

NEW MEMBERS

Regular
Lt. Col. & Mrs. Charles Cooke 4501 Conn. Ave., N.W. KE 7-1832
James M. Williamson 3445 38th St., N.W. Wo 6-9729

Junior
Bernard A. Lietz 2107 Beechwood Rd. W. Hyattsville, Md. HA 2-8586
Paisley Rockwell 520 Glyndon St., N.E. Vienna, Va. DU 5-7283

The following junior member has paid dues for senior membership:
Michael Mattingly 4320 Fessenden St., N.W. EM 2-7894

Junior Division

MD - DC JUNIORS

The June Convention of the Junior Division was held on Saturday, June 13th. The officers elected for 1959-1960 season were Robert Milkey - Chairman, Michael Mattingly - Secretary, Samuel Friedman - Data-keeper. We wish these officers the best success for the coming year.

Also discussed at the June Convention was the series of "World Weekends" sponsored by National Capital Junior Astronomers (NCJA) in conjunction with the Junior Astronomical Society of England. In addition, several other groups in all parts of the United States, as well as some French Societies, have been contacted. There is a possibility that some South American Societies, especially one in Columbia, may participate later in the summer. The dates of the "World Weekends" will be June 26 - 28, July 10-12, July 31 - Aug. 2, Aug. 21 - 23. The purpose of the "World Weekends" basically is to have well coordinated, specifically designated, observing objectives being watched by as many people, throughout as great a section of the world, as possible.

The NCJA is also assisting Father Francis J. Heyden of the Georgetown University Observatory in making spectrographs of planets, and photographing U386 Cygni after midnight each clear evening during the summer.

---- Steve Klingelhofer
Junior Editor

VIRGINIA JUNIORS

At the May 29th meeting we elected a new co-ordinator, Fred Sumner who will replace Jim Grant. Members will be informed by postcard as to place, date, and time of the summer meeting dates, because we are now trying to obtain a new meeting place.

---- June LoGuirato

* STAR DUST

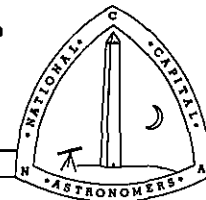


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JULY - AUGUST, 1959

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EXPLORING THE SKY



John Leonard, NCA member, assists two youngsters on an exciting telescopic space trip.

Exploring the Sky is a program given by the NCA in conjunction with the Recreation Program of the National Capital Parks. Members of the NCA, such as Jack Leonard pictured at the left, bring their telescopes and cameras to these events and make their Knowledge and enthusiasm available to all who are interested. They are also available for advise to astro-photographers. All NCA members are urged to get together and to bring their equipment whenever possible. If it is raining the event is naturally rained out. If it is hazy, however, the program is supplemented with slides or talks. It is a most enjoyable way to spend a summer's evening, so, do join us!

Photo by Abbie Rowe, Nat. Pk. Ser.

NIGHTS TO REMEMBER

JULY	Fridays	AUGUST
3-10-17-24-31		7-14-21-28
TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS - 7:30PM	Fairfax HS, Grady Whitney, instr.	
10		7
OBSERVING AT THE 5" - Naval Obs. - 9 PM		NCA card will admit you
	Saturdays	1
25		NCA Picnic
EXPLORING THE SKY		Manassas, Va.
Ft. Reno Park		
40th & Chesapeake, NW		
9 PM		
	Sunday	23
		EXPLORING THE SKY
		8:30 PM

NCA SUMMER PICNIC ** SATURDAY ** AUGUST 1

In September, 1956, we had a "Mars-Picnic" at Manassas Battlefield Park picnic grounds, and we think our members remember it as one of the most enjoyable and successful picnics NCA has ever had.

This was in part due to the very fine attendance of Mars at its closest proximity to Earth and of 76 members of the NCA with close to twenty telescopes. The other ingredients for a perfect Star Party were also present, namely a completely isolated area, high on a ridge, with unlimited room for telescopes, where light other than starlight is non-existent. Here is practically an unobstructed view of the sky from horizon to horizon, and it is dark enough to see the faintest nebulae and galaxies. In fact, the viewing out there on a clear night is so fabulous (this adjective is here used literally and advisedly) that you will think the stars so close you most likely will bend your head occasionally for fear of bumping them.

Bring the clear night with you together with your telescope and the rest of the family. There are picnic tables and fire grates with wood in the grove on the hillside so bring a picnic supper, but there is no water so each must haul his own, also for hand-washing. Don't forget flashlights and galoshes for the dew is heavy out there.

We will leave the Commerce Building at 5:30 and expect to be out there about 6:30. Will the members, who can possibly take passengers, please stop and give rides to others who do not drive. Directions: Take Constitution Avenue to Memorial Bridge. Follow Route 50 across bridge and on to Fairfax. Proceed on Rts. 29-211 through Centreville to Stonehouse Inn (about 2 mi. beyond end of divided highway). Turn left at Inn on Route 234 Manassas National Battlefield Park signs. Go about 9/10 of a mile on Route 234 and turn right at NCA Picnic Sign and follow picnic area signs past ruins of Chin House to the end of road and you are there. Do not hesitate to ford the tiny creek -- we have already tried it.

---- Tove Neville

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OPTICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED TO NCA

Frank A. Case, a former employee of the Bureau of Standards, and primarily an optical designer, has made the NCA the recipients of optical equipment worth from seven hundred and fifty to one thousand dollars. Mr. Case and Mr. Robinson, another employee of the Bureau, formerly were the owners of their own optical shop, Robinson & Case. When Mr. Case decided to retire to Florida, they donated their machines to the NCA. It is being stored, at present, at the Chevy Chase Community Center, and has been placed under the direction of Mr. Hoy Walls. It will later be made available to NCA members who have special projects which justify the use of the machinery.

Among the pieces of equipment obtained are the following: grinding table and spindle, a drill press and a mud saw for cutting glass, a table with a hand-turned spindle, an edging machine which grinds and centers the lens, radial scribes, an interferometer, an autocollimator which is used for adjusting lens, and an electric polishing machine. We also obtained many necessary accessories such as carborundum, laps, rouge, glass and quartz.

The NCA is most thankful for this generous gift and hopes to make important use of it once a good location for setting up the equipment is established.

---- Leo Scott

NCA TEACHES TEACHERS

On June 1-5, two members of the NCA, Ben Adelman and Bob McCracken, were invited to meet with the thirteen elementary school science teachers of D.C. The purpose of the course was to give these teachers an interest in teaching astronomy and to show them the various ways in which it could be taught. Naturally, it would be impossible to teach astronomy in that period of time, but the teachers were familiarized and brought up to date in Astronomy Today. Mr. Johnson, the D.C. science supervisor, is keenly interested in improving the science curriculum and there seems to be a shifting of general science to the elementary grades with some science specialization in the upper grades.

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LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Date	Star	Mag.	Phase	Age	Time(E.S.T.)	P
July 11	31 B Vir	6.4	D	5.9	8:11.5 PM	141°
14	Mu Lib f	5.8	D	9.0	10:38.8 PM	130°
15	BD-16°4151	7.4	D	10.0	8:10.7 PM	155°
21-22	96B (Aqr)	6.5	R	16.2	2:11.5 AM	204°
24-25	44 Psc	6.0	R	19.3	2:50.2 AM	222°
Aug. 9	BD-7°3643m	7.4	D	5.4	7:43.6 PM	44°
11	BD-15°4118	6.8	D	7.4	8:23.0 PM	79°
14	95 B. Sgr	5.8	D	10.5	9:13.7 PM	35°
14	BD-18°4986	7.0	D	10.5	9:37.0 PM	84°
14	BD-19°5047var	6.5-7.3	D	10.5	10:12.2 PM	142°
23	Xi Ari	5.5	R	19.6	11:04.0 PM	241°
26-27	318B Tau	5.7	R	22.7	2:47.3 AM	244°
27-28	130 Tau	5.5	R	23.7	2:38.0 AM	263°
28-29	26 Gem	5.1	R	24.8	4:31.6 AM	314°

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NATIONAL ASTRONOMER'S CONVENTION

It's not too late to plan an especially exciting summer vacation in the beautiful Rockies. For Colorado, the top of the U. S., will be host to the Amateur Astronomers on August 28 - 31 at the beautiful University of Denver. Exhibits, meetings, banquets, and star parties will be part of the many attractions to be found in Colorado during the convention. Consequently, there may be a shortage of rooms. So, if you're interested, make reservations with Ned Onstott, 2421 Second Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado.

There will be ample space for the exhibit of exceptional amateur equipment and the NCA should be well represented. If you are interested, write to the Convention Chairman, Henry O. Fiske, 2273 S. Fillmore St., Denver 10, Colorado.
(Condensed from an article by Ken Steinmetz in SKY AND TELESCOPE)