

The Shoreline Observer



Newsletter for the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association

President- Peter Burkey

Vice President- Steve Tuls

Secretary/Treasurer- Mark Logsdon

Robert Wade, Editor

October 1992

October Meeting

The October meeting of the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association will be held on October 16th, beginning promptly at 7:00 PM in the West Ottawa Middle School Planetarium in Holland, Michigan. The agenda will be as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 7:00-7:15 | Refreshments and socializing. |
| 7:15-7:30 | General Business Meeting. |
| 7:30-7:45 | Sandy Plakke will tour the October night sky. |
| 7:45-8:45 | Dr. Michael Jipping of Hope College will speak on his work with NASA on Project Jove. |

Board Meeting

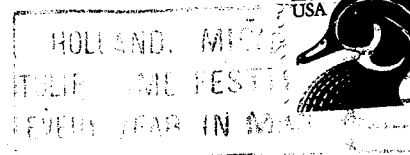
With Arlin and Mark present, Pete called the meeting to order on August 27th at 7:10 PM.

Treasure's Report: \$ 409.22

Refreshments for the October meeting are courtesy of Sandy Plakke.

Old Business: With the start of a new SAAA year as of 9/1/92, dues will be accepted (see below). We are setting November 19th as the deadline to synchronize our club discounted subscriptions to *Sky and Telescope*, *Astronomy*, and *The 1993 Observers Handbook*.

3882 62nd Street
Holland, Michigan 49423



At the September meeting, rates for dues were set. Regular membership (19-62 yrs) is the bargain price of \$15. Family membership encompasses the immediate family of a regular member and is the ridiculously low price of \$16. Junior/Senior (<19 and >62 yrs) memberships can be had for the incredibly affordable price of \$5. Group rate subscriptions to the various publications are optional: *Sky and Telescope* is \$20, *Astronomy* is \$16 and *The 1993 Observers Handbook* is \$15. The rate structure will be voted on at the October meeting.

Nominations for office are as follows: Phil Sherman and Larry Wildschut for Secre-

tary/Treasurer; Kim Herrick and Gary Stroven for Vice President; and Mark Logsdon for President. The election will be during the October meeting. **Congratulations** to all nominees for volunteering valuable time for club activities.

New Business: Star parties for the period mid-October to mid-November are as follows: Friday Oct 23 at Bob Wade's home with a back-up Oct 24 at Mark Logsdon's home in case of inclement weather. We plan a public star party on Saturday evening, Oct 31 (Halloween) at a location yet to be determined. For November, Friday Nov 20 at Bob's, with Saturday Nov 21 at Mark's as an alternate.

Proposed Constitutional Change

New:

B. Members of the Society are entitled to the following privileges: attend monthly meetings, hold a club office, receive the monthly newsletter, attend special club events such as Star Parties, and subscribe to various astronomical publications at reduced rates, as available.

C. There shall be three types of membership:

1. **Regular** Limited to persons aged 19 - 61.
2. **Family** Limited to the immediate family of a Regular member.
3. **Junior/Senior** Limited to persons under 19 and over 61 years of age.

Old:

B. There shall be two principal classes of membership:

1. **Full** A *Full* membership entitles the member to attend monthly meetings, hold a club office, receive the monthly newsletter, attend special club events such as Star Parties, and includes a subscription to an astronomical publication.
2. **Contributing** A *Contributing* membership entitles the member to attend monthly meetings, receive the monthly newsletter and attend special club events such as star parties.

C. The *Full* and *Contributing* membership classes are further subdivided into *Senior*, *Regular*, and *Junior* memberships. The *Senior* class includes

those aged 62 years and older, the *Regular* class includes those aged 19 - 61 years, and the *Junior* class includes those 18 years or less.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Mark Logsdon.

How well matched is your camera to the demands of astrophotography?

This is the result of a USENET survey to find out which cameras have particular features useful for astrophotography.

The features listed are of a rather unusual nature, and not the sort of thing you can easily find out by looking at published listings of camera features. However, it should not be assumed that you must possess a camera with all these features before actually trying to take pictures of the night sky! Most are just convenience features; some are only useful in very specific circumstances, of for a particular style of working (e.g., your preferred focussing technique).

Many other important things are not addressed, such as:

- price and availability (many of the models listed below are no longer in production, and can only be obtained secondhand)
- price & quality of available optics
- quality of build, completeness of "system", type of lens

Meteor Showers Report for 10/ 1/1992 to 12/31/1992

Date	Meteor Shower	ZHR	RA	DEC	Illum%
10/12/1992	Piscids	??	1h44m	14°	99
10/21/1992	Orionids	25	6h24m	15°	22
11/ 2/1992	Taurids	8	3h44m	14°	54
11/16/1992	Leonids	10	10h08m	22°	58
12/ 8/1992	Puppids-Velids	15	9h00m	-48°	98
12/13/1992	Geminids	75	7h28m	32°	82
12/21/1992	Ursids	5	14h28m	78°	05
12/24/1992	Puppids-Velids	15	9h20m	-65°	01

mount, etc.

Answers to these questions can be obtained from more general sources of information.

Does the camera have:

1. The ability to lock the mirror up before opening the shutter; this can reduce vibration for non-B exposures (if you're using the B setting you should use the "hat trick" to begin and end the exposure).
2. A mechanical 'B' speed (and possibly other shutter speeds), not requiring batteries; batteries have a habit of flaking out in the cold of the night. Also, some cameras

continuously drain the battery while the shutter is open -- this is bad news for long exposures.

3. A self-timer (mechanical or electronic?); useful in some situations to avoid camera shake, also nice if not dependent on batteries.
4. A "T" speed (obviates cable release in some situations); this cause the shutter to open when the release is depressed once, and close when depressed again.
5. Interchangeable screens, either all-matte and/or clear screens (possibly with crosshairs); the usual focussing aids (split-image rangefinder and/or microprism grid) do not work well at night and/or with slow optics. Some people prefer matte screens; others use clear screen and crosshairs for a knife-edge test.
6. A removable pentaprism (possibly with an additional magnifier for viewing the focusing screen directly); as most telescopes point up, it may be useful to look directly at the focussing screen from above the

camera rather than from the normal position. Sometimes a right-angle attachment does this, but extra optics means less light to the eye. Also, some like to use knife edge focussing on the bare screen. A magnifier can also help in this respect.

7. The ability to take well-registered multiple exposures (I'm not counting the old trick of disengaging the film advance as if rewinding); this is useful for pictures showing, e.g., the moon passing through eclipse.
8. An optional data back; if you don't want to write down exposure details.

Note that the information is not completely regular -- e.g., in some cases I have details of mechanical non-B shutter speeds, in some cases not. It's not safe to make any assumptions in the absence of such information. A question mark means nobody provided an answer.

Camera\Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Canon FTb	y	y	y	n	n	n	y	n
Canon F-1	y	y(all)	y(m)	n	y	y	y	y
Canon F-1n	n	y	y(m)	n	y	y	y	y
Canon T90	n	y	y	n	y	n	y	y
Fujica ST-701, (screw mount)	n	y(all)	y(m)	n	n	n	n	n
Minolta SRT-202	y	y	y(m)	n	n	n	y	n
Nikkormat FTn/FT2/FT3	y	y(all)	y(m)	?	n	n	n	n
Nikon F	y	y(all)	y(m)	y	y	y	n	n(*7)
Nikon F2	y	y+10s	y(m)	y	y	y	y	y
			-1/2000					
Nikon FE	n(*4)	y	y	n	y	n	y	y
			(others electronic)					
Nikon FE2	n(*4)	y	y	n	y	n	y	y
			(others electronic)					
Nikon FM	n(*4)	y(all)	y(m)	n	n	n	y	y
Nikon FM2n	n(*4)	y+1s-	y(m)	n	y	n	y	y
			1/4000			(w/o x-hairs)		
Nikon F3	y	y(*6)	y(e)	y	y	y	y	y
Olympus OM-1	y	y+1s-	y(m)	n	y	n(*5)	n	y(*3)
			-1/1000			(matte+clear,w/x-hairs)		
Olympus OM-2S	n(*4)	y	y(e)	n	y	n(*5)	n	y(*3)
						(as OM-1)		
Olympus OM-3	n	y+1s-	n	n	y	n(*5)	n	y(*3)
			1/2000			(as OM-1)		
Olympus OM-4 and OM-4T	n(*4)	y	y(e)	n	y	n(*5)	n	y(*3)
					(as OM-1)			
Pentax K1000	n	y(all)	n	n	n	n	n	n

Camera\Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pentax P30n, P3n and P30t	n(*8)	y(e)	n	n	n	n	n	
Pentax ME and ME super	n	y	y(m)	n	n	n	n	y
	+1/125							
Pentax MX	y(*2)	y	y(m)	n	y	n	n	?
			(all)					
Pentax LX	y	y+	y(m)	n	y	y	y(*1)	y
			1/75-1/2000			(w/x-hairs)		
Zenit 11	n	y+T+V	y(m)	y	n	n	n	n
Zenit E,EM	n	y+	y(m)	n	n	n	n	n
			1/30-500					

Notes

- (*1) You can even rewind to any previous frame with a very small tolerance.
- (*2) The MX *does* have mirror lock-up, but it's not an advertised feature. You need to acquire the knack, but once learnt it's quite easy - just a light tap on the shutter release button.
- (*3) An additional internal contact for more databacks was introduced with the OM-1n.
- (*4) No manual mirror lock-up is available, but the use of the self-timer locks the mirror up.
- (*5) Numerous correspondents praised the Varimagni right-angle finder which provides switch-selectable 1.2x and 2.5x views of the screen.
- (*6) Via auxiliary body release only: set speed dial to "B" (or maybe "T" as well?). Cannot use in conjunction with cable release.
- (*7) Still some debate here. Nobody has given a definite "yes", though.
- (*8) There is a B setting, but all speeds on the P30n/P3n are electronic and the question asked about manual settings.

Errors and omissions

With the exception listed in Note 7, I received no conflicting information. However, if you believe that an entry in the table is wrong, please mail me (address below). If you would like to add an entry for some camera not listed, that's fine too.

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Astro Quiz

From *Scientific American*, October 1992.

It is 11 P.M. in late September. When you look west, slightly southwest, you see the moon just above the horizon (about 15 degrees). Sketch a picture of how the moon appears. If it is not a full moon, show which part of the visible disk is dark and which part is illuminated by the sun. Where will the moon be the next night at the same time? Higher or lower in the sky?