

The Shoreline Observer



Newsletter for the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association

President- Peter Burkey

Vice President- Steve Tuls

Secretary/Treasurer- Mark Logsdon

Robert Wade, Editor

May 1992

May Meeting

The May meeting of the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association will be held on May 21st, beginning promptly at 7:00 PM in the West Ottawa Middle School Planetarium in Holland, Michigan. The agenda will be as follows:

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| 7:00-7:15 | Refreshments and socializing. |
| 7:15-7:30 | The May Night Sky Tour by Sandy Plakke. |
| 7:30-8:30 | Eric Schreur, planetarium director of the Kalamazoo Public Museum, will present a program entitled "Light and the Eye -- Some Observing Tricks." |

Board Meeting

With Sandy, Bob, and Mark present, Pete called the meeting to order on April 30th at 7:00 PM.

Treasure's Report: \$ 274.05

Welcome SAAA's newest member, Ron Walker.

Plans for Astronomy Day at Westshore Mall were reviewed. Our display will run from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, May 16th (*Tulip Time!*). Set up at the mall will be at 9:00 PM Friday right after the mall closes. *Long Eye*, the 22 inch

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Dobsonian reflector will be on display along with telescopes of more modest apertures, posters, videos, and other astronomical material. A 3-D model of the "Big Dipper" asterism will be shown also. Walden Books will display posters from our Astronomy Day contest with local elementary schools.

As mentioned above, Eric Schreur of Kalamazoo Astronomical Society will be our guest speaker for the May meeting. Anyone interested in dining with the speaker (Jose Babushka's) before the meeting should contact Pete Burkey by May 20th.

The West Ottawa Middle School Planetarium will close for the summer due to remodeling. There-

fore, at our May meeting we will decide when to hold our June meeting. The membership present will be asked if they prefer Thursday June 18th or Friday June 26th. Our location will be Vivekananda Monastery, 6723 122nd Ave., Fennville. Meeting rooms are available and *Long Eye* is housed there. Dark country skies will allow for star parties, weather permitting. Meeting time will be set back to 9:00 PM due to the late sunsets of June.

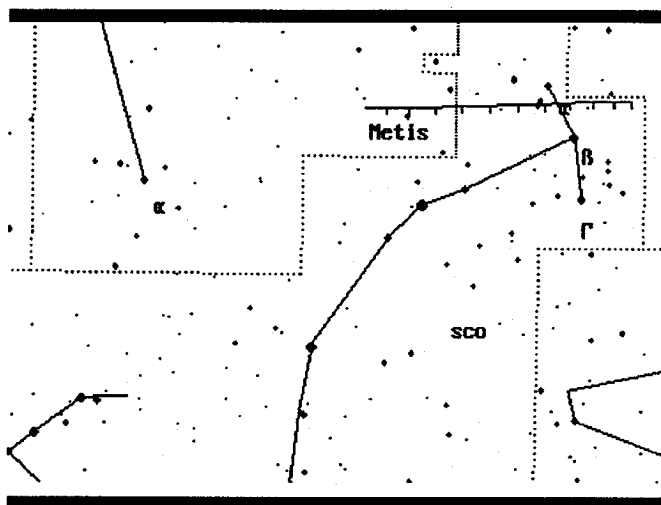
Respectfully submitted by Mark Logsdon, Secretary/Treasurer.

Asteroids 1992

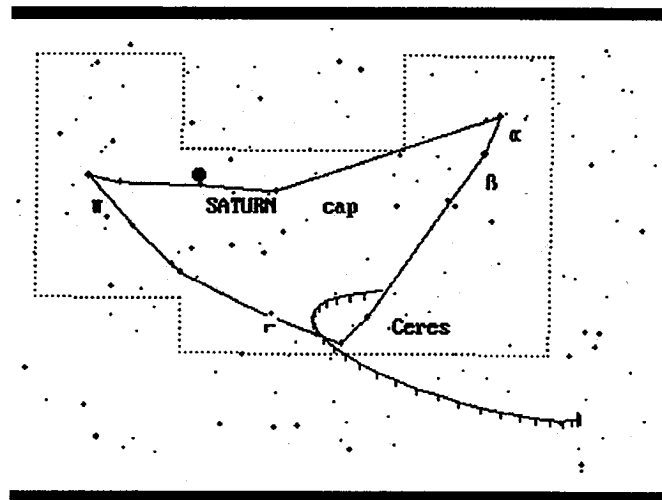
The asteroid Vesta has provided good binocular viewing this spring as we have watched it traverse through Leo. The show is not over yet, as the asteroid passes near M65 and M66 during the nights of May 26 - 29. On the evening of May 27 Vesta crosses in front of NGC 3628, a 10th magnitude edge-on spiral galaxy. This should be quite a treat in a telescope as the moon will not interfere during evening observations.

Other asteroids can be observed during May through August this summer. The diagrams below (prepared with the aid of *Superstar*) should help you to know where to point your scope (or good binoculars).

Metis, at magnitude 9.9, can be observed from mid-May through mid-June travelling westward through the constellation Scorpio. The hash marks indicate 5-day intervals beginning May 15th.



Ceres, the largest asteroid at ~1000 kilometers in diameter, can be observed from mid-May through mid-October travelling initially in the constellation Capricorn. Ceres will brighten from magnitude 8.6 in mid-May to 7.6 in early August, after which it will slowly fade to 8.7 by mid-October. Saturn is nearby, so when you are observing Saturn, try to swing a little further south to catch this celestial rock. The hash marks indicate 5-day intervals beginning May 15th.



Pallas, at about magnitude 9.5, can be observed from mid-May through mid-August travelling in the constellation Hercules. The hash marks indicate 5-day intervals beginning May 15th.

