



The Prairie Astronomer

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VOYAGER 2: A LAST LOOK AT SATURN

As Voyager 2 makes its closest approach to Saturn, the Prairie Astronomy Club will be holding its regular meeting (Tuesday, August 25.) Plans are being made to keep attending members up-to-the-minute (see story below).

Voyager 2 will be on television, in the following programs (not including newscasts):

PBS will be carrying nightly wrapups on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, with a final summary program Thursday night (August 27). None of these programs is scheduled "live" on Nebraska ETV, or Iowa Public Television. However, KUON-TV (Channel 12) plans to run a tape-delay of the summary program, Sunday afternoon, August 30, at 3:00 p.m.

Subscribers of Lincoln Cablevision will again have the best coverage available anywhere in the area. Cablevision plans to take the NASA feed directly off Satcom III each of three nights: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (August 24-26), at 7:00 p.m. The program will be transmitted on cable channel 10. (This channel, unfortunately, is afflicted with slopovers from Channel 11, and over-the-air signal saturation from KOLN-TV, so quality will not be up to the Voyager 1 signals we got on Channel 9 last time. That channel has since been committed to Cable News Network, so Cablevision really had no option but to use the

less desirable channel 10. In any case, the system is offering a unique service to its subscribers, and we can be grateful that we have it available to us.) NASA has promised this time to be more succinct in their programming, eliminating the lulls during which featureless unprocessed pictures received from space are slowly painted across the screen. With only one hour a night to program, the emphasis is to be on brevity and a maximum of information.

August Meeting

The August meeting of the Prairie Astronomy Club will be held at Hyde Observatory Tuesday, August 25, 7:30 p.m.

The business part of the meeting will be quite short to make way for two very interesting programs planned by Program Chairman Russ Genzmer.

First, Carroll Moore, intrepid solar eclipse seeker, returns from the U.S.S.R. with his photographs of life under the Red Star, and the eclipse of July 29 as seen from Bratsk.

Second, the latest videotape recordings of NASA's coverage of Voyager 2 Saturn Flyby will be seen. (Monday night's tape, certainly,

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Being a member of the engineering profession, I share the typical engineer's love of science, preoccupation with all things technical, and fascination with figures (both female and numerical.) This last characteristic (a fascination with numbers) sometimes makes my mind work in some peculiar ways.

For example, whenever I see a list of objects or names, I immediately begin sorting, categorizing, and statistically analyzing until I've broken that list down into a thousand sub-sets and I know "everything" there is to know about those objects. Last month's membership list is no exception. My in-depth analysis yields these little-known facts:

In the past six months our club membership has dropped from 59 to 55 full members. During that time we actually lost 8 members, but we acquired 4 new members. Of the 8 people we lost, 3 moved out of town, 4 had been members less than one year (interest waned?), and one I could not reach to find out why he left. Out of our 55 members, 16 live outside of Lincoln, their locales ranging from nearby Hickman, to Wisconsin, to Kansas, to Texas, to California.

Our membership roster includes 4 medical doctors, 4 university professors, and 2 religious leaders along with a sampling of just about every other profession. However, as far as I could ascertain, Dave "Gerber" does not make baby food, Clark "Fuller" is not a brush salesman, Jack "Dunn" does not send out billing notices, Dr. John "Clothier" is not a tailor, and Donn "Baker" does not make donuts.

Our membership also contains a vegetable (Michael "Benes"), a fruit (Marc "Cherry"), a pair of fish (Steve and Adelita "Traudt"), and one member who sounds like he has two first names ("Lee" "Thomas"). We have no "Joneses", or "Smiths", but we do have two "Millers", two "Schmidts", three "Steves", three "Richards" or "Dicks", five "Johns", only one each of "Felix",

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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, P.O. Box 80553, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Inflation May Be Slowing, But Not For Club

The upward price push on club expenses has not abated.

An August 1 notice from *Sky & Telescope* informed us that, as of November 1, 1981, our society will be paying Sky Publishing Co. \$10.00 for your *Sky & Telescope* subscription each year instead of the current \$9.00.

Meanwhile, of course, postage has gone up 3¢ per newsletter mailing since our last dues increase, and the best guess is that it will rise another 2 to 3 cents before the end of the year.

Costs of newsletter production have risen. The "new look" of the newsletter, begun in January, has added a couple of cents a month per copy to expenses, and paper and supply costs have also gone up.

If all of this sounds familiar, it is your club treasurer's way of saying, "The time has come to raise the dues again." At the August meeting, we will discuss and vote upon the revised dues schedule shown in the box below.

These dues, if they are accepted by the membership, would become effective November 1, 1981. Since *Sky & Telescope* is sending out its renewal notices as much as six months (!) in advance, many members, by fork-

ing over their dues before the deadline, could renew at the old rates for well over a year!

Come prepared to gripe and moan about the High Cost of Living--then, vote for fiscal solvency in the club treasury.

The preceding was an unpaid political announcement.

The "Other" Satellite

As the world watches the spectacle of *Voyager 2*'s Saturn flyby this week, hardly anyone except a small group of NASA scientists will be paying any attention to a tiny bird called *Pioneer 10*. Launched on March 2, 1972, it was the first satellite to photograph Jupiter 21 months later. Ever since that historic Jupiter encounter, *Pioneer 10* has been travelling further out into the solar system. On July 26 it reached a distance of 3.75 billion kilometers from the sun -- 25 Astronomical Units (25 times farther out than the earth).

Pioneer 11, launched a year after *10*, swung back into the solar system after its Jupiter encounter, so it is now just 10.5 AU from the sun. *Voyager 1* is out 10.2 AUs and *Voyager 2*, at Saturn, is 9.4 AUs.

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PROPOSED DUES SCHEDULE

	<u>Current dues</u>	<u>Proposed New Dues</u>
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP.....	\$14.00	\$16.00
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$16.00	\$18.00
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS.....	\$ 5.00	\$ 6.00

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, from Page 2

"Harlan", "Philo", and "Zygmund", and no "Clarences" at all.

I'll "Grant" you, there's a lot "Moore" you could do with this list of names. I've "Hartley" begun!! However, if you had to "Reade" any more of this, you "Myatt" "Klammer" for my resignation. You may want to "Stepp" on me, or give me the "Schaaf", and that wouldn't be "Weiss", so I'd "Besch" quit while I'm ahead. Next time you see me, please treat me "Knisely."

I told you my mind works in peculiar ways. Get that list away from me!

--RON VEYS

August Meeting, from Page 1

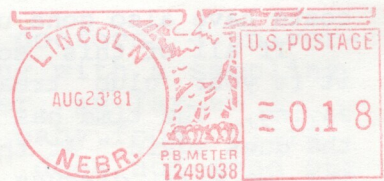
and if recorders and cassettes can be juggled quickly enough, the Tuesday night version will be quickly bicycled to Hyde for immediate instant replay.

This meeting will offer some of the freshest, most up-to-the-minute astronomy. Don't miss it!

PIONEER 10, from Page 3

Still functioning, Pioneer 10 is in completely unexplored space. It has found, for example, that -- contrary to expectations--the solar wind does not slow down as it gets further from the sun. The lines of the interplanetary magnetic field are tied in knots, rather than being smooth.

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