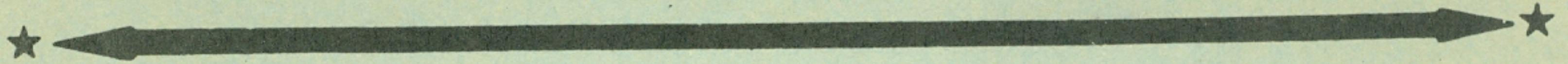


Sidereal Times



Next AAAP Meeting

July 13 at 8 P.M.

Place

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Dinner: THE FOOLISH FOX 6PM

ROCKY HILL RTE 206

Jadwin Hall

Rm. A 07

Thoughts on Viking with Dick Peery

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena has embarked on its greatest effort to explore the planet Mars. Unfortunately the original target date to land on July 4th had to be postponed because the landing area was extremely rough and heavily cratered. The Viking I landing date has been rescheduled for no earlier than July 20th. New radar results from The Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico indicate that the more westerly Chryse Planitia may be smoother. Viking will perform an orbital trim maneuver that will begin to move the spacecraft to the western region of Chryse where high resolution photographs will be taken on July 9 and 11 to determine if this area is more favorable. Those desiring up to date mission status reports may call toll free 800-423-4275. In fact this was a recording!

THE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ASSOCIATION OF PRINCETON

P.O. BOX 2017
PRINCETON, N.J. 08540

28

NEWS BRIEFS

I. The Amateur Astronomers Association, Inc. is now a non-profit, TAX EXEMPT organization in the eyes of The Internal Revenue Service! This tax exempt status extends back to 1963 with the revision of the AAAP Constitution. This may possibly mean that all observatory contributions made before the IRS official declaration may be deductible and of course all future contributions will be deductible. So keep the money rolling in.

II. Negotiations are still underway with the Department of Environmental Protection to sign a leasing agreement for a parcel of land in Washinton Crossing State Park in order to build the observatory. A few wrinkles must yet be ironed out but all indications would suggest that construction is near. In order to build an observatory construction materials are needed. If members have material to donate, or perhaps know where they might be obtained at a discount they should call Karl Koehler at 298-2672 or Dick Peery at 397-3676. Included is a list of materials.

THERE WILL BE NO AUGUST MEETING ** NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPT. 114

IT'S TIME FOR STELLAFANE AGAIN

This year's Stellafane Convention will be held on the weekend of July 30 to August 1, on Breezy Hill in Vermont. This is the 50th anniversary of the first convention.

Friday evening slide talks open the weekend of fun. If you wish to contribute a short, interesting talk for the session, you must submit a short description of your talk with your registration form. Such talks are limited to 15 minutes and 25 slides. Following the slide show the Porter Turret Telescope will be open for observing the heavens (weather permitting).

The newly established Hartness- Porter Museum of Amateur Telescope Making, located in the Hartness House will be open Saturday morning from 9:00 to 11:00 Am.

Barbequed chicken dinners will be available (\$3.75) for Saturday lunch and dinner. Other snacks and goodies will be offered.

All amateurs are encouraged to enter their home-made telescopes. You must have your telescope ready for judging by 12:00 Saturday. The judging committee is chaired by Dennis DeCicco and James Daley.

Saturday afternoon talks include such topics as: "Making Maksutovs" and "Occultations". The Twilight Talks include Walter Scott Houston's, "Stellafane Shadowgram" and "Giant Parabola in an Eggshell or, A telescope You Can Listen Through" by Alan B. Rohwer. Judging for optical excellence will take place following the evening talks.

The Registration fee is \$3 if received before July 20. Those wishing to pre-register should send their checks to:

Fred Chellis, 476 Elm St., Concord, Mass. 01742

For hotel and motel reservations write to: The Hartness House, 30 Orchard St. Springfield, Vt. 05156. Attn.: Mrs. Ruth Crawford.

PLEASE REMEMBER: ALL FLASHLIGHTS MUST HAVE RED FILTERS! - Your life will be in danger without one!