

The National Convention at Cleveland.

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SUMMERTIME

NCA juniors missed a good program by not going to Cleveland. One of the high lights of the Convention was a visit to the Junior Astronomy Club Workshop. There one room was devoted to assembling small refracting telescopes, and those who had made refractors and wanted to go on to making bigger and better instruments were busy grinding mirrors in an adjourning room. Next on the Workshop list of activities is setting up an observing program to make use of all these fine telescopes and enthusiastic observers.

It was unfortunate that there were no entries of exhibits by juniors. The award for the best entry in this class had to be cancelled.

There was one paper read by a junior--John Andrew of the Darling Astronomy Club, Duluth, Minnesota, the only representative of that society. It was an excellent account of his observations of the aurora borealis. Owen Gingerich, a past-junior, read a paper on observation of Messier objects. As soon as abstracts of these articles can be secured, they will be distributed among our interested juniors.

As a fitting climax to our astronomical weekend, we saw the fireworks display of rockets and shooting stars in the Cleveland Stadium.

A more detailed account of the Convention appears in STAR DUST. --Grace C. Scholz

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No junior need be astronomically idle this summer. What with the telescope-making class on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Roosevelt High, variable stars, double stars, meteors, and asteroids, plentiful opportunities are offered for astronomical business.

In connection with summer work, a phone call to Miss Irene Warthen at SH-9451 will prove a good introduction to a summer of glass-pushing fun.

In the way of cosmic fireworks we have the Perseid meteors, which reach their peak about the twelfth of August. If you wish to observe them accurately, write to Professor Charles P. Olivier, Flower Observatory, Upper Darby, Pa., and include one dollar. For this paltry sum you will receive a full set of charts and record blanks; also, you are enrolled as a member of the American Meteor Society. If you return your observations, they will be used by professionals to determine new information on the Perseids.

Double star enthusiasts may find valuable information and practice in observing by calling John Edmonds at DU-3962.

Almost any clear night, variable star observers may be found at the five-inch. For more information, call either John Lankford at NO-9272 or Miles Davis at NO-7724.

Vesta; one of the brightest asteroids, will be visible at the sixth magnitude in Ophiuchus during June and early July. An ephemeris appears on Page 3.

--Miles Davis and John Lankford

Planets for July 1949

MERCURY - Early in the month Mercury is in the morning sky. On the twenty-sixth, it is in conjunction with the sun, hence in the evening sky.

VENUS - This planet is low in the western sky all month. On the 30th, Saturn and Venus will be very close together in the western sky.

MARS - At the beginning of the month Mars will be near Aldebaran in Taurus and rising about two hours before the sun.

JUPITER - On the 20th of this month Jupiter comes into opposition in the constellation Sagittarius.

SATURN - Saturn is a few degrees east of Regulus setting about three hours after the sun.

URANUS - Too close to the sun to be observed.

NEPTUNE - Here is the position for the 15th of July--  
R.A 12h 49m, Decl. 3° 30'.

Planets for August 1949

MERCURY - Mercury is in the evening sky all month but too low to be observed.

VENUS - This planet is 12° above the horizon and its position is improving.

MARS - Now rising a few hours before the sun. Mars is in Gemini to the south of Pollux and Castor.

JUPITER - This planet will be visible most of the night in Sagittarius. For those of you that have telescopes Jupiter is a fine object. You will first notice it's four small moons which revolve and move from side to side of the planet. If you use enough power you will note the bands of gas in the atmospheres.

URANUS - Too close to the sun to be observed.

NEPTUNE - For those of you who have circles or use the five-inch in the Naval Observatory, the position for the 15th of the month is R.A. 12h 51m. Decl. 3° 45'.

-- John E. Lankford.

Meteors for July

18-31. Bright, slow-moving meteors will be seen coming from the head of Capricornus.

26. Two meteor showers can be seen on this night. The radiant of one is Perseus, the other Aquarius.

Meteors for August

10-31. Watch for meteors coming from the area around

- the bright star Deneb in Cygnus.
12. On this night the greatest of all meteor showers reaches its height. From 10 o'clock on watch the area between Perseus and Cassiopeia.
- 12-31. Meteors will be seen coming from Capella in Auriga.
- John E. Lankford.

Opposition of Vesta

On June 13, one of the brighter minor planets rolled into the evening sky. It is of sixth magnitude, and hence visible in a good pair of field glasses. During the first part of July it will be in western Sagittarius. Vesta has a pinkish color which makes it different from the other minor planets. Its position on July 15 will be R.A. 16h 46.6m, Decl. -19° 25'.

--Popular Astronomy.

Variables for a Three-inch Telescope

Name	Number	Magnitude
o Ceti	021403	5
Z Uma.	115158	6.8
S CrB.	151731	7.0
RY Sgr.	191033	6.0
AF Cyg.	192745	6.4
RS Cyg.	200938	7.2

--Leon Campbell, A.A.V.S.O.

OCCULTATIONS

July	Star	Magnitude	Immersion E.S.T.	Hour Angle
5-6	2299	6.4	9:6.7 P.M.	1W
19-20	465	4.5	1:16.5 A.M. *	6E
31-1	2002	6.8	7:29.0 P.M.	2W
<u>August</u>				
1-2	2129	7.4	8:53.9 P.M.	3W
2-3	2269	5.4	9:56.6 P.M.	3W
4-5	2586	6.0	12:31.5 A.M.	3½W
6-7	2914	5.0	1:45.7 P.M.	3W
26-27	Venus	-3.4	Emersion-	4½E
			8:57.9 A.M.	
31-1	2540	7.0	10:34.7 P.M.	1½W

\*All on dark edge except Star 465 occulted on the night of July 19-20.

--Morgan Cilley.