



NEW MEMBERS

The NCA cordially welcomes the following new Junior members:

Daniel Griffen, 7509 Radnor Road, Bethesda, Md.	OL 2-0709
Joseph Holdeman, 5420 Burling Road, Bethesda, Md.	OL 4-5367
Thomas Walker, Jr., 4818 Mac Arthur Blvd., N. W.	EM 3-1290

VIRGINIA JUNIORS

At our sixth meeting held April 3, two new officers, Jim Grant, Coordinator and June LoGuirato, Secretariat, were elected. The following committee chairmen were approved - Eddie Lusby (Mars, Venus, and Mercury), Jim Grant (Jupiter and Saturn), Barry Sperling (Stars, Nova and Aurora), Chris Harvel (Sun, Visionally), Charles Steele (Sun, Telescopically), Fred Sumner (Lunar), Norman Sperling (Satellites and Asteroids), and June LoGuirato (Meteors). We had a very lively discussion about the merits of the refractor, reflector, and catadioptric telescopes at our meeting.

JUNIOR DIVISION NEWS

On April 11, the Junior Division had its second tri-monthly General Convention. Robert Milkey, the provisional chairman, presided. Following the project reports, nominations were taken for the officers to be elected on June 13.

The following were nominated: Chairman, Robert Milkey - at present, chairman of the MD.-D.C. region, as well as provisional chairman of the Junior Division, and Charles Steele - Coordinator of the Virginia region; Coordinator, Roy Troxel - Provisional Coordinator, and Barry Sperling - Chairman of the Virginia Region; Secretary, Michael Mattingly (unopposed) - Provisional Secretary; Data-Keeper, Samuel Friedman (unopposed) - Provisional Data-Keeper. The Convention was closed with the Chairman's plea to all present to notify all other Juniors of June Convention.

The June Convention is to be held for the express purpose of electing next year's officers. It is, therefore, of great importance to every member of the Junior Division. Only members registered with the Secretary at the January, April or June Convention may vote, so all come and BRING OUT THE VOTE.

Editor's Note: After receiving the chairman's article concerning the June elections, we were notified of Charles Steele's decision not to accept the nomination for Chairman.

Stephen Klingelhofer
Junior Editor

"Obviously the most interesting feature of this science, astronomy, is our eager ignorance." --- Harlow Shapley

Dottie Griffith and Jackie Talcott will attempt albeit shakily at first, to keep STARDUST on its feet. Please call or send, any news to Mrs. Paul Griffith, 5504 Lambeth Road, Bethesda, Md., OL 4-6904, by the tenth of each month.

May, 1959

Vol. XV, No. 9

RADIO ASTRONOMY SUBJECT OF NCA LECTURE



TIMOTHY P. McCULLOUGH

Timothy P. McCullough, formerly of the South, and now a research physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory, will be our next speaker. He is well qualified to bring us up to date on "RECENT PROGRESS IN RADIO ASTRONOMY" since he has specialized in that field since 1947. The second World War brought him to Washington via Annapolis where he taught physics at the Naval Academy. Prior to that date, he was educated at the University of Mississippi and received his Masters at North Carolina State. He then taught physics at Mississippi State and the University of Mississippi.

It has been too long since the NCA was brought up to date on this important subject, so we are most anxious for Mr. McCullough to let us in on latest progress in this field.

BUSY MAY DAYS

- 1, 15, 29 (Friday) - VIRGINIA JUNIORS will meet at the home of Barry Sperling, 1003 Birch St., Falls Church, Va. JE 2-1678
- 2 (Saturday) - "PROGRESS IN RADIO ASTRONOMY" - Mr. Timothy P. McCullough, followed by meeting and election of officers, 8:15 PM, Department of Commerce Auditorium.
- 4, 11, 18, 25 (Monday) - TELESCOPE MAKING, 7:30-10 PM, Chevy Chase Community Center, Conn. Ave. and McKinley St, carpenter shop in basement. Hoy Walls and asst. instructors.
- 6, 13, 20, 27 (Wednesday) - TELESCOPE MAKING, 7-9:30 PM, Materials Center, 4800 Webster St., Bladensburg, Md. Bill Isherwood in charge.
- 9 (Saturday) - AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS' REGIONAL CONVENTION - at the Dupont Country Club, Wilmington, Delaware, 9:45 AM.
- 9 (Saturday) - MARYLAND-DC JUNIORS - 2 PM, Chevy Chase Community Center lounge. Illustrated lecture by Dr. S. L. Sharpless of U. S. Naval Observatory on "Galactic Structure". Virginia Juniors invited.
- 16 (Saturday) - DISCUSSION GROUP - In the foyer of the Department of Commerce Auditorium at 8:00 PM.
- 17 (Sunday) - OBSERVING AND PHOTOGRAPHING THE SKY - Joint program of NCA and National Capital Parks, 7:30 PM at Fort Reno Park 40th & Chesapeake Sts., NW. Bring friends and telescopes.
- 29 (Saturday) - OBSERVATION AT THE 5-INCH - 9 PM at the Naval Observatory with Bill Isherwood. NCA card will admit you.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Election of officers time is here again so we urge every member to stay for the business meeting which will follow Mr. McCullough's talk. The following members have been named by the nominating committee, which consists of Everette Neville, Leith Holloway, and Bob Dellar:

Vice-President	Mrs. Lillian Gregor
Secretary	Mrs. David Rotbart
Treasurer	Mr. William Lipscomb
Trustee	Mr. Leo Scott

At press time, no one had been nominated for the presidency. Collect your thoughts on this and bring them with you.

REGIONAL CONVENTION - MAY 9

The Delaware Astronomical Society will be the host at the Amateur Astronomer's Regional Convention on Saturday, May 19, at the Dupont Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware. All members, their family and friends, are welcome. As of this writing, in early April, we know of about twenty who are planning to attend. Let's make it forty....

The program starts at 9:45 AM and goes through the day with a banquet and star party in the evening. Registration fee is \$1. The banquet is \$3.30. On Sunday, the Spitz Laboratory, in nearby Yorklyn, is holding Open House and the famed Longwood Gardens and Winterthur near Wilmington, should be attractions for you to stay overnight. Motels are available from \$6.00, single and \$7.50, double.

Wilmington is about 110 miles from Washington, however, so those going by car could leave the District at 6 A.M., attend the convention, and be back by midnight. For advance registration blanks and transportation, that is, if you are driving and have room for passengers, or, if you want a ride and would care to share expenses with someone driving, contact either Thelma Cressy at HO 2-2993 or Dana Law at OT 4-6835.

STAR TIME

All of our members and their friends are urged to attend the star gazing programs of the National Capital Parks. Given with the aid of NCA members, the groups study various wonders of the heavens during the pleasant months. The programs are open to the public and NCA members are particularly urged to bring with them any viewing equipment which might be available. The meetings are held at Fort Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N. W. at 9 PM on the various dates which will be announced. The first star party was held on April 5. The next ones will be on May 17, June 7 and 28.

SCIENCE FAIRS

The NCA judges are busily making their selections and the winners of the various science fairs will be announced next month.

BETA SEARCH

The Beta teams have continued their six week national search for the rocket that sent the "Crapefruit" satellite of the Vanguard I into space. Moonwatch teams all over the country are keeping bi-nightly vigils for that tiny speck of light presumed to be still orbiting the earth. Our two teams, one in Springfield, Va., headed by Bob Dellar and the other in Silver Spring, Md., headed by Bob Wright, have observed every other night and will continue doing so for a six week period; but, so far, they report "No sign of Beta I".

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR MAY

Date	Star	Mag.	Phase	Age	Time(E.S.T.)	P
May 12	Lambda Gem	3.6	D	5.1	7:18.5 PM	101°
13	30 B Cnc.	6.1	D	6.2	8:23.2 PM	61°
15	79 B Leo	7.1	D	8.2	8:45.3 PM	140°
16	227 B Leo	7.1	D	9.3	11:34.3 PM	130°
24	BD-18 5079	6.5	R	17.4	11:59.9 PM	276°

SAD NEWS DEPARTMENT

April has brought us more than our fair share of sorrow. Several of our most valuable workers are leaving for sunny California and we are without the services of several others due to illness.

The illness of our president, Bob McCracken, who has literally worked himself into a long needed, but very temporary, rest at the Washington Hospital Center, will come as very sad news to all of our members. Those who know him, however, are sure that nothing will keep him down for long.

Trudy Dellar has also been sick and in the hospital, but we hope that she will be up and with us again by the time you receive this news.

Col. Russell White and his wife are moving to their home in San Diego, California. Col. White has only been with us for a little more than a year and, in that time, has made a six inch and an eight inch telescope and has typed STARDUST for our photographer, Sam Fields. He and his wife will be driving to California on May 2nd for his final tour of duty at the Marine Recruit Depot in San Diego. He then plans to retire and pick oranges off his trees. Their address will be 4362 Santa Monica, San Diego, California and they hope to be visited by their friends from the NCA.

The NCA is certainly going to miss the efficient services of Mabel Stern when she too heads west next week. Mabel has been reporter, editor, distributor and general nursemaid to STARDUST this year. At this writing she does not know her new address and will have to send it to us. She will probably be located in Mentone, California where she has accepted a job as assistant to the editor of GEMS AND MINERALS. We wish her well and hope that she will keep in touch with her friends in NCA.