

JUNIOR DIVISION NEWS

In January there will be no meeting of the Maryland-D.C. juniors at the Chevy Chase Community Center. The reason for this irregularity in the schedule is that on Saturday, January 17, at 8 p.m. there will be an organizational convention of ALL NCA juniors from Virginia, Maryland, and the District in the Commerce Department foyer. This has been called by the junior officers because of the need for a correlation of junior activities by juniors. Among many other important points to be discussed are the organization of the Virginia section (so those from Virginia, please attend; this is important to you), and junior projects. Remember, all members of the Junior Division, this convention has been called by your officers--support them and come, if possible, in toto.

All interested senior members are invited to attend to watch the proceedings. ---Stephan S. Klingelhofer, Junior Editor

NEW MEMBERS admitted in November:

Ernst Braund, 4202 72nd Ave., Landover Hills, Md.	SP 2-7317
Elaine Drake, 1614 17th St. N.W., Washington 9, D.C.	-
Berneice Kirstein, 439 Argyle Dr., Apt 6, Falls Church, Virginia	JE 3-2241
Leslie Lavine, 7306 Summit Avenue Chevy Chase, Md.	OL 4-6748
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Biess, 8420 Cunningham Drive, College Park, Md.	TO 9-6569
Mr. and Mrs. Bryan K. Burnett, 1906 N. Madison Street, Arlington 5, Virginia	KE 8-4475
Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Mather, 6004 Sonoma Road, Bethesda 14, Maryland	OL 6-4692

Junior

Christopher Harvel, 40 Tennyson Drive, McLean, Va.	-
Edward Lusby, Route 1, Box 371, Oakton, Virginia	DU 5-7801

New members in December, regular:

Ida M. Hill, 3722 Harrison St. N.W., Washington 15, D.C.	EM 3-9115
James J. Krebs, 2150 Branch Ave. S.E., Wash 20, D.C.	LU 1-0581
Priscilla Jean Young, 3722 Harrison St. N.W., Wash 15.	EM 3-9115

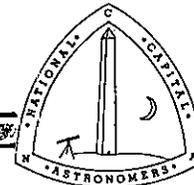
Junior

James Heidel, 13132 Vallywood Dr., Silver Spring, Md.	WH 6-8787
Stuart Julian Starr, 8508 14th Ave., Hyattsville, Md.	HE 4-5633
Charles Steele, 5605 Maryland Ave., Falls Church, Va.	KE 8-4717

DOING THINGS: Dr. James Q. Gant has been elected president of the International Lunar Society for a two-year term 1959-1960.Leo Scott showed sky slides to a Cub pack at Glenmont School, Nov. 14....Jack Leonard and Bob McCracken held a star party for about 200 students at Cramer Junior High on Nov. 20....Bob also talked to about 50 children and adults at the Cherrydale Methodist Church Dec, 4, satellites and space....Morton Schiff took a class of 14 in descriptive astronomy, Department of Agriculture graduate school, to the NCA 5-inch for observation Nov. 20.... Lyle Johnson has taken some good photographs of Mars....Jeanne McCracken assembled the maps for the Nova Search Project.

Editors: Mabel Sterns, 1833 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Wash. 9, D.C.
Production: Lt. Col. Russell C. White, USMC, and Sam C. Feild, Jr.
Mailing List: Elsa Dimick, 1305 N. Longfellow St., Arlington, Va.

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★ STAR DUST



January 1959

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NOTE CHANGES IN MEETING DATES

The regular lecture and business meeting will take place the second Saturday of January instead of the first, and discussion group will meet the fourth Saturday instead of the third. Reason for the former is obvious, and for the latter, obscure.

Jan. 3 METEOR OBSERVATION at NCA 5-inch, Observatory grounds, 7:30 p.m. IGY World Day. Bill Isherwood, Chief Observer.

5, 12, 19, 26 TELESCOPE MAKING 7:30-10p.m. Chevy Chase Community Center, Conn. Ave. and McKinley Street carpenter shop in basement. Hoy Walls and assistant instructors.

10 "THE WEATHER OF THE PLANET", Mr. James C. Fidler, Weather Bureau, speaker. Department of Commerce Auditorium, 8:15.

17 JUNIOR DIVISION, 8:00 p.m., Commerce Department Foyer. Organization convention.

24 DISCUSSION GROUP, 8 p.m. Commerce foyer. "Star Legends of the Ancient Hebrews", Morton Schiff.

MR. JAMES C. FIDLER, Chief of the Bulletin Unit, Weather Bureau, will discuss the weather as it might be seen from outside our atmosphere. During 25 years of weather experience, Mr. Fidler has been Chief Meteorologist of the Crosley Corporation, Chief of Broadcast-Television Unit of the Weather Bureau, instructor in weather reconnaissance for the Air Force, and was on Dave Garroway's show for two years giving the weather conditions. He developed the techniques now in use for broadcasting weather, and was one of the first broadcasters to use the term "front" which has become a household word.

ASTRONOMY CLASS at Guy Mason Community Center was completed last month. Mr. Lyons believes that the course was successful and rewarded his time and efforts. It may be repeated later.

"STAR LEGENDS OF THE ANCIENT HEBREWS", subject of the next discussion group, is the result of comprehensive study by Morton Schiff since his interesting presentation a year or two ago. He is a prospective speaker on the National Capital Parks program at Sylvan Theater next summer, and officials may be present at this discussion to audit his lecture.

ADDITIONAL SPACE is available to the telescope-making class to accommodate the present overflow. Mr. Walls reports that attendance has increased and that with more space the group can be divided into rough-grinding and polishing sections. One 4 1/2-inch mirror was finished by the middle of December.

CANADIAN OBSERVERS' HANDBOOK 1959, is available for 75¢ from the treasurer, Mrs. Lillian Gregor.

MOONWATCH PINS were awarded to the team at Bob Wright's on November 30th. Moonwatchers Mrs. Ruth Wertz, Nelson Griggs, Mrs. Griggs, Leo Scott, Hoy Walls, Robert Sery, Dr. David Minnard, Mrs. Wright, and Bob Wright, team leader, were presented pins by Mr. Walter Munn, Field Representative of the Smithsonian Astro-physical Observatory at Cambridge. Dr. Wm. Thickston, Jr., Everett Hurlbut, and Richard Roberts were cited in absentia. Following the ceremony, Mr. Munn showed pictures taken of moonwatch teams across the country.

On Bob Dellar's team, he, Hugh Fitzpatrick, and Leith Holloway made periodic observations of Delta II while it was in favorable position during early December, in an attempt to confirm predictions of Smithsonian as well as their own.

"SPACE SCIENCE" is running a prediction contest for its subscribers. The idea is to see who can make the best five predictions of what will happen in astronomy and space flight between February 10th and August 1st of 1959. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners. Details are in the January issue.

For adult NCA's, a subscription costs only 50¢ a year. (Juniors receive "Space Science" as a privilege of membership.) New subscribers will receive back copies beginning with September '58. Send subscriptions directly to "Space Science", 4211 Colie Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland. The 8-page publication, formerly "The Junior Astronomer", is edited and published ten times a year by Benjamin Adelman.

NOVA SEARCH PROJECT

The Nova Search Project mentioned in November Star Dust is now under way. Maps showing the two areas of the sky assigned to our group were distributed to Hamid Mahdy, Henry Wilson, Jr., Salome Batts, Richard Shoemaker, Ted Noble, W. Cronin, Clair Fetrow, James Heidel, and Leith Holloway who took a set for the Junior Division. Bob McCracken also will observe. The area in Cygnus is now in favorable position for observation at dark but it sets early. The area in Auriga is high enough for observation an hour or two after dark and remains up all night.

Each person taking part in the project will first study the two areas until all the stars usually seen there are memorized. If no binoculars or field glasses are to be used, this will mean learning all the stars in the areas down to the fifth magnitude (only a very few). For those using binoculars or field glasses, the stars will be learned to either the 6th or 7th magnitude. Although stars below the 7th magnitude can be seen easily in binoculars, the number is so great that it would be difficult to learn all the stars to another full magnitude in one of these areas.

After the areas are memorized, each observer will scan one or both areas each clear night to see if any new object is visible. It should not take over two minutes to scan one and determine whether or not there is something new. As relatively few novas show up in any particular small area of the sky, most observations will merely confirm that there is nothing new. But do not think that such "negative" reports are worthless. On the

contrary, a particular observation of this type may turn out to be of great value in the case where a nova later shows up in that area. As novas often change brightness very rapidly when first discovered, the "negative" reports of earlier dates can prove that the nova was at least dimmer than the magnitude that the observer searched at those earlier dates.

Each observer will record the date and time each area is searched and the lowest whole magnitude above which he is sure that there is nothing new. For those who can phone Appleton numbers without a toll call, these observations will be phoned to Bill Isherwood about the first and middle of each month. For others, a post card containing the observations for each half-month will suffice. He will consolidate the data and send a group report for the calendar month to the American Association of Variable Star Observers.

If a new object is sighted in one of our areas, the observer will phone Bill Isherwood at once and he will contact others on the team to confirm the sighting. If it seems likely that a nova has been found, he will wire AAVSO.

Others wishing to participate should contact Mr. Isherwood at 4304 55th Avenue, Bladensburg, Maryland. (Appleton 7-9419)

OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR JANUARY

Mercury has just passed greatest western elongation and now is moving toward superior conjunction.

Venus is an evening star in January and may be seen low in the west after sunset.

Mars is moving back toward Taurus after being in Aries during December. It is visible until several hours past midnight.

Jupiter is in Libra and may be seen low in the southeast before sunrise.

Saturn is in Sagittarius and may be seen before sunrise very low in the southeast.

The date of maximum intensity for the Quadrantid meteor shower is January 3. This shower averages 35 meteors per hour. The moon is at last quarter and the position of the radiant is R.A. 230°, Dec. + 50°.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR JANUARY

Date	Star	Mag.	Phase	Age	Time (E.S.T.)	PO
4-5	34 Lib	5.9	R	25.7	4:48.6 a.m.	280
4-5	Zeta Lib	5.6	R	25.7	5:58.7 a.m.	265
19	193 B. Tau	6.3	D	10.8	8:51.3 p.m.	23
25	h Leo	5.3	R	16.9	8:13.1 p.m.	225
27	79 Leo	5.5	R	19.0	10:38.2 p.m.	338
28-29	162 B. Vir	6.0	R	20.2	5:22.0 a.m.	272

---A. L. White, Astronomy Editor

OBSERVATION AT THE 5" December 13th, IGY World Day, drew seven to look at Mars and then spend one hour counting Geminids. One of the 17 meteors left a green trail. Miran Miranian placed a camera with 3" lens, in fixed position and exposed the film 30 minutes in order to catch any trails. Results later.