**The Sidereal Times**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ASTRONOMERS**

**PRESIDENT:** WYNNE WOOD **DECEMBER 1978** **EDITOR:** DEREK WALLENTIMSEN

**OUR NEXT MEETING** will be a dinner at the K-BOB Steak House, Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 PM, located at 5120 Cutler NE (see enclosed menu/map). This will be a social meeting only—no speaker or party. Individual checks and tips and be sure to confirm your reservation by December 10. As a door prize, we will be paying for the esculents of one lucky diner. Come to our Christmas dinner!

**AT OUR LAST MEETING,** we had Eric Pearce tell us about the recent club trip to Flagstaff. He narrated slides that he took of the outing, including scenes of the telescopes at Lowell and USNO, as well as the meteor crater. The trip was acclaimed as a success by the 15 or so participants from the club, and it was quite nice to have a full report of it from Eric. He also showed us a few of his astrophotographic slides, which he processes himself. Afterwards, some of us viewed the moon through host Jim Matthews’ 6-inch reflector.

Before the slides, members, new members, potential members, and guests were introduced. Plans for the Christmas dinner were discussed (see above). The meeting night of the week for next year’s meetings was briefly debated. Each night was inconvenient for someone, and a majority decided to stay with the status quo—alternating Fridays and Saturdays.

Derek had information about a number of products from the club “mailbag.” He also had predictions for visual photometry opportunities involving minor planets during 1979 (see below). Contributions for the IAU Circulars were also welcomed (three persons have thus far donated subscriptions).

Wynne mentioned that it was time for members to think about the upcoming elections, which will occur in January.

**CLUB OFFICERS ARE UP FOR ELECTION.** You are urged to participate in the elections by voting, nominating candidates, or running yourself. If interested in succeeding or “unseating” one of the present officers, please contact the person presently filling the post. The election will be at the January meeting, and nominations will be accepted up to the last minute.

**ECLIPSE IN FEBRUARY.** At least four of our members have plans to see the eclipse. They are Robert Babb, Art Jacobs, Eric Pearce, and Bob Moffett. For information on the eclipse, see the June and July Sky and Telescope issues, and the letter in the September issue, p. 207. I also have a copy of USNO Circular 157, which concerns itself with the eclipse, as well as information on the International Occultation Timers Association (IOTA) expeditions to the middle and outer parts of the shadow (for transient pre- and post-eclipse phenomena).

**FOR SALE:** Celestron 8, like brand new, used only three times. Tripod with wedge, case, Canon adapter; 8x50 finder, 9, 12.5, 25, and 40mm eyepieces. Cost $1400, will sell for $995. Will talk terms. Please call Arnold Bronson at 292-2011.

**MINOR PLANETS.** As a part of the program of the A.L.P.C. Minor Planets Section, I have prepared predictions of favorable passes by minor planets through AAVSO variable fields to facilitate visual photometry to determine asteroidal rota-
tion periods. If interested in participating in such a program, please call me at 881-0881.

ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY BIENNIAL 1977-78 is the title of a collection of works by leading astrophotographers compiled by the Orange County Astronomers, a major California group. $8.00 brings 100 pages, 21x27 cm; 80 pages of captioned photos and 20 pages of text by people like Charles Kowal, comet and minor planet discoverer at Hale Observatories. Order now to guarantee your copy from OCA, 2215 Martha Ave., Orange, CA 92667.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT ENCLOSED. Continuing our tradition of giving the membership an events calendar for the upcoming year. MERRY CHRISTMAS!