

November 1977

Editor: Jack Power

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the AAAP will be held Tuesday evening, November 8th, at 8:00 p.m. in Jadwin Hall, Room A-07, Princeton University. Our speaker for the evening will be Mr. Steve Fels of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, Princeton University. His topic will be the "Atmosphere of Venus."

The Meet-the-Speaker Dinner will be held at the Foolish Fox restaurant at the junction of Routes 206 and 518 in Rocky Hill, N. J., beginning at 5:45 p.m.

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting will feature AAAP members Jack Power and John Church. Jack will discuss the effect of the sun's energy on the propagation of radio waves while John will deal with timing lunar occultations.

OCTOBER MEETING

Dr. Erik Zimmermann, Director of the Robert J. Novins Planetarium, Ocean County College, Toms River, N. J., gave us a very interesting discussion of the evolution of sun-type stars. He also discussed the variations of sunspots from antiquity to the present, presenting the new thinking concerning their periodicity.

John Church gave us a blow-by-blow description of the happenings at a cemetery in Bordentown, N. J., the night of September 17, 1977 during a grazing occultation of a star by the moon. The tape recorded comments of the observers were most interesting.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

After a beautiful, cloudless, blue sky afternoon on October 12, clouds started to drift in about 1945UT and it looked as if the solar eclipse would be clouded out by the 1st contact time of 2044. However, the gods were with us and permitted a good show through large cloudless areas. I had an excellent view from my backyard from first to last contact even though there were times of heavy cloud cover. The first contact appeared to me to be made at 2043:15UT. AAAP members Dick Peery, Roxanne Tobin, Tony Miskowski, Kurt Goepfert, Joe Zupko, and Mike Clark report good viewing from the observatory site. According to newspaper reports most eclipse chasers in South America were clouded out. Observatory Committee chairman Bill Phillips, just back from South America, ruefully confirms this.

OBSERVING SESSIONS

Observing sessions are being held each clear Friday evening at the Nature Center observatory site until November 25. Programs start at the State Museum Planetarium at 7:30 and proceed to the Park if the weather is clear. AAAP members desiring to attend only the observing sessions themselves should enter the Park via Route 29, Church Road, and Brickyard Road. Telescopes are usually set up by 8:00 p.m.

SIX-INCH OBSERVING PROGRAM

AAAP members interested in observing with the club's fine six-inch refractor should call Dick Peery (397-3140), Roxanne Tobin (586-6697), or John Church (799-0723). Dick and Roxanne will be organizing groups to learn to use the instrument under John's tutelage.