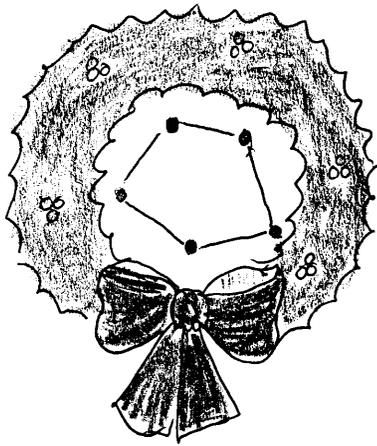


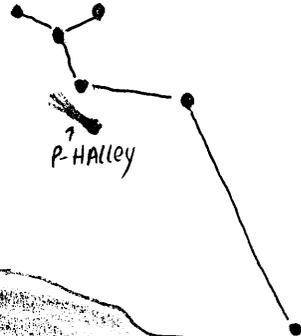
VOL. 12 No. 1
 JAN - Feb 1986



SEASON'S
 GREETINGS!
 From the "ECLIPTIC"

AND The

LAS



Newsletter of the LACKAWANNA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, Scranton, Pennsylvania

LAS OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 1986

President - John D. Sabia
 Secretary - Jo-Ann Kamichitis
 Junior Vice President - Bruce Adams
 At-Large Members - Joe Bartos/Mike Schirra/Ed Sidorski
 Vice President - Joe Kamichitis
 Treasurer - Diane Musewicz

LAS CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY	PLACE	TIME
Jan 7 Tuesday	Regular Monthly Meeting	Conference Room "A" YMCA, Dunmore, PA	7:30 PM
Jan 11 Saturday	Official Club Observing Night	LAS/KJCO, Fleetville	7:00 PM only if clear
Jan 21 Tuesday	Board of Directors Meeting	home of J. Sabia	8:00 PM
Feb 4 Tuesday	Regular Monthly Meeting	Community Room, Univer- sity Drive, Dunmore	8:00 PM
Feb 8 Saturday	Official Club Observing Night	LAS/KJCO, Fleetville	8:00 PM only if clear
Feb 18 Tuesday	Board of Directors Meeting	home of J. Sabia	8:00 PM

Don't forget that the peak observing time for Halley's comet is January 1 to January 15. Take advantage of the dark skies at LAS/KJCO even if you must settle for just using the parking lot. Please drive up to the observatory using only your parking lights. Even low beams can destroy photographic attempts and night visions. High beams can lead to personal injury (or at least a lot of ugly remarks.)

On all clear official club nights, a keyholder to KJC/LASO will be present (either John Sabia or Jo-Ann Kamichitis.) Even on club nights, if you must travel any great distance to get to KJCO, please call J. Kamichitis to be certain of the sky conditions and availability of a keyholder. Also, if the weather is at all iffy, call first to make the arrangements definite. On other clear weekend nights, contact J. Kamichitis (343-4006) to see if the place will be unlocked or whether you will have to bring your own 'scopes and warm up in your car. KJC Observatory's phone number is 945-3665, but

people are not always near to the phone to hear it. KJC/LASO is on Route 107 about halfway from Exit 61 of I81, as you head to Fleetville Corners. You take a left on Hack Road.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

MEETING PLACES

We have come upon a situation that requires our immediate attention. Many members request the winter meetings be held in a location that is convenient and is heated. If you have attended our winter meetings in the past, you've noticed it was more than just cool in the museum's auditorium.

There are two places that have been looked into. The first is a room at the YMCA in Dunmore. It is heated and costs \$20.00 for the evening until 10:30 PM. There is ample parking and access to a restaurant for an after meeting snack. This is considered a good choice.

The second is a Community Room in Dunmore, also heated, chairs and tables with some parking in front and plenty off road side parking on University Drive. Maps to each site are included.

Please pay attention as to where the monthly meetings will be held. They are published in the "Ecliptic" and will be announced at each meeting.

COMET HALLEY

Even without the arrival of Comet Halley, the Society has been receiving a good deal of publicity. Since May of 1985, I have been doing "Astronomy Tips" that are aired on WNEP-16 program "Pennsylvania Outdoor Life." The half hour show has a large following in the "family" category, not just sport fans. As a result of this, the producers kindly give the IAS credit, and also mail out each week hundreds of copies of the map to locate Halley's Comet which the Society made up earlier in 1985.

Keystone Junior College Observatory also supplies photographs to WNEP's weather man, Tom Clark. The Society also receives some free publicity from this occasionally.

At the next few meeting you can look forward to photograph's of Halley's Comet, information of Voyager 2 flyby of Uranus, plus some Konstellation Kloseups and programs on the instruments and facilities available to members. The Society has purchased photographic equipment recently and a program on its operation and performance is pending.

John D. Sabia
President

DUE\$ ARE DUE

If you have not already paid, your 1986 dues should be paid as soon as possible. Please fill out the enclosed form and mail your dues to Diane Musewicz, 431 Palm Street, Scranton, PA 18505. Dues may also be paid at any regular meeting. We want to mail our 1986 membership list with the next issue of the "Ecliptic". Adult dues \$8.00; Junior members \$5.00; families \$12.00; and contributing members \$20.00.

OBSERVATORY ASIDES

We've had such an amazingly bad run of cloudy weather, but now there is hope! At least for the past 2 or 3 days there's been a break in the clouds and, unbelievably, at a good moon phase too. Come on up to LAS/KJCO and you can see the coma easily in binoculars. While you can also detect it from your home, even in Scranton, the view in a dark sky is much improved. In the 9", 10" and 12½", the comet shows a thin tail, making it look much like a Q-Tip. Come on up and get a good start on the new year! Who knows? Maybe you'll discover your own comet. In February the comet won't be even

visible, but there are other things in the sky. I have wishful thoughts of a daylight comet of 1986 like the real "Great Comet of 1910" (not Halley). Just don't drive up with your lights on! Please!!

Jo-Ann Kamichitis

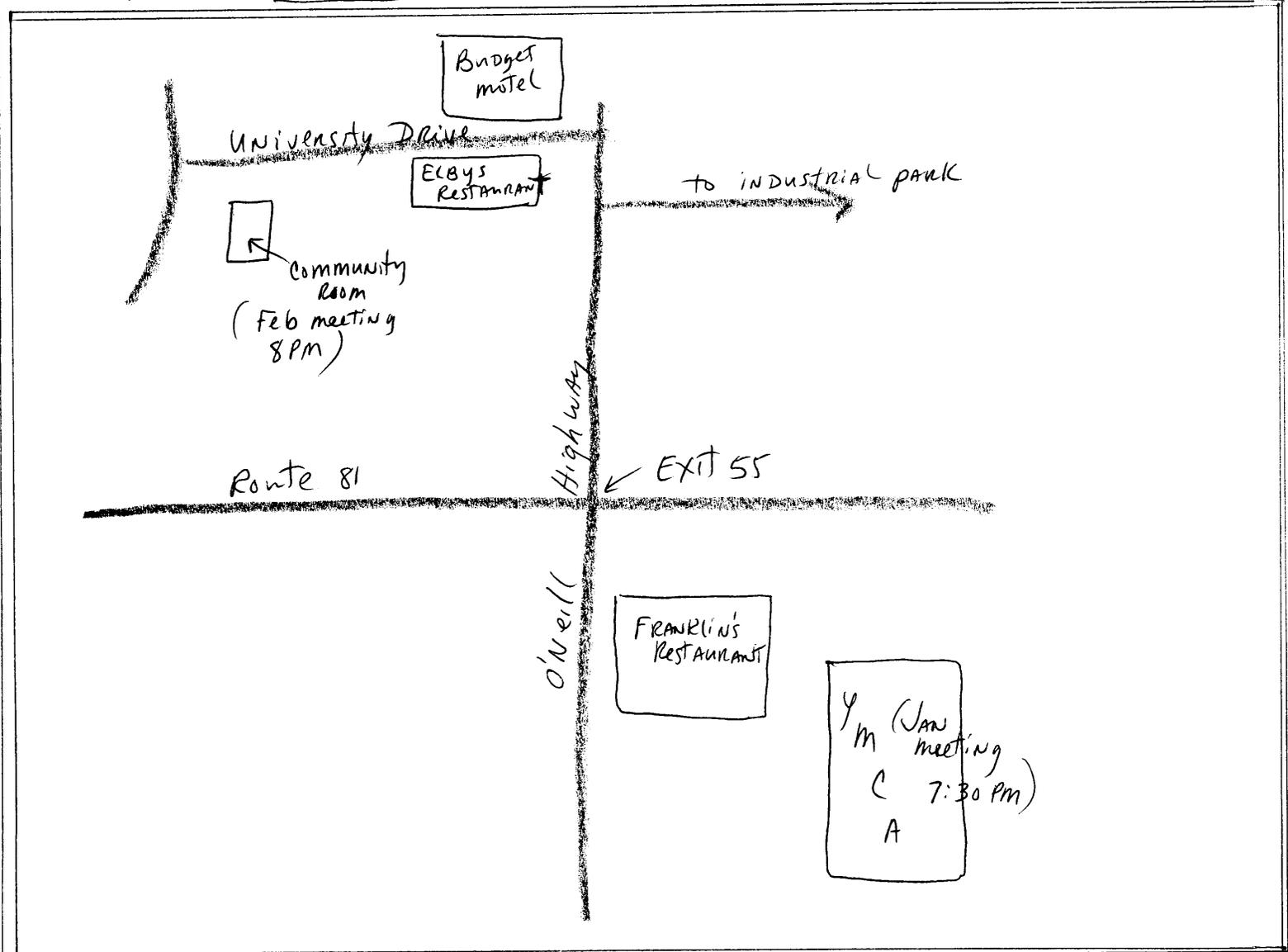
The "Ecliptic" is the bimonthly newsletter of the Lackawanna Astronomical Society. A subscription to the "Ecliptic" is one of the benefits of membership in the LAS. No permission is needed for nonprofit use of any material published in the "Ecliptic" provided it is properly credited.

Articles, cartoons, news items, may be sent to:

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Julie Musewicz
Sarah Musewicz
Vince Musewicz

This is your own official map to the sites of the Jan + Feb 1986 meetings



Don't leave home without it!