

NEW MEMBERS

- Roy W. Anderson, 3830 - 8th St., So., Arlington, Va.
JA 4-0757
- William C. Buell, IV, 2122 Massachusetts Ave., N. W.
Wash. D. C. DE 2-0228
- Cornelia A. Carswell, 3804 Yuma St., N. W.
Wash. 16, D. C. KE 7-1367
- Joseph S. Eichelberger, 3121 Newton St., N. E.,
Wash. 18, D. C. HO 2-4564
- Michael Lo Guirato, R. F. D. 1, Clifton, Virginia
BR 8-9017
- John Kuntz, 1005 S. Quebec St., Arlington, Va. JA 8-0230
- Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Linder, 8000 MacArthur Blvd.,
Cabin John, Md. EX 3-6115 (Office)
- Saul I. Serota, 3415 - 38th St., N. W., Wash. D. C.
- Jane Showacre, 4703 Ravenswood Road, Hyattsville, Md.
UN 4-0535
- David S. Wehrly, 2701 N. Wakefield St., Arlington, Va.
JA 7-5720
- Major and Mrs. Russell C. White, U. S. M. C.
3800 Columbia Pike, Arlington 4, Virginia JA 7-5720

NEW JUNIOR MEMBERS

- Roy F. Anderson, 3830 - 8th St., So., Arlington, Va.
JA 4-0757
- Stephen G. Bacon, 1711 Corwin Drive, Silver Spring, Md.
JU 8-4521
- Peter Graves, 4704 N. Chelsea Lane, Bethesda, Md.
OL 4-1918
- June Lo Guirato, R. F. D. #1, Clifton, Virginia
BR 8-9017
- Albert N. Williams, Jr., Cheltenham, Md.
FA 2-4904

ENCKE'S COMET may be seen in the morning sky early in October, moving from Cancer into Leo. Its magnitude will be 7 to 8 and glasses will be needed.

Jewell Boling, Editor 1717 P St., N. W. NO 7-7693

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STAR DUST
National Capital Astronomers

October 1957

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OCTOBER CALENDAR

- Oct. 5 (Sat.) DR. JAMES C. BARTLETT of the American International Academy will speak on lunar and planetary observations and UFO.
- Oct. 12 (Sat.) JUNIORS VISIT NCA SATELLITE STATION in the afternoon. See inside for details.
- Oct. 13 (Sun.) "EXPLORING THE SKY," Joint program of the National Capital Astronomers and the National Capital Parks. Ft. Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N. W., 8:00 P. M. Slides if cloudy, canceled if raining. All members are urged to participate. The more telescopes the better!
- Oct. 19 (Sat.) DISCUSSION GROUP: "Visual Satellite Tracking" led jointly by Bob Dellar, Everette Neville, and Bob Wright. 8:00 P.M. in the Commerce Department Foyer. See story inside.
- Oct. 20 (Sun.) NCA PICNIC AND OBSERVING PARTY -- a rain or shine event! North Bethesda Recreation Area, Maryland. Leave Commerce Department Building at 4:30 P. M., or drive out. See Tove Neville's article inside.
- Oct. 26 (Sat.) GROUP OBSERVING at the NCA 5" REFRACTOR at the Naval Observatory, 7:30 P. M., with Bill Isherwood. Your NCA membership card will admit you.

THE TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS with Hoy Walls is held each Monday night at 7:30 at the Chevy Chase Recreation Center, 5601 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.

DR. JAMES C. BARTLETT, JR., the October speaker, is widely known as a keen lunar and planetary observer, who for many years has done remarkable work with small instruments. We are looking forward to his coming discussion on his recent planetary, lunar, and solar observations. Dr. Bartlett will also mention U. F. O., incorporating both the most recent literature and his own observations in this field.

ADDITIONS TO THE PUBLICATIONS STAFF: Larry White will continue his excellent contributions as Astronomy Editor. Morton Schiff is off to a good start as Publicity Writer.

ORIONID METEOR SHOWER PICNIC on October 20 at the North Bethesda Recreational Center where we will have the park and all outdoor and indoor facilities to ourselves and a sky as dark as outer space, almost. This night of the new moon should be perfect for observing the "swift streaks" of fire which are the fast falling Orionids. These meteors travel the same orbit around the sun as Halley's comet at a velocity of 68 kilometers pr. sec., and though they move in parallel paths they will appear to radiate from the area in the sky where we observe Orion. We may also be able to spot the tail end of another meteor shower in the constellation Aries and make comparisons between the two types meteors. The Arietids travel at less than half the speed of the Orionids and are "slow fireballs" which should be visible until October 23. We are going to arrange for teams to observe under Observation Chairman Bill Isherwood, and counts will be made of the observed meteors. The varying intensity of falling meteors will be compared from one time interval to another. The meteor showers are fascinating phenomena and rather unpredictable so far as their density is concerned. Sometimes the fall is sparse while at other times it has been a swarm coming heavy as snowflakes as the Leonids in November 1833 when 20 meteors a second were counted.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR OCTOBER

Date	Star	Mag.	Age	Phase	E. S. T.
6-7	Lambda Pse	4.6	13.5	D	3:01.8 A. M.
10	Omieron Ari	5.8	14.7	R	10:37.9 P. M.
19-20	p ⁵ Leo	5.4	26.6	R	4:53.6 A. M.
28	Rho Sgr	4.0	5.8	D	7:35.0 P. M.
31	C' Cap	5.3	8.8	D	5:23.9 P. M.

OBSERVATIONAL DATE FOR OCTOBER

Mercury is moving from greatest western elongation to superior conjunction which will be reached October 23. Venus is an evening star and may be seen for about two hours after sunset. The planet is in conjunction with Saturn on the 19th at 7:35 P. M. (E. S. T.) Mars is too close to the sun for observation this month. Jupiter is in conjunction with the sun on the 5th and the planet may be seen at the end of the month. Saturn is near Antares in the southwest and sets about two hours after sunset. The date of maximum intensity for the ORIONID meteor shower is October 22. This shower averages 20 meteors per hour. On the 15th at 11:00 P. M. (E.S.T.) the Milky Way spans the heavens from east to west crossing just north of the zenith, and passing through Auriga, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cygnus, and Aquila.

--A. L. White

"THE MYSTERY OF THE STARS," a course given by Francis J. Heyden, S. J., at Catholic University, McMahon Hall, will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 P. M., starting October 2. The small tuition covers eight lectures. Register at first class.

THANKS, TOVE NEVILLE, for a good try. Anyway, we really needed the rain.

COMET 1957d (MRKOS), now (mid-September) about 10° south of Arcturus, can still easily be found with 7 x 50 binoculars in a clear, dark, evening sky.

We expect to combine our pleasant picnic in beautiful surroundings with some good, organized observing. Bring folding chairs, raincoats, or air-mattresses, if available, as the observing will take place in the open field.

We were very pleased to find a park so close to town and yet away from the city lights, and we are not going to be dependent on our meteorologists this time. We'll have a picnic come rain or shine, for this wonderful place has everything. There are tables and firegrates under the trees where we will eat or cook our own picnic supper. There is a playground for the children, and a basketball court for those who want some exercise before we observe. The indoor recreation hall is spacious, and here a table will be reserved for those who want to bring along anything interesting they have to show the group, be it man-made or straight from the skies. And bring your telescopes to watch sunspots before dark and anything else which may present itself during the evening. We will try to keep the coffee pot going in the kitchen for anybody's refreshment.

We leave the Commerce Department Building at 4:30 P. M., and will provide rides from there for anyone who needs it, and we expect to be at the park about 5 o'clock. For those who find it more convenient to go directly, the route is: Out Wisconsin Avenue to Bank of Bethesda. Then west on Old Georgetown Road. Just beyond N. I. H. on the right, after crossing the stoplight, turn left on Oak Place and continue on Oak to park. Can't miss it. Sorry the weatherman wouldn't cooperate for the August picnic at Ft. Hunt Park, and I am sure he wouldn't dare let us down a second time. Nevertheless we are taking no chances this time, come in any case. Can't miss the fun.

Astronomically yours
Tove Neville

VESTA, the brightest of the asteroids, will reach opposition October 11. It will be 140 million miles away and have a magnitude of 6.8. Use a star chart to locate it in the constellation Cetus.

FIELD TRIP FOR JUNIOR MEMBERS -- On Saturday afternoon October 12 NCA Juniors are invited to visit the NCA Satellite observing station at Bob Dellar's place in Springfield, Virginia. Many of the senior members have already inspected the satellite station so now the Juniors are going to get a chance to do so too. D. C. and Maryland Juniors are to meet at the Chevy Chase Community Center promptly at 2 P. M. for rides to the station. D. C. and Maryland Juniors desiring to go MUST call me at Federal 3-7786 several days in advance so that transportation may be arranged for them. Virginia Juniors should call Bob Brown at Kenmore 6-8059 in advance for transportation arrangements and information on the meeting place and time in Virginia. In case of rain the trip will be canceled.

---Leith Holloway
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

THE AURORA BOREALIS provided an unusually beautiful display September 12 (Thursday) from about 11:00 P. M. until 12:30 A. M. There were spots, rays, and arcs, green and purple, on a strong red background through which the stars shone brightly. A bright green-white spot, 8° to 10° in diameter frequently recurred in Hercules; an east-west band appeared along Andromeda; and a long east-west split band occurred, disappeared, and recurred as far south as Aquila, with Altair shining through it. This exquisite activity was bright enough to provide ample competition with the gibbous moon.

--Bob McCracken

THREE DEGREES SOUTHWARD at latitude 36, near Randleman, North Carolina, the editor's mother, Mrs. Carrie E. Boling, observed the same aurora. She reported seeing across the northern sky a wide fan of deep red color blushed with green. It repeatedly flared up to the zenith during her period of observation, which was from about 10:00 P. M. till midnight (E. S. T.)