



URANOGRAPHOS



Newsletter for the
Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association

President- Dr. Phillip Hill Vice President- Dr. Robert Wade Secretary- Michael Cote' Treasurer- Mark Logsdon

Michael Cote' and Robert Wade, Editors

November, 1989

November Meeting

The November meeting of the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association will start at 7:30 PM in the West Ottawa Middle School Planetarium in Holland, Michigan. The agenda will be as follows:

7:30-7:40 The November Night Sky Tour

7:40-8:40 *The Creation of the Universe* - a video covering current theories of cosmology.

8:40-9:00 General Business Meeting including election of 1990 officers.

Executive Board Meeting

The Board meeting was called to order on Nov. 2, 1989 by Vice President Robert Wade at 7:45 pm. The results of the Public Star Party were discussed (See accompanying article by Mark Logsdon). We all felt that it was an immense success.

We decided to continue to get price quotes for printing of the SAAA "Sky Log". The cost to members will be about a buck for 30 sheets. This represents about one half the cost to SAAA members as the board members have agreed to pay for the cost for the printing (See article by Michael Cote). We discussed the distribution of the Astronomical League's publication, *The Reflector*, as to make it available to the membership at the November meeting. Robert Wade distributed an advertisement he received from Electrim Corporation. They sell an "inexpensive" compact, digitally controlled television like CCD camera that may be used for astrophotography. For more info contact Michael Cote.

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We talked about conducting another star party before the end of the year, sometime during late November or early December. We will notify the membership of the details later. We decided to have four public star parties next year, each at a different location in the surrounding communities of Hamilton, Zeeland, and two in Holland. This hopefully would let those in the communities know what we are about and increase our exposure. Bob also noted that Astronomy Day for 1990 is April 28 and perhaps we could "observe" it with Vivekananda. Mark Logsdon stated that we would like to develop joint Astronomy Day celebrations with surrounding clubs and associations. It was agreed that this would benefit all.

The December meeting has been dedicated to eliciting (read brainstorming) from the membership what

programs and opportunities you would like the officers to pursue. One suggestion is to help members get their Messier Pins. The November meeting will feature Peter Burkey and a video and we will be electing officers for 1990. Ballots will be passed to all members so be sure to be there to vote. The board will be investigating an official SAAA "T" shirt for sale to members.

The board wishes to welcome to our growing ranks Jarvin Kleiman, Bruce Smith, and Landon Van Dyke as new members. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.
Respectfully submitted, Michael Cote.

October Meeting

On October 19th our customary sky tour was followed by a slide show courtesy of Bill DeVette from the Muskegon Astronomical Society. The slide show included a superb selection of astrophotos including deep-sky, planetary, solar eclipse, as well as a series describing the construction of the M.A.S. observatory. Slides of the Orion Nebula and the Horsehead Nebula were certainly among the highlights. Thank you Bill for a great slide show.

During the business portion of our meeting nominations were made for 1990 officers: for President, Bob Wade; for Vice-President Sandra Plakke and Peter Burkey; for Secretary Michael Cote and Arlin Ten Kley; and for Treasurer Jim Hotchkiss and Mark Logsdon. Election for officers will be held during our November meeting.

We also voted to have some club observing form printed and voted to purchase some cassette tapes offering guided tours of the night sky.

Submitted by Mark Logsdon

Star Party

Saturday, October 28th the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association hosted its first public "Star Party" at Kollen Park in Holland. Despite a bureaucratic mix-up which resulted in the park's lights remaining lit, five telescopes were directed towards the heavens. Venus, Saturn, and various Messier objects (globular clusters, open clusters, planetary nebula, and a galaxy) and double stars were the focus of attention for attending members and the public. Unfortunately, poor seeing and light pollution prevented sightings of comet Okazaki-Levy-Rudenko low in the west. A special thanks to Evan, Kevin, Michael, and Bob for serving as tour guides to the sky for those attending. The quote of the evening came from a youngster who, as she circulated from scope to scope, said this was the most fun she ever had in her life!

Submitted by Mark Logsdon

Magazine Subscriptions

I recently contacted the publishers of *Astronomy* magazine concerning club discounts. I received a kind and courteous response. Briefly, a minimum a five members per publication must sign up to get the discounted price (the regular price is listed in parentheses).

<i>Astronomy</i>	12 issues/yr	\$14.00	(\$21.00)
<i>Deep Sky</i>	4 issues/yr	\$8.00	(\$12.00)
<i>Telescope Making</i>	4 issues/yr	\$8.00	(\$12.00)
<i>Odyssey</i> (Astro for kids)	12 issues/yr	\$12.50	(\$19.95)

An agreement must be signed by club officers. If you already have a subscription to one of the above, they will let us prorate the discounted price. Sounds like a good deal to me!

With this info in hand, I called Sky Publishing to inquire about their discounts (again!). They expressed dismay that none of our previous three inquiries were answered. At any rate, once I informed them we are looking at *Astronomy* magazine discounts, they promised to get us the needed information ASAP. Looks like we should have some material to mull over at our November meeting.

Submitted by Robert Wade

SAAA Sky Log

Most observers at some time in their explorations of the heavens want to record the wonders they've seen. In fact, most books written for amateurs about observational astronomy include chapters about the importance of sketching objects and writing a short description or narrative about their discoveries and certain conditions of the atmosphere. These then may be compared over time for interesting changes in the objects or help improve ones ability to discern subtleties. It is often helpful to compare yours with others. With this in mind, SAAA's Bob Wade has developed the SAAA Sky Log that does exactly the above. SAAA is in the process of having Bob's form printed for your use. We want to use a heavy stock paper so that they will be more serviceable. They will be made available to any member for a nominal charge roughly half the cost to the club. The 8 1/2 by 11 sheet fits nicely into a standard notebook and has places for four observations. The observer is asked to record the location and some basic information on the optical system used. This could be used for unaided or naked observations as well. Other information is logically arranged in each of the four sections for those conditions that may vary as conditions change. Each observation has room for a short description or fill-in for Time, Object, Constellation, Coordinates, Seeing, Eyepiece, Date, and Transparency. There is ample room additionally for a sketch and comments for each object observed. I am looking forward to sharing my observations with all of you.

Submitted by Michael Cote