The Sidereal Times

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ASTRONOMERS

PRESIDENT: Alan Lampson  VICE-PRESIDENT: Susan Dietrich
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MARCH 1983

If you didn’t come to the February meeting because of the great weather we had then, I can hardly blame you. I had been told that I wouldn’t have to endure any more of that when I left Wisconsin, but somebody lied to me. We did hold the meeting anyway, and over a dozen members and one new member showed up. Capt. Richter-Sand gave an excellent presentation on the evolution of stars and their various travels on the H-R diagram. It sounds like heavy stuff, but it was presented in a manner which didn’t make us feel like we wandered into the wrong classroom.

A number of old and new topics were discussed. The Texas Star Party trip is still being planned for Memorial Day Weekend (not Labor Day Weekend as reported in the last newsletter). No special tours are planned for our group, since the affair is pretty large and there will be enough regular events to keep everybody busy. However, by getting together and sharing rides, the transportation costs can be held down. Call Susan Dietrich (821-0669) for more details if you are interested. Those who know about the Texas Star Party say it is a gigantic affair, with people from all over the southwest attending.

The inflatable planetarium is scheduled to be open for us at Hoover School on March 10 at 7:30. The address is 12015 Tivoli NE, and the planetarium will be across from the library in classroom S-3. S-3 will be found in the middle patio on the east side of the school. You should park in the south parking lot. The planetarium will be open to all interested members and friends, and is an excellent way to show the movement of the constellations across the sky. Call Alan Lampson (821-3289) for more details. This is one event that shouldn’t be fouled up by bad weather, since everything will be indoors. Come along and have some fun.

Astronomy day is coming up on May 7, and Jim Palmer (299-7955) is still in need of volunteers to help out with various activities. It really doesn’t turn out to be nearly as much work as it is fun. If you can spare some time both before May 7 and on that day, give Jim a call. An organizational meeting will be set up during the March meeting, so that will be a good chance to get in on the activities. Astronomy Day has been a big hit for the past two years, so let’s make it even better this year.

Some errors found their way into the membership listing as predicted. Here are a few corrections which you can enter into
your listing:

1. Robert J. Richter-Band - Phone No. should be 822-0278

2. Bill Wampler - Phone No. should be 299-4910

3. Mr. & Mrs. Wood - Phone No. should be 296-9203

4. Gary Ashurst; 14113 Mocho NE; Albuquerque, NM 87123; 293-8269

The March meeting will be held on March 5 at 7:30 at the home of Wilfred Pedroncelli. The address is 11800 Lexington NE, and a map can be found on the last page of this newsletter. The speaker will be Mike Zeilik of the UNM Astronomy Dept., and the topic will be Peculiar Binaries and Modifications to the Capilla Peak Observatory. We usually have a tour to Capilla Peak every year, so this will be a good chance to learn about the observatory from someone who really knows about it.

The March star party is planned for March 11, and will be held again at Coronado State Monument. For those of you who missed the last star party, it turned out to be the first star party in a long time with clear skies. There were about a half dozen telescopes available to everyone, including Alan Lampson's huge reflector, which was likened to a cannon by some who hadn't seen it before. Refreshments were available, as well as rest rooms, and there were very few complaints from the many people there. Lou Baker (883-0381) is the coordinator this month, and he has prepared the following list of objects to be observed:

1. M-44 - Beehive in Cancer

2. M-48 - Hydra

3. M-67 - Cluster in Cancer

4. M-42 - Orion nebula

5. M-45 - Pleiades

6. NGC 869 / 864 - Perseus double cluster

7. M-53 - Coma Berenices cluster

8. NGC 2244 - Naked eye open cluster

9. NGC 2506 - Faint, large open cluster, low power

10. M-97 - Owl nebula

11. M-64 - Blackeye, spiral barred galaxy

Lou says that we should save most of the Virgo area for next month, when they should be better still. With the weather getting warmer (we hope), the star parties should become very popular. Come see what they are all about and enjoy yourself.

Below are the maps to the March meeting and star party, and the planetarium exhibit on March 10.

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**STAR PARTY**
**Coronado State Monument**
**March 11 8:00**

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**7:30 March 10 Inflatable Planetarium**

**March Meeting March 8 7:30**
**Menaul**