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STAR DUST

Vol. XXVI No. 5

NCA WASH DC

"NEUTRAL HYDROGEN IN AND NEAR THE MILKY WAY GALAXY"

THE JANUARY 4th MEETING OF NATIONAL CAPITAL ASTRONOMERS

Our speaker for Saturday evening January 4th, 1969, will be Dr. Frank J. Kerr, Professor of Astronomy, University of Maryland. Dr. Kerr will discuss studies of interstellar neutral hydrogen in the Milky Way galaxy and in our neighboring systems. This will include the Magellanic Clouds, through observations of the 21 cm. wavelength spectral line radiated by hydrogen molecules.

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CALENDER OF EVENTS

Saturday, January 4th, 1969

- 6:15 PM Dinner with the Speaker at Bassins, 14th and Pa. Ave. NW, Wash. D.C.
Call V.P. Bill Winkler, 736-3553 or George Gould, 423-8777 for reservation
If you forget to call, come anyway. We like a crowd.

- 7:00 PM Juniors Meeting at Dept. of Commerce Auditorium, Ted Noble, Sheila Duck

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

- Jan. 18th 8:15PM Discussion Group, room 2062, Dept of Commerce.
Topic, "Contributions of amateur observing to professional astronomy".
The work of NCA members in ALPO, AAVSO, and Lunar Graze Occultation programs will be discussed. We hope that all active observers and those interested in becoming so will contribute to this discussion.

- Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Telescope Making Classes, Palisades Community Center, Wash. D.C.
Jerry Schnall, Instructor (h) EM2 8872 (o) 557 3144

- Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 35 Telescope Making Classes, Materials Center, Bladensburg, Md.
Ted Noble Instructor 721-2225

- Jan 17th 8:30PM Observing at the 5" with Larry White

New Members

Ernst E. Steinbrecher — 9122 Friars Rd., Bethesda, Md. 20034 — 469-8760

Junior Members

Andrew W. Bennett — 4232 Round Hill Rd. Silver Sp, Md. 20906 — 946/9420

John Fraser — 1253 4th St., S.W. Wash, DC 20024 — 554-3485

James C. Satterthwaite — 13205 Arctic Ave., Rockville, Md 20853 — 949/7488

Short Notes:::~::~:

Where did the time go? our 5th regular meeting is upon us and we have passed the half-way mark with 5 meetings left to this term of office. At our next meeting, Nomination committee members will be appointed so that a lively election can take place.

In this connection, I have appointed a special Constitution and By-Laws Committee, headed by Ted Noble, and including Miss Mabel Stearns, Past President NCA, and Dr. John Legowik. The purpose of this action is to consider broadening the workload from 4 officers in NCA consisting of Pres., V.Pres., Sec. & Treas., to a Sgt-at-Arms to handle all meeting arrangements, (guest book, name cards, etc.) to 4 Vice Presidents as follows.

Educational Vice President: To arrange programs, discussion groups, speakers etc.

Membership Vice President: Organize continuous membership programs, coordinate publicity for NCA, follow through on leads to new members

Juniors Program Vice President: Recognition by NCA of its most important continuous program. A combination of education and membership.

Property & Facilities Vice President: NCA owns some very fine equipment. It could own and have for its members use additional telescopes, audio visual equipment, observatories, specialized optical grinding machinery and many other goodies. But some one person has to be responsible that we know where the items are at all times. That the NCA member is properly instructed and checked out to avoid unnecessary damage.

Its too much to depend on only four officers to run the whole shebang. You the members of NCA must take the responsibility in becoming an elected officer in some capacity, and do whatever you can or like to do for your own enjoyment and to help others in the club to enjoy our hobby of Astronomy. In this connection I would recommend that some of these positions be open so that interested and devoted members who are willing to spend a substantial amount of time and effort to make their job more effective for NCA may be permitted to run for reelection for as much as 6 to 8 years.

This President hopes that the recommendations of this committee can be brought up for discussion and such amendments be voted upon by the membership before the elections are held in June '69.

The President has appointed Margaret Noble to head a special committee to investigate a program of acquisition of needed audio visual equipment. We need a new slide projector. (for lantern slides). We need a professional speakers pointer (throws arrow on screen). plus other equipment for better meetings. We hope that this material can be obtained through a grant in conjunction with educational goals in teaching juniors and adult education classes, in astronomy and related sky subjects.

Finally, we have received word from Father Heyden, that an application for membership of NCA as a participating scientific group in the Washington Academy of Science will be favorably received, provided we include a list of all those NCA members who are now members of the Academy or participate through any of its supporting member organizations. For example, your president is a member of the local chapter of the Acoustical Society of America. If you belong to any organization that is affiliated with the Washington Academy of Science, please contact Pres. Gould at 423/8777.

George E. Gould

The December Speaker

Mr. Roland Cumberland and two of his sons gave NCA an intriguing lecture-demonstration of Questar telescopes, and the grinding of precision optics. Three telescopes were set up as long distance microscopes for indoor viewing which was fascinating. Cloudiness prevented outdoor use.

The Cumberlands gave a grand tour of the Cumberland Optics plant in Marlow Heights, Md., earlier in the day. (Nov. 30th) President Gould was the guiding light behind this tour-lecture-demonstration combination. Astro Reporter Bob Wright

G.R. "BOB" Wright, Middle East Regional Representative on the Council of the Astronomical League attended the dedication of the New Observatory of the Astronomical Society of Harrisburg, Pa., on Tuesday Dec. 3rd. Bob picked up two members of the Baltimore Astronomical Society to make the trip with him. They were Mrs. Frank Cecil who is also Treasurer of the Middle East Region and Mr. Joe Fields of Baltimore.

The new Observatory is the first step towards their goal of an Astronomical Center for Central Penna. (Why can't we get off the ground with a program of an observatory in Montgomery County, Prince Georges County and nearby Virginia. Its not money, but interested workers and it could be a reality in a year's time.)

At the present time we are receiving exchange publications from the following societies. "Focus" from Delaware Astronomical Soc.: "Stardust" from Astronomical Soc. of Harrisburg, "Starlite" from Peoria (Ill.) Astronomical Soc.: "Nova News" from Midland Empire Astronomy Club, St. Joseph, Mo.: "The Observer" from Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Soc.: "The Guide Star" from Amateur Astronomers Asso of Pittsburgh, Pa.: "Rambling Observer" from Junior Texas Astronomical Society, "News Letter" from Balt. Astronomical Society.: Copies of these bulletins are available to all members of NCA Please make inquiries with Bob Wright. ALSO THERE WILL BE 75 COPIES OF THE NEW QUARTERLY from the Middle East Region called "MERAL" for free distribution.

Bob Wright reports that William L. Isherwood, Jr, was listed at 7th in a group of 28 reported observers in the AAVSO Buj

Bob Wright reports that William L. Isherwood, Jr., was listed as making 115 Nova search observations in the past year. "Bill" was 7th in the list of a total of 28 listed observers. Lets see if we can't crowd the pages of all the Astronomical Bulletins with the names of NCA members being recognized for their determined efforts in doing a better astronomical observations.

IF THERE SEEMS TO BE TOO MUCH Bob Wright - ITS BECAUSE HE SENT HIS COPY TO THE EDITOR - WHERE ARE ALL THE JUNIOR NEWS ITEMS. PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR Gould WITH NEWS ITEMS -

JAN. 69 SPEAKER

Much information has been obtained on the internal structure and motions of the three systems using this radio astronomical technique. The twisting of the outer edge of the galactic hydrogen layer suggests an interaction between the galaxy and the Clouds.

One hypothesis holds that high velocity clouds of hydrogen may be nearby material which has 'fallen in' from extra galactic space, but yet another idea holds that the gas clouds are extra-galactic objects themselves, and possibly satellites of the Milky Way.

Dr. Frank J. Kerr is a graduate of the University of Melbourne, Australia, and for more than twenty-five years was on the research staff of the CSIRO Radiophysics Lab, Sydney. Recently he joined the faculty of the astronomy program at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Kerr worked on radar applications during WWII and was one of the pioneers of the early days of radar astronomy. He is now specializing in radio astronomical studies of our Galaxy and its vicinity.

*Where Were you at the discussion group?
last month?*

Dec. 7th or 14th

Discussion Group. Date to be decided at Nov. 30th meeting. President George Gould has offered to present his theorems 'Dealing with the errors of Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity.' No math, a philosophical discussion based on Gould's discoveries that if accepted, will make profound changes in our physics books.

National Capital Astronomers, Inc.
Astronomical League of Wash, DC.
George E. Gould, Pres., NCA
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