

MAY-JUNE MEETINGS

At the May 7 meeting, we will provide for your viewing entertainment a special three-dimensional film from the Planetary Society called "Mars in 3D". We are expecting a great turnout, so be sure to get to the meeting early so you can get the best seat in the house. Just bring yourselves -- we provide the glasses.

We will also have a current events talk provided by Joe Kamichitis. Also scheduled to talk is Joe Mazzarella, who will speak about "Galaxy Clusters." As you know, Joe is a graduate student in astronomy at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

At this meeting, we will also have a model rocket exhibit for all the "kids" of the Club to check out so they can build at least one of their own for Astronomy Day activities, to be launched at that time.

At the June Meeting, we will have a follow-up rocket clinic for all those with last minute problems, which we will be glad to help with. There will be astronomy trivia questions for the kids and a current events and constellation talk provided by Jo-Ann Pluciennik.

If there is a problem with the supply of 3-D glasses, the movie may be re-scheduled for the June 4 meeting. (Uncertainty like this adds the spice of suspense to the anticipation of these meetings.)

J. Michael Schirra
President

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank all those who showed up and contributed to the "Clean Up Pennsylvania" project. The efforts of those who helped were very much appreciated.

Sometimes, we have to take a step and demonstrate that even if we were not the ones to create the problem, we can be the ones to correct the problem. We should be able to humble ourselves a little to better our community and ourselves. The clean-up project was a success ... a success to those that helped.

Ralph Waldo Emerson's definition of success ...

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
whether by a healthy child, a garden patch,
or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived;
This is to have succeeded.

The people who helped have succeeded. Thanks go to Frank Maros, Diane and Julie Musewicz, John, Dee and Little John Sabia, Ron and LouAnn Benjamin, and Marianne and Robert Kleha for coming by to help out. We collected 22 bags of garbage from the roadside.

J. Michael Schirra
President

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Jo-Ann Pluciennik, Editor Staff: Diane Musewicz, Joe Kamichitis

PHOTOGRAPHY WITH HYPERED 2415

I have finally been able to expose a few frames of Hypered 2415 film to the night sky. The film had been in cold storage for two months before a good clear weekend evening had occurred. Two promising weekends turned sour after setting up the camera. It wasn't until the 21st of March (a Wednesday) when a clear sky prevailed overhead.

The film was loaded in a Nikon F2 equipped with a 50mm lens stopped down to f/2.8. I mounted the camera piggyback onto the Clark refractor and aimed at the belt stars of Crion. My first four exposures were unfiltered images progressing from 1 minute, 5, 10, 17. These were followed by two exposures with a #21 (red) gelatin filter, 5 and 12 minutes respectively; then two exposures with a #47 (blue) gelatin filter, 5 and 10 minutes respectively. Within these ranges I hoped to determine a minimum and maximum exposure.

After the last exposure I developed the film in D-19 developer for four minutes at 70° F. From this I have found that for an unfiltered exposure 1 minute will record bright nebulae on the negative; anywhere between 1-5 minutes improves the image. Exposing with a #21 filter, 10 minutes brings out great amount of nebulosity in the image. Therefore exposures of 6-8 minutes are sufficient. The #47 filter required more time to build an image. The 5 minutes was light; 10 minutes would be good.

With this system the following can be used as a guide:

unfiltered exposures	1-5 minutes	show detail
#21 Filter (gel)	6-8 minutes	for good detail
#47 Filter (gel)	8-12 minutes	for good exposures

The next trial of Hypered 2415 will be with the 8" Schmidt Camera. I expect the exposure time to be cut down to 10 minutes or even less for a good exposure of the night sky.

John D. Sabia

CORRESPONDENCE

The following is a copy of the letter recently sent by LAS president, J. Michael Schirra to "Montage Ski Resort".

"The members of the Lackawanna Astronomical Society are very interested in and support Montage one hundred percent in its efforts to better the community.

We know that Montage is continuing to grow and expand, and we know Montage is continuing its efforts to keep up its appearance in the public eye by maintaining its services and solving the problems that did not exist on paper when built, but do exist in practice.

We would like to offer a suggestion to the Board while Montage is still in the construction phase. The lighting presently being used is a "flood" type of lighting for wide disperement from a single pole. With such a large area to cover, lights were positioned almost 90° from vertical of the pole so that areas further away from the pole could be illuminated. Unfortunately, this results in having the "flood light" shine up as well as down, illuminating the skies.

Our request is for the installation of shields to be placed on the top part of each of the lights. This will benefit Montage as well as the Lackawanna Astronomical Society by keeping more light (which is currently being wasted to the sky) on the slopes. The benefit to the public will be better viewing of skies astronomically and improved skiing on better illuminated slopes, with no extra electricity costs to Montage.

We, the IAS, make this request for this year because 1985 to 1986 will be the year of Halley's Comet, and any help in keeping the skies dark for photography and visual observing of this incredible, once-in-alifetime experience would be appreciated."

NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

SONY GUIDEMAN TRACKING SYSTEM - This new and exciting item from our friends to the West enables you to guide your astrophotographs while jogging. The unit consists of a lightweight, wide-field eyepiece attached to a Pierre Cardin or Cheryl Tiegs (your choice) headband and a 50 foot coiled fiber-optics tube (2 ft. unextended) and a $1\frac{1}{4}$ or .965 adapter (both included) to attach to your guidescope. The eyepiece flips up when not in use. The illuminated crosshairs can be varied not only in intensity, but also in color to match your mood or outfit. The unit is powered by a snappy velour battery pouch (AA) with a velcro strap to attach to your wrist or ankle. Also included is a spring-loaded 50 ft. extension cord (with belt clip) for your drive corrector.

In practice the GUIDEMAN took some getting used to. I continually caught the lines in the declination axis or the focusing knobs. Hint: jog counterclockwise when your telescope is east of the pier and clockwise when it's on the west. Don't worry about running beyond the limit -- an audible "bleep" from the battery pack tells you when you're at the 45 ft. mark. If you use a portable mount, try to vary your set-up position since the grass tends to wear in patterns.

The unit retails for \$149.95.

Joe Kamichitis

CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: P = W

The Cryptogram is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X = O, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words, and words using an apostrophe can give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

PLKN HBE NCTCGUHSC'G KSCENBEC FJCTMCM: NLC GDF JG NLC TJVJN.

Last "Ecliptic's" answer: There was an error in the code. The letter "E" was left out of the word "ninety", but if you got the rest of the puzzle, this should not have been a problem. The answer was:

MANY VERY EXCEPTIONAL MEN JUST STAY UNDER NINETY PERCENT!

THE PLANETS:

MERCURY, VENUS, EARTH, MARS, JUPITER, SATURN, URANUS, NEPTUNE, PLUTO

ASTRONOMY DAY ACTIVITIES

Astronomy Day activities are planned as follows: From 3:00 to 6:00 PM, there will be a club member get-together, with a "bring your own food" picnic.

From 6:00 to 11:00 PM, the public is invited. We will provide coffee, donuts, movies, slide presentations, telescopes for solar and nighttime viewing, rockets to be launched (and hopefully retrieved), and lots of fun.

June 23 will be five days after new moon, so skies should be nice and dark. We would also like to point out that Neptune will be at opposition in Sagittarius, and the first one to find it wins a prize!! There will be prizes for the best looking rocket and the best flying rocket -- provided they are retrieved! (Decisions of the judges are final.)

J. Michael Schirra

MEMBER NEWS

LouAnn Benjamin, LAS secretary, was featured in an article about the aerobics class at the hospital, where she is one of the instructors.

Bob Bolock, former LAS Jr. Vice President, had his photo in twice in publicity about the Civic Ballet Company's program "L'Art du Ballet" Bob was featured in the childrens ballet.

John D. Sabia, perennial LAS officer and KJCC night assistant, is on the Channel 16 TV show, "Pennsylvania Outdoor Life", doing short segments on astronomy.

LAS president, J. Michael Schirra, presented an astronomy slide-talk to the Lions Club of Jefferson Township, April 23.

Jo-Ann Pluciennik, LAS Vice President, presented a slide-talk on fossils and palentology at the April 23 meeting of the Mineralogical Society of NE Pennsylvania.

Joe Namichitis and Jo-Ann Pluciennik announced their engagement. The wedding is planned for July 13, 1985. For those who keep track of records, this marks the first time two LAS former presidents have ever planned to get married to each other.

IN MEMORIAM

James A. Patterson, charter member and former president of the LAS from 1961 to 1970, passed away Sunday, April 21, 1985 at Poses Taylor Hospital, leaving his widow, the former Elizabeth Monaghn and two sons, four daughters, a brother, 2 sisters, 24 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. Jim was also a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. The Club has sent flowers to his family in recognition and appreciation of his years of service to the LAS.

For those of us who've been in the LAS for some time, Jim's passing is a loss that will be hard to get over. Besides working on the plans for the 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", Jim also was one of the members who "pushed the glass around" to make the mirror. He was an active observer for a long time, using his own custom accessorized 3" refractor. LAS'ers can remember Jim helping out at the moon rock display; observing lunar eclipses, and attempting to see the clouded-out 1972 solar eclipse (called in some circles the "Cap Chat Catastrophe"). Before we built the permanent observatory, Jim was one of those who'd always be at the impromptu observing sessions, that'd be arranged by phone call and would have us hauling the 12" in a station wagon (along with other 'scopes) to the field on Lengyl's farm in Factoryville, or to that particular white conglomerate outcrop on Kocsic Mountain.

In later years, Mr. Patterson's health kept him from enjoying a lot of the LAS activities he loved, but he did finally get his chance to use LAS/KJCC in 1983 for the apparition of Comet Iras-Araki-Alcock. Jim was always with the LAS in spirit and we're sure he still will be.

Jo-Ann Pluciennik

OBSERVATORY ASIDES

I don't want to harp on this topic, but, even in a near drought situation, it's seldom clear on a weekend.

Spring is here and there's a crying need for volunteers to help police the observatory area, and to clean up the inside. Just a friendly warning!

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE NYC BUS TRIP NOW!! We're still trying to fill the bus. It's only \$11.00 a head and you'll have a really good time. ~~Besides I really want to go there and introduce my niece to the place.~~ (Sorry about that whining!) Reservations can be made by contacting LouAnn Benjamin, or any officer, at the May Meeting.

Jo-Ann Pluciennik

LACKAWANNA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP LISTING 1985

If there is an error in the listing in any way, please notify Joe Kamichitis.

Officers for 1985:

J. Michael Schirra - President
Jo-Ann Pluciennik - Vice President
LouAnn Benjamin - Secretary
Joe Kamichitis - Treasurer
Tommy Holeva - Junior Vice President

An asterisk by the name indicates a junior member.

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Walter Bennett, North Main Street, Wilkes Barre, PA
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