

" OUR CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF QUASI-STELLAR OBJECTS "The Feb 1 Meeting of the National Capital Astronomers

The speaker is Dr. Thomas A. Mathews, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Maryland. Unfortunately Dr. Mathews had not sent us his resume at publishing deadline so we can only emphasize that he is quite well known in Astronomy circles for his work in this area. We should enjoy an excellent talk.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Saturday Feb. 1, 1969

6:15 PM Dinner with the Speaker at Bassins, 14th and E Sts. NW Call Bill Winkler, (h) 736 3553 or (o) 440 7144 for reservations.
 6:30PM Short Trustees meeting during the dinner with speaker. Trustees Margaret Noble, Sterling Anderson and James Sharpe please attend.

NO REGULAR JUNIOR MEETING BEFORE THE NCA MEETING Feb 1 !!!

7:30PM Current divisional and regional officers of Junior Div. will meet at Auditorium with adult advisors. Phone Ted Noble 301-721/2225 if you cannot attend.

8:15PM Regular meeting at Dept of Commerce Auditorium, 14th & E Sts. NW

Telescope Making Classes Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25. Materials Center, Bladensburg, Md. 779-7946, Ted Noble, Instructor,

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 Palisades Community Center, Wash, D.C. Jerry Schnall, Instructor (h) EM 2 8872 (o) 557 3144

5'' at Naval Observatory Friday 8-10PM Feb 14 Larry White (h) 461-9681

Feb 15 8:15PM Discussion Group, Dept of Commerce, Jerry Hudson & Sheila Duck
 "Observation and Theories of the Green Flash" (is it a UFO ?)
 This is a very controversial subject in astronomy. Bring an open mind.

Your new editor is a new member, Dr. John Legowik of 3513 Randolph Rd, Wheaton, Md., 20902 phone 946-8996. Dr. Legowik is a pathologist with the Armed Forces Pathological Institute. He is also a Capt. in the U.S. Army. Astronomically speaking, he has built his own 6" reflector and is very interested in observing and other related subjects in this field. Do to the fact that our copy didn't come in until this past week, Dr. Legowik will start his editing with the March issue. The deadline for the March issue will be Feb. 10th. Send all material to Dr. Legowik. Call him if there will be a delay and you would therefore miss the Feb. 10th deadline. Let's give John a chance to get out the new Stardust.

Col. Opie one of our newer members who is retiring from government service for the second time (this time GSA), has volunteered to set up our property management program and supervise the storage of our club equipment. In addition, I have appointed Col. Opie, to be the chairman of NCA Observatory Locating Committee.

In talking to Larry White, our Observing Chairman of the 5" at the Naval Observatory, he agreed with me that other locations with better viewing (less city lights, haze, smog, etc.,) would offer to the serious member an opportunity to accomplish better observing and to do astro-photography that cannot be achieved at the 5".

Col. Opie will arrange with members of his committee to visit various locations within 50 to 75 miles of Washington, D.C., to determine its viewing benefits, accessibility, lease or purchase of ground, building codes for erecting facilities etc.,. It will be up to the trustees to accept or reject any plans, to enter into any subsequent agreement for the purchase of any property, equipment, leasing according to our constitution and by-laws.

I hope that this administration will be lucky enough to find and recommend at least one or more locations in Montgomery County, Fairfax and Prince Georges Counties. Most of our members live in the urban areas surrounding Washington, D.C. If good locations can be found and NCA achieves a goal of one or more outlying observatories it would be the greatest shot in the arm that this club needs to attract potential members.

I had hoped that Ted Noble would have sent his constitution and by-laws report in so that it could be published. But I guess he wants to give it personally at our Feb. meeting.

We need a volunteer editor to take charge of our membership roster. We would hope to get it set up and printed and distributed by the March meeting. In addition Mrs. Nora Keel has had to relinquish her elected position of club secretary. We are sorry to see Nora leave the club activities and wish her well. This means that we need a new secretary. Please stand in line so that you can be interviewed by the Trustees. Contact the President at 423-8777 if you are interested in working with a fine bunch of men and women that make up the membership of our club. (this includes our juniors who are a credit to their families and our community for the interest and cooperation they show in NCA activities.)

If you are a member of the Washington Academy of Sciences or a member of one of the following affiliated Societies, please contact Bob Bolster at our next meeting and give him your name and the affiliation. We need this information to send in NCA's application for membership in this Society. If you are a member of any technical or scientific society, please tell Bob and he will check our lists of affiliated societies that are members of the Wash. Academy of Sciences.

George E. Gould, President

New Members:

Vincent D. Bradshaw, Jr. _____ 305 E. Williamsburg Rd. Sterling, Va. 22170—471-1355
Olie K & Ruth M Schmidt _____ 5514 Randolph St. Hyattsville, Md. 20784—927/0541

Junior Members:

Steve Bilanow _____ 7002 Arandale Rd. Bethesda, Md 20034—365-5468
David H. Meade _____ 3331 Tennyson St, NW Wash, DC 20015—WO6/4614

Junior Division Activities for the New Year

The first Junior Divisional meeting of 1969 saw the organization of several new undertakings in addition to the usual activities. New ideas included a library system, a field trip to Philadelphia and a visual catalogue of sky objects as seen through small telescopes, to be compiled as a club project.

The proposed Library System would involve a co-ordinated lending of astronomical literature between members. This would not require an accumulation of books in a single spot.

A field trip to Fels Planetarium in Philadelphia has been mentioned before as a method of fund-raising for the Juniors. It would be possible, however, to make this trip on a club interest basis only. The trip could also include a visit to nearby Edmund Scientific Co.

Perhaps the most interesting proposal of all is the unique idea of compiling an observer's guide based on our observations through our telescopes. This proposal gives each member an opportunity to contribute and already has the support of the Senior Division. It is hoped that such a project, tried first on regional levels, would lead to a co-ordination of activities within the Junior sections.

Finally, some notes on a topic not discussed at the general meeting. I have received word on the proposed field trip to the 26" refractor at the Naval Observatory. As week-end dates are not offered, the most probable date for the trip will be Tuesday, February 24. Everyone interested in going on the trip must attend the next general meeting on February 1st where more details will be available.

HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ken Crowley

The January Speaker

Dr. Frank Kerr of the University of Maryland spoke to NCA about interstellar hydrogen in the Milky Way and neighboring galaxies. Spectacular all-sky photographs of our galaxy were shown. Dr. Kerr emphasized the importance of Southern Hemisphere observatories in these studies. Studies of irregular galaxies of several types enable man to grasp the intricate hydrogen structure of the arms of galaxies and their environs.

Astro-reporter W. Winkler

Feb 9 2PM
SUNDAY →

PGC Jrs. meeting at the Materials Center. Bring cameras and Astrophotos for discussion of results. Drawings of Messier Objects will be discussed.
Geoffrey Hornseth, Advisor

April 26, 1969

Spring Trip to Edmund Scientific in Barrington, NJ and the Franklin Institute including the Fels Planetarium, in Philadelphia, Pa. Buses depart 8:15AM and return 9:15PM. The Junior Division needs your support on this venture. More details at the Feb. meeting. Bring your check or money order payable to NCA for \$8.50 to reserve your seat for the April 26 trip. ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS ARE INVITED, ADULTS AS WELL AS JUNIORS. Experience with other trips have shown that all attending had a wonderful time.

Jr. Division News. Ted Noble

1. Virginia Jrs. advisor is Tom O'Brien, phone RE 5 1267
2. Jr Div is producing a Messier Catalogue for small instruments, Miss Sheila Duck, MdDC advisor is the adult coordinator for the project.
3. Jr. Div. power structure to be revised. Current organization to be replaced by Council, consisting of adult advisors and one Jr representative from each division. Council will meet to conduct divisional business and will report to the group at scheduled group meetings. Divisional meetings will be limited to three per year. Change to be effective March 1, 1969
4. No Junior Meeting to be held prior to the main Feb. meeting. There will be a current divisional and regional officers meeting at 7:30PM before the regular NCA meeting.

National Capital Astronomers, Inc.
Astronomical League of Wash., DC.
George E. Gould, Pres., NCA
5308 29th Pl., Hillcrest Hts. Md. 20031
Tel. 423/8777

| |
|--|
| Non-Profit Org. U. S. Postage P A I D 4 3 4 0 2 Wash., D. C. |
|--|

Miss Mabel Sterns
3025 Ontario Road, N. W. Apt. 503
Washington, D. C. 20009