

Detroit Astronomical Society Newsletter

42° 24' 37.7" N. Latitude

Crowell Recreation Center



83° 15' 24.5" W. Longitude

MARCH / APRIL / 1989

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the January meeting, a proposal was presented by Dr. Blanchard requesting members of the D.A.S. to assist in teaching astronomy to students in the Brandon School District in northern Oakland County. As of this writing, training dates have not been finalized. But Dr. Blanchard will notify those members that expressed interest in assisting in the astronomy program. It is an ambitious program, but a well thought out effort involving the school district and the local community.

The benefits for the society is the use of some dark sky observing sites.

There are members interested in taking a field trip to Adler Planetarium in Chicago. The details have not been worked out yet, but open to suggestion, depending on those interested in going.

The main reason for scheduling an observing session on March 17 is to observe the asteroid 324 Bamberga occult a star. The observing session will be at Camp Wathana, the Minuka Campsite. There will be no electrical power at the site, so bring battery powered drive correctors. Dress warm.

CLEAR SKIES!

JACK BRISBIN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 3 Board of Directors meeting 7:00 PM. Workshop activities 8:00 PM
- March 10 General meeting and lecture 8:00 PM. Cosmology-A General Lecture. Lecturer: Mr. William McEntee.
- March 17 Observing session-Camp Wathana-Minuka Campsite. Dress Warm.
- March 24 No meeting-Easter weekend.
- March 31 Astronomical films 8:15 PM. Black holes and Quasars. How we know the Earth moves.
- April 7 Board of Directors meeting 7:00 PM. Workshop activities 8:00 PM
- April 14 General meeting and lecture. Reverse polarity and the long weather cycle. Lecturer: Mr. Dick Lloyd.
- April 21 Workshop activities 8:00 PM.

April 28 Astronomical films 8:15 PM. Newtons laws of motion. Behavior of light.

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST

The following members have renewed their membership in the society. Michael Manyak, Ralph Fortney, Jack Brisbin, Leslie Gombar, A.C. Leigh LaChapelle, Lennox A. Walsh, Donald A. Misson, Ken Heilig and Michael Cyrek.

A bit of history about the D.A.S. from a newsletter dated January, 1975:

23 TELESCOPE MIRRORS COMPLETED IN 1974

During the past year, 23 reflecting telescope mirrors were completed by D.A.S. members at the Allen Center and Mercy College Friday workshops. They ranged in diameter from 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. In past years, the most popular size has always been the 6 inch - sometimes outnumbering all other sizes by a ratio of more than 3 to 1. In 1974, 8 inch mirrors ran neck and neck with the 6 inch size. We are not so sure of our statistics on the number of scopes completed during the year, since once the final figuring of the mirror is completed the rest of the project may be completed at home with no feedback report on completion. We are able to definitely account for 8 completed telescopes during the year, with a probability of another 5 completions. This would leave another 10 finished mirrors as part of an unfinished telescope-building project.

Since Jacks initial report, I've recieved some additional information from Dr. Blanchard at the last meeting of the D.A.S. on the Brandon School District Project.

The schedule is now confirmed for weekly instruction and telescope building classes that will be held on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM except for the March 29 date which follows Easter Sunday.

The first subject of discussion will be Telescopes followed by Winter Constellations, Moon, Star Movement and finally Planets. Then a telescope construction project will be done by the students. The school system will supply the parts for the construction of 4 Newtonian telescopes with Dobsonian mounts.

The beginning date of the program is March 8 and the final day June 7. The last day will be a starfest or observing session with the newly constructed telescopes and any additional telescopes brought to the observing area.

The classes will be held in the Brandon Middle School in Ortonville under the supervision of Dr. Joy Haller, an assistant superintendent. 20 students are expected to attend and are to be accompanied by their parents as well.

The school system will supply all the audio and visual equipment required to aid in the instruction. They will also supply the liability requirements and the security as well.

Local bussiness organizations are also involved.

The Freeze Out held on Saturday, February 18 at the Dennison Building of the University of Michigan was well represented by our society. Talks were given by some university professors as well as some amateur astronomers, two of which were from the Warren Astronomical Society. There was also the usual flee market.

The Dennison building houses the U of M astronomy department and library. The library is a fine institution which has dozens of periodicals in astronomy and physics as well as the required hardbound books on the subject.

If anyone ever has an opportunity to visit this library, I suggest that they do so.

The following material has been derived from a couple of charts supplied by Gary Frey of the North Pines Observatory. The first data is the Lunar Grazing of 3 stars during the months of March, April and May. The second data applies to Asteroidal Occultations from March 18 to December 3.

LUNAR GRAZE

Date	USNO No.	SAO	Univ. Time			Mag.	Alt.	Az.
			H	M	S			
March 12, 1989	X 5301	76431	23	58	58	8.0	63.3	240.3
April 11, "	ZC 885	77625	2	10	10	5.6	39.6	274.0
May 6, "	ZC 560	76228	11	27	0	3.8	5.9	62.4

ASTEROIDAL OCCULTATION

Date	Name	Un. Time			Mag. Pl.	Mag. Star	R/A	Dec.	ΔMag	Time
		H	M	S						
March 18	324 Bamberga	4	3	18	11.8	9.0	11h 15'	-2° 18'	2.9	15.1s
May 26	481 Erita	5	27	+	13.7	9.5	13h 9'	+1° 6'	4.2	18 s
July 26	192 Nausikaa	6	54	18	11.3	7.4	3h 7'	+21° 34'	4.0	3.3s
Oct. 15	617 Patroclus	9	39	6	14.7	9.3	2h 30'	+9° 55'	5.4	9.9s
" 23	521 Brixia	2	27	18	10.9	7.2	1h 9'	-13° 7'	3.8	21.6s
Nov. 11	147 Protogenea	13	11	6	14.9	9.6	11h 12'	+3° 14'	5.3	3.7s
Dec. 2	895 Helio	6	47	+	12.6	10.9	6h 29'	+21° 6'	1.9	11 s
" 3	664 Judith	6	35	54	15.6	8.8	5h 9'	+11° 42'	6.8	3.6s

On Tuesday, February 23, I was at a Windsor Center R.A.S.C. meeting and one of the members mentioned from a report he recieved from the AAVSO that a supernova was discovered in the galaxy M66 (NGC 3627) in the Constellation Leo. It is a spiral galaxy type Sb and a companion to M65. The galaxies R.A. is 11h 19.1' and the dec. is +13° 07'.

I wonder how many members make use of the observational data that Sky & Telescope magazine provides for the amateur such as:

The Celestial Calendar which provides data on the planets, moons of Jupiter and other objects.

The double star catalog on page 183 of the February issue by William Henry Smyth provides a lot of interesting objects to observe as are the star tables on page 182.

The University of Michigan Astronomy Department will be hosting the summer meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Ann Arbor from June 11 to the 15. Volunteers are needed to help show slides during talks, set up tables and poster boards, etc. In return, volunteers will recieve free admission to the meeting to hear talks and attend society functions. (There is usually a \$105 registration fee for non-A.A.S. members) This meeting of course involves the professional astronomers throughout the country.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Michael West at (313) 763-5822.

Professor Michael West will also be present at the Warren Astronomical Society's regular meeting at Macomb County Community College on Thursday, March 16 at 7:30 PM. He will be here primarily to recruit volunteers for the A.A.S. meeting in Ann Arbor. However, he will also presumably give a talk on cosmology. The college is located on the southwest corner of Twelve Mile Road and Hayes. Entrance to the parking lot is off Bunert Avenue which is the first block west of Hayes. The meetings are held in the B building.

On one of the latter pages I've reproduced a copy of the ephemerides for 4 minor planets courtesy of Ken Kelly of the W.A.S.

A reminder again to all the members, please renew your membership when expiration is approaching. And to all potential new members, the annual dues are:

Regular, \$32.50 (18 years and older), family, \$37.50 and junior, \$22.50. Included is a subscription to Sky & Telescope magazine and the Reflector, a quarterly newsletter published by the Astronomical League. Both are mailed to your home.

The Skywatchers Hotline (837-0130) is made possible by membership dues and is a public service of the DAS informing the public of current observational astronomy and local astronomical events. At the end of the tape, DAS events are announced.

If you have any news items pertaining to astronomy or related organizations, any projects you are doing that may be of interest to the members or educational data that you would like to supply, mail your information to the editor.

Mike Cyrek, Editor
Detroit Astronomical Society
17149 Caldwell
Detroit, MI 48212

The largest star known is estimated to be about 5.7×10^7 km in diameter. This star is Epsilon Aurigae B (RA 4h 58.4m, Dec. + 43° 44'). It is a binary and is still somewhat of a mystery today.

The III Earl of Rosse was the first to discover the spiral nature of galaxies in the year of 1845 with a huge (for that time) telescope he built himself with the help of his workmen at his estate. This telescope had a metallic mirror and was 72 inches across. It was a reflector with a very limited range. (That is laterally)

The first object discovered by Charles Messier was the Crab Nebula, also known as M1 with the pulsating star known as Taurus A. This star is considered to be the source of the nebula.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The D.A.S. is a non-profit organization with membership open to any individual who is interested in astronomy. Guests are always welcome without charge or obligation. Our purpose is to encourage and promote the study of astronomy and related sciences.

The D.A.S. meets each Friday evening at the Crowell Recreation Center located at 16630 Lahser Road, Detroit, Michigan. The Center is 1/4-mile south of McNichols (Six Mile Road), on the east side of Lahser Road at the traffic signal light. This facility is a modern, well equipped building with ample off-street, lighted parking. It is operated by the City of Detroit Recreation Department and it is their finest facility serving this side of the city. Since we are their guests, it is important to be considerate in the use of the Crowell Recreation Center to insure our continued welcome.

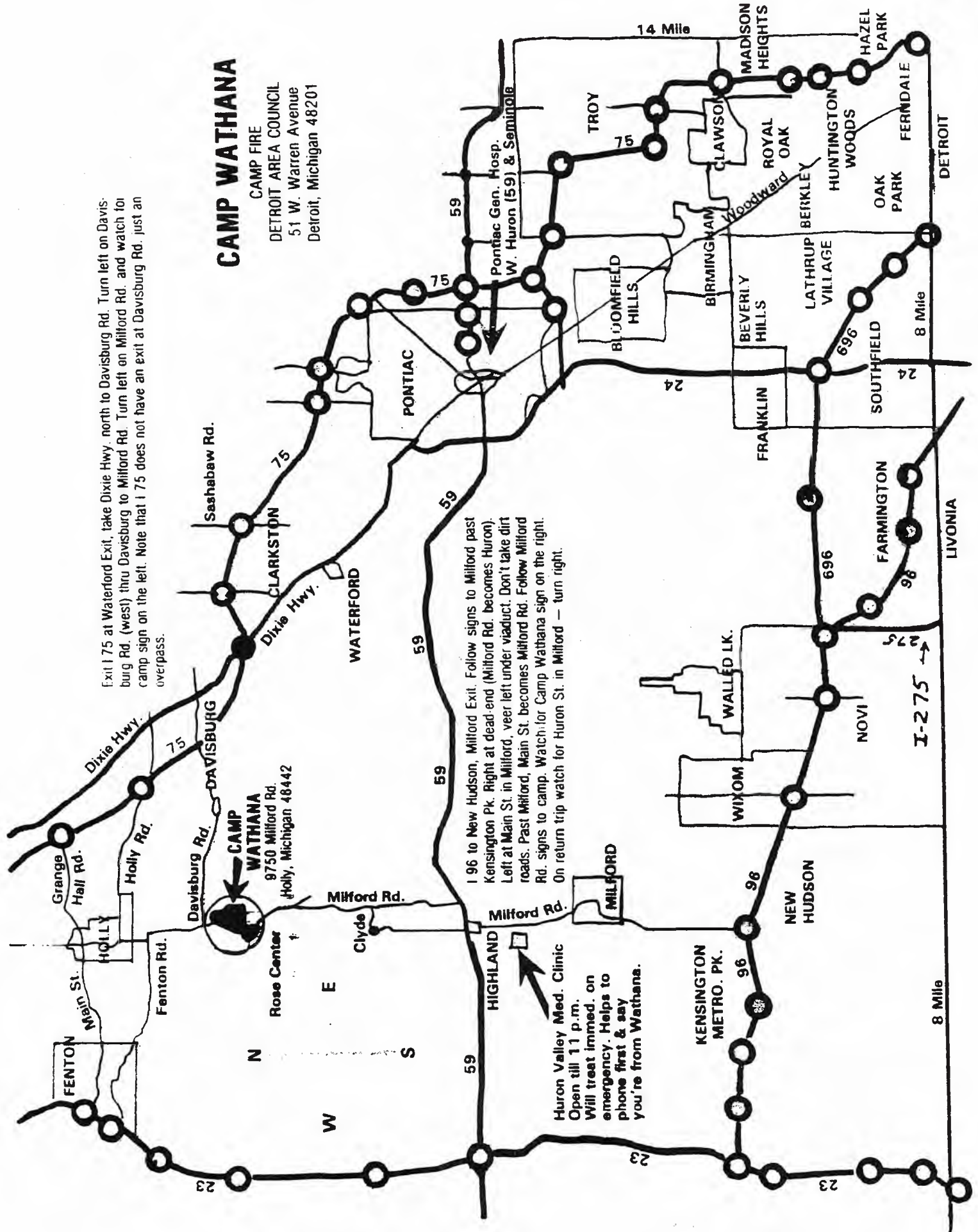
The meetings consist of talks, lectures, films, slides, mirror making, sharing and fellowship with Astronomy as our common denominator. Scheduled events and lectures will begin at 8:30 p.m. The officers and Board of Directors meet privately on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the mirror polishing room. The regular business meeting for the general membership is held on the second Friday of each month and starts promptly at 8:00 p.m. We ask that the last person be out of the building by 10:30 p.m. to accommodate the building custodian.

During the summer months of July and August the Regular and Board of Director Meetings are suspended. Formal programs are reduced and emphasis is placed on scheduled star parties.

Exit 175 at Waterford Exit, take Dixie Hwy. north to Davisburg Rd. Turn left on Davisburg Rd. (west) thru Davisburg to Milford Rd. Turn left on Milford Rd. and watch for camp sign on the left. Note that I 75 does not have an exit at Davisburg Rd. just an overpass.

CAMP WATHANA

CAMP FIRE
 DETROIT AREA COUNCIL
 51 W. Warren Avenue
 Detroit, Michigan 48201



I 96 to New Hudson, Milford Exit. Follow signs to Milford past Kensington Pk. Right at dead-end (Milford Rd. becomes Huron). Left at Main St. in Milford, veer left under viaduct. Don't take dirt roads. Past Milford, Main St. becomes Milford Rd. Follow Milford Rd. signs to camp. Watch for Camp Wathana sign on the right. On return trip watch for Huron St. in Milford — turn right.

Huron Valley Med. Clinic
 Open till 11 p.m.
 Will treat immed. on emergency. Helps to phone first & say you're from Wathana.

I-275

23

23

59

23

59

24

59

75

75

14 Mile

8 Mile

8 Mile

KENSINGTON METRO. PK.

NEW HUDSON

NOVI

WIXOM

WALLED LK.

98

FARMINGTON

696

SOUTHFIELD

LATHRUP VILLAGE

BEVERLY HILLS

BIRMINGHAM

BLUOMFIELD HILLS

TROY

CLAWSON

ROYAL OAK

BERKLEY

HUNTINGTON WOODS

OAK PARK

FERNDALE

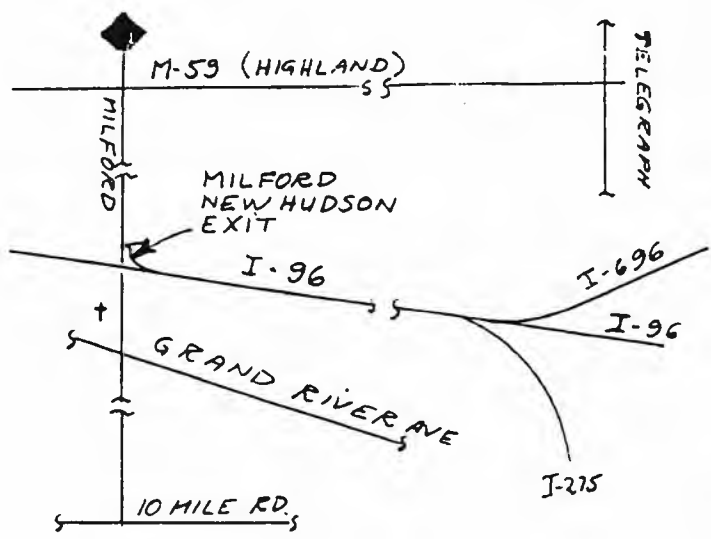
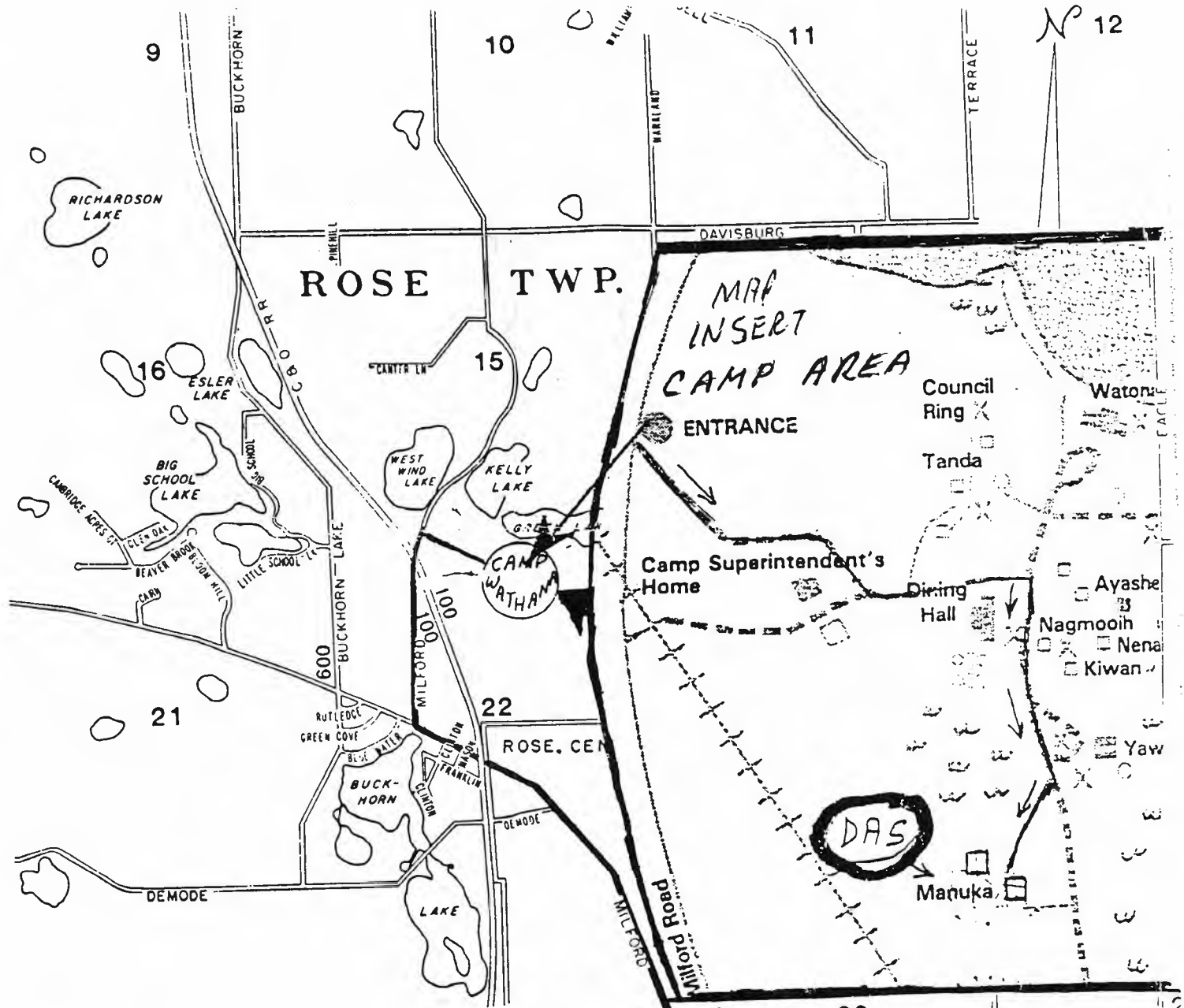
DETROIT

LIVONIA

MADISON HEIGHTS

HAZEL PARK

6



HIGHLAND TWP.

TO I-96
TO M-59

MINOR PLANETS FOR FEB. - MAR.

(Calculated by Ken Kelly)

EPHEMERIS FOR (7) Iris

Q	HRS	ET	R.A. (1950)		DECL.		SUN	EARTH	V	PHASE	ELONG
YY	MM	DD	HR	MIN	DEG	MIN	DIST.	DIST.	MAG	ANGLE	ATION
89	2	19	9	10.79	7	25.75	2.343	1.373	8.4	3.8	170.9
89	2	26	9	4.71	7	56.91	2.361	1.414	8.7	8.0	160.4
89	3	4	8	59.82	8	26.75	2.379	1.467	8.9	11.4	151.5
89	3	11	8	56.33	8	53.65	2.397	1.532	9.1	14.3	143.2
89	3	18	8	54.33	9	16.37	2.415	1.606	9.3	16.7	135.5
89	3	25	8	53.82	9	34.20	2.432	1.687	9.5	18.7	128.2

EPHEMERIS FOR (3) Juno

Q	HRS	ET	R.A. (1950)		DECL.		SUN	EARTH	V	PHASE	ELONG
YY	MM	DD	HR	MIN	DEG	MIN	DIST.	DIST.	MAG	ANGLE	ATION
89	2	19	10	7.75	4	13.61	2.540	1.557	8.3	0.0	180.0
89	2	26	10	1.95	5	25.84	2.560	1.577	8.3	0.0	180.0
89	3	4	9	56.59	6	37.37	2.579	1.611	8.7	4.9	167.1
89	3	11	9	52.00	7	45.21	2.599	1.659	9.0	8.3	157.6
89	3	18	9	48.43	8	46.92	2.618	1.719	9.1	11.3	148.9
89	3	25	9	46.03	9	40.93	2.638	1.790	9.3	13.8	140.8

EPHEMERIS FOR (8) Flora

Q	HRS	ET	R.A. (1950)		DECL.		SUN	EARTH	V	PHASE	ELONG
YY	MM	DD	HR	MIN	DEG	MIN	DIST.	DIST.	MAG	ANGLE	ATION
89	2	19	11	22.97	12	11.74	2.356	1.398	9.4	6.0	165.4
89	2	26	11	16.47	13	11.89	2.367	1.387	9.2	1.6	176.3
89	3	4	11	9.45	14	9.38	2.377	1.391	9.1	0.0	180.0
89	3	11	11	2.39	15	0.78	2.387	1.408	9.4	4.0	170.3
89	3	18	10	55.74	15	43.30	2.397	1.438	9.6	7.8	160.9
89	3	25	10	49.93	16	15.26	2.406	1.480	9.8	11.1	152.2

EPHEMERIS FOR (4) Vesta

Q	HRS	ET	R.A. (1950)		DECL.		SUN	EARTH	V	PHASE	ELONG
YY	MM	DD	HR	MIN	DEG	MIN	DIST.	DIST.	MAG	ANGLE	ATION
89	2	19	17	11.90	-17	40.81	2.159	2.262	7.5	25.4	71.4
89	2	26	17	24.17	-17	53.10	2.157	2.181	7.5	26.1	75.6
89	3	4	17	35.95	-18	1.63	2.155	2.100	7.4	26.7	79.8
89	3	11	17	47.13	-18	6.89	2.153	2.017	7.3	27.1	84.1
89	3	18	17	57.63	-18	9.47	2.151	1.935	7.2	27.4	88.5
89	3	25	18	7.35	-18	10.04	2.150	1.853	7.1	27.5	93.1

Elements Epoch: 890927 - Elements Source: 1988 Ephemerides of Minor Planets