

8-64

Greetings. To all members of our astro club, and with this issue of our letter your officers are in hopes of having a very good last half of study and observations. At long last, we have the use of a machine to print our letters. Maybe the copy wont be too good at first but we, ll get the hang of it.

Late July meteor showers, Delta Aquarids gave their usual annual show. The Display last untill about Aug 29th, which should be at maximum then. These meteors are slow and yellowish, and have long paths. The single observer hourly rate is about 20 and the radiant position at maximum is RA 22hr 36m Dec 17. About 3 Degrees west of Delta. Notice how the Radiant moves from night to night.

Space.

This is the Universe: infinity. Space without beggining, without end, dark, empty, cold. Through the silant darkness of this space move gleaming spheres, separated from each other by inconceivable distances. Around them, again, inconceivable far away, like bits of dust lost in immensity, circle smaller dark spheres, receiving Life and Light from their mother Suns. One of these little spheres, in the light of one of those countless Suns in endless space is our E A R T H. This is mans home in the Universe.

* Now, several times in this letter, I wish to mention our next meeting and date which will be august 10th, Monday night, 7.30 Pm and we will meet at the new East Lincoln office of the Union Loan and Savings Co. 56th and O st. Its Air-conditioned and we will try and have some sort of Refreshments. We want to thank our good friends at Union Loan for this nice Privilege of loaning us this Room.

Again meeting Aug 10th 7.30 PM. Bring a friend.

On Aug 7th we plan a Sky Party for ourselves at the pasture east of Cheney Nebr. Some of you will remember this place, which is just $\frac{1}{2}$ mile straight east of Cheney. We will have signs up at the turnoff and Gate.

We who love our Astronomy, and who have carried on thru thick and thin have at all times tried to make it interesting, and if we have failed to a certain extent it was because we were short of staff and workers. We need each and everyone to take an active part to make our club a real Active one, and we promise you, you will get more in return than you put in.

Noon last quarter- Aug 1st. New Moon Aug 8th. Mercury South of Sun Aug 1st
Venus-Morning. Mars in Taurus. Jupiter, Saturn after Mid-night

I have been in the prairie astro club for almost a year, and the results of my joining have to me been tremendous. About this time last year I had very little information about astronomy and a small gilbert 2" reflector that clamped on to a chair. About the only thing I could in it was the Moon. Then when I joined, Earl Moser gave me a 3 inch reflector and a small tripod to use until I got my 6 inch Dynascope. The three inch is so much better than my old one. I remember the first night I took it out. I could see 4 moons on Jupiter and I could see the equatorial band with the 100 power eyepiece. It is so much more fascinating to look at the Moon thru a scope than looking at the pictures of it in magazines. One of my favorite pastimes on a clear night is to aim at the milky way, follow it through the sky and watch the thousands of stars in the field of the eye-piece. If I pass by a large cluster I stop and view it for a few minutes. It makes a person feel so inferior to think about Astronomy and how vast and beautiful the Universe is and how wonderful and great its creator.

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading Sky and Telescope Magazine. It should be worth its weight in gold. The articles in the past year on the bright red spot on the Moon were most interesting. I also enjoyed reading the sections on space travel, Deep sky wonders, Amateur Astronomy, and the Celestial Calendar. I for one think \$5.00 is a little to ask to join the Club when the Advantages are worth thousands.

(Junior) Adrienne Valverde.

Well, here it is the first of August, summer is nearly half over and we have had very few good Viewing Nights. Of course it's been clear from the first quarter to the full moon, but that's no good for deep Sky objects. We will have to take advantage of every clear night from now on until during the dark of the Moon to view all the beautiful deep Sky objects in the Southern Milky Way. By next month it will be gone and we will have to wait till next year.

We had planned a sky show on July 3rd and 4th but we were clouded out both nights. I decided to try it again on July 11th. Jess was gone to Colorado that week so I got Pete Schultz to help spread the word. I sent out some cards and Pete called quite a few Members of the Club. July being vacation month, only 4 came out. It was just as well though as we not only got clouded out, we got rained out. Pete and I had a couple of very wet telescopes. The next three nights (Sun, Mon, Tues,) we had quite a time viewing and comparing globulars and Clusters, taking pictures and discussing Astronomy. Jess and I have decided to try it again on the 7th of August. Because of the ball games at Hickman we will go out to Cheney Nebr. About six miles east of College View. We will have signs up to Guide You. You are always welcome out at my place.

Earl Moser Vic Pres.

The Prairie Astronomy Club has been in existence since 1961. The interest spurred by the on-rushing space age puts us in an ideal position for success. Curiosity on the part of not only the old but also the young gave the meetings a well attended and attentive group. During the past years we've learned a great deal through our meetings and public Star parties.

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But to bask in the fading glow of the past is useless. Lets examine our Club today; we have about 15 strong Contributors who own a variety of scopes ranging from 2.4 to 10 inch. Whats happened to the original membership of 30 to 40 ? Astronomy is much to interesting as you know to cause such a drop. If curiosity was the factor that brought the primary surge of interest we should have seized the opportunity to keep it nourished. Why havn,t we grown? What have we really contributed to Lincoln? As of the present the club is filled with interest but lacks initiative and creativity. We have the nails but No Hammer.

Now I must construat something out of the shambles of criticism. Lincoln is teeming with professionalis who could supply the club with new spunk. For instance, we have in town the center of an extensive meteor tracking System. They even search for possible meteor falls. This could, could be a good source for not only lectures an outing. What about the Air Base? Im sure some one could talk to us about the simpler problems of Rocketry. Or they could even discuss some of the physical ailments Doctors have to cope with as one pushes toward the outer atmosphere. What about a local biochemist bringing down to Earth the possibility of unearthly life ? Or maybe a meteorologist could explain some of the effects of the Moon, Sun, and large meteor showers on the weather. We are loaded with possibilities. If some one is worried about the younger members not understanding, I think he underestimates them.

Im not saying we should destroy the friendly, informal atmosphere and the good old bull sessions. But I do say we should add more than just bull to our meetings.

Pete Schultz

After having run off the first two pages of our letter, I find that the printing could be much better, so next time will show an improvement. Jess

Remember Meeting Aug 10th. You know where. Time 7.30 PM.

Private Sky Party: Aug 7th Cheney Nebr

"Yes" we will have a good Program.

Come on out, you, ll enjoy it. Get in the swing NOW. The 15 or so Pete mentioned, I know will be there.

It is now 3PM August 3rd and if this letter is to get to you in time for you to make plan for Sky party, and our next meeting, I must close it run it thru the printer.

Meeting August 10th

Sky Party August 7th

P.S. Perseid Shower. Aug 12th to Aug 27. 30 Thirty Jess. Williams Pres

Aver, hr Rate up to 50.

North of Gamma Persei-3hr 04 Plus 58. Lincoln Nebr.

