The Junior Division enjoyed a very interesting tour of the Georgetown University Observatory on Friday night, April 27. Twenty-nine people attended and heard Mr. W. Willauer, a graduate research fellow at the Observatory, explain and demonstrate the 5-inch refractor, the fascinating photographic plate measuring equipment, and the complicated desk-size electronic computer. We also saw the 12-inch refractor outfitted with a photocalorimeter for making light curves of the stars of the observatory. The afternoon long focal length telescope used to obtain spectra of the planets and the sun was also on display. We were greatly indebted to Father Hayden for arranging this tour for us.

We failed to mention last month that Steve Klein won second prize in astronomy in the Junior High class at the National Science Fair. In addition, three NCA Juniors (June Loguirato, Alan Creutz and Chris Walker) have been named National Winners (top 226 in the country) in the 11-12 grade division of the 11th FSA Awards Program. The projects were the same that won these same persons honors in the 21st Annual Science Talent Search.

Three Juniors gave papers at the Middle East Regional Convention of the Astronomical League on May 23. Chris Walker discussed various types of equipment used in viewing the sky, and Ed Lusby described a catalog of astronomical objects suitable for viewing with small telescopes. The papers were the same that won those same persons honors in the 21st Annual Science Talent Search. Many other Juniors attended the activities of the 21st Middle East Regional Convention, perhaps a record gathering toured the Naval Observatory on Friday night. (On behalf of the Juniors I wish to express our grateful thanks to those who made this fascinating tour possible.)

Finally, a Junior Convention will be held at 7:30 P.M. at the Department of Commerce just before the June NCA meeting on the 4th for the purpose of electing officers and making plans for next year. All Juniors are urged to come to the June meeting a few minutes early in order to take part in the business meeting. The NCA business meeting after the lecture will also be of great interest to Juniors because of the presentation of the Science Fair awards. There will be no other scheduled meeting of the MD-DC Juniors in June.

Chris Walker MD-DC Junior Editor

---

**NEW MEMBERS**

Regular: Bruce W. Dlemassen, 7610 Edmonston Rd., Springfield, Va., Phone 451-2109

Junior: John Greenlen, 816 Dolphin Lane, Alexandria, Va., 250-0269

**ELECTION RESULTS**

At the May meeting the following were elected to office for 1962-63:

- President: Mrs. John D. Stolarik
- Vice President: Mr. Ellis Marshall
- Secretary: Morton Schiff
- Treasurer: Roger Harvey
- Trustee: Jim Krebs
PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS

At the April meeting of NCA Leo Scott, Trustee, brought to the attention of the group that we appeared to be heading for financial trouble. The President then appointed a committee composed of Leo Scott, Ellen Stolarick, and Duane Baugher to look into this matter and report their findings to the Executive Board and the Trustees. As a result of the following changes in the By-laws are proposed and will be voted on at the regular June meeting, at which time the committee will give a full report and propose other corrective measures.

Article 1. Membership, Dues, and Voting

Section 1. Membership in this corporation shall be comprised of two grades:
(a) Junior membership - Annual dues, ($1.60) $2.00, maximum 16 years. Junior members may elect the privilege of BUX AND TELESCOPE in which case the annual dues shall be ($1.60) $2.00 plus the contract subscription price.
(b) Life membership - $50.00.

Section 2. Applications for membership shall be in written form and accompanied by the initiation fee and dues for one year, and shall be submitted to the Membership Committee by the applicant in person.

The motion was made that these changes take effect Sept. 1, 1962.

***** ****** ****** ******

MEMERAL Convention in Washington

Friday evening, May 11th, marked the first event of the convention of the Mid-East Region of the Astronomical League which was hosted this year by the National Capital Astronomers. Registration and meetings of old friends occurred in the lobby of Naval Observatory. Bob Rhynsburger of the observatory staff arranged a complete tour of the facilities. We visited the Simon Newcomb laboratory which contains the cesium beam clock - the primary time standard for all naval operations, the time monitoring section, and the new satellite camera and a model of the 60-inch astrographic camera now being built for the Observatory's site at Flagstaff, Arizona. Other points of interest of the tour were the 26-inch refractor, the photographic zenith tube, the transit telescope, and the computing machines which produce the Ephemeris and Nautical Almanacs. Unfortunately cloudy skies prevented most attendees from viewing the first-quarter moon through the 26-inch or NCA's own 6-inch refractor.

After a busy hour of setting up exhibits and registering new-comers, the convention was officially called to order at 10 AM sharp by the general chairman Bob Wright at the Dept. of Commerce auditorium. The first presentation was made by the President and Anthon Douek, the regional president, extended his thanks to the NCA for their invitation and efforts in setting up the convention.

The remainder of the morning was taken up with a technical session chaired by Bob Wright. The first three papers were concerned with the measurement of satellite positions and the possible collision of satellites (remote). Most interest, however, centered around a talk by Robert Hires on the design and construction of Maksutov telescopes. Mrs. Hires operated the design used by the Maksutov club.

Mr. Hires continued the forum after the regular session had broken up for lunch. Ten lucky visitors get a chance to run a Spitz planetarium on their own after briefing by the regular operator, Mrs. Margaret F. Bailey of Philadelphia, society activities by Mrs. Grace Spitz, and the final paper session on specialized observing by Bob Wright.

There was a break during which the convention-goers got an opportunity to view the many fine exhibits assembled by Hoy Walia. Among others were a beautiful 7-inch refractor built by Hoy for the Richmond, Va. Society and a pair of unusual telescopes built by Dr. G. E. Blevis, and NCA member.

The assembled throng then climbed aboard waiting buses for a quick trip to the observatory of Georgetown University. After touring the facilities, all moved out to the lawn for a buffet dinner. To the Commerce auditorium of the NCA, highlighted by Dr. Peter van de Kamp of Sproul Observatory.

Jim Krebs

THE IMPORTANCE OF SIRIUS B

Dr. Peter van de Kamp of Sproul Observatory addressed the Middle East Regional Convention on the search for dwarf companions of nearby stars. This year marks the one hundredth anniversary of the visual discovery of Sirus B by Alvan Clark in 1862. Eighteen years earlier in 1844 Bessel had mathematically predicted the existence and location of this dwarf star by analyzing perturbations in the path of Sirus through the sky. The companion of Procyon was discovered in the same way later in the last century. Within the last 25 years the work of Dr. van de Kamp and his associates has led to the discovery of six more such companion dwarf stars in the sun's neighborhood. One of these dwarfs, Ross 614, has a mass less than ten times that of Jupiter.

The next decade will be a good time for amateurs to attempt observing Sirus B because the greatest elongation of Sirus and its dim companion (recurring only every 50 years) will take place in 1970 with a separation of about eleven seconds of arc. Dr. van de Kamp gave us a tip on how to split the pair with a moderately sized telescope with aperture perhaps as small as only 6 inches. He suggested making a hexagonal diaphragm for the front of the telescope which produces a stellar diffraction image with six cusps and six companion or foils, and the alone dim double star can be made to appear in one of the latter by rotating the diaphragm. Dr. van de Kamp ended his talk by playing a composition of his own on the piano.

Leith Holloway