

6-70

June 30, 1970

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER

488-1250

The June meeting will be held on the 30th, at Nebraska Wesleyan University, in Olin Hall, at 7:30 PM. There will be a discussion of some business, and a program will be provided. The regular planetarium show will be given.

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The President's Report

The Mid-States Regional Convention of 1970 is history and it was a great success. Everything progressed smoothly, and in spite of a few hitches everyone had a good time. We had a local shower on the site of the star party Friday evening, which resulted in some muddy shoes, and the air-conditioner for Olin Hall failed, but clear skies and a good program tended to offset these drawbacks.

There was one important thing that I forgot and that was to publicly thank the people who helped make the convention a success. I realized this when everyone was shaking my hand and congratulating me on a job well done as they were leaving Sunday afternoon. Late is better than never, so a special thanks is due those people who worked "behind the scenes" to enhance the image of the Prairie Astronomy Club in the Astronomical League and to promote astronomy in the region.

Thanks- To Monte Cole and Ed Woerner, who kept the registration desk open till late Friday night and throughout Saturday, sacrificing their own attendance at parts of the program in order to register all the guests.

- To Dick Hartly, who did a fine job as host to Dr. van de Kamp.
- To Jess Williams for all the fine door prizes that he rounded up for all the lucky ticket holders.
- To Carroll Moore for making available the facilities at Wesleyan.
- To Brian Dodson and Roger Severns, who rounded up and showed the films.
- to Rick Johnson who, busy as he was, took time to rig up an amplifier for Gary Ross' program.
- To Joe Bures for his work in setting up the program.
- To all others who helped in making this convention a success.

A final request for those in other clubs. We were so busy with the convention that we were not able to take pictures of the convention. If you would send your color slides to me, I will have duplicates made and return them. Thank you all.

Earl Moser

Change in Personal

Due to the absence of some of our members, the following positions will be filled by volunteers until our elections.

Program Chairman- Ed Woerner 466-9234

Newsletter- Brian Dodson- 488-1250

These are the people to contact on any matters concerning these offices.

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One of our old-time club members, Rick Johnson, who has served us so well as treasurer has recently received his law degree, and has passed his bar exams. We would like to congratulate him on this achievement. There is, however, an unfortunate side to this achievement, as it means that he will be leaving Lincoln. However, our loss is someone's gain, and that someone is not too far away. Rick is moving to Omaha, which means that the Omaha club will be gaining a fine member. He will still be coming down to meetings as often as he can, but this is our gain. The best of luck, Rick.

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QUESTIONS

A number of unanswered questions concerning the convention have come to our attention, and we feel that they should be brought to everyone's attention, in case someone has the answer.

Why did everyone, in spite of Earl's fine directions, set up the telescopes for the first star party in a swamp rather than on the observing site?

Why were more door prizes won by members of the Lincoln and Omaha clubs than by all the rest of the region combined?

Why did a nest of insects decide to build a nest inside the Olin Hall air conditioner?

Will Eric Rudd be able to collect insurance on his Schmidt corrector, or will Bob Cox have to pay for it?

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CONVENTION

Next year's Mid-States convention will be held in Kansas City. Information concerning this will be given as we receive it.

Photograph of the Month

A close triple conjunction of the moon, Venus, and Regulus will be visible in the early evening of July 24. This will be visible until about two hours after sunset. Venus will be about 0.9° north of the moon, and Regulus will be about 5° east. Venus and Regulus will be close all month.

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The Planets This Month

Mercury- Too close to the sun to observe
Venus- Prominent in the western sky for two hours after sunset Mag -3.6
Mars- Too close to the sun to observe
Jupiter- In Virgo, it sets four hours after the sun Mag -1.7
Saturn- In Aries, it rises about 2:00 AM Mag 0.5
Uranus- RA 12h20m, Decl 24° S
Neptune- RA 15h46m, Dec $18^\circ 07'$ S

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Meteor Shower

The Delta Aquarid meteor shower will occur on the night of the 29th. It is a good shower, during which a single observer can observe 20 meteors per hour. It should be one of the best showers this year, in spite of the "last eighth" moon.

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Hints and Kinks

This column, which will consist of hints, or "how-to-do-it's" concerning telescope and mirror making, and of kinks, or how not to do it. These latter may well be the more important. Please contribute to it.

In order to remove a hill from the mirror, one may polish, with the center of the mirror over the edge of the lap. This must be done with caution, as prolonged polishing will produce a hyperbola with a hole, as I found out. 2 to 3 minute polishing spells should be used, with testing between them.

In the initial hot-pressing of a mirror, leave the paper collar on the lap. One fellow who did not, found that his lap had flowed off the tool, leaving a large gap between mirror and lap.

Do not slight fine grinding. A full hour on each grade is not too much

Brian Dodson

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On a night recently, the air was very transparent and steady, and the crowning achievement for Nebraska weather was seen. A steady diffraction pattern around a star. Jupiter's moons were seen as disks.

For Sale

Jess Williams: 6" f/7 mirror

Criterion 8 x 50 finder with right angle eyepiece

~~Ex~~Exakta 500 with telescope adapter. No lens.

Eyepieces

Roger Severns: 6" Criterion with mount.

Roscoe Dicison: 6" scope without mount

Monte Cole: 300mm ~~S~~oritone telescopic. f/4.5

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SHORTS

Sky show at Gateway July 16th. Bring your telescopes.

A proposal has been made that we solicit advertizing for the newsletter. Come armed with opinions.

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SHORTS

All articles and announcements are solicited. You make your newsletter.

Mira, the famous variable star in Cetus, is near maximum. It is visible after midnight.

The ~~group~~ photos are ready. Pick them up at the meeting.

See you at the meeting.

CHANGE IN DUES

August

On ~~#####~~ 25th, the dues for the Prairie Astronomy Club will be raised from \$8.00 to \$9.00 per year. This is due to the impending increase in rates from Sky and Telescope. Please make an effort to pay your dues before this date. Please enclose your renewal slip Sky and Tel will send you.