

June 29 - 1971

### THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER

The meeting this month will be held on June 29th, at Olin Hall of Science, on the Nebraska Wesleyan campus. A sky show will proceed the program, and afterwards we will have refreshments and a good talk session. Come and see your friends. It will be well worth it.

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#### The President's Report

The club observatory, or telescope shelter, if you prefer, is now ready for use and the "tilt up and over" arrangement seems to be working out just fine.

I had a little trouble at first with the sliding doors falling open or shut as the building was raised or lowered, but a system of weights and ropes attached to the doors solved that problem.

Brian Dodson is working on the clock drive, and it should be ready soon. Even without the clock drive, the scope has been put to good use by a few club members during the past couple of weeks. Before long we should have several more names to add to the Messier award listings.

I plan to leave early on the morning of July 16th for Fayette, Mo., and the Mid-States Regional Convention. I have room in my car for a few passengers, but when I have a carload, I'll have to say no to any late-comers. In the past, the club has defrayed the cost of members car-expenses to the regional convention, and a vote will be taken at the upcoming meeting on whether to continue this practice. If we do continue this practice, hopefully we will have several carloads going to Fayette. See you at the meeting

Earl Moser

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#### The Skies This Month

- Mercury- Too close to the sun to observe
- Venus - Rises  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours before the sun
- Mars - Rises in the southeast before midnight
- Jupiter- Well up in the southeast at sunset
- Saturn - Rises shortly before the sun

Gateway show on July 1. Come and bring your telescopes, as we always get a good crowd at these events.

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#### Supernova

There is a supernova  $2'$  of arc south of the nucleus of M 63. This must not be confused with an 8th magnitude star visible to the west of the nucleus. Two of our members, Brian Dodson and Dan Cowell, have seen the supernova in the club's 12 inch, and it was a difficult object. However, the night was not too good, and it may well be that a higher power on a clearer night would allow it to be seen in as small a scope as an eight-inch. (we used about 50x) The supernova at maximum was magnitude 11.8, around the 25th of June. Although the magnitude is declining, it should be visible in the club scope for a while yet on a good night.

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I would like to apologize for the newsletter this month, but our editor was called out of town suddenly and I was impressed into service on the day before it had to be put out. Therefore, please do not scream too loudly at the meeting. We are trying our best

Brian Dodson