

The Mason-Dixon Astronomer

Westminster Astronomical Society of Maryland

June 1986, Vol. 3 No. 6

Joint Meeting with Hagerstown Group, June 18

A joint meeting with the Tristate Astronomers of Hagerstown shall begin at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, in the Hood College Observatory in Frederick. Both clubs have been invited by Dr. Daniel Lufkin, who thought that a common point halfway between Hagerstown and Westminster would encourage members from both societies to get out and meet each other. Dr. Lufkin was guest speaker at the May meeting. The observatory houses an 8 inch Clark refractor. After the meeting, if weather permits, observing with this historic nearly 100 year old instrument will be the icing on the cake.

Dr. Lufkin has suggested that members bring photographs, home-made telescopes, or other projects to share so that each society can see what interests members in the other. So try to think of what you can contribute on our behalf.

For those wishing to carpool, meet behind Lewis Hall at Western Maryland College at 7:00 on June 18. Here are directions for those who drive: Take Rt. 26 to U.S. 15, continue south on 15 to about the third exit, Rosemont Avenue. Turn right onto Rosemont, heading southeast to Hood College. Enter the main entrance, and turn left at the "T" intersection, at the Administration Building. At the next "T", turn right at the stop sign. At the next opportunity, make another right turn. The observatory dome should now be within sight. Plan to be there and meet our fellow astronomers from across the state.

President's Report

Since first hearing about the newly formed Tristate Astronomers, I have been looking forward to meeting them. But one thing or the other has always postponed the close encounter. Dr. Lufkin of Hood College is paving the way to make contact possible, allowing us to meet halfway in Frederick. Tristate began meeting in 1985 and has a membership of over 30 members, about the same size as our group. Their monthly newsletter The Observer is very inspiring.

Notice that the meeting is not being held as usual on the last Wednesday, June 25. This works out very nicely for me as we are expecting another new addition to the family sometime around June 23. So I will be sure not to miss this meeting and hope you'll be there too.

-- Curt Roelle

July Star Party to be Announced

The date and location of the July star party shall be announced at the meeting. The date shall probably be either the weekend of July 4-6 or July 11-13.

Clouds Interfere at June Star Party

The June 7 star party at Key Observatory in Keymar was clouded out. When contacted by telephone, Blaine Roelke reported that Nancy Raab, Mike Potter, and Mike Scalion came anyway, just to socialize. This was star party was to be a joint gathering of the Baltimore Astronomical Society, Space Telescope Science Institute, and the WAS.

March 26 Lecture

The meeting summary is a little behind, but we shall strive to catch up in the months to come...

Dr. Gary Karshner of Gettysburg College discussed radio astronomy at the March meeting at Western Maryland College. When not involved in academic work, his major research area is normal galaxies. He has performed observational work using the Very Large Array (VLA) radio telescope near Socorro, New Mexico.

A great deal of information is lost to the eye, but may be picked up using radio telescopes. Through radio signals, much can be learned about stars, planets, and galaxies. Large amounts of energy are needed to bring electrons to the level where radio emissions are produced. Radio jets are seen being ejected through the magnetic fields of galaxies and suspected black holes. (Andrew Jack Demario Jr.)

"Modern Techniques in Radio Astronomy" is available for loan on VHS format video cassette. The extensive selection of color slides shown during the talk makes for fascinating viewing. See Curt Roelle at the meeting to make arrangements for borrowing this tape.

WAS CALENDAR

June	18 7:00	Meet at WMC to carpool to meeting
	18 8:00	Monthly meeting at Hood College
August 5 through 10 A.L. National Convention - Baltimore		

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