

MARYLAND - D. C. JUNIORS

Dr. Frederick Sperling gave an excellent lecture on "Life on other Planets" to the Md-DC Juniors on September 14th. The talk, which was tape recorded, was very different from that which he gave to the group on the same subject five years ago. The conclusions, however, remained the same. "What is true of Earth is also true of the rest of the Universe, therefore life must exist in many other places." While recent finds of organic chemicals in meteorites point to life having existed on a proto-asteroidal planet, he was skeptical of finding life on any other planet in our solar system.

The club has taken advantage of Mr. McCracken's generous offer of 103-0 film, and is currently testing it prior to sale. This and other types will shortly be made available in small rolls to NCA'ers who do not wish to invest in large quantities.

Committees on the Virginia system were set up, and the following assignments were made; Solar, Ray Finkleman; Lunar, Dour Richstone; Jupiter-Saturn, Butch Goodwin; Mercury, Venus, Mars, Ed Fenstermacher; Variable Stars, Byron Berman; photography, Ken Ritvo; aurorae and meteors, Norm Sperling; nebulae, Bob Sohn and Mark Reimers; double stars, Karen Teague and Herbie Hecker.

Our next meeting will not be in the newly found Cleveland Park Library because Dr. Robert Rhynsburger will show us around the six-inch transit circle at the Naval Observatory and explain his work there. The talk is scheduled for 2:00 PM starting from the main gate at Massachusetts and 34th. All juniors are, of course, invited for what promises to be an excellent and informative lecture.

Norman Sperling
MD-DC Junior Editor

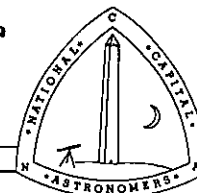
DIRECTORY AND DUES

Is your addressograph plate correct? Are you listed in the directory? Is your name spelled correctly? Is your telephone number current? If there are any corrections that need to be made in your listing, please contact Betty Lipscomb at 780-1928.

If you have not paid your dues by November first, you will not be listed in the directory. Please send your dues to the Treasurer, Mr. Arthur Etienne, 2001 Columbia Pike, Apt. 727, Arlington, Va. Phone 522-2909.

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OCTOBER 1963

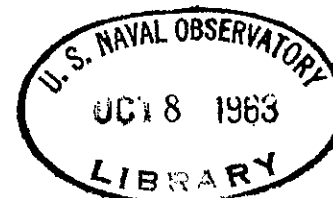
Vol. XXI No. 2

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

- 4 VIRGINIA JUNIORS meeting at the Westover Baptist Church, room 234, 1125 No. Patrick Henry Drive, Arl., Va. 8:00 P.M.
- 5 ATMOSPHERES OF MARS by Dr. Carl C. Kiess. Dept. of Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P.M. Business meeting follows.
- DINNER with the speaker, all members invited: Occidental Restaurant, 6:30 P.M. For reservations, call Mrs. Noble, Lu 2-6721, before noon on Saturday, October 5.
- 11 OBSERVING. Special observing session, 7:30 to 10:00 P.M., at Bob Wright's, 202 Piping Rock Drive, Colesville, Md. For directions, call Bob at Ev 4-6748.
- 12 MD-DC JUNIORS meet at 2:00 P.M. at the Naval Observatory, Gate, 34th Street and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, for a guided tour conducted by Dr. Robert Rhynsburger. Call Leith Holloway for details (362-1961)
- 12 VIRGINIA JUNIORS meeting at the Westover Baptist Church, room 234, 1125 No. Patrick Henry Drive, Arl., Va. 8:00 P.M.
- 19 DISCUSSION GROUP ON MAKUTOV TELESCOPES. Telescope on display. Leader: Hoy Walls. 8:15 P.M., Dept. of Commerce room 1851.
- 1,8,15, TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS at the Chevy Chase Community Center with Hoy Walls from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M.
- 4,11,18 MAKUTOV CLUB at the Chevy Chase Community Center with Hoy Walls from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M.

ATMOSPHERES OF MARS

At the October lecture meeting, Dr. Carl C. Kiess, Director of Spectroscopic Research Projects at Georgetown University, will tell of new findings which have been made about the atmospheres of Mars. These new findings will change most of our present notions about the habitability of the planet with regard to both lower and higher forms of life. New atmospheric constituents can explain most of the color changes which are observed on the planet.



Dr. Carl C. Kiess is currently Director of Spectroscopic Research Projects at Georgetown University. He was a member of the Naval Observatory eclipse party aboard the dirigible in Los Angeles, 1925; National Geographic Society eclipse expeditions, Brazil, 1940, 1947, and Maine, 1963. He received the Exceptional Service Award from the U. S. Department of Commerce in 1955. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Astronomical Society, the Optical Society, and is a fellow of the Physical Society.

Dr. Kiess has performed research on standard descriptions of atomic spectra, standard wave lengths of spectrum lines, analysis of energy states of atoms, cluster variable RR Lyrae, and red and infrared spectra of the chemical elements.

His publications include "Discovery and Observations of Comet b 1911 (Kiess)" Liek Observatory Bulletin; "The Cluster Type of Stellar Variation," "High Dispersion Spectra of Mars," "Description and Analysis of the Second Spectrum of Molybdenum, MoII," "Description and Analysis of the First Spectrum of Iodine," "Spectrum of Venus in the Violet and Near Ultraviolet," "High Dispersion Spectra of Jupiter," "A New Interpretation of Martian Phenomena," "Faint Lines in the Arc Spectrum of Iron," and "Description and Analysis of the Second Spectrum of Tantalum, TaII."

September lecture TOTAL ECLIPSE BY JET PLANE

A specially outfitted Douglas DC-8 jetliner raced the shadow of the moon 40,000 feet above Great Slave Lake in Northern Canada last July 20th, and although this plane lost the race, it lengthened the duration of totality of the solar eclipse to 142 seconds, 42 per cent longer than for observers, like Tom Wells, on the ground below. Among the sixty-three scientists aboard this plane were our September speaker, Dr. Jocelyn R. Hill, and her astronomy student, astronaut Scott Carpenter.

More than a dozen scientific teams on board obtained color photographs of the eclipsed sun and corona, studied air glow before, during, and after totality, timed contacts, and made many other observations. Besides taking pictures of the eclipse, Carpenter studied the corona so that he could later compare its appearance with what he may see in space some day. Most of the windows on the sunlit side of the plane were plugged up with telescopes and other equipment. Dr. Gill described the amusing gymnastics necessary for her and seven other observers to see and photograph the eclipse, forty-eight degrees high in the sky, through only two small windows in their front compartment of the plane.

We shall all look forward to reading the account of this eclipse flight in the November issue of the National Geographic Magazine.

Leith Holloway

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!

AUDIT REPORT

Income	
Member dues	1274.60
Publication Sales	87.00
Telescope Class	226.25
Philadelphia	293.05
Miscellaneous	32.53
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Balance from last year	1913.43
	232.53
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Total	2145.96
Expenses	
Bates	576.70
Business meeting	37.65
Publications	210.79
Dues refunds	28.80
Postage	31.93
Sky and Telescope	602.25
Philadelphia	223.73
Miscellaneous	22.50
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Total	1734.35
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Balance on hand	411.61

FORT HUNT PICNIC

On Saturday, October 12th, the NCA is planning to hold a picnic and star party at Fort Hunt. Those who attended our picnic in June will remember what a good time we had even though the sky was cloudy. Bring your picnic basket, family, and telescope and come on out to Fort Hunt. We have received permission to set up our telescopes on the parade ground, and so hope to have a good clear night for observing.

Follow the George Washington Memorial Parkway South, through Alexandria (where it is called Washington Street), on down toward Mount Vernon. The Fort Hunt Picnic area is well marked with signs from the Parkway. We have reserved Grove #7. The picnic will begin about 6:00 P.M. Come and bring your friends.

NEW MEMBERS

Regular
 Mrs. Peggy A. Dixon, 422 Hillsboro Dr., Silver Spring, Md.
 Ma 2-0242
 Walter Eugene Gunster III, 319 Everett Dormitory, University
 of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N. Car.
 Mrs. J. H. Miller, 7007 Clarendon Road, Bethesda, Md. Em 5-3990

Junior
 Wayne P. Mitchell, 4203 Arkansas Ave., NW, Washington, 11, D. C.
 Ra 3-2836
 Steve Shannon, Hollywood, Maryland. Fr 3-2128
 Carol Farlow, 113 Marlborough Road, Fairfax, Va. 273-5885
 Courtney Clifford, 3505 Battery Road, Alexandria, Va. 780-6316