

NEW MEMBERS

Robert N. Miller, Box 456 - 516 Spring Street, Herndon, Virginia. Herndon 427-j

\*Bobby Barkes, 1553 N. 17th Street, Arlington 9, Va.

\*Alan Deutsch, 4204 4th Street, S.E., Washington 20, D. C. JO 2-3435

\*John Ross, 654 Brandywine Street, S.E., Washington 20, D. C. JO 2-0348

\*Gary Wayne Russell, 1558 N. 17th Street, Arlington 9, Va. JA 2-4255

\*George Studds, 1549 N. 17th Street #1, Arlington 9, Va. JA 8-4570

\*Holly Ruth Thau, 4202 4th Street, S.E., Washington 20, D.C. JO 2-9395

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John C. Lund, 8305 14th Avenue, Apartment 302, Hyattsville, Maryland

"ASTRONOMY MADE SIMPLE," is a very good bargain for the amateur astronomer. It costs \$1.00 and may be secured from Made Simple Books, Inc., 220 Fifth Avenue, New York. Its 192 pages are profusely diagrammed and cover a multitude of astronomical subjects.

MARS will approach within 35 million miles next fall. Now should be a good time to be studying the planet and planning an observing program.

This is the time of year when CANOPUS can be observed. However, you have to go as far south as Richmond to see it. It does not come above the horizon at this latitude.

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb. 4 "THE TRANSIT CIRCLE IN PRESENT DAY ASTRONOMY," (Sat.) Dr. F. P. Scott, Director of 7" transit Circle Division, U. S. Naval Observatory, Department of Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P. M.

Feb. 10 GROUP OBSERVING at the NCA 5" at the Naval Observatory with Hoy Walls. Your NCA membership card will let you in the gate. Time: Beginning about 7:30 P. M. Take a raincheck in case of overcast sky.

Feb. 18 DISCUSSION GROUP, with Glenn Neville on "MODERN (Sat.) PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY," Commerce Department Foyer, 8:00 P. M. (See story inside.)

Each Saturday Morning, Telescope making class at Chevy Chase Community Center, 5600 block of Connecticut Avenue, 9-12 A. M. For more information contact Hoy Walls at OLiver 2-5395.

ASTROMETRY is one of the two great divisions of astronomy. It deals with determining the positions of the stars and the planets. One of the main instruments used for this purpose is the transit circle. Mr. Scott, our February lecturer, will describe how the Naval Observatory, in cooperation with eleven observatories all over the world, is using the transit circle to establish a framework of coordinates for the universe. It is based on galaxies so far away that their motion in space will not be detected for many years, or even centuries. Mr. Scott is an eminent authority in the field of astrometry. He has helped plan the cooperative program now under way.

--Benjamin Adelman

NCA PLANETARIUM. The club has purchased a Spitz Junior Planetarium for \$13.50. It is primarily for use of the junior groups. However, it will be available for any NCA activity. Mr. Adelman will have custody of the Spitz, Jr.

DISCUSSION GROUP, February 18, MODERN PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY. The link between astronomy and physics is a fascinating one. The two main topics to be discussed are:

1. The contributions of astronomy to the development of modern physics.
2. The relations between astronomy and modern physics today.

The discussion should be of general as well as specific interest as it deals with the exchange of ideas between physics and astronomy.

---Glenn E. Neville

SANTA TURNS CUPID -- Our treasurer, John Lund, and Sara Chapman were married in South Dennis, Massachusetts, on Christmas day. John and Sara were high school classmates in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Dorothy Lamore and Archibald Robertson were married in the First Baptist Church at 16th and O Streets, N. W., on New Year's Eve. Theirs was the first wedding in the new building.

Best wishes for many happy years, Sara and John, and Dorothy and Archibald.

---Thelma Cressy

ACTIVITIES FOR JUNIORS OVER 12 -- It is planned to conduct special activities for Junior Members over 12 years of age. The Board has asked the undersigned to coordinate and assist in these activities. All Junior Members in this group are urged to telephone me at Emerson 2-3695 or write and offer suggestions. The address is 4840 Reservoir Road, N. W., Washington 7, D. C. The Juniors over 12 are particularly invited to attend the observation at the 5" at the Naval Observatory on Friday, February 10. ---Paul S. Davis

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Date	Star	Mag	Age	Phase	E. S. T.
14	BD + 3° 4909 m	6.9	3.1	D	6:55.0 P. M.
17	27 Ari	6.4	6.1	D	6:59.3 P. M.
20	BD + 22° 925	6.5	9.1	D	7:02.2 P. M.
20	BD + 21° 918	6.3	9.3	D	11:41.9 P. M.
22	f Gem	5.2	11.2	D	9:29.7 P. M.
26-27	e Leo	5.1	15.4	R	1:52.4 A. M.

OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Mercury is a morning star in February and reaches greatest western elongation on the 21st. Venus is an evening star visible low in the southwest just after sunset. Mars rises around 3:00 A. M. and is visible for the rest of the night. Jupiter is well placed for observation and reaches opposition on the 15th. Saturn rises shortly after midnight and is in quadrature with the sun on the 22nd.

---A. L. White

1956 ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION NEWS -- It will take place at Miami, July 2-5, at the McAllister Hotel. Rates: Singles, \$5-\$7; doubles, \$7-\$10 (total cost for two); two-room suites, \$24-\$34; Dorm-type family rooms, \$3.50 per person. All rates are per day. Plenty of public space and space for meetings. Entertainment will consist of field trips to Navy Time Station, SCAS Observatory & Junior Museum planetarium; Gulfstream U of Miami observatory, and a fine program featuring Dr. Shapley. We're still negotiating details of a low-budget side trip to Havana and the Cuban National Observatory. Eastern Air Lines will be contacting many of you within the next month or two. If you're planning to fly or are uncertain as to how you'll come, you might do well to read Eastern's literature.

This year's convention is being sponsored by the Gulfstream Astronomical Association, Southern Cross Astronomical Society, and the Key West Astronomy Club.