

the WASP

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE WARREN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



June

1974

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
	3	4	5	6 Messier Club 8:00 p.m. 791-8752	7 A.A.S. Kalamazoo Astron. Society meeting	8
9	10	11	12	13 Astron. Club Photo meeting 8:00 p.m. 776-9720	14 A.A.S. APOLLO RENDEZVOUS DAYTON OHIO	15
16 DETROIT ASTRON. SOCIETY General Meeting 1 p.m. 837-0130	17	18	19	20 A.A.S. General meeting 8:00 p.m. 791-8752	21 A.A.S. W.D. S. Campout II	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 A.A.S.	29
30						

3 months till National Convention

Constellation of the Month

Reproduced by Frank McCullough

This month's constellation will be taken from a new source, known as STAR NAMES, Their Lore and Mythology, by Richard Hinckley Allen. Hopefully you will find this month's article either enjoyable or confusing, maybe both.

This constellation is chosen due to its availability in the sky and also because it holds many fine Messier Objects such as M-51 (Whirlpool Nebula), M-3 an excellent galaxy cluster, M-63 a fairly easy galaxy, M-94 a smaller but brighter galaxy, and M-106 a large mag. galaxy.

Canes Venatici, the Hunting Dogs

Boötes hath unleashed his fiery hounds.

The hunting dogs are the French CHIEMS du CHASSE, or LEVRIERS; the German JAGHUNDE, and the Italian LEVRIERI, lying between Boötes and Ursa Major. Ptolemy entered their stars among the ἀμόρφωτοι of the latter constellation, and the modern forms first appear in the Prodrumus of their inventor Hevelius. The most northern one is Asterion, Starry, from the little stars marking the body; and the other, which contains the two brightest stars, is Chara, as dear to the heart of their master. Flamsteed followed in the use of these names, and the hounds are now well established in the recognition of astronomers, as is the case of most of their stellar creations of Hevelius, which were generally placed where needed.

Proctor, in his attempt to simplify constellation nomenclature, called them Catuli, the Puppies; but the usual illustration is of two greyhounds held by a leash in the hand of Boötes, ready for pursuit of the Bear around the pole; their inventor thus reviving the idea that Boötes was a hunter.

Hevelius counted 23 stars here; Argelander, 54; and Heis, 88.

The Chinese designated three stars in or near the head of Asterion as San Kung, the Three Honorary Guardians of their Heir Apparent.

Assemani alluded to a Quadrate figure on the Borgian globe, below the tail of the Greater Bear, as AL KARB al IBL, the Camel's burden, that can be no other than stars in the heads of the Hunting Dogs.

Bartschius drew on his map of this part of the sky the RIVER JORDAN, his JORDANIS and JORDANUS, not now recognized, indeed hardly remembered. Its course was from Cor Coroli, under the Bears and above Leo, Cancer, and Gemini, through the stars from which Hevelius afterwards formed Leo Minor and the Lynx, ending at Camelopardalis. But the outlines of his stream were left somewhat undetermined, much like those of Central African waters when guessed at by map makers thirty years or more ago. This river, however, had already existed before his day on French star maps and globes.

α , Double, 3.2 and 5.7, flushed white and pale lilac.

This star, the 12 of Flamsteed's list of the Hounds, stands alone marking Chara's collar; but was set apart in 1725 by Halley, when Astronomer Royal, as the distinct figure Cor Coroli, not Cor Coroli II as many have it, in honor of Charles II. This was done in suggestion of the court physician, Sir Charles Scarborough, who said it had shone with special brilliancy on the eve of the king's return to London on the 27th of May, 1660. It has occasionally been seen on maps as a center of a heart shaped figure surrounded by a crown, and its name occurs in popular lists; but Flamsteed did not insert it on his plate of the hounds, although he distinctly wrote of it in his manuscript under this title; and the Heart perhaps is shown in the tailpiece to the preface of the ATAS COELESTIS.

It is the French Coeur de Charles; the Italian CUOR DI CARLO; and the German HERZ KARLS.

With Ulug Beg it was AL KABD AL ASAD, the Liver of the lion, - here a technical term indicating the highest position of any star within the compass of a figure reckoned from the equator.

In China, it was Chang Chen, a seat.

This is a favorite object of amateurs, the components being about 20" apart. Espin says in Webb's celestial objects of 1893 that they have been relatively fixed for 73 years, yet show considerable proper motion, and probably are unequal stars at nearly equal distances from us; and he gives various opinions as to their colors. Miss Clarke calls them pale yellow and fawn. Their present position angle is about 230°, but is slowly changing.

Cor Coroli culminates on the 20th of May.

On the line from Cor Coroli to Arcturus, and somewhat nearer the latter, in a triangle of small stars, is a beautiful globular cluster concentrated into a central blaze. This is N.G.C. 5272 3 M, long a well known object, but recently rendered specially noticeably by Bailey's discovery in 1895, on photographs taken by Harvard Astronomers at Arequipa, Peru, of no less than 96 variables among naked eye stars is not quite one percent. The stars near the center run together and cannot be counted, but the total number in the cluster probably is many thousands. β 4.3, is Chara, the 8 of Flamsteed, and, after Cor Coroli, the brightest member of the southern hound.

152 Schjellerup, 5.5, brilliant red.

LA SUPERBA was so named by Father Secchi from the superbly flashing brilliancy of its prismatic rays. It is the brightest of its class of stars with the spectra of the 4th type, of which only about 120 are known from our latitude, and but 7 or 8 of them visible to the naked eye. Variability in its light is also suspected.

It lies about 7° north and 2½° west Cor Coroli.

A misty spot in this constellation can be seen with a low power 3° southwest from Al Kaid (η Ursa Majoris). This is the SPIRAL NEBULA of Lord Rosse, or the WHIRLPOOL NEBULA, N.G.C. 5194, 51 M, our long-established ideas of which have recently been somewhat modified by a photograph taken by Mr. Isaac Roberts after four hours' exposure. It now appears to be composed of a pair of curving arms issuing from opposite extremities of an oval central body, one of the arms joining itself to a second nucleus, a new system in process of formation.



HOW TO LIVE WITH A TELESCOPE

By

Paul E. Roques

I understand there is only one time of year that is really good for stargazing, namely summer. All other times are cluttered with cold weather, good television shows, or spring romance. However, on the off chance that you are a four-seasons observer, maybe a few hints will add a little more to your already happy life.

It seems to me that no hobby is really totally satisfying unless you suffer two basic faults: (1) you spend more money than you should on it, and (2) you invent all sorts of crazy gadgets for your hobby machines. At the latter I did reasonably well, firmly believing that my telescope needed assistance in performing. Sometimes what I came up with did help. At other times I am afraid my ideas lacked only one basic ingredient- intelligence.

But I pass on to you some thoughts that will either make a skilled telescopist of you, or the best collector of Hoover buttons since Roosevelt announced the New Deal.

I feel the man behind the telescope should always be comfortable at all cost. There is nothing more painful than cold feet in winter, especially when it extends to the tip of your nose. Some observers use hot coffee or hot coffee sterilized with alcohol. Others choose warm dress and a place to periodically re-heat frost-bitten hide. I would possibly select the last, for at least you would know there is some place where comfort reigns. Another item of comfort: Unless you are inclined to enjoy standing up all night long, you had better give some thought to an observing chair. Of course, you can rig up all types of fancy things to sit on, but this is just some extra "stuff" to clutter up your car on those jaunts to clear mountain skies. Instead, I would highly recommend a box with three dimensions. It then becomes a variable-height carcass supporter, step stool, and tote box.

I am not inclined to lean too heavily on telescope maintenance, since lens cleaning was covered in a previous article ("Griffith Observer" July, 1963) and greasing the telescope may be no more difficult than re-building a jet engine. But even a well cared for instrument is going to have its moments of sadness. One such ailment is lens or mirror that fogs up on damp nights. Now there are all sorts of elegant means of correcting a drippy optical system, from tiny heating elements to putting the telescope in the garage and going back to bed. One method that has worked for me (I think) is to line the dew cap with a blotter or in the case of an open tube reflector run the blotter part way up the tube from the mirror. If this suggestion does not work, at least you will have something to mop up spilled coffee.

Let's think about illuminating your charts. In order to keep your eyes dark adapted, use a piece of red gelatin over your flashlight. Holding the flashlight while still having both hands free to grasp the chart and move the telescope can be a problem. Some observers are so versatile as to be able to put the entire end of the flashlight in their mouth, thereby freeing both hands. However, too much of this and you may run the risk of walking around looking like a petrified choir singer. A clip board with a small battery-operated lamp attached is a winner in my book.

And now a few points you should know about your telescope that will make observing easier and a shade more efficient. First, in addition to knowing the magnification each eyepiece gives, why not include the field of view too. This bit of knowledge is valuable when you start using detailed star charts in tracking down some objects such as an asteroid, whose appearance is no different than the adjacent field stars. To ascertain the field size, point your telescope at the celestial equator and time the passage of a star across the field of each eyepiece. In a one-degree field-of-view ocular, a star will pass through in four minutes. From there you can figure it for any eyepiece. Also, make a little scribe mark on the draw tube showing the focus position for your lowest power eyepiece.

You will avoid the frustration of searching a bright sky for an object and not finding it because it was too far out of focus.

As time goes by you will accumulate all types of little things that are easily stepped on, sat on, misplaced or stolen by the neighborhood dug while you are marveling at the wonders of the universe. To keep these items within easy reach while observing, one clever thinker uses a carpenter's apron with several pockets for eyepieces, pencils, flashlight, sandwiches, etc. If you do not like the prospect of looking like a hot dog vendor at a ball park, then a detachable shelf on the tripod or telescope pier will be a good substitute. A good observer is one who exercises patience in reaching to the performance limit of his telescope. To perceive faint markings on a planet may require months of eye training plus training plus experimenting with color filters. To detect faint stars and nebulae will require more than carrots and good clean living, but also critical selection of sky, optimum magnification and the will to practice.

From time to time you will be inclined to put your 'optic tube' (telescope through its paces for visitors. When you do, realize that you may face the disappointing fact that they lack not only your observing skills, but also your bubbly enthusiasm. If you find interest is sagging, take them inside and show them your home movies. After that they will gladly return to the telescope with you, only this time they will outshine even Galileo.

-from the "Griffith Observer" (Apr. 74)
submitted by Ken Wilson

Odds And Ends by

Kenneth Wilson

The latest Messier Contest was held at Stargate Observatory on Friday, April 19th. Skies were ideal and the turnout was better than usual. The results: Doug Bock breezed to first place, Frank McCullough came from behind to take second place, and Larry Kalinowski took third place by a nose (a Messier?) from the team of Louis Faix. Congratulations to all. The next contest will be very soon, see Frank McCullough.

Congratulations to Larry Kalinowski and his wife on the addition to the family. But gee Larry, you didn't have to pass out LFK charts, a cigar would have been fine.

The recent cleanup of Stargate made significant progress. More work is planned. If you'd like to help contact Pete Kwentus at 771-32830

Volunteers are still needed for Stargate demonstrations. Contact Pete Kwentus.

Articles for the WASP are still needed badly. Tell us what you're doing, what you've built, etc. Call Frank (791-8752) or Ken (268-9337).

ASTRONOMY PUNS

for a cloudy Night

1. Me second, Universt.
2. TELE* scope We'll be out to use it later.
3. If you didn't get that one, you're a real domey!
4. Go tell it on the Mount-an.
5. If I can't drive, the clock will.
6. Eyepiece, you peace, we all peace?
7. Tri-pod, hippies do.
8. I didn't planet that way, either.
9. Sun, be home by Moon.
10. We are all making a crater profit here on the moon.
11. Because we are all a bunch of LUNA-tics
12. You bet your BRECHAS we are!
13. I always had a nite- Mars, do you sea?
14. Oh shucks, I missed the Bald-win. (club joke)
15. Sun, you're not too bright, are you?
16. Another flare like that and you'll be in a spot.
17. I ex-Spectrum all home soon.
18. I want to order a cheese and astronomy sandwich.
19. It's my turn, now it's Saturn.
20. They were all a bunch of nice guys when we went for a spin, but they all turned out to be a couple of Axis's.
21. The majority of people voted to view the solar eclipse without filters, I asked who opposed, and no one did so the eyes had it!
22. Jerry Persha said, "Oscillator, Y'all!"
23. Pete Kwentus made a complete Reticule of himself!
24. Lou Faix picked a Dry, but Ice night to shoot his pictures.
25. Dave Harrington shoots so many one minute exposures through his telescope that a Film has started to collect over his eyes.
26. Poor Tony Bommarito, his nagging wife has finally given him a reciprocity failure!
27. The Reason! Angie made her Celestron her main Objective. (our sympathy, Tony)
28. Doug, my son, hold your 8" f20 on the fence while I make this four hour exposure of Saturn.
29. THE OBSERVATORY REPORT
30. There are so many space vehicles up in space that there has been a tremendous increase in parking meteors.
31. The space baby got so sick that it threw Ejecta all over the moon.
32. When the American astronaut stopped at one of Jupiter's moons, he decided he would shop, but they would not accept money so he wrote out an IO-u.
33. When he went by the 7th planet of our solar system, they would not let him land until he took the URAN-us test.

by this time you are probably praying
for clear weather.

ASTRO-ALMANAC

By
Kenneth Wilson

JUNE /	EVENT
1	Mercury 2° N. of Saturn at 5:00.
2	
3	
4	Mercury great E. elong. (24°) at 2:00, Moon 3° S. of Neptune at 7:00, Full Moon at 17:10
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	Lunar apogee (251,800 mi.) at 5:00, Twilight begins: 2:30-ends: 21:29 L.M.T.
10	
11	
12	Mercury at descending node, Venus at great. hel. lat. S., Moon 7° N. of Jupiter at 17:00, Last Quarter Moon at 20:45.
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	New Moon at 23:56, Twilight begins: 2:28-ends: 21:35 L.M.T.
20	Warren Astronomical Society General Meeting at 8:00 E.D.T.
21	Lunar Perigee (223,770 mi.) at 9:00, Pluto stationary at 11:00, Summer Solstice at 14:00 (Summer begins)
22	Moon 6° S. of Mars at 19:00.
23	Mercury at aphelion.
24	
25	
26	First Quarter at 14:20
27	
28	Moon 5° S. of Uranus at 4:00.
29	Twilight begins: 2:30-ends: 21:36 L.M.T.
30	Saturn in conjunction at 3:07, Mercury in inferior conjunction at 15:00

NOTE: All times, unless otherwise noted, are in 24-hour E.S.T.