

Feb. 26, 1974

Phone 489-1798

**** THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER ****

This month our meeting will be held, as usual, at 7:30pm in the Olin Hall of Science on the Nebraska Wesleyan Campus. Brian Rugg, Steve Roper and John Bruce will present a astro-photographic slide show, all of the slides to be shown were taken in the last year so there will be no repeats from the last show this group presented. Some of the highlights are the Horsehead nebula in Orion, the North American nebula in Cygnus, and many more, there will of course be a drawing for a door prize and some refreshments after the meeting so dont miss this months meeting!!!!

Serry but no Presidents Report this month.

----- OBSERVING REPORT -----

On the night of Feb. 12 John Bruce and I went out to Hickman and got in a good nights observing, being unharassed by either the cold or mosquitoes. We hunted down some galaxies in Lynx and Ursa Major, two of which were rather unique.

The first, NGC 2683 was brought to my attention by Walter Scott Houston In the March 1971 issue of Sky & Telescope. He described it as a cigar shaped object of about magnitude 9.2. The object fits the description quite well, for it literally looks like a cigar. Complete with rounded ends!

Another object, NGC 2693, in Ursa Major was one of the smallest galaxies John and I have ever seen. at magnitude 11.7 and only .8 x .6 minutes of arc in size. The only reason we looked for it was that it was within a degree of an earlier observed galaxie that was quite bright. The other two objects I will discuss at the meeting.

I might add something else, Did anyone notice Mercury at about mid-month? It was a little south of west and at magnitude minus one for about one week then. The anazing thing about it was it's height above the horizon. Being Near spring time it was setting directly above the sun making it an easy object to view about an hour after sun set, also the Zodical light is reaching up to the Pleides which are at the zenith at about eight .

Brian Rugg
Observing Chairman

NEW COMET--BRADFEILD, 1974-b

Jess Williams called me on the twentieth of this month and told me that he had received a card from the IAU that listed a comet that was bright enough for us to observe, it was 1974b-Bradfeild estimated between mag 7 & 9 at 23 hrs. 27min and 32 deg. 42min. On the twenty second he called again with more information on this comet. He gave me some of the predicted positions and magnitudes, here are some of them.

Feb 27-----0 hrs. 29 min.----- -28 deg.-----mag 6.2

Mar 15-----1 hr. 33 min.----- -13deg.-----mag 5.0

Mar 24-----2 hrs. 08 min.----- +07 deg.-----mag 4.5

at perihelion it is expected to reach minus three magnitude

More info will be given at the meeting. This comet looks like it might steal some fame? from Kohoutek

J.B.

**** NOTICE ****

Any one having a telescope that is in good condition and wants to sell it see Jess Williams at the meeting.