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★ STAR DUST



July-August, 1958

Vol. 15, No. 11

NEW MEMBERS

Regular

Arthur D. Etienne, 3888 Porter Street, N.W.,
Washington 16, D. C. EM 3-6542.

Howard B. Owens, 8105 - 20th Avenue,
Adelphi, Maryland HE 4-3302

Junior

Peter B. Rosenbaum, 3304 Idaho Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 16, D. C. EM 2-6795

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Salome Betts, 3051 Idaho Avenue, N.W.,
Washington 16, D. C.

Saul I. Serota, 3600 Underwood Street,
Chevy Chase 15, Maryland

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NOVA OPHIUCHI 1958

The recurrent nova RS Ophiuchi was reported by the AAVSO at sixth magnitude July 14.1 UT. Normally 11.8 magnitude, this star was also observed as a nova in 1898 and again in 1933, when its magnitude became as bright as 4.3.

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We were sorry to hear that Bill and Betty Lipscomb were recently hospitalized by an automobile accident.

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NCA members offer deepest sympathy to Lyle Johnson, several of whose relatives lost their lives in a recent Tornado in Wisconsin. Several members of the family were also injured.

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AUGUST CALENDAR

AUGUST 9 (Saturday) - "EXPLORING THE SKY" - Joint program of the National Capital Astronomers and the National Capital Parks. Fort Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N.W., 9:00 P.M. Slides if cloudy, canceled if rain. Bring your friends and telescopes.

AUGUST 15 (Friday) - GROUP OBSERVING AT THE NCA 5" - 9 P.M. Your NCA membership card will admit you. The group will be instructed by Mr. Isherwood.

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PLANETARIUM PLANNED FOR WASHINGTON

As a part of the Southwest Redevelopment Program, a fine planetarium has been proposed by the owners of Hogate's Restaurant, Messrs. Watson and Joseph Roulon, who, according to the proposal, would also operate a large, new restaurant nearby. The 3 million dollar installation, which would occupy a tract originally designated as a park, would provide the Roulons with an obvious business advantage in return for the non-profit planetarium. Any surplus would be applied to an educational or research fund, and a plan is being considered to turn the planetarium over to the Smithsonian at some time in the future.

Instrumentation is expected to feature the large, versatile Model B, Spitz's finest, an example of which many NCA members enjoyed at the Yorklyn, Delaware laboratories of Armand Spitz, at his invitation last year.

Of the many proposals for a Washington planetarium which have been heard in past years, this one seems to offer the most feasible and acceptable plan. The trustees and officers of the NCA, having carefully considered the facts available to us, have decided to offer the endorsement of the NCA, and have accordingly addressed the Roulons, and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in their behalf.

Incidentally, I have permission to quote Dr. Spitz as saying, "There will be quarters provided for the NCA."

Robert H. McCracken

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COMMENDATION

The President commends highly the staff of the NCA on the past year's operations. Each has performed with diligence, loyalty, and competence, not only within his immediate area of responsibility, but also as a member of the synergetic team that has effectively carried out a program of activities that reflects public credit upon the NCA.

Robert H. McCracken

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION REPORT

Among NCA members who attended the convention in Ithaca, New York, July 4, 5, and 6, were: Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Adelman and family, Thelma Cressy, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Griggs, Miss Grace Scholz, Mr. and Mrs. Hoy Walls, and Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Wright and family.

ELECTED TO OFFICE

President	Chandler H. Holton
Vice President	Norman C. Dalke
Secretary	Ralph Dalkins
Treasurer	Leonard G. Pardue

(Addresses were given in the June, 1958, STAR DUST.)

The TREASURY as of June 1, 1958

Balance on hand	\$1971.00
Dues outstanding	558.00
	<u>\$2529.00</u>

MEMBERSHIP

Societies	133
Supporting Members	15
Members at Large	33
Total Membership (approx.)	<u>6300</u>

Nelson Griggs presented a paper on the Amateur Science Network, organized for the rapid communication of scientific observations.

Bob Wright was selected to serve on the Panel of Experts.

Clarence Johnson was presented an award for his work with the juniors.

Norman Edmunds offered to continue to underwrite the distribution of the League REFLECTOR to all members for another year.

Among the many fine displays by manufacturers and others, the exhibit of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers included some of Dr. James Q. Gant's moon pictures.

The 1959 convention of the League will be held in Denver, Colorado.

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SPACE AVAILABLE

Benjamin Adelman, Editor of SPACE, formerly JUNIOR ASTRONOMER, has made this fine little paper available to NCA members at the special group subscription rate of 50 cents per year, to be mailed each month with STAR DUST. Now received by all juniors as a privilege of membership, it is quite suitable for adults as well. An order form is enclosed for your convenience.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Income

Donation	\$ 25.00	
Membership dues	923.77	
Sale of telescope material	230.25	
Sale of Observer's Handbooks	26.25	
Sale of moon maps	3.50	
Sale of timetables	7.75	
	<u>\$1216.52</u>	\$1216.52

Expenditures

Sky Publishing Co.	\$ 408.23	
Corning Glass Co.	177.10	
Bates Duplicating Co.	278.83	
Distribution	107.85	
President	28.71	
Secretary	2.15	
Treasurer	24.52	
Cooper Trent Printers	3.30	
Junior Astronomer	35.50	
Picnic Supplies	6.69	
Picnic reservation	20.00	
Moonwatch	4.75	
Refund on dues	1.65	
Service charge (bank)	1.30	
175 Timetables	20.16	
Jacksonville Astronomers	10.00	
Long distance to Dr. Burns	3.80	
Typing of roster	10.00	
Telegram to Jacksonville	1.21	
Royal Astronomical Society	22.00	
90 Timetables	10.48	
Astronomical League	25.55	
	<u>\$1203.78</u>	\$1203.78
		12.74
Balance July 16, 1957	- - -	332.07
Balance July 1, 1958	- - -	<u>\$ 344.81</u>

A fund of \$200.00 has been encumbered by a meeting of the Trustees on June 6, 1958, for improvement of the NCA telescope at the Naval Observatory.

Our contract with Sky Publishing Corporation requires that members pay their dues by September 1 in order to insure continuity of subscription to SKY AND TELESCOPE. A member joining other than at the beginning of the fiscal year shall have credit on the following year's dues for that portion of the year during which he was not a member.

NCA membership is now 230: Regular, 116; 20 Joint, 40; Junior, 71; Honorary Life, 3.

Lillian R. Gregor, Treasurer

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