

Sidereal Times



FALL 1975

Next AAAP Meeting

Sept. 9 at 8 P.M.

Place

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Jadwin Hall

Rm. A 07

Topic

Restoration of a Fitz Refractor

Speaker

JOHN CHURCH

Amateur astronomers, who have spent many hundreds of dollars to purchase an instrument of fine optical design, come to appreciate their equipment by taking proper care of their telescopes. And amateurs who have expended innumerable hours of toil to construct their own telescopes will generally handle any piece of optical equipment with deference.

But what becomes of a scope after it has been exposed to the elements, and has been sitting in a backyard for the lack of a better storage place? Such was the fate of the 6" refractor acquired by the AAAP in 1968 for the amount of \$200.00. The problem intensifies in light of the fact that this telescope was built in 1851 by Henry Fitz - one of the earliest American telescope makers. The scopes owner Robert Van Arsdale of Newark used this very same instrument to discover five faint comets between the years 1852-1858.

One can easily imagine the condition of this fine historic piece when John Church took custody of the telescope in 1972. On September 9, Mr. Church will relate his personal efforts in restoring the 6" Fitz Refractor. Prior to the lecture, members are cordially invited to meet for dinner at 5:45 p.m. at the Foolish Fox located on Rte. 206, near Jct. 518, Rock Hill.

AAAP PICNIC - SEPT. 27

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Due to a park scheduling problem, the date of the annual AAAP picnic has been moved to Saturday, September 27. Members and their guests may begin to assemble at 4:30 p.m. in Sullivan's Grove adjacent to the headquarters of Washington Crossing State Park (New Jersey side) to partake of the festivities:

- * The Admission price is \$3.00 per person payable at the picnic site
- * Members who wish to bring their own specialty to share with the hungry horde will be reimbursed.
- * As usual members are urged to bring their telescopes.

Let's hope that the weather is more favorable this year. Incidentally, the rain date is Sunday, September 28.

The response to the activities questionnaire was sparse with only 15 replies received. The following breakdown illustrates that 15 members intend to be quite active:

Meteor Shower Observation	9	Variable Star Observation	6
Astro-Photography workshop	7	Club Field Trips	9
Basic Astronomy Course	6	Mirror Grinding	6
		Lunar-Planetary Observation	4

Those who are interested in the variable star observation program may enroll by contacting Steve Shutt at (215) ⁷³⁶⁻¹⁹⁸³ ~~295-2123~~.

The first field trip of the year will occur on Sunday evening on October 12. Those wishing to pay a visit to the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomers Society and their facilities should contact Dick Peery at 397-3676 for more details.