

★ STAR DUST



Volume XXXVI

September 1979

Number 1

KRIMIGIS TO DISCUSS JOVIAN MAGNETOSPHERE



DR. KRIMIGIS

Dr. Stamatios M. Krimigis of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory will open the 1979-1980 lecture series at the September 8 meeting of National Capital Astronomers. He will discuss the hot magnetosphere of Jupiter and its origin.

Krimigis received his B. S. in physics from the University of Minnesota, his M. S. in physics from the University of Iowa, and in 1965, the Ph. D. in physics from the University of Iowa, where he taught physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy until joining the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in 1968.

As Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator on many space probes, he has published scores of papers on fundamental work on the magnetic, ionic, and radiative environments of the planets. He has served as a consultant

and member of numerous committees and working groups with the National Academy of Sciences, NASA, JPL, and universities, and as Referee for various journals. At present he is Group Supervisor, Space Physics and Instrumentation Group, and a member of the Principal Staff of APL.

He is a member of the American Physical Society, the American Geophysical Union, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Sigma Xi.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR — *The public is welcome.*

Friday, September 7, 14, 21, 28, 7:30 PM — Telescope-making classes at American University, McKinley Hall basement. Information: Jerry Schnall, 362-8872.

Saturday, September 8, 6:15 PM — Dinner with the speaker at the Thai Room II, 527 13th Street, NW. Reservations unnecessary.

Saturday, September 8, 8:15 PM — NCA monthly meeting at the Department of Commerce Auditorium, 14th and E streets, NW. Dr. Krimigis will speak.

Saturday, September 15, 8:00 PM — *Exploring the Sky*, presented jointly by NCA and the National Park Service. Glover Road south of Military Road, NW, near Rock Creek Nature Center. Planetarium if cloudy. Information: Bob McCracken, 229-8321.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Astronomers:

Although NCA held no regular meetings this summer, your new Officers and Trustees have been busy planning for the coming year's activities. This letter will bring you up to date on some of the significant events of the last two months.

Because of the demands of job and school, Sharon Edmonds was unable to continue as NCA Secretary. While accepting her resignation with genuine regret, I am glad to be able to report that Sharon will continue to be an active member of NCA.

Fran Trexler has been appointed Secretary to fill the vacancy created by Sharon's resignation. The Trustees and I are grateful for Fran's willingness to step in, and for the contribution she has already made towards updating the membership list.

We now anticipate that the Celestron-14 telescope will be shipped by the end of August. Contributions to the instrument fund will continue to be welcome and needed for maintenance, insurance, etc.

An Audit Committee has been formed to review NCA's books and a financial report is expected within a few weeks.

Dues notices were sent out in early August. If you have not already renewed, please remember that a prompt response will help to ensure that your *Sky and Telescope* subscription continues uninterrupted.

If you are interested in participating in any of the various NCA activities you are invited to call me at (301) 776-6721.

Our first lecture of the season is scheduled for September 8, the *second* Saturday, because of Labor Day. I look forward to seeing you all then.


President

GRAZING OCCULTATION EXPEDITIONS PLANNED

Dr. David Dunham is organizing observers for the following grazing lunar occultations in September. For further information call Dave at 585-0989.

UT Date	Time	Place	Vis Mag	Pcnt Sunlit	Cusp Angle	Min Aper
09-12-79	05:23	Frederick, MD	6.4*	60	8N	5 cm
09-13-79	09:34	Thornburg, VA	5.3*	48	7N	5 cm
09-14-79	07:31	Clarksburg, MD	8.1	39	8N	10 cm
09-14-79	08:25	Frederick, MD	8.2	39	8N	10 cm

*Double stars; combined visual magnitudes shown.

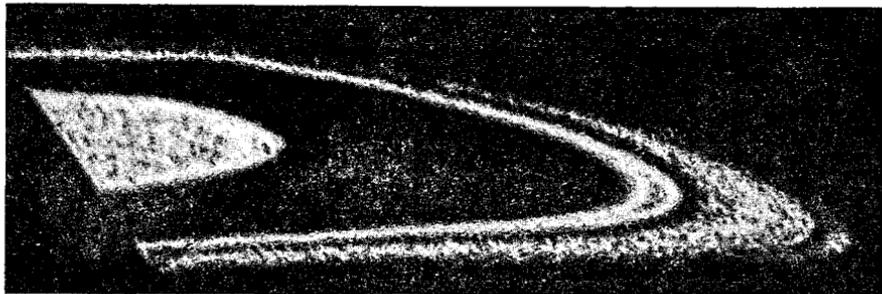
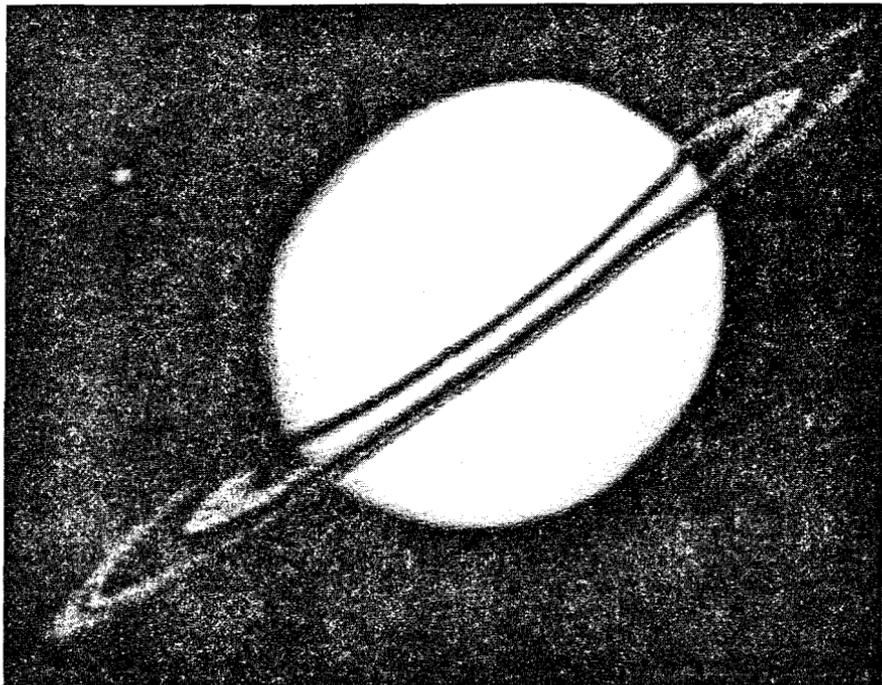
SMITHSONIAN OFFERS CLASSES

The Smithsonian Resident Associate Program will offer classes in archaeoastronomy and cosmology in October and November.

The archaeoastronomy classes, taught by Von Del Chamberlain and John B. Carlson, will meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM for 8 weeks, October 9 through November 27. The cost for Resident Associate members is \$44.00; for others, \$62.00.

Classes in cosmology will meet on Mondays at 6:00 PM for 8 weeks, October 15 through December 10. Speakers will be Dr. Noel Hinners, Dr. James Felten, Dr. Carl Fichtel, Dr. Floyd Stecker, Dr. Carrol Crannell, Dr. Herbert Frey, Dr. Gerald Soffen, Dr. Jacob Trombka, Dr. Mary Jo Smith.

Fee for the course will be \$50.00 for Resident Associate members, and \$68.00 for others.



PIONEER SATURN MAKES HISTORIC APPROACH

NASA's Pioneer Saturn, formerly Jupiter Pioneer 11, was launched in March 1973, reached Jupiter in December 1974, and was retargeted to Saturn. Shortly before its September 1, 1979 flyby of Saturn, Pioneer's imaging polarimeter scanned these unique views of Saturn and its ring system. They show the rings from their shadow side — an aspect impossible from the Earth.

The missing B ring, the brightest in an Earth view, occupies the wide gap. On the other hand, the C ring, difficult to see from the Earth, is quite prominent here, just inside the B ring.

The side-looking photopolarimeter uses the 5-rps spin of the spacecraft to scan the scene with its .03-degree field. The beam is split into orthogonal polarizations; each resulting beam is further split into red- and blue-filtered channels and photoelectric detectors. The resulting pixels are digitized for transmission to Earth.

The many other experiments on Pioneer are expected to yield a wealth of new data on Saturn, fulfilling Pioneer's mission as a pathfinder for Voyager, which will follow with a more detailed survey of the planet.

EXCERPTS FROM THE IAU CIRCULARS

1. July — Weinberger and Auner, University Observatory and Astronomical Institute, Innsbrück, found images of a previously unreported comet on plates of the Palomar Sky Survey made on February 11, 1954.

2. July 26 — C. Kowal, Hale Observatories, discovered a dwarf galaxy in Sagittarius which is probably a member of the local group. Of 17th magnitude and 1.5 in diameter, it is resolved into stars on the discovery plates taken with the 122-cm Schmidt telescope.

3. August 13 — Johnston and Buhagiar, Perth Observatory, discovered a 13th-magnitude comet in Virgo. It is believed to be Periodic Comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 3, not seen since its discovery in 1930. rnb

FLASH AT PRESSTIME — IT'S HERE!



NCA's new 15-inch Celestron telescope has finally arrived.

All parts and accessories were received in good order at James Trexler's home, where the system was assembled for functional checks. Here, NCA President Mary Ellen and Benson Simon examine the instrument before transporting it to Hopewell Observatory where some preliminary optical tests were made.

Visually, imaging was impressive, and the stellar diffraction disks seemed reasonable, although the conditions did not permit really critical evaluation.

The optical system is now being bench tested by Bob Bolster.

A further announcement may be expected at the September 8 meeting.

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WASHINGTON, D.C.



Published eleven times yearly for NATIONAL CAPITAL ASTRONOMERS, INCORPORATED, a non-profit, public-service organization promoting interest and education in astronomy and related sciences. President, Mary Ellen Simon. STAR DUST: Robert H. McCracken, 5120 Newport Avenue, Washington, DC 20016. Deadline: 15th of preceding month.

FIRST CLASS MAIL