



The Prairie Astronomer

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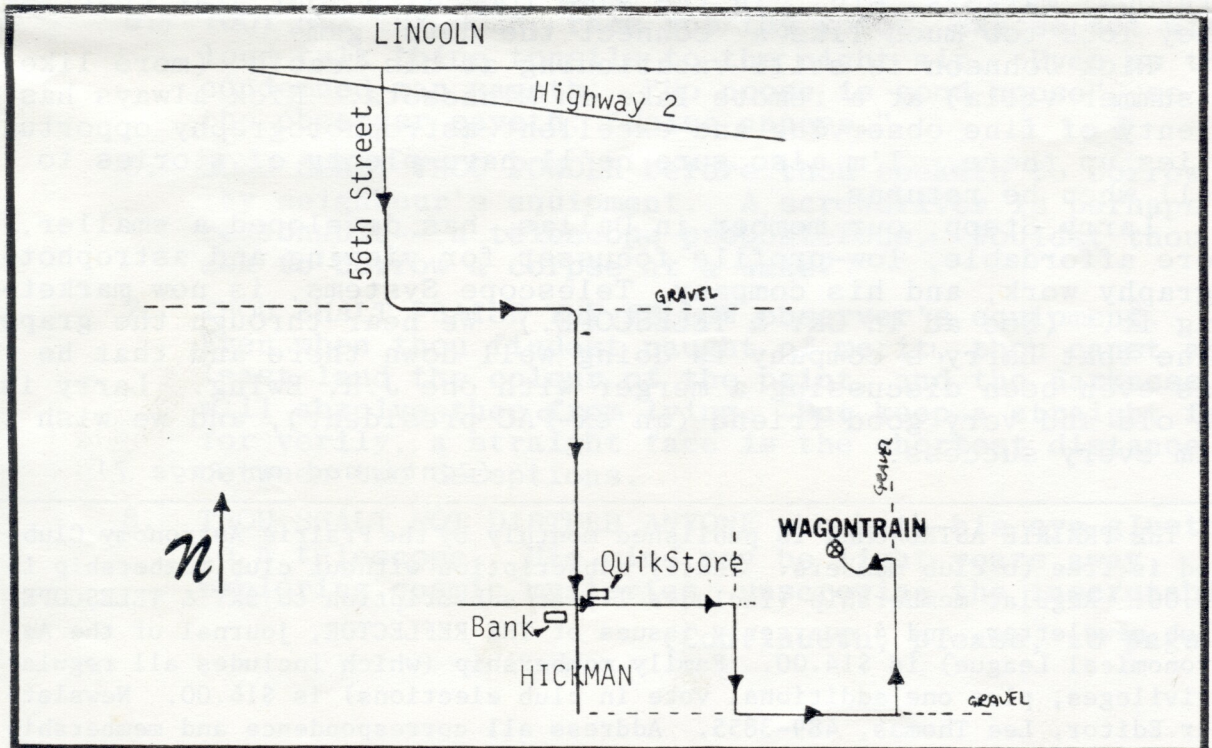
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1981 PICNIC & STAR PARTY AUGUST 1

The Prairie Astronomy Club's annual Picnic & Star Party will be held earlier than usual this year because a full moon intrudes on the Persiads during mid-month Saturdays. The date is August 1, at Wagon Train Lake, as usual (follow the map). Bring your own refreshments, and make contribution to the potluck variety of food. Plan to arrive around 6:00 p.m., and dinner will begin around 6:30.

Don't forget to hitch a ride with

someone who has a Game & Parks Commission 1981 Park Permit (\$5.00), or acquire a 24-hour permit for \$1.50 from one of the usual sources (sports shops, K-Mart, Woolco, Wards, etc.) The permit entitles you to park your car in the park, and to partake of swimming, fishing (with license), and other activities. Don't forget to bring your telescope, because the fun really begins at sunset.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

This month I thought you might like to know how some of our members have been spending their summer.

Carroll Moore is now on his way to Siberia. No, he hasn't been exiled by a crowd of irate students. He and his wife are going to see the total eclipse and are stretching that two-minute and six-second event into a 4-week around-the-world trip. Carroll has been chasing eclipses for years and he's really been looking forward to this one. We can't wait for him to get back and give his report to the club (along with pictures, of course) at the August meeting. We wish him fair weather.

Roger and Elaine Besch are the proud parents of a brand spanking new baby boy. Eight-pound ten-ounce Brent Michael was born on June 1, and that explains why Roger didn't put in an appearance at the Mid-States Convention. Now that my daughter Melissa is eighteen months old, I have a few words of advice for Roger (gathered through experience): Always keep your telescopes, eyepieces, etc., on a high shelf and NEVER leave crayons, markers, etc., in the same room with your star charts-- they look too much like a "connect the dots" game.

Rick Johnson is still vacationing at his "cabin" (more like a summer villa) at a remote lake in Minnesota. Rick always has plenty of fine observing and excellent astrophotography opportunities up there. I'm also sure he'll have plenty of stories to tell when he returns.

Larry Stepp, our member in Dallas, has developed a smaller, more affordable, low-profile focuser for viewing and astrophotography work, and his company, Telescope Systems, is now marketing it. (See ad in SKY & TELESCOPE.) We hear through the grapevine that Larry's company is doing well down there and that he has even been discussing a merger with one J.R. Ewing. Larry is an old and very good friend (an ex-PAC president), and we wish him every success.

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THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER is published monthly by the Prairie Astronomy Club, and is free to club members. Yearly subscription without club membership is \$5.00. Regular membership (includes 1-year subscription to SKY & TELESCOPE, club newsletter, and 4 quarterly issues of THE REFLECTOR, journal of the Astronomical League) is \$14.00. Family membership (which includes all regular privileges, plus one additional vote in club elections) is \$16.00. Newsletter Editor, Lee Thomas, 489-3855. Address all correspondence and membership renewals to: PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC., P.O. Box 80553, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Commandments for Stargazers

1. THOU SHALT NOT SHATTER THE DARKNESS at the observing site. All man-made lights shalt thou eschew, save faint red ones.
2. THOU SHALT NOT ILLUMINATE thy car headlights, nor open thy car door without disconnecting thy dome light. Even a struck match is mightily displeasing in the dark-adapted eyes of the Lord.
3. THOU SHALT WALK CAREFULLY over the site, taking pains not to stumble over power lines, tripod legs, rattlesnakes, nor sleeping babes. The Lord has given thee free will to break thine own neck, but thou must never jostle thy neighbour's equipment.
4. THOU SHALT NOT RAISE A DUST CLOUD with thy clumsy clodhoppers. Neither shalt thou "burn rubber" with thy hot rod, even though thy best girl be watching thee.
5. TOOT NOT THY HORN, race not thy motor, expose not with loud talk thine tonsils to the night air. Even as the condemned man sayeth: "No noose is good noose", so the observer sayeth: "Noise annoys."
6. LONG SHALT THOU PONDER before thou seeketh to borrow thy neighbour's equipment. A screwdriver is perhaps reasonable-- a telescope preposterous. Wouldst thou ask to borrow a corpse at a wake?
7. THOU SHALT PRAISE THY FELLOW observer's equipment. Even when thou findest naught of merit, thou canst at least laud the colour of the paint, and the darkness will absolve thee from lying. But keep a straight face, for verily, a straight face is the shortest distance between two deceptions.
8. THOU SHALT NOT DISTURB ANYONE who hath his eye glueth to a telescope. His mind may be light years away, exploring cosmic mysteries, unscrewing the inscrutable.

(Continueth, please, to page 8)

PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER, July 15, 1981

Name	Address	City-State-Zip	Class	Exp.	Telephone
1. Donn Baker	2616 No. 59th St.	Lincoln, NE 68507	R	3/82	466-4309
2. Walter Baumann	2305 Marilyn Ave.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	4/82	423-5740
3. Michael Benes	722 Hill St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	12/81	432-9179
4. Roger Besch	1030 No. 78th St.	Lincoln, NE 68505	R	5/82	467-1532
5. Felix Cavosie	911 Division St.	Hurley, WI 54534	R	2/82	-----
6. Marc Cherry	654 E. 2nd St.	Hickman, NE 68372	R	8/82	792-2906
7. Dr. John Clothier	355 So. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68510	R	9/81	488-5603
8. Russell Copple	Rt. #1	Alvo, NE 68304	NL	6/82	781-2253
9. Andy Corkill	2220 So. 49th St.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	3/82	488-1096
10. Norma Coufal	1921 Beatrice St.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	6/82	483-5685
11. Jack Dunn	1326 D St., Apt. #2	Lincoln, NE 68502	NL	3/82	475-9975
12. Harlan Franey	1734 So. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 6850C	R	1/82	488-0085
13. Norman D. Frerichs	623 No. 9th St.	Beatrice, NE 68310	F	8/82	-----
14. Clark Fuller	2811 S St.	Lincoln, NE 68503	NL	9/81	477-3034
15. Marvin Garber, Jr.	2569 40th Ave. #11	Columbus, NE 68601	R	10/82	-----
16. Russ Genzmer *	5230 Cooper Ave.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	1/82	488-4232
17. Dave Gerber	3720 Cooper Pl.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	6/82	483-2110
18. Jeff Goff	710 8th St.	Milford, NE 68405	R	12/81	761-2337
19. Roger Grant	3333 So. 44th St.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	10/81	-----
20. Bruce Gregg	Rt. #1, Box 139	Hickman, NE 68372	R	7/82	788-2563
21. Quentin Hansen	221 E. Grant St.	West Point, NE 68788	NL-3/82	-----	-----
22. Dick Hartley	320 Wedgewood Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68510	R	10/81	489-4105
23. Bev Hetzel	1413 G St.	Lincoln, NE 68508	R	12/81	-----
24. Duane Hutchinson	3445 Touzalin Ave.	Lincoln, NE 68507	R	1/82	466-4988
25. Richard Johnson	1860 Pawnee St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	9/81	423-6726
26. Junior League of Lincoln c/o Diane Johnston	No. 17 Bishop Square	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	4/82	423-8787
27. Steve Kell	2709 Arlington St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	8/82	476-7816
28. Ann Kelley	3614 J St.	Lincoln, NE 68510	NL	3/82	-----

30. David Knisely	1616 No. 14th St.	Beatrice, NE 68310	R	12/81	472-0424
31. Kenneth Kopta	1544 Crestline Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	3/82	489-3005
32. John Lamborn	3910 No. 62nd St.	Lincoln, NE 68507	R	2/82	466-2878
33. John Lammers*	1007 8th St.	Fairbury, NE 68352	R	12/81	476-2583
34. Brad Leseberg	824 I St.	Fairbury, NE 68352	R	11/81	-----
35. Alan Logan	5577 Rice Dr. #98007	The Colony, TX 75056	R-6	8/82	-----
36. John B. Lortz	4850 Garland, #4	Lincoln, NE 68504	F	4/82	467-2987
37. Dick McCann	2425 Sewell St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	4/82	477-4947
38. R. A. Manthey	61st & O-Montgomery	Ward-Lincoln, NE 68505	R-9	9/82	489-3237
39. Jeanne Miller	1565 68th Ave. NE	Fridley, MN 55432	R	10/81	-----
40. Kris Miller	1149 So. 17th St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	5/82	435-4051
41. C. L. Moore	1140 No. 79th St.	Lincoln, NE 68505	R	9/82	466-1886
42. Earl Moser	4741 Southwood Dr.	Hickman, NE 68372	R	9/82	792-2260
43. John Motsinger	3243 Vandenberg Ave.	Lincoln, NE 68512	R	2/82	423-5959
44. Steve Nyatt		Omaha, NE 68123	NL	4/82	-----
45. Daniel Neville	410 So. 28th St.	Lincoln, NE 68510	R	11/81	432-7772
46. William F. Norris	2832 Manse Ave.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	1/82	435-0267
47. Mark L. Powell	3310 Cooper St.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	8/81	489-6114
48. Philo Prell	4425 Randolph St.	Lincoln, NE 68510	NL	2/82	488-3457
49. Michael J. Reade	406 E. Fairchild	Topeka, KS 66608	NL	11/81	-----
50. Carroll Reinert	3895 Sheridan Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	1/82	483-1093
51. Rev. Zygmund Rydz	1625 Adams St.	Ashland, NE 68003	R	9/82	944-3554
52. Bryan Schaaf	300 No. Coddington	Lincoln, NE 68528	R	2/82	475-5294
53. Ed Schmidt	2710 Ryons St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	9/82	435-8676
54. Trixie Schmidt	3727 Stockwell St.	Lincoln, NE 68506	NL	8/81	489-3671
55. Craig Sosin	3401 Hillside St.	Lincoln, NE 68506	R	11/81	488-0737
56. Steve Spearman	4010 Fran Ave.	Lincoln, NE 68516	R	6/82	489-4588
57. Merton Sprengel*	4522 Hillside St.	Lincoln, NE 68506	F	9/82	489-3177
58. Larry Stepp	3122 Oak Hill Rd.	Carrollton, TX 75007	R-5	8/82	245-7647
59. L. Lee Thomas*	5827 LaSalle St.	Lincoln, NE 68516	R	9/82	483-5639
60. Steve & Adelita Traudt	2726 Washington St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	R	2/82	435-7617

(Continued on reverse side)

P.A.C. MEMBERSHIP ROSTER-7/15/81
(Continued from pgs. 4-5)

Name	Address	City-State-Zip	Class	Exp.	Telephone
61. Ronald B. Veys*	940 Colony Ln.	Lincoln, NE 68505	R	1/82	464-1449
62. Scott Mareham	639 Mulder Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68510	R	1/82	483-5548
63. Dr. Morris Weiss	2134 Albright Avenue	Upland, CA 91786	R	10/81	-----
64. Ed Moerner	419 So. 48th St.	Lincoln, NE 68510	R	8/81	489-4458

Key: R = Regular member (1 vote)

F = Family member (2 votes)

NL = Newsletter subscriber only (no vote)

Expiration date = Month/Year current membership term expires

For the first time this issue we are listing "Newsletter Subscribers" on the roster, since some are very nearly as active as regular members, although they do not receive Sky & Telescope, have no vote in club elections, and are not members, through the club, of the Astronomical League.

You are encouraged to keep track of your membership expiration date. All of this information appears on the address label for your newsletter. Because of the sharp increase in expenses, no members are carried on the mailing list past the date of expiration.

*- indicates club officer and member of Board of Directors.

July Meeting

The regular meeting of the Prairie Astronomy Club will be Tuesday night, July 28, 7:30 p.m., at Hyde Observatory, Holmes Park.

This month's program will be the first of the four slide shows funded by a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, "THE SUMMER CONSTELLATIONS". Final details of the annual picnic and star party will also be discussed.

Magazines Arrive

The latest issue of TELESCOPE MAKING magazine has arrived. If you ordered on a continuing basis, please bring your \$1.25 to the meeting, and Ron Veys will have the magazine for you. If you are not presently on the list, and want to be, make sure you get your name to Ron on Tuesday. The price being charged is substantially below what you would pay for a single subscription.

TIRION MAPS YET TO COME

At press time, the TIRION SKY ATLAS 2000.0 had not arrived, which is not surprising. We held up placing the order so that as much money would be in the till as possible before mailing a check, since the amount was substantial. (A few still have not paid. It would be very nice

if you could get your payment in quickly, so we place a minimum strain on the treasury. No maps will be distributed, of course, without payment.) We were also waiting for your club president to make up his mind whether he wanted the desk version and the field edition, or one, or the other. Decisions! Decisions! Since your club treasurer, responsible for placing the order, will be mercifully away on business the night of the meeting, all blame, verbal abuse, and catcalls can be directed to the president.

Saturn's Moons: More and Stranger

The Saturnian moon system grows more complex with each passing month of examinations of Voyager 1 results --and the rush to get sufficient data to make the most of the Voyager 2 flyby scheduled for August 25.

The latest analyses show that Tethys shares its orbit with 1981 S1, which precedes it by about 60° in its motion around Saturn. Another satellite trails Tethys by about the same distance.

Dione is preceded in its orbit by a single known companion, Dione B. And two small moons, S11 and S13, appear to share nearly the same orbit.

It is likely that Voyager 2 will discover more interactions of tiny yet-unseen moonlets as they influence the ring structure.

President's Message, continued from Page 2

And, what about me? What has this devotee of amateur astronomy, budding astrophotographer, and struggling telescope maker been doing this summer? I've been painting my house.

-- RON VEYS

Commandments for Stargazers, Continued from Page 3

He may be "tracking" a photograph -- and though it may turn out badly, permit the "unguided" ones to spoil their own pictures.

9. SQUABBLE NOT WITH THINE WIFE. If she sighteth a flying saucer, belittle not her wisdom, yea, help her count the little green men, lest she seek a more agreeable companion. The plural of mouse is mice, and plural of louse, lice -- but, nay, the plural of spouse is not spice: it's bigamy.
10. THOU SHALT CLEAN UP the observing site before thou leavest, and close all gates safely behind thee. These duties well behoove the amateur astronomers, whose mottos might well be said: "We try harder, ours is only the second oldest profession."

--from a fragment of parchment
found under a boulder at Boulder, Colo.,
with thanks to the Bowie and
the Salt Lake Astronomical Societies.

THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMER
c/o Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 80553
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