DECEMBER MEETING: 5:30 PM Saturday 20 December 1986

SPECIAL NOTE: The meeting is NOT at UNM. It is at Bruce Levin’s home (see map elsewhere in newsletter). It is at 5 PM this Saturday, and will be a Potluck Dinner. Call Bruce (299-0891) about what to bring!

STAR PARTY: Conjunction Watch at UNM 7 PM Friday 19 December 1986

   The star party will be a chance to see the conjunction of Jupiter and Mars with the UNM Astromac! The closest approach is Thursday night, but Friday is nearly as close (about 2/3 degree), so we’ll meet at the observatory Friday night. (It’s just up the hill, to the north of our usual meeting site.)

CLUB OFFICERS:

President: Bruce Levin 299-0891
Vice President: Dean Balmer 345-7714
Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Cox 294-5914 \ 832-6486
Editor: Kirk Mathews 831-5547
Librarian: Brett Coningham 293-9563
Telescope Curator: Elizabeth Peck 881-8812

JANUARY MEETING --- ELECTIONS --- 7:30 PM Friday 16 January 1987

   The January meeting will be held at the UNM Physics & Astronomy building, at 7:30 PM, on Friday, 21 November 1986. This will be election night, so start thinking of volunteering!

A FEW WORDS OF APPRECIATION (from Roger Flegel)

   During the past year, our regular meetings were often treated with the presence of exceptional speakers. We sincerely appreciate their time that they all spent at our meetings to share their knowledge and expertise. Without exception, they were prepared with visual aids and presented their talks in a clear, low key English that even made them understandable to amateurs like myself. We are fortunate, here in the Albuquerque area, to have this exceptional resource of speakers available from our scientific community. We must also thank the efforts of our officers and fellow members who sought these distinguished people and arranged for them to come to our meetings. If it weren’t for them, our meetings wouldn’t have happened. It is because of all of you that we have all gained so much valuable knowledge in the many fields related to astronomy.
FOR SALE -- ASTRO-SCAN 4" Telescope

Gary Ashurst at 821-5523 has an Edmund AstroScan telescope for sale for $150. It's a 4" f4.4 newtonian reflector and comes with a 20mm RFK eyepiece.

FOR SALE -- MEADE 8" Newtonian

Ernie Montoya at 877-7301 has a Meade 8" f6 Newtonian reflector telescope for sale for $800. It comes with a German equatorial mounting with clock drive, and dual axis drive corrector, as well as various eyepieces and barlows, 2" rack & pinion focuser, etc. It has a 60mm photo-guide scope and 50mm finder, as well. I (editor) can attest to the quality of the optics on this scope, having seen the shadow of Saturn's edge-on rings on the planet with it (last time they were edge-on.) (I owned it, then.) Mike Peck has viewed a few things with it, as well as having done ronchi and star tests, and can give an unbiased recommendation.
A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Albuquerque Astronomers,

Even though we look forward out into the expanses of the universe, we are, at the same time, looking back in time. This last year we have been fortunate to have many excellent guest speakers, a show & tell session, and S.I.G. (special interest group) sessions conducted by Kirk Mathews. We have started a Light Pollution Group, headed by Jerry Granok and a UNM Open House Observatory Group headed by Phil Solosky. Dean Balmer was instrumental in making initial contacts with the National Forest Service at Salinas National Monument, Gran Quivera Unit, and for making arrangements for the club’s use of Shooting Range Park out on the West Mesa for star parties. Our club now has a Special Use permit extending us the privilege of utilizing the facilities at Salinas National Monument for observation purposes.

Although a small dent has been made in our various interest groups, the foundation has been laid for participation and involvement by all of us. Jim Palmer has again volunteered to spearhead Astronomy Day in April or May -- it’s never too early to help out! A couple of guest speakers have been contacted to make presentations to the group and much interest has been shown for a field trip to Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona.

A lot has been accomplished. With additional participation by all of us, the Albuquerque Astronomers can accomplish even more! Not only will we benefit the Astronomical Community, but provide ourselves, through the club as an Official Organization, more opportunities and benefits than the general public.

It’s been a good year. Next year can be just as good or even better if we all take advantage of the special privileges that have been extended to our club. Please step forward and continue to provide any ideas you have to make our Astronomy Club an even more dynamic organization.

Clear Skies!
Bruce Levin

SKY & TELESCOPE NEWS BULLETIN -- DECEMBER 8, 1986

Welcome to the electronic news service of SKY & TELESCOPE astronomy magazine!

You are welcome to leave comments or EasyPlex with your opinions about this service, but we can’t guarantee to answer all messages (please be sure to include your street address). Thanks, and happy astronomical computing!

-- Bill Shawcross and Roger Sinnott
SKY & TELESCOPE
49 Bay State Road
Cambridge, Mass. 02238
DECEMBER 8, 1986 -- NOVA ANDROMEDAE

Mitsuri Suzuki in Japan has discovered a nova in Andromeda on a photograph taken the night of December 5th with a 200-mm lens and Tri-X film. It was 8th magnitude on the 5th but invisible in pictures taken by others 3 days earlier. It is now 7th magnitude according to Brian Marsden and may get brighter still. Its epoch 2000 coordinates are right ascension 23h 12m, declination +47.5d. It is located in the northwest corner of Andromeda near the Lacerta border, putting it almost directly overhead from the U. S. in early evening. Look for it just south of a knot of 4th- and 5th-magnitude stars.

DECEMBER 5, 1986 -- COMET LOVAS

On November 28th a 14th-magnitude comet, 1986p, was discovered by Miklos Lovas in Hungary. It is in Aries and shows a visible condensation or nucleus. No orbit has been determined.

ASSORTED COMET POSITIONS

Here are some comet coordinates for 0 hours Universal time (6 p.m. CST on the preceding evening).

Comet Wilson --

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>R.A.</th>
<th>Dec.</th>
<th>Mag.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>19h 53.3m</td>
<td>8d 06'</td>
<td>+9.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>54.1</td>
<td>9 02</td>
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Comet Sorrells (magnitude 13-14) --

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<th>R.A.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19.4</td>
<td>25 54</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>34.3</td>
<td>22 46</td>
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NOVEMBER 25, 1986 -- NOVA IN CENTAURUS

On the night of November 22nd Rob H. McNaught of Siding Spring Observatory, Australia, discovered a nova in Centaurus on a series of four 1-minute exposures with an 85-mm lens. Its 1950 coordinates are R.A. 14h 32m 13.47s, declination -57d 24' 31".1, according to IAU Circular 4274. Its magnitude is about 5 -- a million times brighter than before its outburst.

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!
ASTROPHOTO VII

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