

DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

October / November
1980

General Information

The D.A.S. is a non profit organization with membership open to any individual who is interested in astronomy upon payment of the annual dues. Guests are always welcome without charge or obligation. Our purpose is to encourage and promote the study of astronomy and related sciences.

The D.A.S. meets each Friday evening at the Crowell Recreation Center located at 16630 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan. The center is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of McNichols (Six Mile Road), on the east side of Lahser Road at the traffic signal light. This facility is a modern well equipped building with ample off street lighted parking. It is operated by the City of Detroit Recreation Department and it is their finest facility serving this side of the city. Since we are their guests it is important to be considerate in the use of the Crowell Recreation Center to insure our continued welcome.

The meetings consist of talks, lectures, films, slides, mirror making, sharing and fellowship with Astronomy as our common denominator. There will generally be someone present to assist those who are grinding and polishing a mirror starting at 7:00 p.m. Most members arrive at 7:30 p.m. and when there is a feature presented it will begin promptly at 8:30 p.m. The officers and Board of Directors meet privately on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the mirror polishing room. The regular business meeting for the general membership is held on the second Friday of each month and it starts promptly at 8:30 p.m. In all cases we ask that the last person be out of the building by 10:30 p.m. to accommodate the building custodian.

During the summer months of July and August the Regular and Board of Director Meetings are suspended. Formal programs are reduced and emphasis is placed on scheduled star parties.

MEMBERSHIP includes SKY & TELESCOPE magazine and "The Reflector", a newsletter of the Astronomical League; both mailed to your home. Annual dues are as follows: Regular \$20.00- a person 18 years or older, Family \$25.00, Junior \$10.00- a person 17 years or younger. Membership renewal card from S & T along with dues should be forwarded to/the Treasurer, Leslie Erickson, 8255 Mary Ann, Utica, Michigan 48087.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SUNDAY LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT OCT. 19, 1980

The subject of the Sunday lecture is Pulsars. Dr. Blass will explain what they are and why they do what they do. The informal meeting will be at the U.of D., Engineering Building, located on Florence Ave. The meeting will start at 3:15 p.m. in room 206.

COLLEGE LEVEL ASTRONOMY CLASS

Dr. Blass has indicated a willingness to teach a college level astronomy course at the University of Detroit for members of the D.A.S. At this time it is expected that Tuesday evenings after 6:30p.m. would be the most likely meeting time. Actual starting time, duration of the class and number of sessions will be determined after we can evaluate the response for participation. There will be no charge for the class other than the cost of the text book and any incidental materials. This offer has an actual value to each participant of about \$300.00. There will not be any college credit given for attending. The proposed location is in room 206 of the Engineering Building, which is a modern comfortable large room with excellent acoustics and lighting (same as currently being used for Sunday lecture meetings). The last time this was offered was in October, 1972 when about 20 members participated. If you are interested or want more information please contact Richard Lloyd at 837-0130 days or early evenings or Ed Dvorak at 538-0328 after 7:00 p.m. week days or any time week ends. We need to have an accurate idea of how many will attend before further plans can be made. Please make your reservation before October 27, 1980.

ELECTION OF D.A.S. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE 1981 TERM

A nominating committee comprised of Gary Frey and Mike Manyak has been established to assure at least one candidate for each position. As usual the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be elected for one year terms and this year we have openings for three Directors. If you have a desire to serve or want to nominate someone please contact Gary Frey or Mike Manyak for further information.

FRIDAY LECTURES

Basic astronomy lectures are being presented at the regular Friday meeting on the first and third Friday of each month, they started on Oct. 3, 1980 and will continue for a total of 10 installments.

A.T.M.

The D.A.S. library has a new set of Amateur Telescope Making Books I, II, and III for general reference. They will be kept at the Crowell Center. Many people are grinding and polishing telescope mirrors. If you are interested in making your own, feel free to watch and learn or start your own mirror.

COMETS FOR 1980

October, November, and December will be good months to observe 3 comets. Comet STEPHAN-OTERMAN, discovered in 1867, will be making its first predicted return since 1942. Comet STEPHAN-OTERMAN as well as comets ENCKE and TUTTLE are all expected to become particularly bright objects in 1980. Ephemerides (1950), based in part on predicted orbital elements by D.K. YEOMANS, are given below.

DATE	ENCKE			STEPHAN-OTERMAN			TUTTLE		
	R/A	DEC.	MAG.	R/A	DEC.	MAG.	R/A	DEC.	MAG.
	h m	o i		h m	o i		h m	o i	
Oct. 23	9 07	+59 51							
28	11 22	+51 21	7.7						
Nov. 2	12 41	+36 25	---						
7	13 25	+21 56	7.2	5 19	+ 8 46	10.4	10 07	+37 12	9.8
12	13 53	+10 29	---	5 23	+10 34	----	10 16	+30 22	---
17	14 13	+ 1 50	7.1	5 26	+12 36	10.1	10 24	+22 01	8.9
22	14 29	- 4 54	---	5 28	+14 53	----	10 32	+11 59	---
27	14 46	-10 29	7.3	5 30	+17 22	9.9	10 40	+ 0 20	8.3
Dec. 2	15 06	-15 23	---	5 31	+20 01	----	10 48	-12 22	---
7	15 32	-19 42	7.8	5 31	+22 46	9.8	10 57	-25 07	8.1
12				5 31	+25 34	----	11 06	-36 52	---
17				5 31	+28 18	9.9	11 17	-47 01	8.4
22				5 31	+30 55	----	11 28	-55 24	---
27				5 32	+33 21	10.0	11 42	-62 14	8.9

STEPHAN-OTERMAN will reach perihelion on Dec. 5, 1980 at distance of 1.57 A.U. and will not return for 38 years. ENCKE will reach perihelion on Dec. 6, 1980 at a distance of .34 AU. and will not return for 3.3 years. TUTTLE will reach perihelion on Dec. 14, 1980 at 1.01 A.U. and will not return for 14 years.

Lets get out those binoculars, telescopes, cameras, and data books. Record the position, Magnitude, coma diameter, tail length, and any unusual information. Make drawings and photographs so we can compare data around February, 1981.

By
Gary Frey

OBSERVERS HANDBOOK 1981

It's time to order the handbook for 1981. They will be ordered Dec. 1, 1980 at a cost of \$ 6.00 each. If you wish to obtain a copy, send a check to me or bring the proper amount to a club meeting. Extra books will not be ordered and only those paid by December 1, 1980 will receive books.

Make checks payable to Gary Frey
7570 Crestmore
W. Bloomfield, Mich. 48033