SAN JOSE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS BULLETIN

Bob Malm, Editor
(941-1343)

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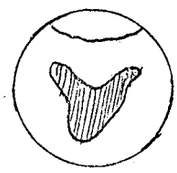
SPECIAL COMMENT: This month's issue is being mailed to you early because of the change in the date and location of this month's public star party. Please be sure to read about this in the coming events.

RECENT ACTIVITIES: The Sept. 6 meeting was devoted to a discussion of the state-of-the-club, lead by Tom Mungall, followed by a talk on the Jovian moon, Europa by Jim Vermilion. The discussion was devoted mostly to the problem of speakers for the general meetings. What should be the ratio between guest speakers and speakers who are members of the club? The question was not resolved. Jim's talk involved speculation on the surface features of Europa, the second of the Galilean satellites. Light curves of the satellite observed during its period of rotation indicated the presence of dark and light features on the moon. Through computer analysis of the light curve several possible "maps" of Europa were drawn. One of the most likely is reproduced at the right. (Note: The information I received was over the telephone, so my apologies in advance to Jim in case my picture is not of the greatest accuracy.) Note the pole cap. Jim's talk prompted many questions of interest. It is unfortunate that attendance was down at this meeting as it was generally agreed that those absent missed a very informative talk.



The star party of Sept. 14 at Skyline proved to be a damp one. Only a few people showed up and some of these left hurriedly when their equipment began to drip. (The weather report indicated that the humidity approached 90% in some parts of the Bay Area.) Dave Erickson and Tom Mungall tried the Coe site after being "washed" out of the Skyline one and found good conditions at their second choice. Dave got some great pictures of the Pleades, the Orion nebula, M 31 and other late evening objects. Some people are now pushing for Henry Coe State Park as our regular star party site. Besides the usually good viewing, the ranger is very cooperative and will let us have a location far removed from the campers and their lights.

COMING EVENTS: Sept. 27 (Friday) 6 P.M. Public star party at the Eastridge Shopping Center in San Jose. Go to the elevated area. Note: The Sept. 28 (Saturday) star party at the K Mart in Santa Clara has been cancelled.

Oct. 4 (Friday) 8 P.M. General meeting at Leininger Center. This will be a combination equipment and astro-slide night. If you wish to bring slides for showing, come a little early to give Jerry your slides. Between five and ten slides person is encouraged. To get to Leininger Center: (a) From highway 101 turn west at the Story Road exit and go a few miles, crossing McLaughlin Ave., and ultimately turning left at Senter Road. Go a few yards until you get to Kelly Park. Leininger Center is on the left. (b) From highway 280, exit at 10th Street, go about four blocks and turn left at Keyes, then two blocks and turn right at Senter just over the tracks.

From November on we will probably be meeting at Olinder Center. The facilities there are very good: plenty of room, a P.A. system, good parking and a dark area which might be good for viewing. More on this in the next Bulletin.

Oct. 12 (Saturday). Overnight star party at Henry Coe State Park. The club pays for this site.

Oct. 19 (Saturday). Public star party at the Skyline site. Invitations have been sent to interested students of West Valley and De Anza Colleges as well as the general public. The moon sets at 9:20 P.M. on this date. (The Redspot can be seen at 10:34 plus and minus 1 1/2 hours.)

Nov. 1 (Friday) 8 P.M. General meeting at Olinder Center. A guest speaker who was well received a number of months ago will deliver the talk. The identity of this astronomer will be revealed in the next bulletin.

NEWS NOTES: Several members of the club attended an impromtu star party at Coe on Sept. 21. Due to a temperature inversion, it was a balmy 74° F. all night long even though it was somewhat cooler on the valley floor. Conditions were good even before the moon (first quarter) set around 10:30. Norm Wild said that he had never seen such a clear and steady Jupiter at high power. Incidentally, Jupiter provided us with quite a show. Racing the Redspot across the face of the planet was the shadow of one of the satellites (Io?).

The satellite eventually appeared on Jupiter's western limb, its shadow still on the planet's surface ahead of the Redspot. Good views also were had of the globular clusters, M 15 and M 56, the Veil nebula, M 1 (the Crab) nebula and the Auriga clusters M 36, M 37, M 38 and NGC 1907.

TECHNICAL NOTES: Jim Van Nuland has provided us with additional times when Jupiter's Redspot crosses the planet's meridian. Observations by your editor have confirmed some of last month's times. Times are in PDT:

October 2, 11:31; 5, 9:01; 7, 10:39; 12, 9:47; 13, 5:39 A.M.; 14, 11:26; 17, 8:55; 19, 10:34; 24, 9:42; 26, 11:20; 29, 8:50; 31 10:28. (All times are P.M. except the Oct. 13th time.

Date and times of the central meridian of the sun:

Oct. 1: 58.99; Oct. 11: 287.05; Oct. 21: 155.14; Oct. 31: 23.26.

Jim's computer also has arranged the Messier Catalog in order of Right Ascension as follows (to be continued):

The Messier Catalog
NGC sequence, 1975 epoch

M	NGC	R.A.	Dec.	Chart	Con	Mag	Type	Size	Description
110	205	0h39m	+41°33'	II	And	9	El.Gx	10x4'	Other companion of M31
32	221	0 41	+40 44	II	And	9	El.Gx	2x4	Looks like globular
31	224	0 41	+41 08	II	And	5	Sp.Gx	1x3°	Andromeda Galaxy
103	581	1 32	+60 35	II	Cas	7	Open	5'	Beautiful field
33	598	1 33	+30 32	II	Tri	7	Sp.Gx	65x35	Large, faint, not easy
74	628	1 35	+15 40	VI	Psc	10	Sp.Gx	10x9	Very large, faint
76	650	1 40	+51 27	II	Per	12	P.Neb	2x1	Junior dumbbell
34	1039	2 40	+42 40	II	Per	6	Open	18	Grand low power object
77	1068	2 41	- 0 08	VI	Cet	9	Sp.Gx	6x5	Small, fuzzy
45I	349	3 45	+24 03	VI	Tau	2	Open	100	The Pleiades
79	1904	5 23	-24 33	XII	Lep	8	Glob	3	Fine resolvable globular
38	1912	5 27	+35 49	II	Aur	7	Open	20	Cruciform cluster
1	1952	5 33	+22 00	VII	Tau	8	P.Neb	6x4	Crab Nebula
36	1960	5 34	+34 08	II	Aur	6	Open	12	Pretty; loose
42	1976	5 34	- 5 24	VII	Ori	6	Neb	66x60	Orion Nebula; greatest
43	1982	5 34	- 5 17	VII	Ori	9	Neb	20x15	Detached portion of M42
78	2068	5 45	+ 0 03	VII	Ori	10	Neb	8x6	Round spot
37	2099	5 50	+32 33	II	Aur	6	Open	20	Magnificent
35	2168	6 07	+24 20	VII	Gem	5	Open	40	Magnificent cluster
41	2287	6 46	-20 44	VII	CMa	5	Open	30	Fine; central red star
50	2323	7 02	- 8 18	VII	Mon	6	Open	16	Bright, w/red star
47	2422	7 35	-14 25	VII	Pup	5	Open	25	Very bright cluster
46	2437	7 41	-14 46	VII	Pup	6	Open	24	Beautiful, with nebula
93	2447	7 43	-23 49	XIII	Pup	6	Open	25	Shaped like starfish
48	2548	8 12	- 5 43	VIII	Hya	5	Open	30	Nice
44	2632	8 39	+19 47	VIII	Cnc	4	Open	95	Beehive; Praesepe
67	2682	8 50	+11 54	VIII	Cnc	6	Open	15	Nice low power cluster
81	3031	9 54	+69 11	I	UMa	8	Sp.Gx	21x10	Bright spiral
82	3034	9 54	+69 49	I	UMa	9	Sp.Gx	9x4	In field w/M81
95	3351	10 43	+11 50	VIII	Leo	10	Sp.Gx	6x4	Bright barred spiral
96	3368	10 46	+11 57	VIII	Leo	9	Sp.Gx	5x4	A fine spiral
105	3379	10 47	+12 43	VIII	Leo	9	Sp.Gx	2x2	Elliptical shape
108	3556	11 10	+55 49	III	UMa	10	Sp.Gx	8x1	Dim, edge-on
97	3587	11 13	+55 10	III	UMa	12	P.Neb	3x3	The Owl Nebula
65	3623	11 18	+13 15	VIII	Leo	9	Sp.Gx	8x1	Lenticular galaxy
66	3627	11 19	+13 09	VIII	Leo	8	Sp.Gx	8x2	In field with M65
109	3992	11 56	+53 31	III	UMa	11	Sp.Gx	6x3	In bowl of dipper
98	4192	12 13	+15 03	IX	Com	11	Sp.Gx	8x2	Long barred spiral
99	4254	12 18	+14 34	IX	Com	10	Sp.Gx	5x4	Large, bright, interesting
106	4258	12 18	+47 27	IV	CVn	7	Sp.Gx	20x7	Large, pear-shaped
61	4303	12 21	+ 4 37	IX	Vir	10	Sp.Gx	6x5	Round and bright
100	4321	12 22	+15 58	IX	Com	11	Sp.Gx	5x4	Pinwheel spiral
84	4374	12 24	+13 02	IX	Vir	9	El.Gx	1x1	Bright round galaxy
85	4382	12 24	+18 20	IX	Com	9	El.Gx	2x2	Small
86	4406	12 25	+13 05	IX	Vir	10	El.Gx	2x1	Small
49	4472	12 29	+ 8 08	IX	Vir	9	El.Gx	3x2	In Virgo Cloud
87	4486	12 30	+12 32	IX	Vir	9	El.Gx	2x2	Small, bright
88	4501	12 31	+14 34	IX	Com	10	Sp.Gx	5x2	Long, bright
91	4548	12 34	+14 38	IX	Com	10	Sp.Gx	4x3	Faint barred spiral
89	4552	12 34	+12 42	IX	Vir	10	El.Gx	1x1	Tiny
40		12 34	+58 22	IV	UMa		2 stars		Yellow stars, dim
90	4569	12 36	+13 18	IX	Vir	10	Sp.Gx	7x2	Small
58	4579	12 36	+11 57	IX	Vir	9	Sp.Gx	4x3	In Virgo Cloud