

7-70

July 28, 1970

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER

488-1250

The July meeting will be held on the 28th of July, in Olin Science Hall at 7:30. Business will be discussed, and a program will be provided. Afterwards, the usual refreshments will be provided, along with an invigorating talk session.

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The President's Report

There will be a family picnic and star party at Wagon Train Lake east of Hickman on August 29th. The afternoon activities will include boating, swimming, fishing, and any other outdoor games and recreation you want. The "pot luck" or covered dish supper will be at 6:00 P.M. Bring your own plates, cups, and cutlery, and a picnic-type dish or two. (Don't everybody bring potato salad, though!) After supper the fun and games will continue till dark, then the star party will climax the days events.

In the past there has been a mixup in the subscriptions to Sky and Tel. Those of you who have been receiving two or more copies a month, please turn these extra copies over to our club librarian, Brian Dodson. Those who haven't received any Sky and Tel may then have the extra copies they need, free of charge.

Earl Moser

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Change in Office

Due to the departure of Rick Johnson, our treasurer, from the club before the end of his term of office, I have been appointed to complete his term. Therefore, all money matters, dues, subscriptions, and the like will be handled by myself until the elections.

At the next meeting, a discussion will be held concerning a measure which will save the club as much as thirty to forty dollars a year. This subject was introduced at the June meeting, but, due to the depressingly low turnout, voting on it was impossible.

My address and phone number, for those of you who do not know them, are 511 Cottonwood and 488-1250. It will be a pleasure to serve the club in this capacity.

Brian Dodson

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On the 31st of July, Robert Little, of the Questar Corporation, will be at Wesleyan for a talk and demonstration of the new 7 inch Questar. This will be at 11:00 A.M. and you are all invited. Carrol Moore has informed us that Mr. Little may be induced to give a demonstration at night, and, if this can be arranged, you will be informed by telephone.

The following books have been lent to the library for a period for the benefit of the club members. If any of them are desired, contact the club librarian.

Military Standardization Handbook on Optical Design

Landed Operations of Capsule Systems on Mars by Thome and Merz

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Upcoming Astronomical Events

The upcoming month of August is chockfull of interesting occurrences. There will be a partial eclipse of the moon on the night of August 16-17. The moon will enter the peneumbra at 6:06 P.M., which is before the moon rises. However, by the time the moon enters the umbra, at 7:17, it will be well up. Mid-eclipse occurs at 8:23, and the moon leaves the umbra at 9:30. The beginning stages of this eclipse will not be too wonderful, but later the show will improve.

One of the biggest and best of the meteor showers, the Perseids, will occur on the second week of August, with the shower maximum occurring on the night of the 12th. The shower this year occurs just after first-quarter moon, but a good view with as many as 50 meteors per hour will be visible after the moon sets, which is at 12:29 on the 12th. Prior to the maximum, the moon will set earlier, so those of you who do not like to stay up so late should try earlier in the week to see one of the fine showers of 1970.

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Hints and Kinks

In order to avoid turned-down edge, the edge facets on the lap may be cut down in area. If the facets are later cut down more, the lap will parabolize the mirror using one-third strokes.

When a mirror sticks to a lap, first try soaking them in hot water. If this does not work, it was suggested to this department that you should heat the back of the mirror with an electric heater. Since the mirror is made of Pyrex, this will not hurt the mirror, and its effect is to eventually melt a very small layer of the pitch, allowing the mirror to slide right off. Following this you should scour the mirror with turpentine in order to get off the pitch, and then a prolonged hot and cold pressing session is in order. This, however, is a small price to pay for some of us who have had mirrors stuck so thoroughly that no amount of soaking would get them loose. Thanks to Jess Williams for this hint. Please contribute to Hints and Kinks on ANY field of practical astronomy (telescope making, astrophotography, observation, etc) If you contribute a hint, you will be given credit for it, but the contributor of a kink will remain forever nameless. Give all information to the newsletter.

There will be a sky show at Gateway on August 6th. Thru a slip in planning last month, the moon was not in the best possible position for the shy show. As might be expected, we had one of the best turnouts in month both in club members and in telescopes. We finally got set up about at the time the stores closed, but we still had an audience until after 10:00 P.M. If we can get as many people out there next month, I will promise that the moon will be in good position. A good turnout will help to insure the Gateway donation.

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Due to the amount of confusion resulting from last month's announcement about the upcoming increase in dues, some extra explanation is deemed worthwhile. If your dues are paid by September 25, the rate will be \$8.00 instead of \$9.00, as it will be after that date. However, do not pay your dues until Sky and Tel sends you their renewal slip. Until this arrives, I cannot send your order into Sky and Tel for the purpose of renewing your subscription. If you send me your dues before you get the renewal slip, all that accomplishes is confusion for me, as I have to keep straight the people who have and haven't given me their renewal slip. In other words, when you send in or give me your dues money, include the renewal slip.

B.W.D.

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The Planets This Month

Mercury- in unfavorable position all month

Venus - At mag -3.8 is seen low in the western sky for 1½ hours after sunset.

Mars - To close to the sun to observe

Jupiter- Sets in the southwest about two hours after sunset.

Saturn - In Taurus, it rises about midnight.

Uranus and Neptune are both too low in the evening sky to see.

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We have spent \$1035.70 on a 12½ inch reflecting telescope, which is a very good scope. At the present time, no more than 4 or 5 people use this scope, and then not often enough. Go out and use it. It is your scope, to use or not use as you wish, but if it is not used it is a terrible waste. If the club doesn't want it, perhaps we should sell it, but if not it should be used more.

For Sale

By the club: 2 Messier booklets and a copy of ATML. See Treasurer

Jess Williams: 6" f/7 mirror

Exakta 500 with telescope adapter. No lens

Eyeieces

Roger Severns: 6" Criterion with mount

Roscow Dickinson: 6" scope without mount.

Monte Cole: 300 mm Spiritone telephoto f/4.5

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MS 315
Hickman's MB
Ever Wotter

