



# The Prairie Astronomer

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## The National

The Sheraton at St. John's Place is the site of the 37th annual convention of The Astronomical League. This is one of Florida's top hotels. Special rates are in effect for the event. \$38.00/night for a group of up to four. It also features tennis courts, swimming pool, game room and restaurants.

Some of the tours available this year include one to the Kennedy Space Center. Also Walt Disney World and Epcot center are available.

A tour of St. Augustine is also possible.

For those wishing the opposite end of the spectrum for an astronomer there is deep sea fishing trips available. All tours include transportation and admission costs.

The area itself is rich in astronomy. The Alexander Brest Planetarium is just 2 blocks away from the convention site and will be open for the attendees. Also the Omega Observatory, owned by the Beaches Chapel School and operated jointly by the North East Florida Astronomical Society will be open nightly for the convention goers. It features a 24 inch f/3.9 Newtonian focus and a f/16 cassegrain focus.

A luncheon is planned for the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers and is open to all. The banquet itself will be buffet style. James Oberg author of Red Star in Orbit and Mission To Mars will be a tentative speaker.

A number of workshops, papers, speakers and an extra bonus. Astromart '83 will also be in the area. This will give you the chance to see many of the major manufactures displaying their goods also.

If you wish to go see me for registration forms additional pricing, paper or photo contest submission forms etc.

Russ Genzmer

### \*\*\*\*\* NEWSWORTHY NOTES \*\*\*\*\*

One of our younger members is interested in a used scope. Preferrably a RV6. If any one can help out in this call Russ Genzmer 421-3484.

At this printing several members have reported attending the Mid States Convention in Liberty Mo. Andy Corkill of our club was awarded the Messier award. We all congratulate him. Also our permanent fixture at most regional and national conventions Earl Moser and his wife also were there. We are looking forward to their reports and pictures.

Telescope Making #19 is here and can be picked up at the meeting. Price 1.50. Those with standing orders. Ron Veys, Dan Neville, John Lortz, Norm Frerichs, John Johnson. Some of you haven't picked up #18 please do so so I can pay Astromedia.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

Now that we have yet another member to add to our Messier Club,(Andy CorKill) it is time we make a concerted effort to get others of our club interested in their search for the Messier's.

Also at the same time we Messier members now need to concentrate on the next step, The Hershel Club. There are a number of us who already have many of the NGC objects observed and noted but not catalogued so let's get a count on how many are interested in getting the Hershel Club off the ground.

### CLUB OFFICERS 1983

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 Membership structure.

1. Newsletter subscriber only, \$6.00. Over 21 years of age no voting privileges (newsletter only).
2. Junior member (New) \$6.00. 21 years of age and less. Receive newsletter and club voting privileges. No Sky and Tele subscription through club at this rate.
3. Regular member \$19.00. Receives newsletter, voting privileges, Sky and Telescope subscription with dues through club. No age restriction.
4. Family members \$21.00. Same as regular member, but receives 2 votes in elections.

Numbers 2,3, and 4 above also can receive as an elective, Astronomy Magazine through the club at \$12.00 per year. Address membership renewals to: Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc., P.O. Box 80553, Lincoln Ne. 68501. address all articles for inclusion in the newsletter to Russ Genzmer 5301 South 30th, Lincoln Ne. 68516. All articles must be received 10 days before the meeting date.



## Observer's Report...

Start your summer observing with M102, one of the "added" Messier galaxies, located about three degrees south and just over two degrees west of iota Draconis. It is a bright fuzzy spindle of light with a broad middle and a very narrow dark lane which is probably visible only with very large telescopes even though the galaxy itself can be seen with a 2.4 inch refractor.

Be sure and look at the beautiful globular cluster M92, located six degrees due north of 69 Hercules. It shows stars well in a six inch and it is beautiful in my eight. The remaining globular, NGC 6229 is somewhat smaller and although bright shows no stars in my eight inch with any certainty. It is almost directly between 42 and 52 Hercules and can be seen with a four inch telescope.

In Ophiuchus, look at the large and beautiful open cluster NGC I.4665 located just over a degree northeast of Beta. It is an especially nice cluster for binoculars or the small telescope as it contains many bright stars arranged in a long loose cigar shaped area.

Down in Scorpius, look for the nice globular cluster M80, about a degree and a half northwest of omicron. It shows a mass of tightly packed stars in my eight inch with the center only partially resolved. Also in Scorpius is M4, a large and somewhat loose globular about a degree west of Antares. Its central mass of stars is almost lens shaped with a spherical outer halo of very faint stars.

In Libra, the globular NGC 5897 can be something of a challenge located one and one half degrees southeast of rota. It is large and rather faint with only a few stars showing in an eight inch reflector.

Those with large binoculars or large richfield telescopes should try to see the North American Nebula just over two degrees southeast of Deneb in central Cygnus. I found it vaguely visible in my eight inch with "Mexico" ad "Central Canada" being the most prominent features.

David Knisely

### ===== SPECIAL NOTE =====

Make plans to leave August 6th open. That is the date of our annual Star Party and Picnic. Earl has stated that the Kansas City club is interested in attending so we hope for a good turn out. Bring your "eats" bug spray and telescope or eyes. We eat at 6:00 PM, gab until dusk and view till we drop. It will be held at Wagon Train Lake. Note the map included you will need a single day permit for the park. These can be obtained at any sport shop in Lincoln or at the Convenience store in Hickman.

Merton Sprengle, our long time secretary has been finishing up on his education and looking for career employment. He has found it and will be moving out of the area. Because of this he has sent



me a letter regretfully resigning his position. He has stressed he has enjoyed the last 10 years he has been a member of the PAC and wishes us continued success. We likewise wish him the same and hope he stays in contact with us and visits our meetings should the opportunity arise. To finish out his term as secretary I have appointed Ron Veys as our secretary.

I have stressed in the past for more members to become involved in the programs for each meeting. I also reprinted the areas of interest that the members needed some help in. Needless to say there hasn't been a stampede reporting to John Lortz our program

chairman to sign up. They don't need to be elaborate. 20 mins. in length is fine. You do not need to be an expert. Just a little research some notes and be yourself during the presentation. I promise no one will hurl objects at you during the program, you will not be drummed out of the club if you do not get a standing ovation at the end. We do want it to be fun and informative for both you and the club members. Think about it.

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