditorium	9.00
Rental of projector	3.50
Sound equipment, microphone, tubes	129.50
Spray for Morgan Gilley deceased	10.64
Repayment of overdeposit	.97

Total disbursements	<u>\$1180.04</u>
Total receipts plus cash on hand	1271.52
Total disbursements	<u>1180.04</u>
Balance on hand 8-8-55	<u>\$ 91.48</u>

Respectfully submitted, John Lund, Treasurer
 Audited, 8-17-55, A. Robinson; Stanley Davis, Chairman