

Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

MARCH 1980

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MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the AAAP will be held on Tuesday evening, March 11, 1980 at 8 p.m. in Peyton Hall of Princeton University on Ivy Lane off Washington Road in Princeton. This will be another members' night during which AAAPers will be given an opportunity to present short talks on their astronomical activities in the last several months. We hope to hear from our intrepid eclipse chasers about the results of the solar eclipse in Africa last month. Individual talks should last about 10 to 15 minutes. Please call Program Chairman Dave Brown (466-2696) to reserve some time for your presentation.

The pre-meeting dinner will be held at the Foolish Fox Restaurant in Rocky Hill (on Rt. 206 near Rt. 518) beginning at 6 p.m. Members generally meet in the bar for drinks at 5:45 p.m. before dinner.

APRIL MEETING

Prof. Wulff Heintz, Director of the Department of Astronomy at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, will speak on multiple star puzzles at the April 8th AAAP meeting.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Dr. Gareth Williams of NOAA's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab in Princeton introduced us to the chaotic and turbulent weather on the planet Jupiter through the eyes of the Voyager spacecrafts at our February lecture meeting. Weather conditions on the planet are constantly changing as demonstrated by the great changes seen between the Voyager 1 and 2 photographs taken only several months apart. The Great Red Spot, an anticyclone 28,000 km. across, is just the largest of a number of ovals drifting around the planet's atmosphere. Also prominent in the atmosphere are a number of dark belts and light-colored zones parallel to the planet's equator.

BOARD MEETING

The AAAP Board of Directors will meet at 8 p.m. on Tuesday evening, March 4th at Leith Holloway's home in Princeton (32 Monroe Road). Any member may attend but only Board members may vote. Please call Leith for directions (924-2480).

NEW AAAP MEMBER

Peter Wisnovsky
179 Prospect Ave.
Princeton, N. J. 08540

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

John Church has been appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee for this year. His committee will select a slate of officers for the coming year and present this at the April meeting. The election will take place at the May AAAP meeting. Jack Schroth has been appointed auditor of the AAAP books.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

The Steinert High School Astronomy Club was given a star party at the AAAP Observatory on Sunday night, February 17th. Harry Johnson, Rick Clark and Pat Kane were the AAAP hosts for this group of high school amateurs. It was a very clear night, and Rick Clark and Pat Kane stayed out at the Observatory until 3 a.m. the next morning and observed 41 Messier objects.

Regular Friday night observing sessions at the Observatory will not resume until April, but any member not having an Observatory key may call a keyholder to arrange an observing session at their mutual convenience. A list of keyholders and their telephone numbers was published in January's Sidereal Times.

The Observatory is being used throughout the winter in spite of the cold. Our fearless observers report that on one occasion the roof was frozen shut and could not be opened. In January and February the concrete floor heaved up somewhat around the south pier presumably because of frozen ground water below the slab. However, unlike last year the door can still be opened in spite of the raised floor because of the new flexible plastic strip on the bottom of the door.

MERIAL CONVENTION

The Middle East Regional Convention of the Astronomical League will be held on the weekend of June 20, 21 and 22nd this year at Brandywine College north of Wilmington, Delaware. The Delaware Astronomical Society will host this year's meeting. More details will be given in future Sidereal Times issues, but start planning to attend and perhaps give a paper.

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