

Peculiar Noises or Ringing in my Ears?

by Bryan Schaaf

Every amateur astronomer experiences "personal discoveries" like the first views of Saturn, Jupiter and its moons and deep-sky objects. Each new personal discovery exponentially fires the curiosity and hones the skills of visual observation.

About 1975, during one of the most active Persied meteor showers, I "discovered" a phenomenon "unheard of" by most earthlings. I heard a barely perceptible "hissing noise" that coincided with the passage of a particularly bright meteor. I thought this couldn't have happened, because light and sound travel at greatly different speeds, like lightning followed several seconds later by thunder. The "coincidence" occurred several times with more meteors however, and I became convinced that some atmospheric "mechanism" was creating these nearly synchronous events. It wasn't until two or three years later that I heard isolated reports of such observations by other people.

Meteoroids penetrate the atmosphere at velocities of 7 to 45 miles per second dependent on their speed and direction of motion relative to Earth's motion. As a meteoroid falls toward Earth, material from it dislodges and breaks up atoms of both the meteoroid and atmosphere (ionization). The resulting particles called ions emit light and produce a streak of visible light that we call a meteor.

As a meteoroid plunges closer and faster the Earth, a cap of hot gas develops in front of the meteoroid. A shock wave of air ahead of the meteoroid may also develop. Crackling and booming sounds are rarely heard, but do occur with exceptionally large meteoroids and these fall to the ground and become meteorites. The

hissing noise of bright meteors is the hiss of the shock wave; a subtle cousin to the crackling propagations of the larger meteoroids.

In September of 1987 I happened to recognize the faint glow of northern lights low on the horizon. Before midnight nature

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welcome!!!

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The PAC has hit an all-time high of 83 memberships. Figuring that, of those 83, fourteen are family memberships (representing two people), we now have 97 individuals as members! Three more this year, and we'll top the 100 mark for the first time.

The Prairie Astronomer

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From the Program Chairman

by Dave Scherping

LAST MONTH....

April's meeting was a huge success, thanks to Martin Gaskell's presentation on "Tel-Poke". Thanks Martin. If you missed it, be sure to borrow the video tape from Tom Miller. There's also a written supplement to the presentation that Martin has provided for those who are interested. Contact me at 477-2596 if you would like a copy or pick one up at this month's meeting.

THIS MONTH....

At this month's meeting, we will have our annual "Name That Object" contest. In case you missed it last year, "Name That Object" is a fun test of your memory and knowledge of astronomical objects. It typically consists of approximately 30 slides, ranging from simple to impossible, which will be displayed while participants record their answers. Last year we gave away a beginners level and an advanced level prize for first places. Due to a personal request to reduce the pressure of competition, we will not give away prizes this year unless there is a strong desire by the club to do so.

Also, I'll be showing some slides from my trip to this year's Riverside Telescope Making Conference (assuming I can get my slides developed in time).

JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER....

To date, no programs have been lined up for June, July, or August. Any volunteers? In September, we will enjoy Part II of Ron Vey's presentation on telescope making. Part I was presented in March and focused on tube assemblies. Part II will focus on mounts.

DOOR PRIZES....

I want to thank Tom Miller, Lee Thomas, Doug Bell, John Bruce, Les Myers, Liz Irwin, & Eric Hubl for their recent contributions of door prizes. We still have a few left for the May meeting. Any contributions for June through September, or for the Nebraska Star Party, will be greatly appreciated.

NEBRASKA STAR PARTY....

I recently sent letters to nearly everyone who advertises in Sky & Telescope requesting door prizes for the Nebraska Star Party. So far, I have no responses but it's still early.

There have recently been some discussions about getting tee-shirts made for NSP. At the May meeting, we will review several tee-shirt designs, vote on which one to use, and review costs for silk screening. I know it's short notice, but if you have any ideas for designs, please bring them to the meeting.

I am trying to arrange a variety of programs and workshops during the daytime hours at NSP. At the last PAC meeting, the club agreed to pay for renting a tent for conducting the programs. I am still trying to arrange for a slide projector, an overhead projector, and a portable projection screen. Does anyone have any of these the club could borrow or know of anywhere we could borrow or rent them? Please let me know asap.

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The Prairie Astronomer is published monthly by the Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc., and is free to all club members. Membership status and expiration date are listed on the mailing label. Membership dues are: Regular Members...\$10/yr; Family Memberships...\$12/yr; Address all new memberships, renewals, or questions to THE PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC., P.O. BOX 80553, LINCOLN, NE 68501. For other club information contact one of the following: John Bruce (Lincoln) 483-0389, Lee Thomas (Lincoln) 483-5639, John Lortz (Omaha) 496-1122. All newsletter comments and articles should be sent to Newsletter Editor JOHN LORTZ, 11684 MEREDITH AVE., OMAHA, NE 68164 no later than 10 days before monthly club meetings. Club meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Hyde Observatory in Lincoln, NE.

While You Were Gone...

by Jason Stahl

For the people who volunteered with Astronomy Day, and for the Annular Eclipse, thank you. Both of these events went very well, each having a large public attendance. Again, thank you for your help.

The dates for Mahoney State Park's Public Observing have been changed, the final dates are as follows: June 17, August 26, and September 10. The dates were changed for one simple reason, the moon. At our first session in April, the moon was just bright enough so we could not show the public any more objects than the moon and the planets. The new dates still have the moon, but it will rise late or set early, making it possible to show more deep sky objects. At the May session, we accomplished our goal of showing many different deep sky objects to a crowd of about fifty. With the growing publicity, these sessions are growing strongly. If you can attend any of these sessions, we would be happy to have you. If you have a telescope, please bring that with you. We will use all telescopes and personnel that attend. Thanks to all of you who have helped so far, and to those who will help in the future.

You sure can pick good presenters for programs Dave; last month's was a huge hit. Martin, if you went into business, you and your family could put Coulter out of business. That was a great program!

The Site has not changed as of May 18th. The house is moving slowly, no electricity has been brought in, or any other noticeable changes have taken place. We will update you each month as the house continues.

This month I am trying something different in the way the Observing Chairman's Report is formatted. I am combining the "While you were Gone..." with the "Observing Chairman's Report." Instead of listing the coordinates and magnitudes within the article, I am going to separate them for easier access by listing them at the beginning of the article. If you do not like these changes, please let me know so I can produce an article that better suits your needs.

OBSERVING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

REMINDERS FOR JUNE:

- ⊙ The next PAC meeting is June 28th, 7:30p.m. at Hyde Observatory.
- ⊙ The Summer Solstice is at 9:48 a.m. on the 21st.
- ⊙ The next scheduled star parties will be held at the Atlas Site on June 3rd, and the 10th. The rain/cloud dates are the 4th, and 11th.

Moon Phases:	New Moon:	June ninth
	First Quarter:	June 16th
	Full Moon:	June 23rd
	Last Quarter:	June 30th

Comet Tempel 1 Peaks in Brightness this month in Virgo, just north of Spica, at Magnitude nine. Astronomy Magazine has done an informative article on the history of the comet along with the coordinates for Comet Tempel 1. The article is in the June '94 issue on page 50. Also on page fifty, you can read about Asteroid Iris moving in southern Ophiuchus which peaks at magnitude 9.2 on the night of June 8/9.

Object:	Constellation:	Coordinates.	Magnitude:
NGC 5024=M53	Coma Berenices	13h 12.9m 18.10deg.	7.7
NGC 5055=M63	Canes Venatici	13h 15.8m 42.02deg.	9.3
NGC 4258=M106	Canes Venatici	12h 19.0m 47.18deg.	9.0
6058=PK 64+48.1	Hercules	16h 04.4m. 40.41deg.	13.3
6543=PK 96+29.1	Draco	17h 58.6m 66.38deg.	8.8
NGC 5921	Serpens Caput	15h 21.9m 05.04deg.	11.4
Pal 5	Serpens Caput	15h 16.1m -.07deg.	11.8

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By the time you have finished looking at the planets and other twilight objects, you begin to look at the brighter deep-sky objects until it become dark, usually around 10:30 p.m. you can see eighth magnitude objects fairly well through a telescope. Since June has the longest day of the year, it means we have the shortest night of the year. If only December 22nd was as warm as the nights of summer.

For starters look at M53, this Globular Cluster is a small to medium sized cluster that is your common sugar ball, one pleasing image is to look at its very loose core. This cluster will take any magnification you wish to obtain the view that fills your eyepiece, and zooms in on the core.

In the same Constellation, M63 or nick- named the "Sunflower," is a Spiral Galaxy with a solid bright core. M63 is a typically shaped galaxy that has no outstanding features that will "blow" your mind like M106. On a good to excellent night, M106 has the shape of a paper clip. Just look and see for yourself. The two main arms extend, bend back towards, and parallels the core, like the shape of a paper clip.

If you want to test your telescope and your observing abilities, find NGC 6058=PK 64+48.1. This small faint Planetary Nebula will tickle your fancy if you can see it. It will appear more like a star than a nebula. Using your trained eye, you can distinguish between it and a star. 6058 does have a faint central star, so don't let that throw you off.

NGC 6543=PK 69=29.1 is larger, and brighter than 6058, so if you give up, find this one instead. Don't completely forget about 6058, try it again later. 6543 should give you no problems in seeing its shape, and pretty color.

Just North of M5 is NGC 5921, this barred spiral has one faint star to the side of the core, along with two other stars that are on the outside edges of the arms. 5921 is some what difficult to spot in small scopes, but a medium sized scope will give pleasing views under moderate power.

Finally, Pal 5, this extremely distant Globular Cluster is half the size of M5, and twice as faint. You can consider Pal 5 to be as faint as 5 to be in the same observing category as 6058. Pal 5 will again test your observing capabilities to the max.

The summer months offer the best deep-sky objects that we have the chance to observe. 95% of these objects are not commonly known by amateur astronomers, but by looking at some of the fainter objects within your limits, you will familiarize yourself to some more challenging objects.

Good Luck and Happy Observing!!!

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To date, I have only one person, in addition to myself, who has volunteered to give a presentation at the Nebraska Star Party. PLEASE HELP!! It doesn't need to be complicated or extremely technical and it doesn't need to be long. Presentations may range from 10 minutes to 1 hour (or more). Here's some ideas:

- Equipment
- Technical astronomy & physics
- Telescope making
- Astronomy computer programs or demonstrations
- Observing projects
- Astrophotography / CCD
- General interest topics such as slide shows
- Light pollution
- History of astronomy
- etc.

Please contact me as soon as possible if you are willing to give a presentation. I must have the schedule finalized no later than June 15. I have warned several people that, if there's a lack of participation, I'll give extensive lectures on my areas of expertise, which include Fourier analysis of tire vibrations, multi-variable design of experiments, and statistical application in manufacturing! Please spare everyone the agony and volunteer to give a presentation. Thanks.

PAC 13" TELESCOPE PROJECT...

It's now been 18 month's since Tom Miller donated a 13" F4.5 primary mirror and a secondary mirror to the Prairie Astronomy Club. Am I the only one interested in building this scope? What about cost and funding? I would like to bring this up for discussion at the May meeting. If there is an interest in pursuing this project, I would like to form a team and allocate funds to do so. If there is no interest, I think the club should give the optics back to Tom.

For Sale

10" f6.3 Dynascope Reflector

- ✓ German equatorial mount
- ✓ clock drive
- ✓ 4 eyepieces: 16.3mm Erfle, 4mm Ortho, A.R. 7mm, A.R. 9mm
- ✓ 8x50 finderscope
- ✓ AC/DC inverter (brand-new, never used)
- ✓ All bearings are brand new
- ✓ mirror is in excellent condition.

Asking \$700

Call Mark Ditter in Columbus at 564-2041

The Prairie Astronomy Club Library

by Dave Scherping

For our new members and those who weren't aware, I am currently the keeper of the Prairie Astronomy Club library. The PAC library contains over 50 volumes relating to astronomy and astrophysics plus Sky & Telescope magazines dating back to 1982, 4 issues of Deep Sky, and several issues of Final Frontier. Below is a list of the books available. I invite all club members to contact me if they wish to check out a book. My address is: Dave Scherping, 640 S. 30th St. (Lincoln), phone 477-2596.

TITLE	AUTHOR	DATE
Amateur Telescope Making - Book I	Scientific American	1951/1955
Ascent To Orbit - A Scientific Autobiography	Arthur C. Clarke	1984
Astronomy	Iaian Nicolson	1971
Astronomy For Everyday	Simon Newcomb	1902/1932
Astronomy And Telescopes, A beginner's Guide	R. Traister/S. Harris	1983
Astronomy Made Simple	Meir H. Degani	1955/1963
Astronomy, Maps, & Weather	C. C. Wylie	1942
Black Holes & Warped Spacetime	William Kaufmann	1979
Beyond The Moon	Paolo Maffei	1973/1978
Burnham's Celestial Handbook - Vol I	Robert Burnham Jr.	1966/1978
Burnham's Celestial Handbook - Vol II	Robert Burnham Jr.	1966/1978
Burnham's Celestial Handbook - Vol III	Robert Burnham Jr.	1966/1978
Cambridge Atlas Of Astronomy	Cambridge/Newnes	1985
Celestial Mechanics	Lawrence G. Taff	1947/1985
Coming Of Age In the Milky Way	Timothy Ferris	1988
Cosmological Distance Ladder, The	M. Rowan-Robinson	1985
Design Of The Universe	Fritz Kahn	1954/1957
Dictionary Of Astronomy, The Facts On File	Valerie Illingworth	1979
Dictionary Of Physics, The Facts On File	Dr. John Daintith	1981
Discover The Stars	Gaylord Johns	1936/1954
Entering Space - An Astronaut's Odyssey	Joseph P. Allen	1984/1985
Exploration Of the Universe	George Abell	1964/1969
Field Guide To The Stars & Planets, A	Menzel/Pasachoff	1983
First Light	Richard Preston	1987
Fractal Geometry Of Nature, The	Benoit Mandelbrot	1977/1983
From Falling Bodies To Radio Waves	Emilio Segre	1984
From X-Rays To Quarks	Emilio Segre	1980
Frozen Star	George Greenstein	1983
Galaxies & Quazars	William Kaufmann III	1979
Grand Tour, The	Miller/Hartmann	1981
Guide To The Planets, A	Patrick Moore	1954
Guide To The Stars-Exploring the Sky w/ Binoculars	Leslie Peltier	1986
LIFE In Space	Little, Brown & Co.	1983
Mars & The Mind Of Man	Bradbury/Clarke/ Murray/Sagan/Sullivan	1973
Meteorites	John T. Wasson	1985
Mission To Mars	James E. Oberg	1982
Monsters In The Sky	Paolo Maffai	1976/1980
Murmurs Of Earth	Carl Sagan	1978
Observational Astronomy For Amateurs	J. B. Sidgewick	1971
Other Worlds In Space	Terry Maloney	1957
Pictorial Guide To The Moon	Dinsmore Alter	1963/1973
Presidential Commission On The Space Shuttle Accident	Rogers Commission	1986
Skyguide	Chartrand/Winner	1982
Skyshooting-Photography For Amateur Astronomers	R. Mayall/M. Mayall	1949/1968
Special Theory Of Reativity, An Introduction To	Robert Katz	1964
Splendor In The Sky	Gerald S. Hawkins	1961
Stars	Zim / Baker	1951
Starsailing - Solar Sails & Interstellar Travel	Louis Friedman	1988
Stars & Nebulas	William Kaufmann III	1978
Starwatch	Ben Mayer	1984
The Story Of The Universe	Popular Science	1922/1941
Time For The Stars	Robert Heinlein	1956
To The Ends Of the Universe	Isaac Asimov	1967/1971

put on a spectacular light show like I had never seen before. There were streamers with brief pulses of light, concentric arcs moving toward the zenith like waves and occasionally shimmering curtains. I was in awe by this, wishing that someone was with me so that I wouldn't witness it alone.

Then, an eerie feeling came over me that I wasn't alone. I could hear a slight rustling behind me or at my side. I looked around with hesitation and saw no one. It was just my imagination, I thought, and then almost immediately I heard it again! I looked around a second time, even using averted vision in hopes of locating the noise source; perhaps a coyote. Still, nothing. I continued watching the aurora for almost two hours. When I was finished, I was glad to finally leave. The aurora was spectacular, but the reoccurring rustling noise gave me the willies.

When I read a letter in "Observer's Notes" of Sky & Telescope (May 1992 issue), I was awe struck by the report that John Hall Jr. and other observers have heard noise associated with exceptionally bright auroral displays. The sound was described as a "snapping sound" that "accompanied the pulsing display; there was also a rustling somewhat like that of a theatre curtain opening". This first reminded me of my earlier meteor noise observations. Much later I remembered the night of the intense aurora and the peculiar noise.

Last April 16th, I observed the same aurora that John Lortz wrote about in the April newsletter. My account of it is mostly the same as his description, except that I also observed it periodically throughout the night. It was very active again between 4 and 5 a.m. I first saw it from Branched Oak Lake, but later drove to a quiet location at West Holderdge Road specifically to listen for the elusive rustling noise. As I watched a curtain slowly move eastward I heard the sound! The noise seemed to occur during times when the aurora was most intense. There was also a localized feeling of something omnidirectional-maybe static. I am now personally convinced that this phenomenon is real.

When I read John's article I noticed his description of hearing a "rustling noise of grass", so I called him to let him know that I believe he and his wife Sue were hearing the aurora too. It doesn't seem to have anything to do with grass per se, but sounds like it.

Auroras are defined as luminous phenomena caused by the interaction of energetic ions (protons, electrons) from the solar wind with the oxygen atoms (producing green light) and nitrogen atoms (producing red light) of the upper atmosphere. The resulting ions drawn down the geo-

magnetic field lines emit various wavelengths of radiation which create the visible colors and far more invisible energy than visible light. Auroras are indeed very complicated. I have yet to read any official account that ionization or static or radiation of some sort penetrates to the troposphere where upon it produces noise audible to the human ear, but it seems that is happening.

Halley's Comet of 1910 Revisited

by Rick Johnson

The following is taken from the May 12, 1910 issue of the Park Rapids Enterprise. A town of nearly 2000 today it was about the same in 1910. I was doing research for our Lake Association in Minnesota when I came upon this and other articles on the comet. It is interesting to see how a small town saw the comet back then.

THERE IS A HOT TIME COMING

No Matter Which Theory of the Nature of Monster Phenomenon is Right

Detroit Record

On May 18 many of us earth beings will witness a sight the like of which has never before been seen of men, at least since men have kept a written history of events. On that day for over three hours we shall be viewing the sun thru the great blazing head of a comet.

Of a sudden (sic) our earth, swinging thru space at 65,000 miles per hour, will plunge into the tail of Halley's comet, close to the neck of it. The tail will have whipped against us at its own speed of 105,000 miles an hour. Thus this globe will dive thru the luminous haze at a total speed of 170,000 miles per hour, 47 miles per second the earth entirely immersing herself in the celestial mist in less than three minutes, yet, so thick is the tail at the point of perforation -- 600,000 miles -- that we shall be nearly three hours and a half passing thru.

What will happen? No two scientists agree in detail. They are however, practically certain there will be no harm done to any creature of the earth save the harm which fear does. But the superstitious are almost certain to be stricken with mortal terror during that three hours.

For those three hours will show to men the most sublime, awe-inspiring display of heavenly fireworks this earth has witnessed since space roared with the primordial flames of creation the astronomers say. But, the chances are it will be nothing but light -- terrific, but harmless. For sunlight during those 205 minutes will be filtered thru the comet's head or nucleus (the head will be eclipsing the sun) and that head will have just come from a bath in the very flames of the sun. This gaseous head, fifty-one times as big as our earth and only 14,000,000 miles away (a mere step compared even with the distance to the sun) will be boiling, fuming, exploding blasting

in titanic convulsions of heat after its recent experience.

And it is thru such a lens our sunlight must come filtered for three hours and a half May 18.

We did, indeed, have one slight previous experience with the tail of a comet. On June 30, 1861 we snipped thru part of the tail of Tebbet's comet. But it was a mere wisp of a tail -- just a thread at the extreme end of the tail's 24,000,000 miles of length -- a hair scant 3,000 miles thick.

Yet, for the experiencing of seeing that hair severed the French astronomer Liais journeyed to Rio de Janiero and set up his instruments.

The moment came, Suddenly Liais saw the sky turn like blood at midday. Then there was a rapid plunge into a lurid, phosphorescent yellow and almost instantly the sky darkened to a coppery green, as if a tornado were approaching. And the next instant, before the observer could realize it, the sun shone serenely again, the earth's minute for passing thru the 3,000 mile thick hair was up, and Liais packed his instruments and went home.

We'll be in Halley's comet tail over three hours. Will the effect be proportionately awful?

Scientists all over are warning people to be prepared for strange sights, but not to be frightened. For, as the saying goes, the whole 72,000,000 miles of its tail condensed, "might be packed in a trunk."

Says Andre, director of the Lyons observatory: "You must not be astonished if it shows an aspect as strange and stranger than anything ever seen before."

What effect the adventure will have upon the earth is disputed. Comets are little understood. There are instruments which can detect their weight and instruments which partially show their composition, but beyond those known facts each scientist has a different explanation.

A recent theory is that the comet nucleus or head is simply an enormous gas lens, and what appears to be a tail is, in reality, only the pencil of concentrated sunlight such as proceeds from an ordinary searchlight. Outside of this pencil we can see its length. But once in it, we would observe only an increase in the heat and brilliancy of the sunlight.

Under this theory the only effect that will be noticed May 18 will be that the sunshine will fairly burn one. But in the shade it should be fairly comfortable.

If the comet's tail is of gas at least the gas is much diluted. Some observers fear the deadly cyanogen gas, which if thick, would stifle all breathing things at once. Diluted, such gas might turn the whole world sick to its stomach for two or three hours.

Some predict a display of electrical phenomena, tremendous, but harmless as the aurora borealis. Deslanders, a Frenchman, says the tail is made up of cathode rays, which, touching our atmosphere, would become X-rays of great intensity. The effect of X-rays upon the air is to wring the water out of it. So we may be soaked with deluges of rain during our comet's bath.

Some believe the comet's tail is intensely hot. But this heat must be thinly distributed, owing to the flimsy character of the

tail. Moreover, the earth has an enveloping blanket of cool air to save it. The foundryman can wet his finger and plunge it safely into molten iron. The blanket would act like a water jacket.

There is a chance yet that we won't touch the tail at all. The full observations have not yet been taken. The final calculations may show that the tail will miss the earth by a few thousand miles -- a microscopical distance in space -- but still enough so that we would pass the tail in blissful ignorance of its nearness.

At any rate there seems little danger of any harm to come to us of the earth. The thing to do is to hold tight, don't lose courage, and keep your eyes open. For you're likely to see things you can tell about to your grandchildren.

Wow, is it no wonder people panicked? As this came originally from Detroit it must have received wide circulation. Don't scoff at the lightbeam theory of comet tails. At least it explained why they always point away from the sun. Something no other theory could do at the time.

My grandfather worked for a stage magician in New York City at this time. He invented the illusions. He also invented a comet pill which he sold in the lobby of the theater. According to my grandmother who made them they were just candied balls of flour colored various colors. She couldn't recall which color sold best. They sold for \$10 a pill!! They sold enough that my mother was brought up with a houseful of servants in the lap of luxury, until 1929, when all was lost in the crash and they were left destitute.

After we passed though the head of Halley's Comet and nothing happened there was no article in the paper saying why nothing was seen. But short filler pieces chiding astronomers were in nearly every paper (it was a weekly back then) after this for several months. Those that I found will be published in next month's newsletter...

WE WANT YOU!

The Prairie Astronomer will gratefully accept your articles, letters, pictures, etc. for publication. If you have something you'd like to write about, please do! All submission's should be sent to newsletter editor

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PAC PUBLIC RELATIONS

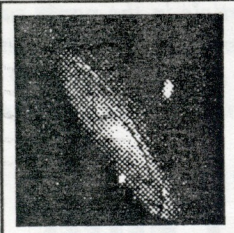
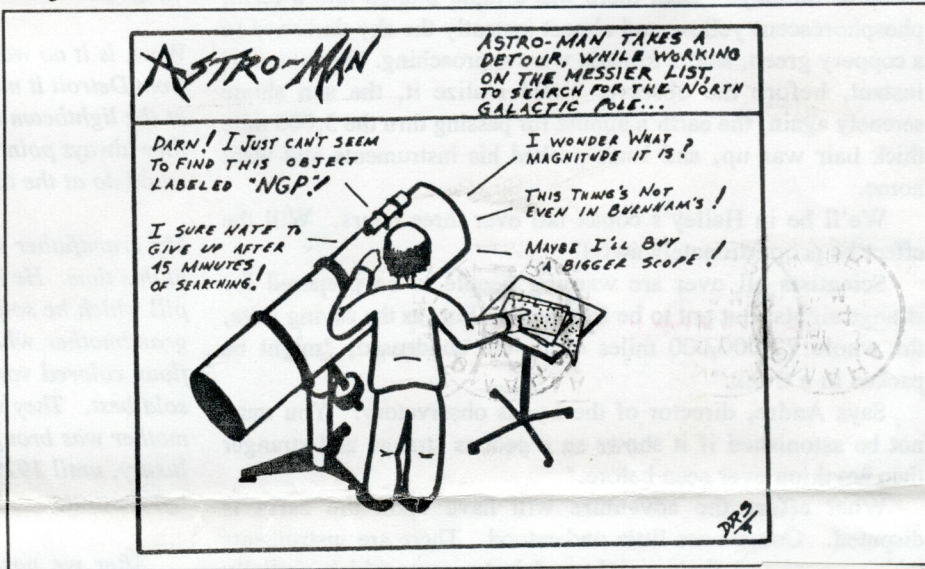
By Dave Scherping

May has been a great month for PAC's involvement with the general public.

It began with Astronomy Day, which was held at Morrill Hall on May 7th. The club displayed 11 telescopes, including 3 equatorial reflectors, several Dobsonians, and a couple of refractors. Several computers were set up, so Dave & Rick could amaze everyone with the latest astronomical software. There were also several tables of books, posters, and photographs, computers. After attending Jack's planetarium shows, the visitors were treated to a spectacular view of M31 through Tom's Brandon refractor (it's amazing what you can do with a photograph at the end of the hall). I think the highlight, though, was the cave man near the planetarium who somehow acquired a pair of 10x50 binoculars, a Sky Atlas 2000, a Bill Canady pointer, and a PAC hat!

The next big event was the May 10th solar eclipse. Around 9:30, several members began setting up equipment at Hyde Observatory. Five scopes with filters were set up outside in addition Hyde's 12" scope and their solar scope. The 12" scope was retrofitted with a video camera for recording the eclipse on tape and displaying it on the monitors. It's hard to say how many visitors there were, somewhere in the hundreds. We even got live footage on channel 10-11 at noon and a spot on the 6:00 news. All-in-all it was a memorable event.

On Saturday May 14th, PAC hosted their 2nd public observing night at Mahoney State Park. The skies cleared off just before dark, and we began setting up scopes in the parking lot near the soccer field. The parking lot was used because the ground was too wet on the soccer field. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise, since we attracted many more visitors. Approximately 40 to 50 people dropped by to view the universe. Our favorite visitor was a nine year old whose knowledge of astronomy could put many veteran observers to shame.



The Prairie Astronomer
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First Class Mail

Next Meeting
 May 31, 1994

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5-94

Please Notice: If there is an asterisk on your mailing label it is time for you to renew your PAC membership!

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