

The *Prairie Astronomer*

The Official Newsletter Of The Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc.

November 1997

Volume 38 Issue #11

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**NOMINATION &
ELECTION**
of
PAC OFFICERS for 1998
at the November 25th meeting

METEOR SHOWERS

Did you miss the Leonids in November? They were great on the morning of November 17th, although not the "storm" that has been predicted for sometime in the next couple of years. In December, we have more meteor showers worth viewing.

The Geminid meteor shower will peak on Sunday December 14th. The ZHR (Zenithal hourly Rate) should be about 95 meteors per hour. Duration (where at least 24 per hours can be seen) should be about 3 days.

Also, the Ursid meteor shower peaks on December 22, with a ZHR of 20 and a duration of 2 days.

Reference: RASC Handbook 1997

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

PAC MEETING

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 25, 1997, 7:30 PM
at Hyde Memorial Observatory

NSP-5 PLANNING MEETING

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 1997, 7:30 pm
at Mahoney State Park lodge

PAC MEETING

TUESDAY DECEMBER 30 1997, 7:30 PM
at Hyde Memorial Observatory

MORE DOUBLE SHADOW TRANSITS ON JUPITER

If you missed Novembers double & triple shadow transits, you have another chance. On the afternoon of December 14th, the shadows of Callisto and Io will transit Jupiter. Callisto's shadow will be visible from 8:42 am - 1:19 pm CST; Io's shadow will be visible from 12:44 pm - 3:00 pm CST. This will be tough because it is during the daytime. But...

In the early morning hours of Wednesday December 31st, Callisto and Ganymede will cast their shadows upon Jupiter. Callisto's shadow will be visible from 2:59 am - 7:33 am CST; Ganymede's shadow can be seen from 1:11 am - 4:48 am CST. Best time to observe is between 3:00 and 4:30 am.

Reference: RASC Handbook 1997

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The Prairie Astronomer is published monthly by the Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc. Membership expiration date is listed on the mailing label. Membership dues are: Regular \$20/yr, Family \$22/yr. Address all new memberships, renewals, or questions to: The Prairie Astronomy Club, Inc., PO Box 80553, Lincoln, NE 68501. For other club information, contact one of the following: Doug Bell -President (402) 489-8197, Ron Veys - V.P. (402) 486-1449, John Bruce - Treasurer (402) 483-0389. All newsletter comments and articles should be sent to: Dave Scherping, 640 S. 30th St., Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 477-2596 or e-mail dscherping@juno.com ten days prior to the club meeting. Club meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Hyde Memorial Observatory in Lincoln, NE.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes From The October PAC Meeting

By Liz Bergstrom

The 28 October 1997 meeting of the Prairie Astronomy Club was called to order at about 7:30PM by president, Doug Bell. Doug brought up a trivia question. Oh where, Oh where were the members on one of the most important nights for the club? Tonight is usually when the vote is taken for the next year's officers. There were no guests at this meeting.

NEWS:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS takes place in October each year. Additional nominations were made to the roster of candidates already nominated. A vote was held and the new officers for the up coming year are:

PRESIDENT:

VICE PRESIDENT:

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:

TREASURER:

SECRETARY:





All members are urged to attend the November meeting for the installation of the new officers.

No further business was brought up for discussion therefore the meeting was moved and seconded for adjournment.

PROGRAM:

The membership present moved outside for the program. The program given by Bill, one of our new members was trying to observe and find the planet Neptune through Bill's 10 x 50 binoculars. He set up his tripod and advised the constellation and star pattern where Neptune most likely could be found. However, due to the city light pollution this particular night it was almost impossible to find Neptune. If the skies had been dark skies we all could have viewed the planet. It would be great if we could have a program similar to this in the future.

The PRAIRIE ASTRONOMY CLUB CALENDAR DECEMBER 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 1ST QUARTER MOON 	8	9 Saturn less than 1° from Moon	10	11 NSP-5 Planning Meeting 7:30 pm at Mahoney State Park Lodge	12 Moon occults Aldebaran (11:00 pm)	13 FULL MOON 
14 Geminid Meteor Shower Peaks Double shadow transit on Jupiter	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Winter Solstice 3RD QUARTER MOON 	22 Venus 1° from Mars Ursid meteor shower peaks	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29 NEW MOON 	30 PAC MEETING 7:30 pm Hyde Observatory !!!	31			

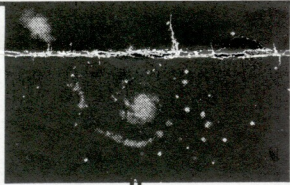
**Astroman's Top 10 Reasons To
Cancel The October PAC Meeting**

- 10) "I'm afraid I might get elected as PAC treasurer"
- 9) "I'm afraid I might get elected as PAC president"
- 8) "I'm afraid somebody else might get elected"
- 7) "It's almost Halloween & somebody might think I'm wearing a mask when I'm not"
- 6) "If I do wear a mask, somebody might not realize it's a mask"
- 5) "Rick's power is off"
- 4) "I'm afraid I'll get hit by an Orionid"
- 3) "The Moon is at apogee & I haven't a thing to wear"
- 2) "A tree fell on me and I can't get up"
- 1) "It snowed"

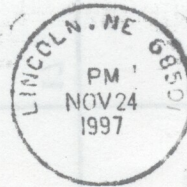
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The Prairie Astronomer
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**Next PAC Meeting
November 25, 1997
7:30 PM
Hyde Observatory**

MR EARL MOSER 9/98
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11/24-97