

OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR SEPTEMBER

Mercury is in inferior conjunction with the sun on September 9th. The planet will have reached greatest western elongation by the 25th and may be seen for several days in the east just before sunrise. Venus is an evening star in September and may be seen near Spica low in the southwest just after sunset. Mars is too close to the sun for observation, conjunction being on the 21st. Jupiter is too close to the sun for easy observation this month. Saturn is past the meridian at sunset and is visible for a few hours in the southwest.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Date	Star	Mag.	Age	Phase	E. S. T.
Aug. 31	Psi Oph	4.6	6.6	D	9:31.6 P.M.
Sept. 2	16 Sgr	6.0	8.6	D	10:34.1 P.M.
" 3	173 B. Sgr	6.3	9.6	D	7:16.0 P.M.
" 17-18	74 B Gem m.	6.2	23.9	R	4:10.0 A.M.
" 19-20	A' Cne	5.7	25.9	R	3:33.4 A.M.

---A. L. White

A NUMBER OF NCA'ers have observed the newly discovered comet, "Mrkos-1957d." As STAR DUST goes to press the last week in August it is still visible to the naked eye. It is located about half way between Arcturus and the end star in the Big Dipper (Alkaid) and about half way between a line drawn through them and the horizon. It is moving in the direction of Arcturus. The best period for observation is around nine o'clock after full darkness has come on and before the comet's tail is obscured by haze on the horizon. The comet appears very bright through 7 x 50 binoculars.

Jewell Boling, Editor 1717 P Street, N. W. NO 7-7693

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sept. 7 (Sat.) "THE ROLE OF ASTRONOMY IN GEODESY," Mr. Soren W. Henriksen, of the Army Map Service. Department of Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P. M.
- Sept. 14 (Sat.) "EXPLORING THE SKY," Joint program of the National Capital Astronomers and the National Capital Parks. Ft. Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N. W., 8:00 P. M. Slides if cloudy, cancelled if rain. Bring your friends and -- TELESCOPES!
- Sept. 16 (Mon.) TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS with Hoy Walls begins. Chevy Chase Recreation Center, 7:30 P.M. Every Monday night thereafter, same time.
- Sept. 21 (Sat.) DISCUSSION GROUP: "A Useful Observing Program", Bob McCracken. Be prepared to contribute to the development of such a program for the NCA. 8:00 P. M. Commerce Department Foyer.
- Sept. 28 (Sat.) GROUP OBSERVING AT THE NCA 5" at the Naval Observatory, 8:00 P. M. Your NCA membership card will admit you.

"THE ROLE OF ASTRONOMY IN GEODESY" - Why is the Army Map Service concerned with astronomy? Mr. Henriksen will show how we can learn more about our own planet by turning to the stars. He will show how eclipses were first photographed to measure the distances between continents and will illustrate with the 1948 solar eclipse. He will describe his world-wide travels to observe occul-

tations for the purpose of accurately locating the Pacific islands, Palau, Maui, and others. He will also discuss some of the valuable incidental results of his studies, such as the discovery of close doubles.

Mr. Henriksen will contribute to the amateur program by describing simple instrumentation and techniques that will provide valuable results, and by pointing out important work that amateurs can do.

Mr. Henriksen received the Bachelor of Science degree at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and in 1950 the Master of Science degree in mathematics at the University of Illinois. Formerly a research chemist with the Redex Company in Chicago, Mr. Henriksen has served as mathematician and astronomer with the Army Map Service for the last five years, where he has been engaged in three-color photometry; lunar profile studies, occultations, and, for the past year, the establishment of minitrack stations for satellite tracking.

---Bob McCracken

COMING IN OCTOBER - Dr. James C. Bartlett of the American International Academy will speak on planetary observations September 5.

The NCA's Satellite Tracking program will be discussed on the 19th. Bob Dellar, Everett Neville, and Bob Wright will lead.

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