

Amateur Astronomers

DECEMBER

1974

Bob Malm, editor
(941-1343)

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RECENT ACTIVITIES: On November 1 the club held its first meeting at its new home, Olinder Center. Frank Holden, a leading double star man from Lick Observatory, delivered a most interesting talk. He reviewed the nature of double stars and their orbits, and described the techniques whereby their parameters are measured. In connection with the latter, he exhibited a micrometer for measuring the position angle and separation of the members of a binary system. He concluded by stating that, in spite of his tedious work, he still enjoys double stars in an esthetic sense.

The star party of November 16 was a wash-out (more accurately, a "cloud-out"). Yours truly ignored the weather reports and set out for the viewing site, hoping that the location would be above the clouds. Unfortunately, the grounds at Coe were in the clouds which never lifted (or lowered). On the way home your editor encountered a fog-obscured VW Bus out of which protruded a head and a flashlight-wielding arm. These proved to be owned by Jim Van Nuland who was attempting to determine the thickness of the overcast. Upon closer inspection, your reporter discovered about seven hardy individuals of the Association, huddled together in an attempt to prolong life. These included Debbie Moore, Jim Vermilion and others (please forgive me if I don't know all of your names yet.) Eventually, everybody gave up, frustrated in their celestial quests.

COMING EVENTS: Friday, December 6, 1974 - 7:30 P.M. General meeting at Olinder Center. NOTE THE NEW STARTING TIME. We shall be meeting one half hour earlier from now on because Olinder Center self-destructs at 10 P.M. After a brief description of our newly leased observing site at Mt. Umanhum (sp?), at which, if we are lucky, will be erected our club's observatory, Dave Erickson will deliver a talk on astrophotography with a Wright-Schmidt telescope. Some time will be spent on the use of cold cameras. Reproduced for those of you who may have lost it, is a map showing the way to Olinder Center.

Saturday December 14, 1974: Star party at Henry Coe State Park. Remember, the club pays for the use of this observing site.

Friday, January 3, 1975: 7:30 P.M.
A report from the planet Jupiter by way of Ames Research (NASA).

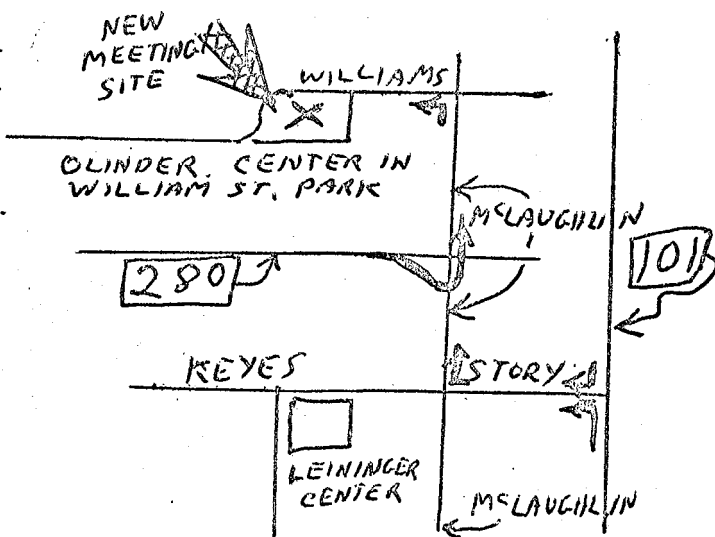
Saturday, January 11, 1975: The first star party at our new observatory location at Mt. Umanhum (sp?). A map to the site will be published next month.

NEWS NOTES: Brian Day has been appointed our new public relations man. If you have ideas for publicizing the club, contact Brian.

TECHNICAL NOTES: Jim Van Nuland has calculated the following data. Times of the passage of the Redspot across Jupiter's meridian: Times are in PST (P.M.): DECEMBER 1, 1018; 4, 749; 6, 928; 9, 659; 11, 838; 13, 1017; 14, 609 (come early to the star party for this); 16, 748; 18, 927; 21, 658; 23, 838; 25, 1017; 26, 609; 28, 748; 30, 927.

Longitude of the central meridian of the sun: Dec. 1, 334°60; Dec. 11, 202°82; Dec. 21, 71°08; Dec. 31, 299°35.

FOR SALE: An 8" F/6 fiberglass tube, mirror mount, heavy wooden laminated tripod with 1 1/2" shafts, pipe fittings, and setting circles. ALSO, a Pacific Instruments mount with clock drive. Inspect and make offer. May sell parts individually. 'Phone 867-9225. Ask for Mike Szudy.



The Messier Catalog (NGC sequence), courtesy Jim Van Nuland.

(Part Three--Conclusion)

N	NGC	RA	Dec.	Chart	Con	Mag	Type.	Size	Description
21	6531	18 03	-22 30	X	Sgr	7	Open	10	Coarse
24	6603	18 17	-18 26	X	Sgr	5	Open	4	Milky Way patch
16	6611	18 17	-13 47	X	Ser	6	Open	25	100 stars in nebulosity
18	6613	18 18	-17 08	X	Sgr	8	Open	12	Glorious
17	6618	18 19	-16 11	X	Sgr	8	M./Op	46x37/22	Omega/Horseshoe Neb; cl.
28	6626	18 23	-24 53	XV	Sgr	7	Glob	5	Greatly condensed
69	6637	18 30	-32 22	XV	Sgr	9	Glob	3	Small globular
25I	4725	18 30	-19 16	X	Sgr	7	Open	40	Irregular
22	6656	18 35	-23 57	X	Sgr	6	Glob	17	Magnificent!
70	6681	18 42	-32 19	XV	Sgr	10	Glob	2	Small
26	6694	18 44	- 9 25	X	Sct	9	Open	9	Not well known
11	6705	18 50	- 6 18	X	Sct	6	Open/N	10	Show object of summer sky
54	6715	18 54	-30 30	XV	Sgr	8	Glob	2	Small and very remote
57	6720	18 53	+33 00	V	Lyr	9	P.Neb	1x1	Ring Nebula
56	6779	19 16	+30 08	V	Lyr	8	Glob	2	Low power ? ? ?
55	6809	19 39	-30 59	XV	Sgr	5	Glob	10	Bright
71	6838	19 53	+18 43	X	Sga	9	Glob	6	Sparse
27	6853	19 58	+22 39	X	Vul	8	P.Neb	8x4	Dumbbell Nebula; very fine
75	6864	20 05	-22 00	XI	Sgr	8	Glob	2	Most open in sky
29	6913	20 23	+38 26	V	Cyg	7	Open	12	Use low power
72	6981	20 52	-12 38	XI	Agr	10	Glob	2	Small, dim
73	6994	20 58	-12 44	XI	Agr		Open		4 Stars
15	7078	21 29	+12 04	XI	Peg	6	Glob	7	Fine ball of stars
2	7089	21 32	- 0 56	XI	Agr	6	Glob	8	Tight globe of stars
39	7092	21 31	+48 20	V	Cyg	5	Open	30	Use low power
30	7099	21 39	-23 18	XV	Cap	8	Glob	6	Fairly bright; star nearby
52	7654	23 23	+61 28	V	Cas	7	Open	12	Irregular