

9-76

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER

Volume 16, Number 11

September 28, 1976

ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR CLUB OFFICERS SCHEDULED DURING SEPTEMBER MEETING

The regular meeting of the Prairie Astronomy Club will be held at Olin Hall at Nebraska Wesleyan University on Tuesday night, September 28, 7:30 p.m.

The main order of business will be election of officers for the coming year. At the last meeting, the following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee for consideration by the full membership of the club:

- President -- Larry Stepp
 - Vice President -- Rick Johnson
 - Secretary -- Dr. Robert Manthey
 - Treasurer -- Lee Thomas*
 - Program Chairman -- Jack Dunn*
- (*indicates incumbent)

Members are urged to submit other names in nomination at the September meeting. Officers are elected for one-year terms commencing November 1 and ending October 31.

President Earl Moser, who is off junketing in Europe, and Treasurer Lee Thomas, who will be slaving, not junketing, in Washington D.C., will not be at the September meeting. Members whose dues are to be paid this month should pay them to club secretary Jess Williams, or mail them to Lee Thomas at 1025 No. 63rd, Apt. B107, Lincoln, Nebraska 68505, to assure that no lapse occurs in your Sky & Telescope subscription.

Program Chairman Jack Dunn will be teaching his astronomy class at the University Tuesday night, so he will be absent from the meeting, too. (Vice President Larry Stepp will conduct the elections.) Program will include a NASA film, "Earthquake Below", which details the use of space satellites to assess earthquake probabilities. Jack says anyone planning to move to California should definitely see this film before making any final decision.

"STAR WATCH" IS NEW CLUB PROJECT

Each year, the Lincoln City Parks & Recreation Department sponsors a number of outdoor education-recreation projects. Among them this year is a "Star Watch", which was announced to the public in the Parks & Recreation supplement to the Sunday Journal-Star, September 19.

Actually, two "Star Watches" are scheduled, the first for Tuesday night, October 19, 1976, and the second for March 29, 1977. They will begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Holmes Golf Course parking lot.

You will notice that the location is very close to the proposed site of the Community Observatory. The idea behind the Star Watches is to get people used to thinking of Holmes Park as a place to look at the sky,

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SKY CALENDAR






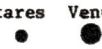

Information for helping teachers

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p><i>Evening Planets:</i> Venus is the brilliant object in SW to WSW during evening twilight. On Oct 1 Venus sets shortly before twilight ends. By Oct 31 it sets in a dark sky. Watch Venus pass Antares; see date blocks.</p>	<p>Jupiter is the bright object rising in ENE in early evening. On Oct 1 it comes up within 2 1/2 hrs after sunset. Rising 4 minutes earlier each night, it comes up 1 hr after sunset Oct 31. Note Pleiades star cluster 5° N of Jupiter.</p>	<p><i>Morning Planets:</i> Since Jupiter rises after sunset, it remains visible until dawn. An hour before sunup Oct 1 Jupiter is 60° up in SW. An hour before sunup Oct 31 Jupiter is 30° up in W. Note Pleiades 5° N of Jupiter.</p>	<p>Saturn an hour sunup on Oct 1 up in eastern Cancer about upper right of By Oct 31 an hour before sunup, 65° up in SE a upper right of Mercury: See Oct 4, 6, 21.</p>
<p>This week and next are best of year for viewing Mercury in morning sky. It is best about 45 min before sunrise; Mercury then appears as only bright "star" very low nearly due east.</p>	<p>Locations of planets, 45 min before sunrise, as seen from latitude 40° N: Jupiter: SW, 55° up Saturn: ESE, 45° up Mercury: E, 7° up</p>	<p>An hour before sunset tonight, the moon has just risen. Look very close to due east. As evening progresses, moon moves higher and to right, because of earth's rotation.</p>	<p>Tomorrow Mercury reaches greater elongation, 18 hrs before sun Excellent 1 hr sunup. Visible more weeks, Mercury gets a little each morning.</p>
<p>2 1/2 hrs after sunset: Face ENE.</p> <p>Pleiades ○ Moon ● Jupiter</p>	<p>2 1/2 hrs after sunset:</p> <p>○ Pleiades ● Jupiter ○ Moon</p>	<p>3 1/2 hrs after sunset: ○ Pleiades</p> <p>● Jupiter ● Aldebaran ○ Moon</p>	<p>45 min after sunset: Face SW. Note reddish Antares 18° up of Venus.</p> <p>● Antares</p>
<p>One hour before sunrise:</p> <p>● Saturn ○ Moon ● Regulus</p>	<p>One hour before sunrise:</p> <p>● Saturn ○ Moon ● Regulus</p>	<p>One hour before sunrise: ● Saturn</p> <p>● Regulus ○ Moon</p>	<p>45 min after sunset (face SW) 10° apart.</p> <p>● Antares</p>
<p>45 min after sunset: First chance to see waxing crescent moon. Face SW.</p> <p>Antares ● Venus ○ Moon</p>	<p>45 min after sunset: Venus and Antares 4.5° apart.</p> <p>Antares ● Venus ○ Moon</p>	<p>45 min after sunset: Moon</p> <p>Antares ● Venus</p>	<p>Venus and Antares closest tonight tomorrow night, apart, 45 min after sunset:</p> <p>Antares ● Venus</p>

Magnitudes of the Planets: Venus -3.4; Jupiter -2.2 to -2.4; Saturn +0.6; Mercury: Oct 1 +0.8; Oct 4 +0.3; Oct 9 -0.4; Oct 14 -0.8; Oct 19 -0.9. Planets against star background: Jupiter creeps 2.6° westward in Taurus; it is closest to Pleiades (5° south of the cluster) around Oct 20. Saturn creeps 2.2° eastward in Cancer, going from 7° to 9° east of Beehive cluster and ending 13° west of Regulus. Watch Venus race past Antares. See Oct 13, 14, 20, 23-28.

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and students observe the sky

DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
before is 40° sky and 15° Regulus. ur return is d 13° Regulus. t 3,	THIS MONTH'S MAP, October Evening Skies, shows sky 3 1/2 hrs after sunset Oct 1, and 2 1/2 hrs after sunset Oct 29. Last month's map shows sky 2 hrs earlier.	Location of planets 45 min after sunset, as seen from latitude 40° N: Venus: 4° up in WSW (only planet visible then; Jupiter rises later)	Early in the evening, between 2 and 3 hours after sunset, Jupiter rises in ENE and Arcturus sets in WNW. Watch for both events.
6	 Full Moon, in opposi- tion to sun, is above horizon all night tonight. Watch moon rise just N of due E shortly before sunset tonight and set just after sunrise tomorrow.	8 Moon, rising later each evening, comes up just after sundown tonight. Watch position of moonrise shift farther north each night through Oct 13.	9 Moon remains visible for more than an hour after sunrise this morning. Each day the moon sets nearly an hour later. Watch position of moonset shift northward through Oct 13.
13 inkling er left Venus	14 Watch Venus approach Antares. Each night Venus is 1.2° farther east in relation to stars. Venus moves through head of Scorpius Oct 21-23. Use binoculars for that event.	15 Now that moon is absent from evening sky, try locating Andromeda Galaxy (Glx on this month's map). It appears brighter in binoculars.	16 One hour before sunrise: high SSE ● Castor ● Pollux Last Qtr Moon 
20 enus	21 40 min before sunrise: Use binocu- lars to see Mercury, now difficult to see.  Moon Mercury 	22  Invisible New Moon is below horizon all night tonight. During our night, parts of Africa, Indian Ocean, and Australia will see a total eclipse of the sun.	23 45 min after sunset: 6.5° apart. Antares Venus 
27 and 3.3° fter enus	28 45 min after sunset: Use Venus as a guide to Antares. On what date will you last see that star? Antares ● Venus	29  First Quarter moon 90° (1/4 circle) east of sun in afternoon and evening sky. After sunset, moon shows beautiful details in binoculars.	30 Jupiter now rises 1 hr after sunset, and Venus sets 1 3/4 hrs after sunset. Between those times it should be possible to observe both at once, from a place with good view toward ENE and WSW.

East Lansing Sunrise: October 1 7:35 a.m.; October 16 7:52 a.m. EDT; October 31 7:11 a.m. EST
Sunset : October 1 7:20 p.m.; October 16 6:54 p.m. EDT; October 31 5:32 p.m. EST

"STAR WATCH" PROJECT

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and get a running start on having the Prairie Astronomy Club conducting sessions in which the public can peer through telescopes. It is a continuation of the Gateway Sky Show idea at a dark(er) sky location.

Every member of the club with a telescope is encouraged to bring it to the first Star Watch on Tuesday night, October 19. If nothing else, it will be a chance to satisfy your curiosity about Holmes Park as a good place to build the Community Observatory.

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER is published monthly by the Prairie Astronomy Club, and is free to club members. Yearly subscription to the newsletter only is \$3. Regular membership (including one-year subscription to Sky & Telescope, club newsletter, and four quarterly issues of the Astronomical League publication, The Reflector) is \$9, family membership is \$11. Editor: Lee Thomas (489-3855), Assistant Editor, Merton Sprengel (489-3177).

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