

NEW MEMBERS.

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AMATEUR OBSERVATION OF VENUS should be stimulated by the highly interesting lecture given in February which pointed out that here is a great opportunity for amateurs to carry out observations which may very well lead to new and important discoveries regarding this mysterious planet.

HOLLYWOOD CONVENTION REPORTING COMPANY has sent a notice regarding publication of lectures given at the First Annual Conference of Western Amateur Astronomers in 1949. The list of lectures sounds very interesting indeed. The cost is \$5.00. The address is 5410 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 606, Los Angeles 36, California.

MISS GRACE SCHOLZ has copies of the report on the Astronomical League Convention in Cleveland last July.

DR. BART J. BOK has an interesting article entitled, "The Milky Way," in the February Scientific American.

Jewell Boling, 1717 P Street, N. W. DU 2969

STAR DUST
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MARCH CALENDAR

- March 4 Sat. "Radio Emission from the Sun," by Dr. John F. Hagen, Head of the R. F. Research Branch, Radio Division, Naval Research Laboratory. 8 p.m. Commerce Department Auditorium.
- March 15 Wed. Regular observation and instruction night at the NCA Alvin Clark 5-inch.
- March 18 Sat. Discussion Group, subject to be announced at meeting March 4.
- March 25 Sat. Junior meeting (notice will be sent to juniors).
- May 6 Sat. Middle East Region Conventions of the Astronomical League, Norfolk Va. Make your plans to attend.

Every clear Wednesday night, open house Naval Observatory, 8 till 11 p. m.

Every Friday night, 7-10 p. m. Telescope making class, Roosevelt High School, 13th and Upshur, N. W. Room 313. Miss Irene Warthen, instructor.

"RADIO EMISSION FROM THE SUN". The sun itself affects radio transmission on earth so that any variation in the emission of the sun results in variation in the atmosphere and causes magnetic disturbances on earth affecting radio transmission.

By use of radar equipment, techniques have been developed whereby radio waves radiating from the sun have been measured. The study of the intensity of radiation at various wave lengths resulted in a better understanding of the sources of radiation from the sun and will probably lead to ability to predict the variation in the sun's activities and its terrestrial effect.

Dr. John F. Hagen, Head of the R. F. Research Branch, Radio Division, Naval Research Laboratory, will discuss the techniques used with radar equipment for measuring the radio emission from the sun. Information gleaned about the sun through the analysis of these measurements will also be discussed.

--Abraham Robinson, Publicity Chairman

NCA DINNER. The date selected was February 21. Since STAR JUST must be in final form before this date, the best we can do is to say that we hope all of you were there. In case you were not there, the rest of us enjoyed delicious fried chicken, with all the rest of the things that make a good meal, including cherry pie, special for the occasion. The program was scheduled to include Dr. Wells and his magic, something special in the way of games, and a couple of five minute talks, just to make it more like a banquet.

Bob Wright, President

DISCUSSION GROUP. In January we again started the discussion groups, and were glad to welcome a total of twenty (a far cry from the three out for the last technical discussion group). A very interesting program on cameras and celestial photography was very ably handled by Bob Rhynsberger, James Crowell, and John Lankford. Lyle Johnson, being unable to attend to help with the program, sent up special delivery slides, photos, and two

books as well as a letter explaining several unique methods of using your present camera. It was a very interesting and instructive evening.

PROJECTOR. The trustees of the NCA decided to purchase the projector used at our January meeting (also February). It is now the property of the NCA and is available for all of our meetings, and for the use of our members for special projects. We hope that in the near future we can obtain a screen of suitable size for our meetings. We are indebted to Miss Irene Warthen for the screen we are now using.

ROYAL CANADIAN HANDBOOK. A supply of thirty of these very instructive booklets was ordered last fall by the treasurer. They were late in arriving but were all sold within a few minutes at the February meeting.

A LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED from Mr. Paul Watson, Acting Director of the Maryland Academy of Science, thanking us for our contribution of ten dollars toward the publication of the Graphic Time Table of the Heavens.

VARIABLE STAR GAZING. The program of variable star observation, carried out by several members of the National Capital Astronomers goes on. This is accomplished with the help of our 5" refractor telescope located in one of the small buildings in the Naval Observatory grounds. This is one of the definite contributions that amateur astronomers make in the field of astronomical research.

All results are sent to the Association of Variable Star Observers at Harvard Observatory. You are invited to join the National Capital Astronomers and assist in the observations. For information come to the meetings or call Miles Davis NCrth 7724.