

During the special meeting in which Russell Maag spoke several interesting topics were raised. The following is from notes of the editor and any omissions are unintentional. Mr. Maag mentioned several of the groups that he had visited to give us some ideas as to the nature of the projects proposed by others. The Jacksonville, Fla. group plans a three day seminar in which regional experts are to be invited. Patrick Moore is being sponsored by the New York group. Valdosta State College in Georgia has located some 60 acres available for projects as well as seven other sites. A third major nucleus on the East coast is at Greenborough N.C. at the University of N.C. The AAVSO plans to set up in an area near Perry Fla., near Valdosta and will be joined by a group of Swiss astronomers. The question of weather in the area was discussed. Most agreed that the weather is likely to be chancy at best with the two best areas about the Valdosta area and the Norfolk area. The weather will be given over the seaboard weather channel - 162.55 Mhz during the time we are interested in. The Milwaukee branch is in charge of the Society's coordinated program of eclipse photography. The set-up used is the same or similar to that used in the moonwatch program. This consists of a 5-inch apogee telescope with the peripheral inch masked and having an effective focal length of 25-inches. It was said that plans would be forthcoming in the next Astronomical League Bulletin.

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LUNAR LASER EXPERIMENT

DR. C. O. ALLEY

For two hours and twenty-one minutes, Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the lunar surface last July. While there, they left an 18-inch square aluminum block containing 100 prismatic blocks of fused silica lying on the surface about 30 feet from the "Eagle". This was the Laser-Retro-Reflector experiment. Three earth based reflecting telescopes: 120, 107 and 60 inches, equipped with six 6943 Angstrom ruby lasers transmitted to and received from the reflector, coherent light. From observations of the travel times of these light rays over the next decade new data on the non-uniformity of the earth's and the moon's rotation and the movement of the earth's crust, among other things, will be gathered. At the December 6th meeting of the National Capital Astronomers, the details and the important nature of the laser experiments on Apollo 11 will be discussed by their director, Dr. C. O. Alley. This is the first in a series of reports to the N.C.A. on the manned lunar flights. Dr. Alley's biography was not available. He is a professor of Physics at Maryland University with a major interest in the field of applied solid state physics.

Calendar

6 December 6:15 P.M. Dinner with the speaker at Bassin's 14th and Pa. Ave. N.W., No reservations needed. For information call Bill Winkler at 736 - 3553 evenings.

6 December 8:15 P.M. December meeting of NCA at the Department of Commerce Auditorium at 14th and E. Street N.W. Dr. Alley will speak on the Apollo Laser Reflector experiment he designed and directed.

Telescope Making Classes: December 5, 12 and 19; Pallsades Recreation Center; 8-10 pm.; Jerry Schnall EM 2-8872.

Observing at the 5 inch: Navel Observatory, December 12, 8-10 pm., Larry White 461-9681.

No Discussion group will be officially held due to the holiday season.

Treasury

Income

Dues.....	\$140.81
Total Income Oct. '69	140.81
Balance, Oct. '69.....	861.05
Total	\$1001.86
Less Outgo.....	183.88
Balance Oct. 31, 1969	\$ 817.98

Outgo

Sky and Telescope.....	\$47.34
Star Dust.....	13.95
Postmaster, D.C., Dep.....	25.00
1970 Obs. Handbook.....	77.40
Constitution, By Laws.....	20.19
Total Outgo, October 1969	\$183.88

Jerry Schnall, Treasurer

Juniors

NO REPORTS RECEIVED

FOR SALE: Four inch Unitron Refractor, f 16, 7 in. dewcap, Altazimuth mounting, Eyepieces: R25mm, K18mm, K12.5mm, Sym. Ach. 9mm, 7mm, Ortho 6mm, 10x finder, diagonal, barlow, sun filter, case for \$200.00. Call Mr. Martin Lobdell, 10207 Raider Lane, Fairfax, Va. 273-7299

For those who did not attend the last meeting all will be pleased or otherwise, to know that the constitution which had been mailed and voted on was accepted by the membership. For those who do not favor it in whole or in part, now is the time to get started bringing up modifications and or alterations.

Membership

New Members

James H. and Luba G. Stowell, 4224 Albemarl St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, 244-5718

John A. Eisele, 5513 Wolf Street, Oxon Hill, Md. 20022, 248-3698

Wolfgang A. Schubert, 7906 Gosport Lane, Springfield, Va. 22151, 321-9617

Address Changes

Wingate R. Burden Jr., Chowan College, P.O.Box 114, Murfreesboro, North Carolina 27855

Norman Sperling, 1072 Plaza Circle, Jappatowne, Md. 21085

In case you didn't get the word at the last N.C.A. meeting, we have assembled a list of members interested in getting information about the coming solar eclipse. This N.C.A. list has been sent to Russell Maag who will include these names on the distribution for the Astronomical league bulletins concerning the eclipse. The N.C.A. list has also been sent to Russell Blake, Planetarium Director in Chesapeake, Virginia, who will send out periodic information about motel accommodations available and sites available in the Norfolk area. At each N.C.A. meeting we will post the names of the members on this list. You can check at that time to see if your name is included - - or call Jim Freund at 423-6259.

Here is a list of worthwhile reading material concerning the eclipse:

U.S. Naval Observatory Circular # 125, March 7, 1969 (Phone OX6-8696 for a copy).

Eastman Kodak Pamphlet AM20, Solar Eclipse Photography, Write to Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y. 14650 for a free copy. "An Eclipse of the Sun for North America", Sky and Telescope, March '68.

"Astronomical League Plans for the 1970 Total Solar Eclipse", Popular Astronomy, Aug-Sept. 1968.

"Ninety Minutes of Totality", Sky and Telescope, Jan. 1969.

"Weather Prospects for the Next March's Total Eclipse", Sky and Telescope, July 1969.

Jim Freund