The Sidereal Times

Newsletter of the Albuquerque Astronomers

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JULY 1983

Due to the holiday weekend, the next meeting will be on Saturday, 9 July at 8:00 p.m. at Robert Hufnagel's house at 1109 Saint NE (see map). The speaker will be Dr. Henry Monteith of Sandia Laboratories. He is a relativist and will speak on "GUTs and Cosmology". (GUTs are Grand Unification Theories, which try to combine the electromagnetic and weak and strong nuclear forces together in one theory. These forces, along with gravitation, are what holds the universe together.) For background reading see the March 1983 Sky and Telescope, pp. 207-210 (pp. 211-213 are also interesting). While this sounds like a real high brow topic, and it will be more technical than some of our meetings lately, it will have direction towards the general audience. All members are encouraged to attend and not be scared away by the topic.

The last star party started out slightly cloudy, and definitely windy, but when the skies eventually darkened, the winds calmed. The clouds had left at sunset. The Jemez Canyon Dam Overlook was a nice area to set up, though no power is available. The bugs were slightly bothersome. We will return there. But this month the star party will be at Jim Tolle's place on the east side of the Sandias (see other map). Expect a starting time between 8:30 and 9:00 on Friday, 8 July. A little daylight may help to find the house if you haven't been there before as it sits a little ways back from the road. Even though it is on the same weekend as the meeting, we are choosing this day to avoid the 1st quarter moon which did hide fainter objects last time. Southern sky objects show up pretty well out there since you don't look over the top of Albuquerque. If the weather is good, some may hang around quite awhile. One or two hard core weirdos have been known to quit during summer viewing only because the sun made the sky too light to see anything. Sleeping bags are welcome. Backup will be Friday, 15 July. Call Alan Lampson at 821-3289 to find out if it will happen and where.

A reminder of the exhibit marking National Space Week being sponsored by New Mexicans For Space that will be at Coronado Center on 16 & 17 July. Our club agreed to man a small exhibit there. If we have somehow missed contacting you, and you would like to participate, please contact Alan Lampson at 821-3289 immediately. We are mainly in need of people to man the exhibit for 2-3 hours Saturday and Sunday during regular business hours. It is another good opportunity to get some exposure and let people know we exist.

The new club librarian is Jerry Boyd. He will attempt to have at least part of the club library at each business meeting for checkout. To checkout other books, contact him directly at 294-6142.

FOR SALE: 10" RFT, optics by Coulter, fiberglass tube, complete without finder for $225.00. Equatorial mount for same with 1.5" stainless steel shafts is $175.00. Both together for $375.00. Donald Davey, 12220 Phoenix Ave NE, Albq, NM 87112, ph. 293-7340.
Star Party
8 July
8:30 - 9:00 p.m. until ???

JUPITER'S SATELLITES

The four curving lines represent Jupiter's four bright (Galilean) satellites: I, Io; II, Europa; III, Ganymede; IV, Callisto. The location of the planet's disk is indicated by the pairs of vertical lines. When a moon passes on the far side of Jupiter, perhaps being occulted, the curve is broken.

For successive dates, the horizontal lines mark 0h Universal time, or 8 p.m. Eastern daylight time (or 5 p.m. Pacific daylight time) on the preceding date. Along the vertical scale, 1 mm is very nearly five hours. On this chart, west is to the left, as in an astronomical (inverting) telescope for a Northern Hemisphere observer. At the bottom, "d" is the point of disappearance of a satellite in the shadow of Jupiter; "r" is the point of satellite reappearance. From the 1983 Astronomical Almanac.

Meeting 9 July
1109 Saint NE
294-5949
8:00 p.m.