

Sidereal Times

DECEMBER 1983

Newsletter of the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc.

(Address: P.O. Box 2017, Princeton, N.J. 08540)

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Director: Kurt Goepfert

AAAP DECEMBER/JANUARY 1983/84 CALENDAR

- 1) 12/13 (Tues.) - 8:00 pm. Mr. Ron Grant from Spitz Space Systems will present the "History of Planetaria". Meeting will be held in Princeton's Peyton Hall with our optional pre-meeting dinner at the Foolish Fox Restaurant, Route 206, Rocky Hill @5:45 pm. (Note: No NOVA session this month.)
- 2) 1/10/84 (Tues.) - 8:00 pm. AAAP Members' Night. Various Club members will briefly speak on their astro-related projects. Come out and learn what your contemporaries are getting into. (If you have a topic to contribute please contact Program Director, Dave Brown at 466-2696.)

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

November was a momentous month for the AAAP. As detailed in the news item below, the membership voted in favor of pursuing the purchase of a 12½" reflecting telescope, suitable for both visual observing and precise astrophotography.

A lot of hard work, especially on the part of Don Monticello, went into researching both the telescope's qualities and your sentiments towards facilitating the AAAP's acquisition of it.

Most of you who pledged your financial support have already made good on your 1983 commitment. The remaining pledge-makers should send your checks, made payable to the AAAP, Inc., to the Club's P.O. Box (listed above) as soon as possible.

More work will be necessary to transport and install this instrument in the AAAP Observatory. If you would like to help with this project, please give Don a call at 882-1257 to volunteer. Watch future issues of Sidereal Times for details on telescope-use training and astrophotography courses.

December marks the beginning of the Holiday Season. The AAAP presented itself with a fine new (used) gift. I hope that Christmas '83 finds you and your families in good spirits and good health.

Beemerville Weekend - a Success: Despite some snow flurries and threatening weather forecasts, the AAAP's venture up to Sussex County over the November 4-6 weekend was a complete success. Cloudy skies "magically" turned clear both Friday and Saturday evenings to permit the superb astronomical viewing previously advertised.

Good food and fun times were in abundance at this 4-H camp administered by Rutgers University. Biking, hiking, touch football, fossil hunting and volleyball were just a few of the things we got into.

Thanks go to Dave Brown for organizing the weekend. AAPers present in addition to Dave included: Jay Albert (and family), Mike & Don Monticello, Larry & Bill Gross, John Santandrea, Larry Smith (and daughter) and Kurt Goepfert.

This turned out to be an excellent opportunity to get better acquainted with fellow club members. The camp can easily accommodate over 100 persons. We hope that more of you can take advantage of this AAP activity next year. You'll truly enjoy the change of pace!



AAPers At Beemerville 4-H Camp. Enjoying the fresh air and clear skies (from l. to r.): Larry Gross, Kurt Goepfert, Larry Smith, Dave Brown, Jay Albert, Bill Gross, and John Santandrea.

AAP Acquires Access to 12½" Reflector: Members present at the November meeting voted in favor of allowing the AAP to rent a superb 12½" reflecting telescope from Don Monticello and a fellow AAP member. Don and co-owner will make a private purchase. The AAP will rent this instrument from them. The rental agreement must be renewed each year by membership vote.

Once the purchase price has been covered, the AAP will have the option to take ownership of this scope. Significant research and debate went into the final deliberation. We hope to install the scope in the Observatory by early Spring '84. Once there, any interested AAPer will have access to it. Here's a great opportunity to enter the world of astrophotography!

New Observatory Keyholder Added to Ranks: Congratulations go out to Larry Gross on becoming the AAP Observatory's newest keyholder. The next round of keyholder training will be scheduled for the Spring. We hope more of you will follow Larry's lead at that time.

Winter Observing Policy Detailed: With the onset of cold winter weather, "official" Friday night members observing will be suspended for two months. After Friday, December 16, no keyholder assignments will apply until the beginning of March, 1984. In the interim, interested non-keyholders may contact any AAPer listed below to "negotiate" private Observatory visits.

AAP KEYHOLDER ROSTER

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Kurt Goepfert (201-584-3882)* | 5. Dave Brown (466-2696) | 9. Marc Halfon (443-5866) |
| 2. John Church (799-0723) | 6. Harry Johnson (882-2680) | 10. Kurt Rahlfs (215-493-0561)# |
| 3. Doug Wurzler (737-9353) | 7. Roxanne Peery (397-3140) | 11. Larry Gross (201-359-6880) |
| 4. Art Esposito (396-3630) | 8. Mike Monticello (882-1257) | |

*Assignment 12/9/83; #Assignment 12/16/83 (Observatory Phone 737-2575)

FOR SALE: a) Celestron 20x80 binoculars. 1 yr-old (\$175); b) Lumicon 10x80 Superfinder. 1 yr-old. A great richest field (\$80); c) Lumicon 400mm, f6.3 telefoto w/o violet filter (\$120); d) Celestron 2" Star Diagonal for C-8 (\$140); e) one Clavé 45mm 2" eyepiece (\$150); f) Edmund 4" reflector w/equatorial mount & 2 eyepieces (\$100). Contact: John Reeves (201-359-8922).

FOR SALE: 8" f/8 mirror with cell (\$85). 12½" Cassegrain mirror system - must inspect. Contact: Dave Brown (466-2696).