

VIRGINIA JUNIORS

The Virginia Juniors are growing rapidly, having doubled attendance and membership. Their current project is the exhibit for the Virginia Junior Academy of Sciences convention at Richmond in May. In the near future are plans for observing at the 10-inch reflector at Wakefield High School, and at the Goddard Space Flight Center. --John Geweke, Virginia Junior Editor

MD-DC JUNIORS

Mr. Thomas Van Flandern presented an intriguing talk on "Grazing Occultations" to 15 MD-DC Juniors on February 13. Many were new, having heard of the lecture from the publicity sheets that have been distributed by Harry Barnes to area Junior and Senior High Schools.

Former NGA Vice President, Ellis Marshall, will speak on "Satellite Observing" at the March 13 session. He will cover everything from calculating satellite positions to watching them cross telescope fields.

Byron Cooper, editor of Project World Night, has sent letters to the 18 other Junior groups in the Astronomical League's Middle East Region inviting them to contribute to the project as the first step in creating Junior activities in the Region through the League. --Norm Sperling, MD-DC Jr. Editor

PRINCE GEORGES' COUNTY JUNIORS

The Prince Georges' County Juniors are presently collecting data from two photometers. The data will be used for a number of projects. Our present projects deal with the moon. We plan to later use the photometers on variable stars. At our last meeting, we discussed "World Night," which has our full-fledged support. Our astro-camera is coming along just fine. The 5" lens has arrived, so we are now ready to work on the mount. We will eventually give our camera to the NCA. -- Sheila Duck, PGC Jr. Editor

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★ STAR DUST



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HOW STARS ARE FORMED



Dr. Uco vanWijk

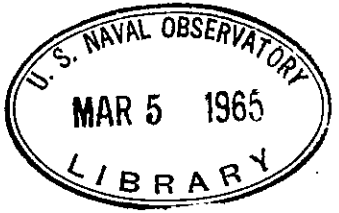
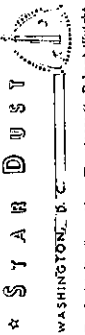
Dr. Uco vanWijk from the University of Maryland will be the NCA guest lecturer at the March 6 meeting. Many will remember the excellent talk given before the NCA in September of 1962 by Dr. vanWijk.

Dr. van Wijk was born in Java, and educated at Harvard. He has done observing at the Harvard Observatory in South Africa, at Princeton, and at Mount Wilson. He designed the 20" telescope at the University of Maryland. His main areas of work and study have been photo-electric photometry, eclipsing binaries, star clusters and galactic structure.

CALENDAR

- March 6 How Stars are Formed, by Dr. Uco van Wijk from the University of Maryland. 8:15 P.M. in the Department of Commerce Auditorium. Business meeting follows. Anyone interested in having dinner with the speaker at the Occidental Restaurant, 1411 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., 6:15 PM, please phone Mr. Hank Hudson, Vice-President, (534-8378) before noon March 6 as reservations have to be made.
- 6 Junior Division Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2062 at the Dept. of Commerce.
- 12 Virginia Juniors meeting at 7:30 P.M. at Westover Baptist Church. Call John Geweke (KE 8-5148) for details.
- 13 MD-DC Juniors Meeting at 2:00 P.M. in the Silver Spring Library. Ellis Marshall speaks.
- 14 Prince George's County Juniors meet at the home of Ted Noble, NGA sponsor, at 3 P.M. Topic making plans for the Middle East Regional Convention.
- 18 Take a good look at planet Mercury, see article "Mercury Elongation" for details.
- 20 Attend Discussion Group Commerce Department #2062 Conference Room Topic "Shakespeare's Astronomy". Printed material on subject to be distributed at meeting.
- 26 Virginia Juniors meeting at 7:30 P.M. at Westover Baptist Church. Call John Geweke (KE 8-5148) for details.
- 27 Observing at the Five Inch on the grounds of the U. S. Naval Observatory with Larry White from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M.
- 2,9,16,23 Telescope Making Glass at the Chevy Chase Community Center with Hoy Walls from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M.
- 5,12,19,26 Advanced Telescope Making Glass at the Chevy Chase Community Center with Hoy Walls from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M.

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MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONVENTION

The Middle East Regional Convention will be held at Baltimore, Maryland Friday evening June 25 and all day Saturday June 26. The host society will be the Baltimore Astronomical Society.

Plans, not complete at this time include visiting two astronomical observatories, a full day of papers, exhibits and plenty of time to visit with your astronomical friends from other parts of the Region. There will be a Junior session that will be pretty well filled with papers from the NCA Junior Division.

The sessions and Saturday evening banquet will be at the Holiday Motel on the north side of Baltimore. The motel is located just off the Baltimore Beltway. Registration for the Convention will be \$1.00 until June 1 and then will be raised to \$1.50.

Due to the short distance to the Convention and the increased Junior Convention activities it is hoped that at least 40 NCA members will attend this Convention. Further details will be included in Star Dust as they become available. Plan to register early for this Convention. To save individual registrations, pay your \$1.00 to G. R. Wright at the March meeting.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUES GENERAL CONVENTION MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN OVER THE FOURTH OF JULY WEEKEND. WHY NOT PLAN NOW TO VACATION IN THAT AREA THIS YEAR.

MERCURY ELONGATIONMarch 18-21 at 7:40 P.M.

The planet of Mercury is elusive so you should take advantage of an evening elongation of Mercury for observation. The Timetable of the Heavens is your guide. Follow the line of twilight on the timetable and list the dates of elongation after the twilight line. March 18, 19, 20, and 21 should be an ideal time for a glimpse of Mercury. Maybe someone will venture to photograph the event.

FEBRUARY LECTURE -- GEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION OF LUNAR SURFACE FEATURES

Space Agency scientists think that meteoric impact and volcanism contributed about equally to the formation of surface features on the moon. Our February speaker, Mrs. Winifred Cameron of N.A.S.A., discussed the volcanic origins of lunar topography. The maria are probably huge basaltic lava basins topped by ash flow. Ash flow is a type of volcanic eruption which is best described as fluidized dust. On the earth it has a temperature of about 1,000°C. and travels at speeds up to 100 miles per hour, but it leaves no lava fronts. In 1902, ash flow destroyed the city of St. Pierre on Martinique, West Indies killing 30,000 people. Radiometer studies of the moon indicate a very porous (90% space) surface having poor heat conductivity. An ash cover meets these criteria.

The Ranger 7 pictures rule out moderately viscous lava flow as a feature of the lunar surface for they reveal no large rocks nor lava fronts. Volcanic cones do not form on the moon because of the lack of an atmosphere and weak gravity. Thus we see ringed craters there instead. From the earth one cannot distinguish between meteoric and volcanic craters. Volcanic activity can still be observed on the moon. Bright red areas have been seen in the crater Aristarchus several times this year by telescopes in this area.

--Leith Holloway

Thanks to CARDOZO PRINTERS.....NCA Directory

The NCA Membership Directories were hand set by the Cardozo Printing Glass at Cardozo High School, 13th & Clifton St. N.W., Washington, D. C. The National Capital Astronomers recognizes the tremendous amount of work in publishing a directory of this size and they express their thanks and gratitude to the Printing Glass for 1965 edition.

NCA CONSTITUTION

The Trustees propose the following amendments to the Constitution and By Laws. Article V of the Constitution would be replaced by new Articles V & VI. In the By Laws Article I, Sec. 2 & Article III, Sections 1 & 4 would be changed to read as follows. These matters will be discussed at the March meeting so please read carefully.

CONSTITUTION

Article V - Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the Board of Trustees or by written petition, signed by not less than ten full members in good standing and delivered to the Secretary. The text of any proposed amendment and the initiating petition, if any, shall be mailed to each member, together with a copy of this Article V accompanied by any explanatory matter deemed advisable by the Board of Trustees, and a ballot form. Voting shall be by mail. The proposed amendment will be discussed at the first regular meeting following the mailing to the membership. All ballots signed by members in good standing and received by the Secretary within twenty days after the date of the regular meeting in which the amendment was discussed as above provided, shall be verified and counted by three tellers appointed by the President, and two-thirds majority of such ballots shall determine the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Article VI - Dissolution

The corporation may not be dissolved except by a vote of the membership, and voting procedures shall be the same as those provided for in Article V and in compliance with appropriate provisions of law.

BY-LAWS AS AMENDED

Article I

Section 2. Applications for membership shall be in written form, properly endorsed by one full member and accompanied by the dues for one year, and shall be submitted to the Membership Committee by the applicant in person, except for applications submitted by children under 12 years of age, which may be submitted either to the Membership Committee or to an adult member sponsoring a neighborhood junior astronomy group. The applications shall be read at the first regular meeting following their receipt. The names of the applicants and their sponsors shall be published in the next issue of Star Dust. If approved by the Membership Committee, or in the case of children under 12 by an adult member sponsoring a neighborhood junior astronomy group, the Membership Committee may recommend the applicant for membership. The acceptance of the Membership Committee reports shall constitute election to membership.

Article III

Section 1. The officers and trustees shall be elected by secret ballot at the May meeting of the corporation. They shall take office July 1 and shall serve until their successors have been installed.

Section 4. The officers and trustees shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Any other nominations of a complete slate or of the individual officers may be made by ten full members in good standing, who shall sign their names to their nominations and file their nominations with the Secretary at least fifteen days prior to the May meeting. No nominations shall be accepted from the floor.

NCA SERVING ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

Mr. Gilbert R. Wright has been appointed chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Astronomical League by Mr. Arthur Smith, President of the Astronomical League. We are proud to have NCA represented on committees of the League. Congratulations Bob!

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

NCA member, Herbert C.S. Thom was one of six recipients of the Gold Medal for Meritorious Service in the U.S. Weather Bureau. The awards were made by Commerce Sec. John T. Connor at a ceremony in the Commerce Dept. Auditorium, Feb. 15, 1965. Mr. Thom is a meteorologist at the Office of Climatology in Suitland, Maryland. NCA Officers & Members send congratulations!