

4-70

The April meeting will be held on the 28th, at Nebraska Wesleyan University, Olin Science Hall, at 7:30 P.M. Plans will be made for the upcoming Mid-States convention, and there will be a planetarium presentation by Prof. Moore.

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President's Report

We have been privileged to witness another spectacle of nature earlier this month. The conjunction of Saturn, Venus, and Mercury was well worth observing, although "spectacle" may be an overemphasized term for the event. Just the same, no one has an excuse for not seeing Mercury, since it was only about 2° from brilliant Venus on the 10th.

With the coming of spring and warmer weather, it is time to resume our outdoor activities and viewing sessions. The monthly Gateway shows have started and if you don't receive a notice of the exact date, figure on Thursday night nearest the first quarter moon- or call Jess, he has the schedule for all season.

As for our star parties, no dates have been set, but figure on Friday or Saturday evening near the dark of the moon, at my place. The club's 12½" telescope is ready and waiting for all who want to use it. Come on out, you're welcome anytime.

Earl Moser

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Convention Speaker

We have been fortunate enough to obtain the services of Dr. Peter Van de Kamp as speaker for the convention this June. Dr. Van de Kamp is a professional astronomer at Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. He is most recently noted for his interpretation of deviations in the proper motion of Barnard's star as due to a planetary system.

Ed Woerner

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The Sky This Month

The (eta) Aquarid meteor shower reaches maximum on the 5th, and although its hourly observer rate is only 20, it should be favorable, coming at new moon.

There will be a conjunction of Venus and Mars visible on the evening of the 8th, the planets approaching within 0.2°.

Mercury transits the Sun on the morning of the 9th, already appearing in front of the Sun's disk at dawn, in Nebraska.

Mercury- On the 15th, it is R.A. 2h 52m, Decl. 14° 48' North. It is too close to the Sun for observation, except during its transit.

- Venus- On the 15th, it is R.A. 5h 20m, Decl.  $24^{\circ} 18'$  North.  
At magnitude -3.4, it appears low in the West at sunset,  
and will be quite close to Mars on the 8th.
- Mars- On the 15th, it is R.A. 5h 07m, Decl.  $23^{\circ} 42'$  North.  
(See Venus)
- Jupiter- On the 15th, it is R.A. 13h 47m, Decl.  $9^{\circ} 31'$  South.  
At magnitude -2.0, it is well up in the Southeast at sunset.
- Saturn- On the 15th, it is R.A. 2h 47m, Decl.  $13^{\circ} 55'$  North.  
It is too close to the Sun for observation.
- Uranus- On the 15th, it is R.A. 12h 20m, Decl.  $1^{\circ} 19'$  South.
- Neptune- On the 15th, it is R.A. 15h 52m, Decl.  $18^{\circ} 23'$  South.

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#### Star Show

There was a star show at Gateway on the night of the 16th. Several hundred people enjoyed a look at the moon and evening planets, and (I am told) quite a few club members turned out with telescopes to help with the presentation. I hope this will just be the first in a series of successful public star shows this summer, and thanks goes out to all who were there to help put it on.

Larry Stepp

No want-ads were turned in for publication this month, but if you have anything to sell, or something you would like to buy, bring it up at the meeting.

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