

SUBSTITUTE STAR DUST - FEB. 1961

ATMOSPHERES OF THE PLANETS
By James M. Kendall 8:15 P.M. Saturday, Feb. 4, 1961

Planetary atmospheres are composed of very small particles, molecules which are increased with motion. This motion, in conjunction with the gravitational field and temperature, accounts for many of the characteristics of the atmospheres of heavenly bodies; such as the amount and composition of the atmosphere possessed by the body. Small light bodies with relatively light temperatures such as the planet Mercury and the Moon have very little, if any, atmosphere, while large planets such as Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune have enormous atmospheres, much of which has been condensed into frozen solids. The atmosphere of a planet has a very great effect on the visual appearance of the planet. Generally the absence of atmosphere is associated with very dark color (low reflectivity) while moderate to great atmospheres have very light colors (high reflectivity).

Mr. Kendall received degrees from Rice Institute and the U. of Maryland. Before coming to the Naval Ordnance Lab. he worked for several years as a radio engineer and later as a geophysicist. Since 1941, he has been employed as an engineering physicist on gas dynamic problems at the Naval Ordnance Lab. He has been a long time member of the NCA.

FEBRUARY FUN

- 4 - "ATMOSPHERES OF THE PLANETS" by Mr. James M. Kendall. Meeting follows.
Dept. of Comm. Audit. 8:15 P.M.
- 10,24 - VA JUNIORS - Westover Baptist Church, 1125 N. Patrick Henry Dr.,
Arlington, Va., Room 234, 8:00 P.M.
- 11 - MD-DC JUNIORS - Chevy Chase Comm. Center, 5601 Conn. Ave. N.W.
2:30 P. M. Discussion topic will be "Stellar Population."
- 18 - DISCUSSION GROUP - "Radio Communications with Other Worlds"
Led by Jim Krebs. Foyer of Dept. of Comm. 8:00 P.M.

TELESCOPE MAKING CLASSES

- Mondays - Chevy Chase Comm. Bldg., 5601 Conn. Ave., with Hoy Walls
- Wednesdays - Fairfax High School with Grady Whitney
- Thursdays - Bladensburg Mt. Ctr., 4600 Varnum with Bill Isherwood

THANKS, NAVY

Our 5-inch telescope has a brighter home this month thanks to a splendid rewiring job by the Naval Observatory. At last we have completely adequate lighting and, what is more, there is no cord on the floor - so complete is the job.

Not only has the building been improved, but the telescope has found a lovely new finder in one of our moonwatch scopes. Its 12° field and cross hairs make it a perfect addition to our brilliant (as observatories go, that is) new home.

Now that the 5-inch is ready for you, are you ready for it? A lovely new photometer is being readied which will enable the NCA "Research Team" to make accurate star brightness measurements. Naturally, all we need now is YOU! If interested in observing or researching, call Larry White.

Other good telescopic news is that the NCA has ordered the construction of a new mounting and the assembling of a most respectable outdoor telescope by which we can better introduce the wonders of the universe to the public at our National Capital Parks programs. Construction engineer? Hoy Walls, naturally.