October 1981

NEXT MEETING will be at 7:30, Oct. 3 (Saturday) at the home of Lowell & Cherry Jones in Edgewood (see map). The skies should be excellent for observing so pack your telescopes. We are welcome to stay late but after ten o'clock or so there will be no bathroom facilities so bring your chamber pots.

LAST MEETING saw two committees spring forth--another example of bureaucracy running amuck. El Presidente Morgan, you recall, as a campaign promise during the hotly contested race for club office last year, vowed to limit the proliferation of committees. At present there are 17 committees in the club--5 are watchdog committees to keep an eye on the others. 8 are secret, 2 are assigned the task of finding out what the 8 secret ones are up to, one on un-American activities, and one on vice (PLEASE no more volunteers for the latter). Anyway at the last meeting a committee was formed to organize programs for the upcoming year. They are as follows: Jim Reese, Lou Baker, Alan Lampson, Ramon Huerta, Barbara Brown, Elizabeth Peck, and Bill Wampler. We need five more to complete the year. This system proved highly successful this year, 1981 being one of the most active in the club's history. It means simply that a particular member is responsible for a program for one meeting during the year. It may be a speaker, a film, or something more ambitious like a field trip. This method of program development assures broader participation of the membership and takes some of the heat off of the officers who are busy eliminating committees. Call Mac Morgan if you are interested in participating in the program selection.

The other committee was one for the nomination of officers for 1982. They are Jim Reese, Alan Lampson, and Lou Baker. We decided this year to try free elections for officers since last year's coup proved very noisy and two flower pots were broken. However, the army is said to favor the present junta.

ASTRONOMY DAY 1982 is being geared up already to be the greatest thing since steak and mushrooms. Anybody with a pet idea or area of expertise in the production (posters, slides, static display, etc.) of astronomy day let us know. Mac suggests everybody read September's Sky & Telescope article on this year's projects across the country for ideas to steal.

CAMPOUT-STAR PARTY is finally a reality, thanks to President Mac, Susan Dietrich, Elizabeth Peck, and some other sparkplugs. It will be held on Friday, September 25 in a meadow approximately 1½ miles west of the Fourth of July campground. Caravan will leave the Alladin Motel at the intersection of Central & Tramway at 7 pm. Anyone wishing to go it alone should take I-40 32 miles to Tajique. Go west off forest road 55 7½ miles to Fourth of July campground. Then 1½ mile further to forest trail 77, northeast into meadow. Anyone getting lost more than five miles from the site can forget about being saved. The search party we sent out last year is still lost.
SAM TOLLE sends us this thank you note for the plant we sent her for being such a gracious hostess on our meetings/star parties.

Dear Mac & Patti & the Astronomy Club,

Thank you so very much for the lovely hanging plant. I love being a part of the club's star parties and feel especially honored by this thoughtful gift—truly an extra special surprise from an extra special group of people. Thank you,

always,

Sam

As I said,...gracious.

DEREK WALLENTINSEN, the wandering scholar, has also put pen on paper to scratch out this:

Hi folks!

Well, I've survived the bus trip, lost luggage, N.Y. city transfer....beer busts, orientation, registration, surrounding a week's worth of calculus, physics, history, and computer science classes. Financial aid is still up in the air, but things still look a little better than they did a week ago. I'm on my way!

I'm very grateful to the club and individual members for their support, monetary and otherwise. Hello to all.

More later.

Derek

Beer busts? The club expresses its collective shock at this lapse into decadence—Derek has obviously been corrupted already, by the liberal Eastern Establishment, happy hours, loose women, or some combination of the above.

We wish Derek well and the club is behind him all the way. The Derek Fund, by the way, remains open to anyone who might wish to contribute.

NEW MEMBER Ramon Huerta, 7712 A1 Conde NE, Alb. NM 87110 (268-3292)