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SIDEREAL TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS ASSOCIATION OF PRINCETON

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FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 13 *Dick Peery, "BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE NEW JERSEY STATE MUSEUM PLANETARIUM"*
Planetarium show beginning at 8:00 p.m. See map on next page for directions.

Tuesday, February 10 *Dr. Scott Tremaine, Institute for Advanced Study; "PLANETARY RINGS". Dr. Tremaine is one of the original discoverers of the rings of Uranus. This should be a really interesting talk.*

Tuesday, March 10 *Dr. Andy Britten, an eye specialist, will tell us how and why the eye works in his talk "THE EYE AS A SENSOR".*

Tuesday, April 14 *Ed Greaney, New Jersey Amateur Astronomers (NJAA) will tell us a little about NJAA and their observatory which houses a 26" Newtonian. Dave Brown will round out the program with his short talk on the amateur astronomer's library.*

All meetings will be held at the Institute for Advanced Study on Olden Lane in Princeton, and begin promptly at 8:00 p.m.

Dinner at Foolish Fox 5:45 pm

JANUARY MEETING CANCELLATION

The January meeting of the AAAP at the State Museum Planetarium had to be cancelled at very short notice. I was informed on January 6 that all power and heat at the museum, Library and Department of Education would be turned off evenings in January because new main power cables were being installed. Twice during the last three years the Museum has had power outages of several days duration and the repairs made were only temporary. The work had to be done, but the notice was hardly adequate. Several other Museum events had to be cancelled also. The Planetarium visit has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, June 9th.

BOARD MEETINGS

The next Board meeting will be February 2nd at the home of Roxanne Peery, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Any AAAP member can attend the meeting, but only Board members may vote. The March Board meeting will be held on March 2nd at the home of Dave Brown.

SWARTHMORE TRIP: SUCCESS!

Despite a few clouds the AAAP trip to Sproul Observatory at Swarthmore was a great success. Wulff Heinz, head of the Astronomy Department at Swarthmore was kind enough to give us a tour of the facilities, including a beautiful 24" refractor, which according to John Church was designed by Hastings. Heinz and an assistant also described some of the work going on which includes a visual search for previously undiscovered double stars in the BD (*Bonner Durchmusterung*) catalog, and studies of low metal stars in apparently young globulars in the Magellanic Clouds. It was very overcast so we were unable to look through the telescope. Those attending the trip were Jason Albert, Dave and Andy Brown, John Church, Dave Crisp, Kurt Goepfert, Marc Halfon, Leith Holloway, Roxanne Peery and Kathy Yaros. Thanks go to Dave Brown who coordinated the whole event.

OBSERVING / OBSERVATORY NEWS

The AAAP and State Museum Planetarium will begin the spring series of public observing programs on Friday, April 10. The series will run for seven weeks concluding on May 22. The program begins at the Planetarium at 8:30 p.m. and, on clear nights, the group should arrive at the observatory at 9:30. On cloudy evenings a full length Planetarium program will be presented. A duty roster for key-holding club members follows below.

OBSERVATORY ROSTER

February 6: Kurt Rahlfs
February 13: Doug Wurzler
February 20: Pat Kane
February 27: Leith Holloway
March 6: Kurt Goepfert

March 13: Roxanne Peery
March 20: John Church
March 27: Kurt Rahlfs
April 3: Doug Wurzler
April 10: Pat Kane (First Public Session)

NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY COMING

National Astronomy Day is Saturday, May 9. The AAAP will be holding its first *Star Wash* of 1981 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. that day at the Harrison Street Hook and Ladder Fire Co. The cost is still \$2 per car and volunteers are needed. Contact Kurt Goepfert at (201) 582-3882, if you wish to help, or see any club officer at the regular meeting.

That evening, weather permitting, the AAAP and Planetarium will host a ~~star party at 8:30 p.m. beginning at~~ the Planetarium and proceeding to the observatory.

At the Museum on Astronomy Day there will be special Planetarium shows, lectures on meteorites, utilizing specimens on loan from NASA, and demonstrations at the solar observatory (atop the Museum). There will also be a continuous screening of astronomy films. All events are free and the Museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m.