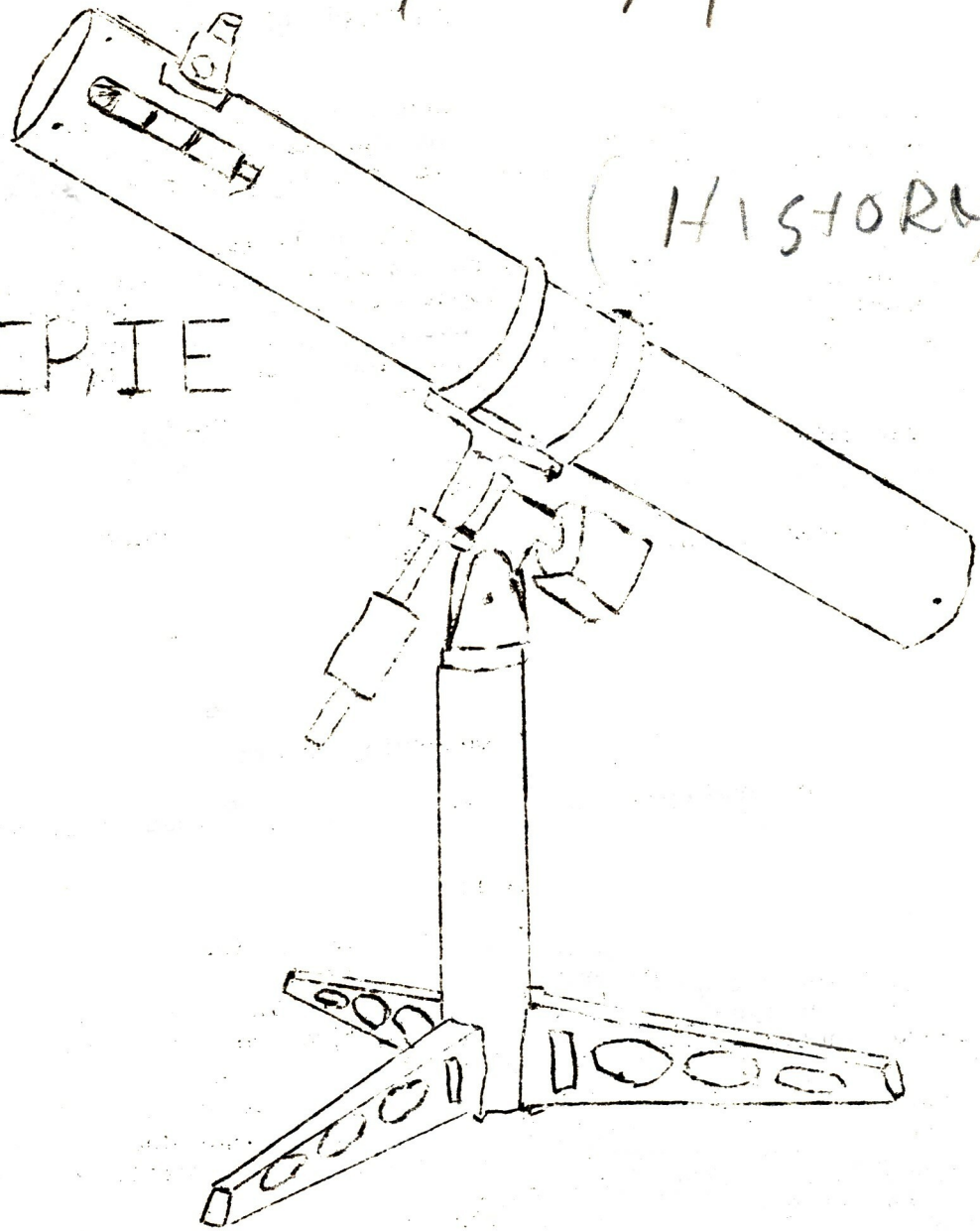


1 - 74

THE
PRAIRIE

PHYSICISTS

HISTORY



Our next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, January 29 at the Olin Hall of Science on the Nebraska Wesleyan Campus. There will of course be refreshments and a drawing for several door prizes, you must be present to win so don't miss it!

This months program will be presented by Ed Woerner, but due to a lack of communication the subject of the talk is unknown.

The President's Report

Well, the great Comet Kohoutek has come and gone, and instead of being the Comet of the century, it was the fizzle of the century. With all of the publicity of this Comet, it sure is a shame that we didn't have anything better to show the public.

Our club did get a bit of help publicity wise though. On the nights of January 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 15 several club members were on hand to help with public viewing of the Comet on the roof of Olin Hall. With the help of people from the Lincoln City College, Professor Moore presented a slide show about Comets in the Planetarium. Then after the slide show the people were sent up to the roof-top, where Prairie Astronomy Club Members had the Celestron 10" ready with Kohoutek in view. We averaged about 100 people a night and everything worked out well in spite of the minus 24° cold on Friday night. (I recovered from the frost bite).

I am sure there will be other Reports on the Comet at the meeting. Maybe even pictures. See You then.

Earl Moser

Observing Report

The observing chairman, Brian Rugg, will present his report at the meeting.

Daylight Savings Time

It looks like it is here for awhile. The change in the clock is both good and bad for myself, as I don't get off from work til 5:00 and it takes about 25-30 minutes to cross town that time of day, so I can now get home before sunset and get out to photograph the Comet. That was the good, now for the bad. Later in the year the sun sets later and twilight does not end until about 9:00 which doesn't leave much time to ponder the wonders of the night sky and still get in a good nights sleep.

The Gateway shows also suffer a lot, by the time it is dark the stores are closed and hence the people are gone. This limits us to the moon and any bright planets which happen to be visible. Any way you look at it the government says it will help save energy and you can't fight the government and come out on top.

J. B.

NOTE:

Earl gave me several newsletters from other Astro Clubs to read. I will bring them to the meeting and if you wish you may read them. One thing our newsletter does lack is a letter head with a club symbol or seal for the news letter. I would appreciate any thoughts or suggestions to relieve this deficiency.

Any one wishing to voice an opinion, write an article or put a want ad in the newsletter may do so by submitting to me in writing form a copy of what is to be printed, one week in advance of the next meeting.

All contributions gratefully accepted. The Newsletter has been getting smaller and smaller every month and I don't want to see anything bad happen to it.

Thanks J. B.

OUR CLUB HISTORY

A History of the Prairie Astronomy Club of Lincoln, Nebraska 1961-1973

It seems to have begun about the time of the November 7, 1960 transit of Mercury. An item in the newspaper prior to the event was noted by several interested people in the area near Lincoln. I must have seen the news item myself as I recall observing the transit from Hickman on November 7. The news item also mentioned that Professor Carrol Moore was going to observe the transit from the Wesleyan Observatory. Several of the astronomy enthusiasts joined Professor Moore for the event and afterwards decided to have a meeting in the near future. Wide-spread publicity by the news media called the attention of others interested in astronomy to the up-coming meeting and the possibility of forming a club. Informal meetings were held at first in the basement of the Van Fleet Hall of Science at Wesleyan.

In April of 1961 a constitution was adopted by the 14 charter members, and the Prairie Astronomy Club of Lincoln made its official debut.

The Charter members:

Phillip Johnson
Richard Johnson
Tom Pansing
Jess Williams
Pete Schultz
Carroll Moore
Phil Prell
Werner Klammer
Dick Hartley
Eugene Robertson
Walter Erbach
Harlan Franey
Jim Hoskins
Faun Fritz

The meeting place moved from the basement to the upstairs lecture hall of the Van Fleet Building sometime in 1961. The club held its meetings for a while in 1963 at the University of Nebraska museum; in 1964 and 1965 the club met at Union Loan & Savings at 56 and "O" Street.

Since then all meetings have been at Wesleyan, in Van Fleet Hall till January, 1969, and then into the new Olin Hall of Science where the club is presently meeting.

The club was first affiliated with Sky and Telescope on October 16, 1962.

The first newsletter was published April 6, 1962 by Pete Schultz.

In August, 1962, it was first suggested that the club join the Astronomical League.

June 30, 1962--The first private star party was held at the home of Dick Hartley.

August 9, 1962--First Gateway show.

July, 1965--Club observatory plans first discussed.

December 20, 1965--The club was incorporated thanks to Phillip and Richard Johnson.

June 9, 1967--Club members first attended a Mid-states Region Astronomical League Convention. The first national convention attended by club members was August, 1968.

August, 1967--The club bought a 12½ inch f/6 reflector telescope.

In late 1967 the club joined the Astronomical League and changed Eastern Nebraska from North Central to the Mid-states region.

August, 1968--First club family picnic and star party.

June 5, 6, 7, 1970--Our club was host to the Midstates convention. The convention was held at Olin Hall where the club regularly meets.

Mid 1972--A motion was made to abolish the office of recording secretary

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Mid 1972--A motion was made to abolish the office of recording secretary and also to combine the offices of Secretary and Treasury to one office. The motion was passed and the list of officers was reduced from 7 to 5.

April 5, 6, 7, 1973--The new 30" Telescope of the University of Nebraska was dedicated on the 7th. The fifth annual Mid-America State Universities Association Astrophysics Conference was held at the University of Nebraska on the 5th and 6th. The main speakers were four of the Nations leading Astronomers.

Dr. Bart J. Bok, Dr. Philip Morrison, Dr. Jesse L. Greenstein
and Dr. Thomas Gold

August 1-5, 1973--Our club Co-hosted the Convention of the National Astronomical League, which was held in Omaha

Born in 1961, the club is now thirteen years old. Thanks to its early guardians it has spent very little time in infancy, but it has developed fast and strong.

CLUB OFFICERS

September, 1965

President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Richard Johnson
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Hartley
Program Chairman--George Lyberis; Ed Woerner
Publications Chairman--Steve Kunkee; Ed Woerner
Recording Secretary--Steve Kunkee

September, 1966

President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Folix Covosie
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--?
Publications Chairman--Scott Coatsworth; Monte Cole; Steve Kunkee; Larry Stepp

October, 1967

President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Larry Stepp
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--Larry Stepp
Publications Chairman--Monte Cole; Steve Kunkee
Recording Secretary--Ed Woerner

October, 1968

President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Monte Cole
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--Carroll Moore
Publications Chairman--Monte Cole; Roger Severns; Ed Woerner

October, 1969

President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Ed Woerner
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--Monte Cole
Publications Chairman--Brian Dodson; Larry Stepp
Recording Secretary--Roger Severns

October, 1970

President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Robert Manthey
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Brian Dodson
Program Chairman--Richard Shellhouse
Recording Secretary--Monte Cole

October, 1971

President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Robert Manthey
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Monte Cole
Program Chairman--Larry Stepp
Publications Chairman--Ed Woerner
Recording Secretary--Brian Dodson

Vice-President--Folix Covosie
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--?
Publications Chairman--Scott Coatsworth; Monte Cole; Steve Kunkee; Larry Stepp

October, 1967
President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Larry Stepp
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--Larry Stepp
Publications Chairman--Monte Cole; Steve Kunkee
Recording Secretary--Ed Woerner

October, 1968
President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Monte Cole
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--Carroll Moore
Publications Chairman--Monte Cole; Roger Severns; Ed Woerner

October, 1969
President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Ed Woerner
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Richard Johnson
Program Chairman--Monte Cole
Publications Chairman--Brian Dodson; Larry Stepp
Recording Secretary--Roger Severns

October, 1970
President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Robert Manthey
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Brian Dodson
Program Chairman--Richard Shellhouse
Recording Secretary--Monte Cole

October, 1971
President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Robert Manthey
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Monte Cole
Program Chairman--Larry Stepp
Publications Chairman--Ed Woerner
Recording Secretary--Brian Dodson

September, 1972
President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Dr. Robert Manthey
Secretary-Treasurer--Jess Williams
Program--Brian Dodson
Publications--Phill Kelton, Assisted by Lawrence Pilgram

September, 1973
President--Earl Moser
Vice-President--Dr. Robert Manthey
Secretary-Treasurer--Jess Williams
Program--Jack Dunn
Publications--John Bruce

CLUB OFFICERS

April, 1961

President--Tom Pansing
Secretary--Jess Williams
Program Chairman--Pete Schultz; Jim Hoskins

May, 1962

President--Jess Williams
Vice-President--Werner Klammer
Secretary--Pete Schultz; Jim Hoskins
Treasurer--John Howe
Program Chairman--Richard Hartley
Publications Chairman--Pete Schultz

March, 1963

President--Jess Williams
Vice-President--Earl Moser
Secretary--Harlan Franey
Treasurer--John Howe
Program Chairman--Richard Hartley
Publications Chairman--?

September, 1964

President--Richard Hartley
Vice-President--Eugene Robertson
Secretary--Jess Williams
Treasurer--Harlan Franey
Program Chairman--Earl Moser
Publications Chairman--?

Sorry about getting these out of order
as to the years. J.B.

If you have any photographs or drawings of the comet, by all means
bring them to the meeting with you.

In the upper right hand corner of the address lable is the date that
your dues expire, if you have any questions about this date correct see
Jess Williams or myself John Bruce at the meeting. If the date on your
lable is circled your dues have expired.

