

July 1, 1968 to Sept. 30, 1968		Treasurer Jerome Schnall	
Income		Outgo	
Dues (153 members)	1094.03	Sky & Telescope	594.00
Observ Habk, Tmtble	3.40	Postmaster, DC, imprint fee	15.00
Total income	1097.45	" Bulk mailing fee	30.30
Balance June 30, 1968	271.53	" Deposit for postage	14.00
Total Income	1368.98	Postage (treasurer)	12.00
Less Outgo	735.23	Supplies (president)	2.25
Cash Balance on Hand	633.75	Speaker (Dinner, Sept)	2.71
		" (Honoraum)	25.00
		Star Dust	35.67
		Publicity, Sept	4.01
		Total Outgo	735.23

New Members

John P. Allen	8000 Marion St., N. Forestville, Md 20028	736/7097
Dr. Albert Dimazels	4815 Linnean Ave. NW, Wash, DC 20008	W06/2855
Alfred P. Feldman	1440 Locust Rd NW, Wash, DC 20012	RA3/5415
Miss Estelle A. Finkle	1316 Fenwick La. Apt 1012, S.S., Md 20910	589/3621
Robt V & Mary Ann Russo	11825 Prestwick Rd Potomac, Md 20854	299/7396
New Juniors:		
David Culbertson	6202 Berkshire Dr, Camp Springs, Md 20031	449/6477
Alan Fischler	303 Bradley Ave. Rockville, Md 20851	424-8399
Donald E. Heimpel	4705 Marie St. Beltsville, Md 20705	937/7561
David Leupp	624 N. 18th St., Arl. Va. 22205	534-9573
Tom Olson	1807 Mt. Pleasant Dr., McLean, Va. 22101	356/5154
Roger D. Sisler	10004 Emack Rd., Beltsville, Md 20705	937-7648

Leith Holloway sends his address: Northgate Apts 135B, Cranbury, N.J. 08512. We wish him good observing and hope that his many friends in NCA will write to him.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
43402
Wash., D.C.

National Capital Astronomers, Inc.
Astronomical League of Wash, DC
George E. Gould, Pres., NCA
5308 29th Pl., Hillcrest Hts. Md. 20031
Tel. 425/8777

Library,
Naval Observatory
Washington 25, D.C.

20025

"ASTRONOMICAL TEACHING and PLANETARIUM OPERATIONS in the Wash, D.C. Area"
IS THE TOPIC FOR THE NOVEMBER 2nd, 1968 MEETING

A panel of three speakers makes our Nov. 2nd, meeting a novel approach. Leading the panel is our past president NCA, Margaret Noble of Prince Georges' County Schools; Alan Breittler, of Montgomery Junior College; and William Fagin of Fairfax County Schools- They will discuss methods, problems and rewards of teaching astronomy and operating small planetarium installations.

Questions from the audience will be encouraged as to interests of age groups and what these various audiences find most difficult to understand in astronomy subjects. In addition each of the speakers will give illustrated demonstrations of their favorite teaching devices.

Margaret Noble, Director of P.G. Cty. Planetarium has taught in both D.C. and P.G. Cty. Alan Breittler, is Planetarium Director at Montgomery Jr. College. He is working on his doctorate in Education, He is a member of the Am. Inst. of Physics. William Fagin, Planetarium Director of Fairfax Cty. School System for the past 7 years. He has a masters in education from the Univ. of Virginia.

Remember::::: Our next meeting is Nov. 30th There will not be any meeting on Dec 7th. Our speaker at the Nov. 30th meeting will be Roland Cumberland who makes the Questar Optics. He will have on hand both the 3.5" and the new 7" Questars for everybody to observe with. Remember no meeting in December.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- Nov. 2nd 6:15PM Dinner with the speakers at Bassins, 14th & Pa. Ave. NW. Call Geo. Gould 423/8777 or Bill Winkler 736/3553 for reservations.
- 7:00PM Juniors meeting at Dept of Commerce Auditorium
- 8:15PM Regular meeting at Dept of Commerce Auditorium, 14th & E ,NW
- Nov. 16th 8:15PM Discussion group, Rm 2062, Dept of Comm. 14th & E ,NW
Round table discussion on astrophotography. Bring your problems and best photographs. a 35mm slide projector will be available.
- Nov. 30th The owner of Cumberland Precision Optics will speak on manufacturing the Questar optics. Mr. Cumberland is going to have a tour of his plant Saturday morning. Please contact Bill Winkler or Geo. Gould for reservations. Later that evening we will have dinner with the speaker at Bassins. Call for reservations.
- Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Telescoping making class at Palisades Community Center, 7:30-10PM with Jerry Schnall.

NCA October Meeting Speaker

Dr. Stephen H. Knowles of NRL spoke on radio astronomical measurements of the astronomical unit utilizing galactic radio sources and pulsars. Applications to the study of general relativity were also outlined: it being noted that these methods are the only ones permitting direct application of Kepler's Law to general relativity.

Dr. Knowles' talk resulted in the liveliest question period NCA has had in many months. Reported by W.R.W. "Senior Astro Reporter"

OBSERVING AT THE 3'
WITH LARRY WHITE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22nd

The Alvin Clark Refractor

A five inch refractor is maintained at the Naval Observatory for the benefit of members of NCA, who do not own a telescope, or have a suitable place for observing. NCA and Naval Observatory regulations are explained to new members and the importance of keeping good relations with the observatory staff is stressed. The bright planets including Uranus are observed. Messier objects are searched for, using star charts. Several of the brightest asteroids are identified using the B.D. chart. Regular and restricted passes to use the Clark refractor may be applied for by members of NCA after being certified by Larry White and his committee.

Prince Georges County Juniors Hold Two Meetings.

On Sept 22nd, at the home of Ted Noble, it was announced that Geoffrey Hornseth will be the new PG Cty Jr advisor. Darrel Freund reported on the use of Virginia Beach Area as a site for the total solar eclipse, March 7th, 1970. All juniors were reminded that science fair time is coming around again. Now is the time to start planning and to build your display. (letter signs in a professional manner, it adds to the overall professional approach)

On Sunday Oct. 20th at the City Materials Center in Bladensburg the second meeting of the PG Jrs. was held. Darrel Freund reported that the Va. Beach area offered both electricity and shelter for the proposed observation of the total eclipse in 1970. It is proposed that the group conduct several observation programs to familiarize members with the correct techniques. After the discussions the juniors had a brief session of solar observation with the Countys' excellent Questar telescope. Meeting ended with a discussion on various elementary astrophotographic techniques.

NEXT MEETING OF P.G. Jrs. to be held November 10th.

Reported by Robert Pariseau "Astro Jr. Reporter"

MINUTES BY NORA KEEL, SEC.

The business meeting of NCA was held on Saturday, October 5, 1968 after the regular meeting with President George Gould presiding.

Bill Winkler announced the program for the next meeting. There will be a panel of 3 people, one from Fairfax, Virginia; one from Prince Georges County, and one from Montgomery Junior College, Maryland to speak on teaching astronomy in the schools and the concepts that are the most difficult to get across.

George Gould asked for volunteers to serve on committees. He also announced the names of the new members.

On Saturday, October 19, 1968, there will be the annual picnic at Manassas Battlefield Park. The park will be kept open for us and the picnic will be before sundown after which there will be telescope viewing. In case of rain the picnic will be rescheduled for Saturday, October 26, 1968.

Jerry Schmall announced the names of the applicants for membership in NCA. There were 5 regular, one joint, and 5 junior applications. He also gave a treasurer's report. There is a balance in the NCA treasury of \$604.00 as of September 30. There were 153 members who had renewed. Mr. Walls had sent \$400.00 from the telescope making class and Leith Holloway had sent \$10.00 to help for the Juniors. A treasurer's report will appear in Stardust.

Jerry Hudson and Bob Bolster will be observing at the Naval Observatory on October 9 and 10.

Bob Wright had received a letter from Hoy Walls and read excerpts from it. Mr. Walls wrote that he would make a final financial report for NCA.

The meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted,

Nora E. Keel
Nora E. Keel, Secretary

WHAT DID YOU OBSERVE?
BY BOB WRIGHT

Space held for future copy

Short Notes:: from the president

Have you looked at your November issue of Sky and Telescope? Read the article about the AAA at the Hayden Planetarium. Its a wonderful story of the devotion of amateurs in the promotion of telescope making, observations and building interest in astronomy. Hans Christian Adamson was a wonderful person. When I was going to High School in 1935 my favorite places to visit on Saturday afternoons were the Hayden Planetarium and the Modern Museum of Science and Technology. (you pressed a button and everything worked.)

After reading this article, please tell me what programs sound most appealing to your interests. Also tell me if you would like to work on a committee or head the group that would have a lot of fun and enjoyment doing whatever it is most appealing to you.

I have talked to Father Heyden at Georgetown regarding the proposed Washington Planetarium that never got off the ground. We were supposed to get a room in its basement or someplace convenient where we could have our mirror grinding classes and other optical equipment facilities. Its still not off the ground. I asked Father Heyden why our NCA wasn't a member of the Washington Academy of Sciences, since we do much more than most of the professional societies in scientific observation of natural phenomena, such as variable stars, occultations, Messier objects, the teaching of optics through telescope making, etc.,.

You know what? Father Heyden agreed with me and said he would do something about it. I received a letter a week after our discussion and Father Heyden said that he will bring up the matter of our being admitted to the Academy at its next Board meeting. Let us pray.

In reviewing the duties of our club officers, it appears to me that too much of the work is concentrated in a few hands. This does not allow a good thing to grow. Your president would like to see the Constitution and By-Laws changed so that we would elect three Vice Presidents as follows: 1st VP for programs and discussions; 2nd VP for Membership; 3rd VP for Property management. We have equipment, supplies worth quite a bit of money. We need one person to concentrate on the many sources of potential membership. And our present VP has enough to do just planning our meetings, discussion groups, observing parties etc.,. In addition there could very well be a 4th Vice President in charge of the Junior Division. The constitution should be amended to allow these officers to serve at least four to eight years. Their term of office would be for one year and they would have to be elected each year. But some members could do an outstanding job if they could be elected for a few years and be able to establish a going program. The President will appoint a Constitutional Committee to meet and discuss this matter. Anyone desiring to be on this committee please sign your name and address at the next meeting with the Secretary. If you can not make the meeting please write to me at my home address.

See you this Saturday Nov. 2nd. End of short notes.

George E. Gould, pres. NCA