

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY JUNIOR REPORT

On Friday, March 10, once again the P. G. C. juniors had a star party at Morgantown, Md. This time a record attendance of thirteen, the entire membership, was present. There were fifteen telescopes in the group: 3 - eight inches, 8 - six inches, 2 - four inches, a three inch, a Questar, and the P. G. C. junior astrocamera. Also present were 3 guitars, a banjo, and one flute.

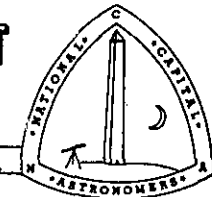
The main purpose of this particular star party was to increase our group's supply of astro-photos for the convention this summer. Also to give members the opportunity to shorten the time before they can enter the Messier Club.

Since the entire membership of the P. G. C. juniors was present at this latest star party we feel the results proved a genuine interest has developed in not only our particular junior group, but in all members of the junior division of the N. C. A.

At this time the P. G. C. juniors would like to express our thanks to our adult advisor, Ted Noble, for his constant generosity and enthusiasm. Also we thank him for the continuous use of his cottage at Morgantown, without which our star parties would not have been possible.

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STAR DUST



April 1967

Vol. XXIV No. 3

DR. CHOU TO ADDRESS NCA



We are pleased once again to have as guest speaker Dr. Kyong Choi Chou of the U.S. Naval Observatory. Dr. Chou will speak on intrinsic variables with emphasis on long period red variables. Dr. Chou received his education and degrees from Chosen Christian University, Seoul, Korea, Tusculum College, Greenfield, Tenn., The University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Our speaker has served as instructor and Assistant Head of the Physics Department at the Korean Military Academy. He was a research assistant at the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania.

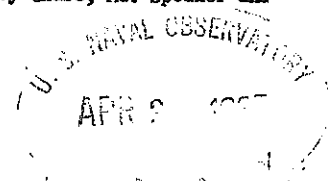
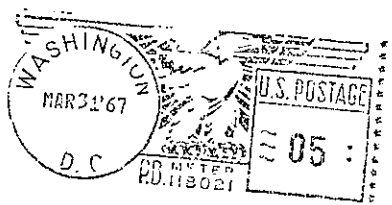
Dr. Kyong Choi Chou

CALENDAR

- APRIL1 Dr. Chou of the U.S. Naval Observatory to Speak on VARIABLE STARS at 8:15 P.M. in the Interior Department Auditorium on D. St. between 18th and 19th Sts. Business meeting after the Lecture.
- Dinner with the speaker at 6:15 P.M. For further information and reservations, please call: Mr. Anderson GI 6-6324.
- 5,12,19,26.... TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS with Bill Isherwood at the Prince George's County Board of Education Material Center, Bladensburg, Md.
- 7,14,21,28.... TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS at Chevy Chase Community Center from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. with Hoy Walls.
- 14,28..... TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS at McLean High School, McLean Va. with Grady Whitney at 8:30 P.M.
- 8 OBSERVING NIGHT AT THE 5-INCH on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory with Larry White from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M.
- 15 DISCUSSION GROUP at 8:15 P.M., Department of Commerce, Room 2062 - THE AMATEUR OBSERVES THE SUN
- 8 MD-DC JUNIORS meeting at 2:00 P.M. in the Chevy Chase Library, 8005 Conn. Ave. in Chevy Chase, Md. Speaker and topic to be announced.

Published monthly except August by and for members of the NATIONAL CAPITAL ASTRONOMERS' CLUB, a non-profit, public service organization promoting interest and scholarship in astronomy and the related sciences. President, Mr. John D. Stodart, 336-1341 Vice President, Mr. Robert Polster, 765-1921 Treasurer, Mr. Robert K. Walls, 813-2111 Secretary, Mrs. John Stodart & Mrs. Michael Jewell, Mrs. John Stodart's Typist, Mrs. Anna Lee Tuckery Photography and Production

Library,
Naval Observatory
Washington 25, D.C.



MARCH LECTURE - THE PULKOVO OBSERVATORY

The Pulkovo Observatory near Leningrad in the Soviet Union was founded in 1839 by Wilhelm Struve, the great grandfather of the late American astronomer, Otto Struve. Our March speaker, Dr. D. D. Polojentsev of the Pulkovo Observatory, traced its history from then to the present. The observatory had only four astronomers when founded. This number grew to 15 in 1915 and 50 in 1941. The observatory was completely destroyed during the last world war, but the Soviet government rebuilt it after the war using the same architecture as the old buildings had. The staff of the observatory now numbers about 700, half of which are women.

The 30-inch Alvan Clark refractor put into operation in 1885 was for awhile the largest telescope in the world. This instrument was replaced by a 26-inch refractor after the war. This large refractor has been used for double star measurements and for parallax determinations. Pulkovo astronomers have made 550,000 meridian circle observations of 12,000 stars using the transit telescopes at the observatory. The observatory's radio telescope in the shape of a huge parabolic arc was for a few years the largest short wave radio astronomy antenna in the world.

At latitude 60 degrees north Pulkovo has about 100 nights during which some observing can be done. Even at the summer solstice they can get four hours of good transit circle observing each clear night. City lights of Leningrad affect photographic work only in the northern sky. The high latitude favors work in solar physics because of the low day-night temperature contrast. However, there are no very large telescopes at Pulkovo. Galaxy observations are made by large instruments in the Crimea far to the south.

Sky and Telescope published an interesting article on the Pulkovo Observatory in its July 1962 issue. Dr. Polojentsev's beautiful color slides of the observatory showed that the site gets an ample supply of snow and cold each winter.

----- Leith Holloway

MESSIER OBSERVERS

Bob Wright will have available again at the next meeting, for those interested, copies of OBSERVE - A Guide to the Messier Objects, by Edward A. Holyoke.

This publication is a very fine quick reference manual for the occasional observer or for those interested in establishing a regular observational program. The Messier objects are grouped by season and coordinates are given as well as magnitudes. A description of each object accompanies each entry to assist the observer and to point out interesting features. A log is featured for those who may wish to record their observations.

NCA CONVENTION REGISTRANTS

NCA members who have registered already will not receive confirmation from the convention committee until the final copy on activities is released.

NEW MEMBERS

The following applied for membership at the March meeting:

Joint.....Harold W. and Rose C. Croulet	Elmo and Mora Keel
3512 So. Utah St.	4810 Fourth Avenue
Arlington, Va. 22206	Oxon Hill, Md. 20021

RegularCharles Cooke
2070 Belmont Road N.W. #302
Washington, D.C. 20009

Cont'd. on page 3

NEW MEMBERS - Cont'd.

Regular	William Holloway	
	4331 4th St. S. E.	
	Washington, D. C. 20032	
Junior	Christian A. Acussat	Alan Gottlieb
	221 Battle St. S.W.	10122 Renfrew Road
	Vienna, Va. 22180	Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

NCA SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Mrs. Margaret Noble reports the following Science Fair Awards:

Fairfax, Prince William - Quantico Section of Northern Va. Regional Science Fair Woodson High School - March 11, 1967

NCA Award (Junior Division)

Debbie Meloy
4202 SALKIRK Drive
Fairfax, Va. 22030
Student: Grade 8 at Robert Frost Jr. High School
Project: "Spectroscopic Analysis of the Stars"

NCA Award (Senior Division)

Jack Woodside
9125 Christopher Street
Fairfax, Virginia (Phone 273-2489)
Student: Grade 10 at Woodson High School
Project: "A Method of Recording the Activity of Variable Stars"

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Alexandria - Arlington- Falls Church Section of the Northern Virginia Science Fair - Wakefield High School

COMMENDATION by NCA to:

Edison Engle
1024 N. Livingston Street
Arlington 5, Va. (Phone JE 3-7307)
Student: Grade 10 at Washington and Lee High School
Project: "Solar Observation with Radio Telescope."

(This student received the NCA Award in 1966, however, this project was of such high quality NCA wished to recognize the student with an NCA Commendation. This student was awarded 2nd Prize of this entire fair)

NCA Award (Junior Division)

David G. Smith
1921 N. Madison Street
Arlington, Va. (Phone KE 8-5074)
Student: Grade 9 at Swanson Junior High School
Project: "A Photographic Study of the Stars"

NCA Award (Senior Division)

David Crane
821 Ridge Place
Falls Church, Virginia (phone JE 4-2944)
Student: Grade 11 at George Mason High School
Project: "Catadioptric Telescope"

SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

Members interested in serving as Science Fair Judges please contact: John Stolarik 336-4321 or Margaret Noble(301) 721-2225