

* * T H E P R A I R I E A S T R O N O M E R * *

* * * * *

--SPECIAL BULLETIN ISSUE--

An apology is due the membership for the failure to produce a newsletter last month. Please accept our regrets and the assurance that it will not happen again.

* * * * *

Our annual picnic and star party will be held this coming Saturday, August 5th, at Wagon Train Lake, 3 miles east of Hickman, Nebraska. Activities will start at 2:00 p.m. with boating, swimming, kite flying, a trampoline, etc. At 6:00 p.m. the picnic will begin; bring a covered dish, your own plates and silver service, and your appetite. The club will furnish soft drinks.

With the onset of darkness, the star party will begin, so bring your telescopes too. The club's 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ incher will be there.

This is probably our club's biggest social event of the year, and in times gone by we have had people from all over the region in attendance. Bring your family, friends, telescope, covered dish, and whatever else you'd like to for a really good time. Just follow the blacktop road from the north edge of Hickman to its end at the east side of the lake. If it rains, we'll do it the next day, August 6th. See you there!!!

* * * * *

There will be a Gateway Show for the benefit of the public and the publicity of the club on August 17th on the Gateway mall. Those of you who have small portable telescopes really should participate in your club's public relations activity once in a while. You might be responsible for some youngster's interest in astronomy in the future. Bring your scope and set up on the mall about 7:00. The moon will be in its first quarter, Jupiter will be high in the sky, and the crowd of the curious will find you.

* * * * *

On Friday night, August 11th, the club will conduct a Perseid meteor watch at the club observatory in Hickman. Come on down; they usually really start popping after we cross our true midnight line which, daylight saving time, our position in the Central Zone, etc., all considered, 1:30 a.m. is when they really ought to start. You night owls have a golden opportunity to stay up late and see a meteor shower with other night owls on a Friday night!

And that's not all--on August 12th (Saturday) the St. Joe club has invited us to their family picnic and star party. Several of our members plan to go already, especially to observe the Perseid meteors which will be at their height that night. If you would like to go and need transportation, contact Earl Moser, 992-2260.

* * * * *

August 29, 1972

Phone: 489-7651

* * T H E P R A I R I E A S T R O N O M E R * *

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held, as usual, in Olin Science Hall on the NWU campus at 7:30 p.m. The topic of the program will be the solar eclipse of July 10th complete with slides and other pictures taken by members who went to Canada to view the totality. Also, there will be a drawing for a door prize (this to become a regular feature of our meetings), this month's prize being a turret eyepiece holder for standard optical systems. You must be present at the meeting to win. See you there.

* * * * *

--The President's Report--

We had a good turn-out for the picnic on August 5th, even though there was a somewhat smaller response from our own club members than was expected. Our guests included about 15 members of the Omaha Club, 2 from St. Joseph, Mo., and 8 from the Sioux City, Iowa club. We had a special treat with a surprise visit by Bob Wright, a long-time member and past president of the Astronomical League.

Mr. Wright has been nominated for League president again and will no doubt be elected at the Seattle convention since he is unopposed on the ballot. We had only one sailboat at the event this year since my own boat developed a cracked hull, and Philo Prell didn't show up. That left all the boating chores to Mr. Harlan Franey. Thanks Harlan!

The picnic supper turned out very well and there was plenty of food for everyone. Things started to look great for a star party too, as it had been cloudy all day, but cleared up by sunset. But, more clouds moved in with the darkness and the star party turned into a bull session of sorts. A few of the late stayers were treated by a bit of aurora when the skies started to clear at 2 a.m. By 3 a.m. the skies had cleared completely and the splendor of the heavens was on hand for viewing by the few that managed to escape the toll of late hours and heavy eyelids.

On August 11th, a meteor watch was held at the club observatory. Again only a few of our club members showed up for this annual display of the Perseid meteor shower. There seemed to be quite a few meteors up till midnight, then for some reason they seemed to slack off from midnight till 2 a.m. After two o'clock they seemed to pick up again and were going strong till 3:30 when clouds spoiled the show.

The next day (August 12th) Donn Baker and I drove to St. Joe and attended the Midland Empire Astronomy Club's picnic and star party. Their event was held at the farm home of M.E.A.C.'s members Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartig, some 12-15 miles east of St. Joe. A total of about 40 people were on hand from Lincoln, St. Joe, Kansas City, Omaha, and the Central Missouri Club of Fayette, Mo. I was treated to a special surprise. At the briefing session prior to the meteor watch, I was presented with a Messier Award! And an honorary citation yet! Although I had observed all the Messier objects 10 years ago, I had never applied for a citation because I had not recorded my viewings, according to League rules. But the League officials seemed to think that I was deserving of the award because it was signed by P.A.S. official Bridn Dodson, Messier Award Chairman Bill Scurlock, and League pres. But Shewmon. Thanks to all who took part in this award presentation, and especially Bob Allen who first suggested it apparently.

The meteor watch and star party were highly successful since we had perfectly clear skies all night long. The party finally broke up about 4:30 a.m. and a wonderful time was had by all.

---Earl Moser

--The President's Report--

We had a good turn-out for the picnic on August 5th, even though there was a somewhat smaller response from our own club members than was expected. Our guests included about 15 members of the Omaha Club, 2 from St. Joseph, Mo., and 8 from the Sioux City, Iowa club. We had a special treat with a surprise visit by Bob Wright, a long-time member and past president of the Astronomical League.

Mr. Wright has been nominated for League president again and will no doubt be elected at the Seattle convention since he is unopposed on the ballot. We had only one sailboat at the event this year since my own boat developed a cracked hull, and Philo Prell didn't show up. That left all the boating chores to Mr. Harlan Franey. Thanks Harlan!

The picnic supper turned out very well and there was plenty of food for everyone. Things started to look great for a star party too, as it had been cloudy all day, but cleared up by sunset. But, more clouds moved in with the darkness and the star party turned into a bull session of songs. A few of the late stayers were treated by a bit of aurora when the skies started to clear at 2 a.m. By 3 a.m. the skies had cleared completely and the splendor of the heavens was on hand for viewing by the few that managed to escape the toll of late hours and heavy eyelids.

On August 11th, a meteor watch was held at the club observatory. Again only a few of our club members showed up for this annual display of the Perseid meteor shower. There seemed to be quite a few meteors up till midnight, then for some reason they seemed to slack off from midnight till 2 a.m. After two o'clock they seemed to pick up again and were going strong till 3:30 when clouds spoiled the show.

The next day (August 12th) Donna Baker and I drove to St. Joe and attended the Midland Empire Astronomy Club's picnic and star party. Their event was held at the farm home of M.E.A.C.'s members Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartig, some 12-15 miles east of St. Joe. A total of about 40 people were on hand from Lincoln, St. Joe, Kansas City, Omaha, and the Central Missouri Club of Fayette, Mo. I was treated to a special surprise. At the briefing session prior to the meteor watch, I was presented with a Messier Award! And an honorary citation yet! Although I had observed all the Messier objects 10 years ago, I had never applied for a citation because I had not recorded my viewings, according to League rules. But the League officials seemed to think that I was deserving of the award because it was signed by P.A.C. official Bridn Dodson, Messier Award Chairman Bill Scurlock, and League pres. But Shewmon. Thanks to all who took part in this award presentation, and especially Bob Allen who first suggested it apparently.

The meteor watch and star party were highly successful since we had perfectly clear skies all night long. The party finally broke up about 4:30 a.m. and a wonderful time was had by all.

---Earl Moser

* * * * *

GATEWAY SHOW

There will be a show for the public on the Gateway Mall this September 14th (that's a Thursday) commencing about sundown, so bring your scope out and tell the public what we do when we do our thing. If it's terribly cloudy or rainy, we'll have the show the next night. Mark your calendar--see you there.

* * * * *

TREASURER'S REPORT

We have \$254.40 in the treasury at this printing, 47 regular members, and 9 special or honorary people who receive our newsletter. Those who are behind in dues will receive notification in next month's