

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS



Our president, Bob McCracken, presents one of the ten Special Awards given by the NCA at the five local Science Fairs. The awards were given to those students whose exhibits were outstanding in the field of astronomy. Below is a list of the winners and the title of their exhibit. We, of the NCA, are proud to welcome them as members. We would like to thank Mr. Adelman and his team of judges for their cooperation.

- John Comulda, Bladensburg H.S. - "Micrometeorites"
 Robert Jones, Hyattsville Jr. H. S. - "Does The Earth Rotate On Its Axis?"
 William Fricke, Northwood Jr.-Sr. H.S. - "Ten Inch Telescope"
 Bruce and Larry McInness, Wheaton H.S. - "Astrophotography"
 Jean S. Schooley, Hart Jr. H.S. - "Phases Of The Moon Simulated"
 David Jackson, McClelland Jr. H.S. - "Radio Telescope"
 Dorn Schmidt and Jerry Nelson, McLean H. S. - "An Astronomical Telescope"
 George Galland, Hammon H.S. - "Star Of The Earth"
 Joseph Bechelli, Washington & Lee H.S. - "Telescopic Photography"
 Kenneth Ullman, Williamsburg Jr. H.S. - "Construction and Application of a Six Inch, f9 Reflecting Telescope"

JUNIOR DIVISION NEWS

At the May NCA meeting, Mr. McCracken changed Mr. Holloway's title from Chairman of the Junior Division to Director because of conflict with the titles of the junior-held elected offices. He will remain as Advisor to the Maryland and D. C. section of the NCA Juniors.

A paper on the Junior Division of the NCA was read at the Mid-East Regional Convention in Wilmington on May 9th and was well received. The paper was illustrated by several planetary drawings made by juniors.

Dr. Stewart L. Sharpless gave an interesting talk on galactic structure at the Chevy Chase Community Center on May 9th. Eleven juniors attended, including one from the Virginia section, Fred Sumner, and an NCA award winner, David Jackson, who was given membership in the society at the May meeting.

At this meeting, officers for the MD-DC Juniors were elected. Chosen were: Roy Troxel, Chairman and Michael Mattingly, Sec..

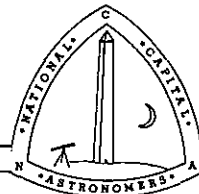
On June 13th, the third Convention of Juniors from BOTH regions will be held for the purpose of electing officers. The candidates are listed in the May issue of STARDUST. This is an important election; so all interested and active Juniors should attend.

At the May meeting of the Va. Juniors, the various theories of the formation of the solar system were discussed. Our group is also very thankful that Miss Salome Betts has volunteered to be our adult leader, at least temporarily. Thank you, Miss Betts. Our club invites juniors interested in astronomy to come to our meetings. The next meeting will be held on June 12th at 8 PM in the home of Barry Sperling, 1003 Birch Street, Falls Church, Va. JE 2-1678.

---- June LoGuirato

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★ STARDUST



JUNE, 1959

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J. LEWIS POWELL, OUTSTANDING SPEAKER, TO ADDRESS NCA

It is quite a feather in the cap of the National Capital Astronomers that we were able to obtain Mr. Powell, of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, to speak to us at our June meeting. Several of the members of the NCA had heard Mr. Powell speak and were so filled with enthusiasm over his ability that they have been most anxious for the whole organization to get a chance to hear him. The title of his talk will be MUSCLES TO MISSILES: THE COLLAPSE OF TIME. Mr. Powell is an excellent speaker and gives a most dramatic and thought-provoking talk on the rapid advances in science. None of our members will want to miss this important lecture; so be sure to mark June 6th on your calendar.

RADIO ASTRONOMY TODAY

The NCA was most fortunate to have as its guest speaker at the May meeting, Timothy P. McCollough, who proved that he was unquestionably an expert in the field of radio astronomy. He carried us from the days of Grot Reiber, a former vice-president of the NCA who for years was the only amateur radio-astronomer, to the present day and even into the future. Most interesting was a recent discovery that there is a wide disagreement between temperatures on various planets as found by an optical system and a radio telescope. At certain wave lengths, the radiation from Jupiter gives the same amount of radiation as the sun. One theory for this is that cosmic rays from Jupiter could be giving off these intense radiations.

JUNE'S MANY MEETINGS

- 1,8,15 - (Monday) - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS 7:30-10:00, at the Chevy Chase Rec. Center, Hoy Walls, Inst.
 NOTE DATE OF LAST CLASS.
 3 (Wednesday) - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS-FINAL CLASS- 7-9:30, Materials Center, Bill Isherwood, Inst.
 5,12,19,26 - (Friday) - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS - 7:30, Fairfax High School, Grady Whitney, Inst.
 6 (Saturday) - "MUSCLES TO MISSILES: THE COLLAPSE OF TIME" - Mr. J. Lewis Powell followed by meeting. Department of Commerce Auditorium at 8:15.
 7,28 (Sunday) - EXPLORING THE SKY 9 P.M. Ft. Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake Sts., NW. Bring friends and telescopes.
 12 (Friday) - VIRGINIA JUNIORS MEETING at Barry Sperling's, 1003 Birch Street, Falls Church, Virginia
 13 (Saturday) - NCA JUNIOR CONVENTION at Dept. of Commerce Auditorium at 8:00 P.M.
 27 (Saturday) - OBSERVATION AT THE 5 INCH- Naval Observatory-9 PM
 NCA card will admit you.

"He who knows the most, he who knows what sweets and virtues are in the ground, the waters, the planets, the heavens, and how to come at these enchantments, is the rich and royal man." - Emerson

NCA FEATURED ON TELEVISION SHOW



We only wish that we had been able to notify all of the members of the NCA of the program, THE 25TH HOUR, which featured the NCA and its activities, on Sunday, May 17th. Bob McCracken demonstrated the Foucault test through a most ingenious system of camera tricks. He brought to the television audience the same vision of the polished glass that can only be obtained normally by the naked eye placed against the razor's edge. The second part of the

fast moving show was devoted to the activities of the Moon Watch Teams and was explained by Bob Dellar. Most exciting was the finale which showed, with properly etherial background music, many of the wonders of the heavens which are "there for the looking".

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Without any difficulty, the amended slate of the nominating committee was unanimously elected at our May meeting. It looks like another good team will lead the NCA in the fall. Our new officers will be:

President-----Lillian Gregor
 Vice President---Leith Holloway
 Secretary-----Faye Rotbart
 Treasurer-----Bill Lipscomb
 Trustee-----Leo Scott

NEW MEMBERS

Regular
 Mrs. Margaret K. Noble 2104 32nd Place, S.E. LU 2-6721
 Robert L. Uphoff 2141 I Street, N.W. FE 7-5600
Junior
 Garry Imlay 3912 Jeffrey St., Sil.Sp. WH 6-9317
 Richard Falwell 12503 Conn. Ave., Wheaton WH 6-5056
Science Fair Award Memberships
 Joseph Bachelli 1528 N. Randolph, Arlington JA 7-6825
 William C. Fricke 1809 Powder Mill Rd., Sil.Sp. HE 4-5871
 Ken Ullman 4616 N. 38th St., Arlington KE 6-6524
 Jean Suzanne Schooley 3940 First St., S.W. JO 3-5988
 Dorn L. Schmidt 4915 Wrightson Dr., McLean EL 6-4052
 Jerry Nelson 4230 Dalmation Dr., McLean EL 6-4132
 David Jackson 4616 New Hampshire Ave., N.W. TA 9-0663

NOTICE TO NCA ADULT MEMBERS

Why not renew your subscription to SPACE SCIENCE now? Then you'll receive the September issue without delay. Just send us your name and address with fifty cents (special NCA rate) to:

Benjamin Adelman
 SPACE SCIENCE
 4211 Colie Drive
 Silver Spring, Maryland

The September SPACE SCIENCE will feature an article by Prof. Dan Beard of the U. of Cal. on his theory on the origin of comets.

TWENTY TWO FROM NCA ENJOY WEEKEND IN WILMINGTON

Unidentified Flying Objects in color movies were viewed by about one hundred who were attending the Middle East Regional Astronomical League Convention at Wilmington on May 10th. Bob Wright and Bob Dellar reported on our Moon Watch Teams and Bob Wright also reported on his Star Gazer's Stone. Dana Law presented Leith Holloway's paper on D.C. Jrs. and planet drawings by Mike Mattingly. At the business meeting, the convention voted on a motion of Bob Wright's to hold a regional meeting in 1960 in addition to the National Astronomical League meeting in Phil., Pa. New officers are: Ch.-Beaufort Ragland, V.Ch.- David Meisel, Sec. Emil Volcheck, Jr., and Treas.- Ed Maylor. Hoy Walls and U. S. Lyons of NCA urged the convention to promote uniform standards for optical parts at the League Convention in Denver this summer.

Aside from the sessions, members enjoyed hearing a talk by the Director of the Montevideo, Uruguay planetarium, visits to Longwood Gardens, and Spitz Laboratories and a delightful "at home" with Dr. Armand and Grace Spitz in Yorklyn.

Those from the NCA attending included Salome Brtts, Thelma Cressy, The Dellar, the Laws, and their guest, Margaret Acheson, the Lipscombs, the Lyons, the Nevilles, Mrs. Noble and her mother, Dick Shoemaker, the Spitzes, Hoy Walls, Henry Wilson, and Bob Wright.

---- Dana Law

TELESCOPE MAKING BUSINESS BOOMING

The NCA is most thrilled to announce that our third telescope making class started at the Fairfax High School a few weeks ago under the leadership of Grady Whitney. His group draws from four high schools and meets on Friday nights at 7:30 pm. Due to the mounting pressures of enthusiastic students, Mr. Whitney will remain open through June and perhaps longer.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR JUNE

	Date	Star	Mag.	Phase	Age	Time(E.S.T.)	P
June 11	BD 9 2226	6.8	D	5.6	9:23.2 PM	169°	
	13	79 Leo	5.5	D	7.6	9:21.0 PM	70°
	15	BD-6 3750	7.4	D	9.6	8:57.2 PM	159°
	16	633 B Vir	6.8	D	10.6	9:49.7 PM	130°
	16-17	BD-11 3693	6.9	D	10.7	12:48.6 AM	41°
	21	Rho Sgr	4.0	D	15.7	10:25.7 PM	61°
	21	Rho Sgr	4.0	R	15.7	11:33.2 PM	289°

Star designations are given using various catalogues. Some examples are the use of constellation name and Greek letter from Bayer, the Henry Draper Catalogue (HD), and the Bonn Durchmusterung Catalogue (BD) in which the approximate declination of the star is given. The age of the moon (time elapsed since new moon) is given at the time of geocentric conjunction and may vary by 0.1 day from the age at time of conjunction. Contacts of the star with the dark limb are used except for bright stars. Immersion is denoted by D and emersion by R. The position angle is the angle at the moon's center measured from the month point toward the east to the point of contact of the star with the limb.

NEPTUNE will be in conjunction with the moon June 16, passing 18 minuees of arc to the south at 11:45 PM, EST, URANUS will be in conjunction with VENUS on the 19th at 10:00 PM, EST, 1917' to the south of VENUS.

---- Larry White