

Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.
May 1983

Editor: Dave Brown

Director: Kurt Goepfert

AAAP MAY/JUNE CALENDAR

1) Fridays (throughout period)

8:00 p.m. Member's Night observing at the AAAP observatory. All club members (and their guests) are invited to come out to Washington Crossing State Park. Duty roster on page 3.

2) 5/10 (Tuesday) - 7:30 p.m. "NOVA" session on "Telescope Design." Dave Crisp will host.

8:00 p.m. Dr. Jan Villumsen for the Institute for Advanced Study will investigate the "Evolution of Disk Galaxies." (Premeeting dinner at the Foolish Fox at 5:45 p.m.)

3) 5/21 (Saturday) - 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. "Starwash" at Princeton Hook & Ladder on Harrison Street. (Details below.)

4) 6/5 (Sunday) - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. "Nature Center Day" at Washington Crossing State Park. (Details below.)

5) 6/14 (Tuesday) - 7:30 p.m. "NOVA" Session.

8:00 p.m. Dick and Roxanne Peery will spotlight "Astrophotography: Equipment and Techniques."

FROM THE DIRECTOR

A glance at our May/June Calendar will indicate that Club activities are "heating up" along with the outdoor temperatures.

The weather during March and April (particularly on Friday nights) was absolutely dreadful. Only two nights over this 9-week period supported any kind of worthwhile observing!

Anticipating that the weather (and observing) can only get better, we will establish Keyholder Training sessions for any member seeking to earn a Key to the Observatory. A preliminary schedule will be set at the May meeting. The June Sidereal Times will include final details.

Observatory Committee Chairman Appointed: Art Esposito has agreed to chair the AAAP's Observatory Committee. Art's duties will be to establish Keyholder training and certification sessions, schedule observation duty and determine needed maintenance projects at our observatory.

Current Keyholders will be responsible to support the training and observing sessions scheduled. Additionally, each Keyholder will be asked to participate in at least one work session at the observatory each season.

Art has identified the following maintenance needs:

1) tighten the roof cable; 2) lubricate the roof carrier wheels; 3) plumbing repairs, and 4) tune-up the 10" reflector (replace the finder scope).

Art is seeking the donation of one or two step-stools to assist our younger (smaller) observatory guests. He also is looking for additional suggestions from club members for possible work projects at our facility this year.

Thanks for taking on the job, Art! Let's all support his efforts to maintain and upgrade our building.

AAAP Elections Set: The May meeting will give members the opportunity to vote for the following slate of Board candidates: Director: Kurt Goepfert; Assistant Director: Marc Halfon; Treasurer: Doug Wurzler; Secretary: Jay Albert; and Program Chairman: Dave Brown.

Auditor Appointed: Per AAAP Constitution requirements, Leith Holloway has agreed to audit the AAAP books to verify our financial records are in order. He will deliver his report at the May meeting. Thanks for "volunteering" again, Leith!

"Starwash" Set for May 21: Our first car wash for 1983 has been scheduled for Saturday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We are looking for additional volunteers to support this excellent fund-raising opportunity. Please sign-up at the May meeting or call Doug Wurzler (737-9353) or Kurt Goepfert (201/584-3882).

AAAP 28 mm RKE Sought: Doug Wurzler is trying to track down the whereabouts of our 28 mm RKE eyepiece from Edmund Scientific. Any club member with information on this item should contact Doug ASAP.

Nature Center Day Scheduled: The AAAP will give an "open house" to visitors of the Nature Center on Sunday, June 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any member interested in assisting with this effort should contact Kurt Goepfert.

Pallas Watch Announced: Art Esposito reports that members can observe a "near" occultation of the star 1 Vulpeculae by the asteroid "Pallas." The event is predicted to occur after midnight May 28. Specifically, members should observe between 12:50 a.m. and 1:05 a.m. on May 29. Predicted contact time is 12:56 a.m.

MAY/JUNE DUTY ROSTER (Observatory Phone 737-2575)

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>
5/06	R. Peery	397-3140	6/03	D. Peery	397-3140
5/13	K. Geopfert	201-584-3882	6/10	P. Kane	882-1275
5/20	M. Halfon	443-5866	6/17	J. Church	799-0723
5/27	H. Johnson	882-2680	6/24	A. Esposito	396-3630