ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

The moon will occult Aldebaran before dawn on July 19th. We obtained observations of the Transit satellite at the Engineer Proving Ground on May 31 and June 1 using a new optical system composed of 6-inch reflectors. The four telescopes have individual 3-degree fields and are overlapped to form a 5-degree optical field along the meridian. Observations of three components of Sputnik IV were made on June 6 and 7 using the regular Moonwatch telescopes.

--- Larry White, Astronomy Editor

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION

Don't forget that Convention time is approaching and will be held at Haverford College outside of Philadelphia over Labor Day week-end, Sept. 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. This will be the 14th National Convention of the Astronomical League and since it is close to home, it is a wonderful opportunity for NCAers to attend. If any Juniors are interested in the Instructions for the preparation of Papers to be Presented at the Junior Session, call Mrs. Griffith at 4-6904 since I have the detailed instructions and hope that many of our Juniors will use this opportunity. Call Lillian Greger or Bob Bright for further details.

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AUTUMN'S JUNIORS

In anticipation of the 1960 World Night Program, a general review was made of last year's world nights and the intervening observation sessions held. During June several observing sessions were held at Swanson J.H.S. on June 3rd the Virginia Juniors were the guests of the Swanson J.H.S. Science Club for a picnic and star party. Some members brought telescopes; however, the sky was not ideal for observing. Future observing sessions will be held this summer at this site.

We are looking forward to the publication of the solar section of the Book of the Sky. Barry Sperling expects to complete it soon.

--- June LoGuirato

\* STARDUST \* Published monthly except August by and for members of the NATIONAL CAPITAL ASTRONOMERS, INCORPORATED, a non-profit, public-service organization promoting interest and education in astronomy and the related sciences. President, Mrs. Lillian E. Greger; Vice President, Judith Suitable; Secretary, Secretaries, David Backman; Treasurer, William Lipscomb. Published by Alexander J. White, Mrs. William Lipscomb, Glenn E. Neville, James Stewart, and June LoGuirato; Astronomy, Alexander White: Publicity, Mrs. William Lipscomb; Photography and Production, San G. Field, Jr.; Distribution, Marion Schiller. One dollar each, two dollars a year.

JULY - AUGUST, 1960
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ITS PICNIC TIME FOR NCA

On Saturday, August 13, we will again be able to have a picnic at Manassas Battlefield Park. The moon does not rise until 4 minutes after midnight (EDT), so we will have perfect seeing--if the weather behaves. Sky out there is open from horizon to horizon and no light of any other kind is present, so bringing flashlight is unnecessary. No water is available either, so bring what you will need for dishes, cooking and hand-washing. There are tables, fire-grates, and wood. Things astronomical: Perseids meteor shower, Jupiter, Saturn, and two asteroids, Vesta (6.4 mag.) and Ceres (7.9 mag.).

We leave the Commerce Dept. at 5 P.M. (EDT) and expect to be out there by about 6. Anyone wanting a ride call Thelma Cressy after August 1 at HO 2-2993 or Glenn E. Neville at EM 2-8000, Ext. 7270 if Thelma cannot be reached.

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 miles beyond end of divided highway. Turn left at Inn on Route 234, Manassas Battlefield Park signs. Go about 9/10 of a mile on Route 234 and turn right and follow picnic area signs past ruins of Chin House to the end of the road and you are there.

I will miss the picnic while I vacation in Europe, sorry, but I'll do some observing from over there. ---- TOVE NEVILLE

SUMMER STARGAZING

Friday night TELESCOPES MAKING CLASSES at FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL will continue throughout the summer. Grady Whitney, Instructor.

July 18 (Thursday), July 19 (Tuesday), August 11 (Thursday), SUMMER STARS - a new National Capital Parks Program which will teach the location and legends of the summer constellations. Meet at the Naturevan, Ft. Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake Sts., NW, 9 PM.

July 30 (Saturday) 8 PM, and August 29 (Sunday) 8:15 PM - EXPLORING THE SKY - National Capital Parks Program in conjunction with the NCA. Members bring binoculars, telescopes, cameras, and any other available equipment to Ft. Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake Streets, N.W.

July 14, 28, August 11, 25 (Thursdays) - VIRGINIA JUNIORS MEETINGS Westover Baptist Church, 1125 N. Patrick-Henry Dr., Arl., 8 P.M.

August 13 (Saturday) - NCA PICNIC - Manassas Battlefield Park, Va. Meet at Dept. of Commerce at 5 PM (EDT) with picnic supplies.

September 2, 3, 4, & 5 - ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE, 14TH ANNUAL CONVENION, HAVENFORD, PA.
TO NCA FELLOW MEMBERS

There are so many members who have done so much for the organization, I wish to extend my thanks to all of them and to the officers of the past year: Leith Holloway as Vice-President, Mrs. David Rothbart as Secretary, Lillian Lipscomb as Treasurer, and Glenn B. Neville as Chairman of the Membership Committee.

Our Vice-President, Leith Holloway, as chairman of the program committee has done an excellent job. He devoted more than his share of time and effort in planning the interesting lectures and discussion groups well in advance of scheduled times. To him a special vote of thanks and to all the members who helped him with the program, we sincerely appreciate all you have done. What spare time Leith had left was devoted to the Junior members. Salome Betts aided the Virginia Juniors. We thank them both for their sincere interest in the younger generation.

Mrs. Paul Griffith, our Editor, another diligent worker, has unselshly spent many hours on our fine publication, STARDUST. After all the editing was finished, she faithfully distributed our monthly papers to all the members. We owe her so many thanks.

We also thank all her friends who helped run errands for her for NCA.

Sam Falls, with his photographic work, has added so much to our publication. Mrs. Worthington Talcott has assisted with the copy work. Our astronomy editor, Alexander White, has also done double duty as observation chairman for our 5 inch refractor at the Naval Observatory where he has taken a great deal of time and interest in repairing it.

The telescope making classes with Hoy Nalls as chairman have given expert advice to our members and to the general public. Our instructors devote many evenings a month to these classes; Hoy Nalls instructing at Chevy Chase; William Isserwood at Bladensburg, Maryland; and Grady Whitney at Fairfax, Virginia. Our thanks seem so trivial for the tremendous job they are doing.

Sam Adelman has been a very capable chairman for the Education and Schools Advisory Committee. Many thanks to him and his assistants: Miss Mabel Duvall, Mrs. Margaret Noble, Howard Owens, Ferdinand Carosi, and Robert McCracken.

Our thanks to Lyle Johnson whom we could always depend on to run the projector at our lectures. U. S. Lyons, as chairman of the Membership Committee, has so faithfully served at every meeting. Morton Schiff could always be counted on for distribution of our publicity sheets.Thanks to Leo Scott, our Parliamentarian, for his advice and help to Tove Neville for her splendid planning of our social events. To Robert McCracken, as chairman of the Advanced Planning Committee, we owe so many thanks for his keen interest and help in all phases of NCA activity.

I, personally, wish to thank everyone for their fine cooperation and to all of the members for giving me the honor of being President.

The best of luck to the incoming officers for a successful NCA year.

Sincerely,

Lillian Gregor,
Retiring President