

3-71

March 30, 1971

Phone: 489-7651

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER

This month's meeting will be held in Olin Hall of Science at Nebraska Wesleyan University at our usual time of 7:30 p.m. Please be prompt so we can start the planetarium show on time. Our program will be presented by Mr. Bob Allen of the Omaha Astronomical Society. We will hear about recent goings-on in the Omaha Club, and a new system he has built for astrophotography. Please come and support your club and a good time will be had by all.

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--The President's Report--

Once again the problems of D.S.T. (daylight savings time) are about to fall upon us, unless something can be done about it.

At 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 25th, we are supposed to set our clocks ahead one hour to 3:00 a.m. and thus we will again be losing one hour of celestial viewing time a day for the next six months.

Most of you probably know that Senator Sam Klaver has introduced L.B. 162 in the Nebraska Legislature. This bill, if passed, would abolish D.S.T. in Nebraska.

This bill is now deadlocked in committee with a four vote tie to kill or advance it to the general file

Early in February, the committee held a public hearing on this bill and I was on hand to testify for it. Since then I received a letter from Senator Klaver asking me to try to persuade one or more of the dissenting committee members to change their minds and vote for the bill. This would send it on to a general file for consideration by the entire legislature.

I visited the capitol again on March 8th and talked to a couple of senators on the miscellaneous subjects committee. I don't know whether I did any convincing or not, but at least I let them know how I feel on the subject.

I gave Senator Jerome Warner a letter with some of my views, and asked him to read it to the committee at their next meeting.

If any of you have any feelings on this subject, I urge you to write a letter and send it to:

Miscellaneous Subjects Committee
State Capitol
Lincoln, Nebraska

These senators are elected, not only to do what's best for Nebraska, but also to consider the wishes of its citizens as they create new laws and abolish old ones. So, let the legislature hear from you; it might help our cause.

--- Earl Moser

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Nota Bene: There is presently a bill up for consideration by the federal government to limit daylight savings time to four months of the year instead of six. Astronomically speaking, this is a good idea, so spend a few minutes and write your congressman a postcard and tell him to support this one.

* * * * *

There will be a sky show at Gateway on April 1st beginning about 6:30 p.m. and continuing on till everyone goes home. Please come, and bring your scope, your family, and your friends. We should be able to

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--Want Ads--

Wanted: a short focal length eyepiece (5 - 10 mm) with crosshairs, either 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " or 0.917" O.D. Call Earl Moser, Hickman, Nebr.

For Sale: One 6" f-7.5 mirror, good condition \$20. Call Jess
One Herschel Wedge \$10. Williams
488-2112

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For you deep sky bugs, the Virgo "realm of galaxies" is coming into good viewing position in the eastern skies near epsilon Virginis and Coma Berenices. If it ever quits snowing--good hunting!

This Skies This Month

- Mercury- Easily visible low in the western skies just after sunset for the first week of April.
- Venus- Rises about 1½ hours before the sun, shining at mag -3.4
- Mars- At mag 0.3, it rises four hours before the sun in Sagittarius.
- Jupiter- Rises three hours after sunset at mag -2, in Scorpio
- Saturn- Is low in the west after sunset, setting about two hours later.
- Uranus- At RA 2h41m, Dec 3°41' on the 15th, it rises at sunset.
- Neptune rises at midnight
- Pluto- Just coming within visibility of a good 12½" scope. No hurry, though. It'll be in good position for the next 40 years or so.

Smithsonian Circulars

The Smithsonian Circulars, which were ordered several months ago, have begun to arrive. The following bits of information have been gleaned from them. Further information on any of these items can be obtained from the treasurer.

Three extragalactic supernovae have been detected. The brightest of these is Mag 15.5, so they are not too impressive.

A possible occultation by Pluto of a 14 mag star was announced for March 11, but no follow-up on this has appeared. We expect this soon, though.

A new comet has been discovered which may very well turn into something worth looking at. It is Comet Toba, 1971a.. At the present time, the comet has a nucleus, and shows a tail about 1° long. An ephemeris of it's motions through our skies follows.

Mar 15	21h41m.12	+21°24'9"	mag 9.7
20	21h44m.98	+19°56'1"	
25	21h48.66m	+18°25'1"	mag 9.4
30	21h52.16m	+16°50.6'	
Apr 4	21h55.50m	+15°10.9'	

This comet will bear watching.

This is the information which has been covered so far.

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News Notes

An astronomer at the University of Nebraska who has addressed our group several times in the past, Dr. Kam-Ching Leung, has received notice in the March Sky and Telescope for a study of the luminosities of red supergiants. Those of you who were at the last meeting where Dr. Leung addressed us will remember that this was the subject of his talk. It seems as though we got a preview of this highly significant paper before the scientific community did. This was an honor to the club, and it is hoped that we can see Dr. Leung at another of our meetings soon.

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At the last meeting, we took in the total of \$41.39 during the passing of the hat.. I realize that we will probably not meet this total again in the future, but we must remember that the project which we are involved in will take more money than this. So I would like to congratulate the membership, on the last meeting, and would like to encourage them to "keep it coming in!"