



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

September, 1989

September Meeting

The September meeting of the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association will be held September 21 at the West Ottawa Middle School Planetarium in Holland, Michigan. The agenda is as follows:

7:30 - 7:45 PM - September Night Sky & Star Quiz

7:45 - 8:45 PM - "Voyager II at Neptune" by Peter Burke. Peter was at JPL during the Neptune fly-by so come and get 'inside' information.

8:45 - 9:00 - General Business Meeting.

3882 62nd St.

Holland, Michigan 49423

Executive Meeting

President Hill called the meeting to order at 7:45pm, September 6, 1989. Mark Logsdon reported on the Voyager Watch held on 7-24-89. It was well attended by over 100 people and that we had one new member join. The SAAA would like to welcome Donald Lewis to our growing ranks. Mark also told us that he was contacted by the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club we were asked if we had any resource materials for their annual show.

The board continues efforts on behalf of the membership to obtain reduced subscription rates for *Sky & Telescope* magazine. It seems that *S & T* has given different information to several of us about club qualifications for the reduced rates. Phil Hill will get the definitive answer for us.

We discussed the upcoming election of officers and that a notice must appear in the October issue of *URANOGRAPHICS* in time for the November election.

We are in the planning stages to host a public star party on Oct 10th. There are

small details such as time and place that still need to be addressed.

We discussed the need to solicit articles for the newsletter from the general membership. This could provide a broader base of interests and an outlet for the beginning astro-author. All (most) inquiries would be welcome.

Michael Cote displayed our new certificate showing SAAA membership in The Astronomical League. The certificate, beautifully engraved, entitles our association to all privileges such as video tapes, slide programs, speakers etc. Some other benefits include National and Regional conventions, free pamphlets on a variety of subjects, observing programs, *The Reflector* (the first issue will be given to members at the September meeting), book service at 10% discount, computers user group, educational guides, and recognition for our activities on a national level. For more information please call Michael Cote at 857-5921.

The board discussed amending the SAAA constitution to include a full membership category that would include *Sky & Telescope* magazine.

We also talked about various ways to have a membership drive this fall and some possibilities for providing corporate sponsorships.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Cote

Voyager Watch

Voyager Watch, hosted by the SAAA at Holland Community Education, provided a local expression for the national celebration of planetary exploration coinciding with Voyager 2's encounter with Neptune and it's satellite Triton on August 24-25. Approximately 100 people attended Voyager Watch during the course of the four hour presentation. Neptune did not disappoint as images of it's Great Dark Spot were beamed

onto the large screen in the teleconference room. WGVU, channel 35's decision to carry "Neptune All Night", a PBS special broadcast, provided a nice carry over for those following the encounter after our program concluded.

Submitted by Mark Logsdon

Star Quiz

I prepare each month's column by looking first at my handy planisphere and see what stars or constellations are culminating at about 9:00 PM midmonth. From there I go to Richard Allen's *Star Names: Their Lore and Meaning*. While I was hopping around the zenith (that's your first clue this month) I noticed several small constellations that didn't have too many bright stars. Looking up the constellations in Hinckley's book brought a pleasant little surprise - most of these stars are obscure enough for their names (if any!) not to survive into modern times. Break out your star atlas and try to identify these constellations.

Delphinus, the dolphin was the Sacred Fish among the early Greeks. The Hindus knew it as *Shishumara*, or the porpoise. Ancient Arabs knew it as *Al Kaud* - the Riding Camel. They also report early Christians referring to it as the Cross of Jesus, transferred there after his crucifixion.

Equuleus, the foal, lies nearby. Indeed, not too long ago these stars were considered part of Delphinus or Pegasus. Ptolemy first mentioned it (and considered it incomplete) and Arabs followed his lead by calling it *Al Kitah al Faras*, Part of a Horse or *Al Faras al Awwal*, the First Horse. The latter name probably originates to its time of rising. In any case, the brightest star is referred to as *Kitalpha*, an obvious degeneration of the first name.

Sagitta, the Arrow is in the general neighborhood with the previously mentioned constellations. Once you find it in the sky or in an atlas it is easy to see why it is so named.

Lastly, lets find *Vulpecula*, the Little Fox. The only notable object in the entire constellation is M-27, the Dumbell Nebula. That is quite a sight to see in a 6" or larger telescope.

R.W.

Geology Conference

I was recently able to attend the 28th International Geological Congress held in Washington DC, July 9- 19, 1989. The congress is held every four years and the last time it convened in the US was in 1933.

The keynote expression was "Mente et Malleo" or the mind is malleable. This set the stage for over 6000 geoscientists from around the world to dialogue topics of research in the geological sciences.

Prominent were the recent findings in planetary geology. The geology and evolution of Venus, Mars, and major planetary satellites were highlighted each with their own sessions as was the case for the recent Japanese meteorite finds in Antarctica. The final session was entitled "Colloquium on the 20th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing: A Planetary Perspective" with A.T. Basilevshy, USSR Academy of Sciences, speaking on the "Geology of the Terrestrial Planets and Satellites: A Review", astronaut H. Schmitt speaking on "Geological Exploration of the Taurus-Littrow Valley, the Moon", and V. Barsukov and R. Trudy speaking on the futures of USSR and US plans for space exploration, respectively.

It was apparent throughout the Congress proceedings that people working cooperatively, irrespective of national borders and politics, as evidenced by the large delegation from the Peoples Republic of China, were willing to explore the reaches of space and advance human knowledge.

M.C.

Astronomy & Computers

If you own a personal computer and a telescope, have you ever dreamed of the day you could sit back in the comfort and warmth of your home and remotely control your scope? Have the images displayed on your monitor and capture them to disk, image process them, etc. Well, this may no longer be only in the realm of the professionals.

As I was contacting a few astronomy related bulletin boards recently (listed in September's *Sky and Telescope* magazine, I found that Star Net (located in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area) is offering to subscribers that very opportunity. Evidently, all you need is your computer and modem, and some amateur scopes which are computerized will be available for you to conduct your own observing session! I don't know where the telescopes are located, but you can observe through your *computer*, regardless of your local sky conditions.

The current issue of *The Reflector* is advertizing a new BBS. If you have a computer and modem, check it out!

R.W.