

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

October, 1989

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association will be held October 19 at the West Ottawa Middle School Planetarium in Holland, Michigan. The agenda is as follows:

7:30 - 7:35 PM - October Star Quiz

7:35 - 8:50 PM - Bill DeVette of the Muskegon Astronomical Society will present some astrophotographic slides he has taken over the years. Also shown will be some slides depicting the construction of their observatory. Come on out and see what you can do also!

8:50 - 9:15 - General Business Meeting. Nominations for 1990 Officers will be presented.

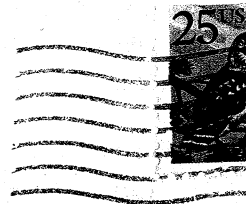
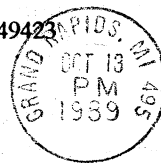
Executive Meeting

The recent executive meeting was called to order by Vice-President Robert Wade at 7:15 PM on October 5th. Michael Cote and Mark Logsdon were also present. Items discussed included the following:

Mark has let us know that the City Manager's Office has approved the request by the SAAA

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to host a Public Star Party on the evening of the 28th of this month in Kollen Park. They are even willing to turn off some of the lighting! So, hope for good weather and please volunteer your time and your telescope. More about this during our general business meeting.

October is club officer nomination month with general elections to follow in November. If you have the time and willingness (notice: experience not necessary) to make our club a success in the Western Michigan area, don't be afraid to let someone know you are interested in holding a particular office. It takes

more than a couple of active members to make a successful club.

Bob has designed and printed on a laser printer some club observing forms. These are for members to log their celestial observations. Samples will be on display at the next business meeting and we can discuss whether or not the club is willing to subsidize printing and then make them available to members at minimal cost.

Sky Publishing has made available some cassette tapes detailing mythology, constellations, etc., of the night sky for each of the four seasons. These would be ideal for inexperienced amateurs to become acquainted with the night sky. We need your input whether or not the club would like to purchase these (~\$17) for general use.

Some discussion also centered on topics for future meetings and a planning for club observing sessions next year. We thought it would be best to get maximum member involvement by calling for suggestions for meeting topics from our members. Also, we would like interested members to be responsible for organizing various club star parties for the coming year: e.g. meteor observing, Messier hunts, public star parties, etc.

Sky and Telescope has failed to respond to repeated attempts to get a club membership discount. We will be pursuing *Astronomy* magazine next.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Wade, Vice-President

September Meeting

The September meeting was started off by Sandra Plakke who gave us a tour of early evening September skies. Robert Wade followed with the Star Quiz and Peter Burkey gave the main program about Voyager's recent Neptune fly-by. Peter did an outstanding job and his talk was appreciated by all present. Our business meeting following discussed receiving *The Reflector* from the Astronomical

League. Several members decided to formally "go after" the Messier pins offered by the League to all who have seen *and accurately logged* observations of all Messier objects. We also discussed the upcoming asteroid occultation in October (see later in this newsletter).

R.W.

Star Quiz

The last couple of weeks in September were exceptionally clear for western Michigan, so I hope you had a chance to get out and view the heavens. I used the opportunity to familiarize myself with the somewhat obscure constellations mentioned in last month's column. Not to be outdone, this month's obscure constellation is *Lacerta*, the lizard. Look for it as a non-descript group of stars between *Cygnus* and *Pegasus*. Can any of you let us know during the next meeting's star quiz what is worth observing in this constellation?

Richard Allen in *Star Names* lets us know that *Sadalmelik* at magnitude 3.2 is a pale yellow star and lies on the right shoulder of *Aquarius*, the Waterman. Its name comes from the Arabic *Al Sa'd al Malik*, or the Lucky One of the King. *Sadalsuud* is slightly brighter at magnitude 3.1. Also a pale yellow star, its name means Luckiest of the Lucky. When this constellation emerges from behind the sun, the gentle spring rains have begun in the Middle East, bringing life-giving sustenance to what used to be winter-starved ancient peoples.

Enif is a triple star with a yellow component at magnitude 2.5 and a blue component at magnitude 8.8. It lies in the constellation *Pegasus* (the horse), and its name comes from the Arabic *Al Anf*, or the nose.

We mentioned *Algenib* in our first star quiz. At magnitude 2.1, this is the brightest star in the constellation *Perseus* (the Champion). Its name derives from *Al Janb*, the Side. Of more interest perhaps is *Algol*, from *Ras al Ghul* or the Demon's Head or the Blinking Demon. *Algol* is a variable star with its

magnitude varying from 2.3 to 3.5. Evidently, the brightness variations did not go unnoticed!

Asteroid Occultation

On Sunday evening October 22 about 2:30 UT (about 10:30 PM EDT) the asteroid 521 Brixia will occult the 7.5 magnitude star SAO 147658 in the constellation Cetus at Right Ascension 1h 11.5m, declination $-12^{\circ} 51'$ (2000 coordinates). According to *Sky and Telescope*, it should last for up to 19 seconds. It will be nice to get some timings, so we'll need a short wave radio to get accurate time signals, as well as some tape recorders to record both the time signals and our ecstatic shouts. Mark Logsdon has agreed to host the evenings' events, so plan on showing up at his place at least one hour before the event. Directions can be obtained from Mark over the phone or at this month's meeting.