



JULY - AUGUST, 1960

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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 9 degree optical fence along the meridian.

Observations of three components of Sputnik IV were made on June 5 and 7 using the regular Moonwatch telescopes.

----- Larry White
Astronomy Editor

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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 NGAers 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 OL 4-6904 since I have the detailed instructions and hope that many of our Juniors will use this opportunity. Call Lillian Gregor or Bob Wright for further details.

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VIRGINIA 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 Jr. H.S. On June the third 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

ITS PICNIC TIME FOR NGA

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 bring flashlights. 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 six. Anyone wanting a ride call Thelma Cressy after August 1 at HQ 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 two 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 TELESCOPE MAKING CLASSES at FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL will continue throughout the summer. Grady Whitney, Instructor.

July 14 (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) 9 PM, and August 28 (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 CONVENTION, HAVERFORD, PA.



AND SEVERAL OTHERS WORTH KNOWING -----

Before we end this series of sketches on NCA members most diligent and devoted to the NCA, we wish to confess that there are others whom we want to honor and thus, thank, but time has flown and new names are on the NCA scene. Doing STARDUST has been a marvelous experience and these sketches, affording us a more intimate chance to meet NCA members and, in turn, introduce them to you, has been the most fun of all.

I believe that, in spite of change of Editors, the STARDUST should continue. If several members have had the spirit to keep it going for twenty years, I'm sure that spirit still lingers in many of your hearts. Speak up! The NCA needs and wants you!

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TOVE NEVILLE

Tove Neville has constantly served the NCA during the last five years. After joining the NCA with her husband, Everette, in 1954, she served as secretary during the year 1955-'56 and has been responsible for countless outings and other special events ever since. Tove became interested in astronomy while a teen-aged girl scout in Denmark, her native land. Since arriving in the States, Tove has married and also graduated from GWU with high honors in English last year. She is now working for Science Service, writing on astronomy and other scientific subjects and also does editing and lay-out for the Science News Letter. Her hobbies include: literature, theatre, art, swimming, and dancing.

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Since BEN ADELMAN joined the NCA in 1952, he has helped with publicity and for the past year, he has been chairman of the Education and Schools Advisory Committee. Ben's main interest is the popularization of science and he has furthered this interest via his radio program, SCIENCE REPORT, for WCFM, and the course which he gave at GWU called Hobbies In Science. He has also written many articles -- most recently an article on astronomy for "The Elementary School Science Bulletin". Last June, he and Bob McCracken gave a short course in Astronomy for the elementary science staff of the DC Board of Education. Ben became editor of THE JUNIOR ASTRONOMER several years ago and has since built it into the successful publication we know as SPACE SCIENCE.

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 Rotbart as Secretary, William Lipscomb as Treasurer, and Glen E. Neville, Alexander White and Leo Scott.

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 time. 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 unselfishly spent many hours on our fine publication, STAR DUST. 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 Feilds, 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 Walls 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 Walls instructing at Chevy Chase; William Isherwood at Bladensburg, Maryland; and Grady Whitney at Fairfax, Virginia. Our thanks seem so trivial for the tremendous job they are doing.

Ben 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 Cardoza, 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 and 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