

Sidereal Times

JUNE 1981

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ASSOCIATION OF PRINCETON, INC.

Director: Roxanne Peery

Editor: Richard Peery

JUNE 9 IS COMING!

- Tuesday, June 9: *Dick Peery will present a planetarium show at the New Jersey State Museum Planetarium in Trenton. Meeting time is 8:00 p.m. A map is included in this issue of Sidereal Times. The dinner will be held at Ray Agabiti's, also shown on the map.*
- Monday, June 29: *Board Meeting to be held at the home of Roxanne Peery. Time is 8:00 p.m. Call 397-3140 for directions.*
- Friday, July 17: *General meeting scheduled at the observatory. Bring your own chair! Raindate the 24th.*
- Monday, July 20: *Board Meeting, time and location to be announced.*
- Friday, July 31: *Start of Stellafane in Vermont. Stellafane is probably the most interesting and enjoyable Star Party you'll ever attend. If you haven't done so before I urge you to take a weekend off and go.*
- Friday, August 14: *General meeting held at the observatory. Come one come all for the fun!*
- August 10: *Start of the Astronomical League Convention held in Kutztown, Pa. The AAAP will set up a field trip for Saturday, the 15th. Call Roxanne Peery for further details, or watch the next issue of ST.*
- Tuesday, Sept. 8: *We resume our regular monthly meetings at the Institute for Advanced Study with the film "The Bermuda Triangle Mystery--Solved", an excellent film based on the book written by Larry Kusche, which examines the myths involved with a skeptical eye.*
- Saturday, Sept. 26: *AAAP Annual Picnic to be held at Knox Grove at Washington Crossing State Park (NJ side). Starting time is 3:00 p.m. More information is found elsewhere in the newsletter.*

All meetings with the exception of the June planetarium show are held at the Institute for Advanced Study on Olden Lane in Princeton. Park in Area B and walk to the nearest entrance. Meetings begin at 8:00 p.m., and end at approximately 10:00 p.m. The June meeting will be held at the Planetarium on West State Street in Trenton (next to the Capitol building). Meeting time is 8:00 sharp.

Before each meeting an informal dinner is held at a local restaurant. It's a good chance to meet the speaker for the evening and sometimes we even discuss club business, ways to solve the world energy crisis, and other important bits of trivia. Either way it's a lot of fun and we'd like to see more members attend these dinners. For each meeting except June we will meet at the *Foolish Fox* located in Rocky Hill at the junction of Route 206 and 518. The dinners start at 5:45 p.m. The June dinner will be at *Ray Agabiti's* in Morrisville, Pa., at 6:00 p.m. If you plan to attend this dinner please let the Peerys know by Monday, June 8 so reservations can be made for a large enough table.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The slate of officers for 1981-1982 includes some familiar faces as well as new ones. Roxanne Peery was elected for her second term as director, as was Kurt Goepfert elected to a second term as Ass't. Director. Doug Wurzler starts his third term as Treasurer. Marc Halfon will be the new secretary as Kurt Rahlfs will be our new Program Chairman. Kathy Yaros has volunteered to take over editorship of *Sidereal Times* and will begin with the next issue. Good luck to all of our new officers and the editor, and many thanks go to our retiring officers Dave Brown and Harry Johnson/Pat Kane for their hard work and dedication.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Despite the glowing issues of Sidereal Times you receive each month all is not well with the AAAP.

Attendance at the observatory, general meeting, board meetings and other AAAP functions is way down and may drop further. Fifteen people is now typical at our monthly meeting, in the past we have had as many as thirty.

This comes at a time when the AAAP is financially drained. Our treasury is at it's lowest in several years, so low that it cannot support our organization's responsibility--the observatory. We don't have enough money to put on the finishing touches or pay the high insurance bills due this fall.

Perhaps it is a good time to ask yourself why you joined the AAAP. Approximately 45 people pay the regular \$20 membership fee and 20 the reduced \$15 fee for students, senior citizens and family memberships. But our expenses are very high. Out of that \$20 the club may get \$2 in profit!!! That is after paying Sky and Telescope, our telephone and electric bills and Sidereal Times. You see, paying your dues does very little to support the AAAP. We count on your active participation.

I fully understand that the AAAP is a CLUB and the members volunteers. We cannot expect everyone to wish to spend a great deal of time on what is merely a hobby--after all, we all work, go to school, have family and other responsibilities. But isn't there some sort of responsibility attached to joining and therefore offering support, to a group such as ours?

How much time would it really take for you to support the AAAP? The answer is just one evening a month. Ask yourself why you don't come to meetings and then tell me. Do we need to change the meeting date or location? Are you bored with our programs? What can we do to encourage your participation at the observatory and/or public observing sessions?

We need your ideas, suggestions and companionship. I feel that the AAAP, it's observatory and members would make a great team if we could put them all together.

Roxanne Peery

OBSERVATORY

A partial umbral lunar eclipse takes place on July 16-17 and there will be a special observing session set up for it. The public will meet at the planetarium at 9pm for a special show and then drive out to the observatory (if it's clear). Members of the AAAP are invited to participate in the observing. The eclipse ends about 1 am in the morning.

June 5: Leith Holloway (924-2480)
June 12: Kurt Goepfert (201-584-3882)
June 19: Roxanne Peery (397-3140)
June 26: John Church (799-0723)
July 3: Kurt Rahlfs (215-493-0561)
July 10: Doug Wurzler (799-0250)

MAP TO THE PLANETARIUM

