

# Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.  
(Address: P.O. Box 2017, Princeton, N.J. 08540)

June 1983

Editor: Dave Brown

Director: Kurt Goepfert

## AAAP SUMMER '83 CALENDAR

- 1) Fridays - 8:00 p.m. Member's Night observing and Keyholder Training/Certification at the AAAP observatory. See related news item and duty roster below.
- 2) 6/14 (Tuesday) - 7:30 p.m. "NOVA" session on "Summer Observing" by Art Esposito.  
8:00 p.m. Club members Dick and Roxanne Peery will share some of the expertise with us when they discuss "Astrophotography: Equipment, Techniques, and Results." (Premeeting dinner at the Foolish Fox at 5:45 p.m.)
- 3) July '83 - AAAP tour of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and Tokamak. (Details below).
- 4) 8/6-8 (Fri-Sun) - "Stellafane" Convention (details below).

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Well, Summer '83 is "unofficially" upon us with the passing of Memorial Day. What happened to Spring '83? The weather, particularly on weekends, continues to be less than kind to us, but things will improve (right?).

To the AAAP, the summer months of July and August mean a hiatus from our regular monthly meetings. New Members should take particular note of this fact.

Although we won't reconvene until September, AAAP activities are far from suspended! Friday observing and Keyholder training will continue at the Observatory. A special field trip to the Plasma Physics Laboratory in Princeton will take place in July and the 49th annual Stellfane Convention promises to lure some AAAPers up to the refreshing hills of Vermont in August.

Things will be "popping" this summer and I hope you have an enjoyable time. To help keep in touch, you can expect a special Summer Edition of Sidereal Times. That newsletter should reflect various interesting data from our

Membership Survey as well as announce plans for a second "Starwash" and our AAAP Picnic.

AAAP Elections Held: Members present at last month's meeting unanimously approved the slate of candidates presented by Nominating Committee Chairman, Art Esposito. The Board Members for 1983/84 will include Kurt Goepfert (Director); Marc Halfon (Asst. Director); Doug Wurzler (Treasurer); Jay Albert (Secretary); and Dave Brown (Program Chairman).

"Starwash" Results Announced: Despite a rain-shortened work session, the AAAP was able to add \$93.00 to its treasury from our May 21 carwash. Although the results were moderately disappointing, we would not have earned any profit without the generous support (labor) of the following Club Members: Dave Crisp, Art Esposito, Doug Wurzler, Kurt Goepfert, Larry Smith, Leith Holloway, Lawrence and William Gross, and the Monticello's. (Thank you one and all.)

We must support at least one more "Starwash" this summer to cover upcoming expenses. Watch for future details.

Comet IRAS - Araki - Alcot Goes/Replacement Coming: Spring '83 appears to be open season on comets. IRAS-Araki-Alcott was a naked eye object in early May passing at 3 million miles from the earth. Many AAAPers caught its act (some members observed their first comet on this occasion).

A second, newly-discovered comet is heading our way for a June 12 earthly encounter (distance predicted to be at 6 million miles). Check with the Planetarium for observing details.

Membership Survey Results In: Twenty-six AAAPers have returned their surveys to date, to provide a 44% response. We would still like to see more responses from the "silent majority". Call any Board Member if you've misplaced your form. The Summer Sidereal Times should provide some interesting data based upon returned information.

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory Tour Planned: AAAPers will have an opportunity to attend a lecture at the Lab and see the Tokamak being readied

for operation. Jay Albert reports that up to 20 club members could be accommodated on a Monday evening in July. Interested members can call Jay (after 7:00 p.m.) at 443-6191 to sign-up. If you can't reach Jay, try Kurt Goepfert at (201) 584-3882. Deadline is June 21, 1983. Sign up now! Jay will contact all respondents with final details later.

Stellafane Dates Announced: The 49th annual get-together of amateur telescope makers will be held in Springfield, Vermont over the August 6th weekend. This event is normally well-attended by AAAP members and this year should be no exception. Details can be obtained by writing to: STELLAFANE, Dennis di Cicco, 60 Victoria Road, Sudbury, Mass. 01776.

QB Mall Weekend Set: The AAAP will again run the Community Booth at the Quakerbridge Mall this fall. Jay Albert has volunteered to organize this activity, scheduled for the September 24/25, weekend. Club members interested in manning the booth or providing astro-related pictures or displays should contact Jay. This is an excellent opportunity for us to promote both Astronomy and the AAAP within the greater Trenton area.

Keyholder Training/Certification Plans Revealed: Observatory Chairman, Art Esposito has announced the "official" dates for Keyholder training to take place at the AAAP Observatory. Interested Club Members should simply come out to the Observatory at 8:00 p.m. for training. If clear skies prevail, general membership observing will take place after that night's training is completed. All current Keyholders will receive an outline on training requirements. Observatory duty for the summer is summarized below. Keyholder training sessions are signified by an asterisk (\*) following the date.

SUMMER '83 DUTY ROSTER (Observatory Phone 737-2575)

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Phone</u>
6/10	P. Kane	882-1275	7/29	K. Goepfert	201-584-3882
6/17	<del>D. Wurzler</del> J. Church	799-0723	8/05	M. Halfon	443-5866
6/24*	A. Esposito	396-3630	8/12	H. Johnson	882-2680
7/01	L. Holloway	924-2480	8/19	D. Brown	466-2696
7/08	<del>J. Church</del> <del>D. Wurzler</del>	737-9353	8/26*	J. Church	799-0723
7/15*	K. Rahlfs	215-493-0561	9/02	A. Esposito	396-3630
7/22	R. Peery	397-3140	9/09	P. Kane	882-1275

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