

Detroit Astronomical Society Newsletter

42° 24' 37.7" N. Latitude

Cowell Recreation Center



83° 15' 24.5" W. Longitude

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER / 1989

FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the summer months we have met only once per month. Starting in September we will meet twice. It is important that members try to attend one of the two meetings, due to members planning on attending conferences (Astrofest and Hidden Hollow) that are held within a 3 to 5 hour drive of the Metro-Detroit area. In October we will return to meeting weekly.

There was a group of members that went to the Perseids Meteor Shower observing session, but around 3 am we got fogged out.

I did see comet Brorsen-Metcalf while in the Traverse city area. It is easy to find even in 7x35 binoculars. Because of its position in the morning sky, you will need an eastern horizon free of light pollution and smog.

I also met some members of the Grand Traverse Astronomical Society and toured the Rogers Observatory. They have a nice classroom/observatory complex with a 14 inch Celestron. If you are in the Traverse city area, stop by and visit the observatory.

We have been experiencing temporary difficulties with the Sky-Watchers Hotline. The problem is in the phone line not the answering system. This is something the Bell system will have to take care of. CLEAR SKIES!

Jack Brisbin

CALENDER

- Sep 1 No meeting, Labor Day Weekend
- Sep 8 No meeting, Members will attend Astrofest
- Sep 8-10 Astrofest held at Camp Shaw-Waw-Nas-See in Kankakee, Illinois
- Sep 15 Board of Directors meeting, 7:00 PM. Workshop activities 8:00 PM
- Sep 22 General meeting and Lecture 8:00 PM
- Sep 29 No meeting, members will be attending Hidden Hollow 89
- Sep 29 30 Warren Rupp Observatory Mansfield, Ohio. Sponsored by the Richland Astronomical Society. Contact P.O. Box 653 Ashland, Ohio 44805
- Oct 6 Board of Directors meeting 7:00 PM. Workshop activities 8:00 PM
- Oct 13 General meeting and Lecture 8:00 PM
- Oct 20 Workshop activities 8:00 PM
- Oct 27 Observing session Camp Wathana

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST

DAS Perseid Meteor Shower Party----On Friday, August 11, 5 members of the DAS (Bob Blanchard, Jack Brisbin, Jim Fanzini, Mike Manyak and Charlie Watson) and two others (Matt Gaberty and son) met at the Lakeshore Motel, located 6 miles north of Port Huron, to observe the Perseid's Meteor Shower.

After meeting and before dark skies, most of us had a tasty fish dinner (fresh Perch and Walleye) at a nearby family restaurant.

The motel had a wide frontage of "sandy" beach from which we were to do our observations.

One member, thinking that his wide tire police car could travel anywhere tried driving his car to the shoreline but only travelled about 25 feet onto the 200' wide sandy beach before getting bogged down to the car's frame. Thanks to the total team effort using Jack Brisbin's hydraulic jack and towing strap, and Dr. Blanchard's truck, much digging with bare hands and human pushing effort, the 4,000 lb. car was brought back to solid ground. The event only took about two hours of dark sky time.

Afterward all of us settled down to observing meteor trails which were seen at a rate of only about 10 per hour due to partially cloudy conditions. At about 2 am heavier clouds moved in at which time everyone left the beach.

Six of the seven observers didn't need mosquito repellent due to Dr. Blanchard drawing all the pests to his legs which ended up with many swollen bites.

Charlie Watson

We'll have to pay tribute to Harold Thomason of Dearborn (not a member of the DAS) who is well known in the area for the number of observing sessions he stages for the public over the years. As would be expected, he held an observing session in his back yard during the total lunar eclipse and managed to have an article of the event published in the Detroit Free Press by reporter Jack Kresnak. He is certainly doing his share to publicize astronomy to the general public.

OBSERVATIONAL HIGHLIGHTSSEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|----|------|---|
| 6 | 12UT | Venus is 1.9° north of Spica in the evening sky at magnitudes -4 and 1.0. |
| 8 | 8UT | Venus is 0.2' north of 5.4 mag 76 Virginus. |
| 23 | | Alpha Aurigid Meteors, Radiant 5h56m+42°, the 3 stars called the Kids in Auriga. For latitude 40° north, radiant rises 8pm highest 5am. Swift, leaving streaks. |
| 24 | | Vesta 37' south of mag 2.9 λ Sagittarii (top of the "tea pot"). |
| 24 | | Comet Gunn at perihelion. Expected to be at 14 mag which would require at least an 8" scope. Approximate coordinates 16h6m-24°. |
| 27 | | Comet Brorsen-Metcalf at perihelion. See Sky & Tel September issue for complete details. Page 288. |
| 30 | 14UT | Venus 49" north of mag 4.7 ι Librae. |
| | 13UT | Asteroid Pallas at opposition. Approximate coordinates 0h50m-10°. |

Gamma (γ) Cassiopeiae, the central star of the constellation Cassiopeia is worth keeping an eye on for its unpredictable brightness which has fluctuated between 1.6 and 3.0 mag. It is a hot blue star rotating so rapidly that it is thought to throw off shells of gas to produce the changes in brightness. It is supposed to give off the light of 5,000 suns and is 800 light years away.

Cassiopeia contains numerous star clusters of which M52 is one of the best. It is near the border of the constellation Cepheus and contains an 8th mag orange giant which is brighter than the rest. Seen as a fuzzy patch in binoculars, it splits into a field of stars with a telescope.

Look also at cluster NGC 457 next to the 5th mag star Phi(ϕ)Cassiopeiae which could be a member of the cluster. Since the cluster is 10,000 light years away, Phi Cassiopeiae must be an astonishing luminous supergiant giving the light of 200,000 suns which is 4 times that of Rigel.

Mu(μ)Cephei in the constellation of Cepheus is one of the stronger colored stars in the sky because of its deep red tint. Mu Cephei is a red supergiant with a luminosity of 50,000 suns and has an irregular variability between mag 3.4 and 5.1. It is located below the base of the constellation.

Delta(δ)Cephei is an easy and attractive double consisting of a 4th mag yellow primary and a 6.3 mag companion which is bluish in color. The greatest interest though is the primary, a yellow supergiant that varies regularly every 5 days and 9 hours in brightness between 3.6 and 4.3 mag. Delta Cephei is the prototype of a class of variable stars known simply as Cepheids and are of importance to astronomers for use at measuring distances. It is a short distance to the left of Zeta(ζ) Cephei, a part of the base.

OCTOBER

- | | | |
|----|------|--|
| 10 | 12UT | Mercury at greatest elongation west, 18° from the sun for the early risers as a morning star. Two weeks later it will still be seen at a mag of -1. |
| 13 | | Vesta at mag 7.5 passes $37'$ north of 2.1 mag Sigma(σ)Sagittarii (Nunki). This star is the top of the tea pot handle. |
| 15 | 17UT | Comet Lovas 1 at perihelion. A mag of 14.5 expected. Approximate coordinates $4h50m+35^\circ$. At least an 8" scope needed. |
| 15 | 5UT | Venus goes $3'$ north of 4.5 mag 19 Scorpii. |
| 17 | 1UT | Venus 1.8° north of Antares in the evening sky at mag -4.2 & 1.0. |
| 20 | | Orionid meteors, radiant $6h20m+15^\circ$ in Orions club toward Gemini. Radiant rises about 9pm. Very swift at 67 km/s. |
| 28 | | Ceres at mag 8 is $9'$ south of 3.2 mag Mu(μ)Geminorum. |
| 29 | | Switch from Daylight Savings to Standard time. Clocks to be moved back 1 hour. |

An easy double to observe is 56 Andromedae in the constellation of Andromeda, whose 6th mag components are so wide apart they can easily be divisible with binoculars. This pair of orange giant stars lies on the edge of NGC 752, a wide spread cluster of faint stars, but they are foreground objects, not members of the cluster. The cluster is about 5° below Gamma(γ)Andromedae.

Andromeda contains one of the easiest planetary nebula to observe for small telescopes (NGC 7662). At first glance it resembles a fuzzy star of 9th magnitude. But higher powers show its slightly elliptical outline similar in size to the disk of Mars with the luminous blue-green tinge typical of planetary nebula. Anyone who thinks that planetary nebula require large apertures should try NGC 7662. It lies directly north of the Great Square of Pegasus and west of M31.

M31 of course, is the Great Spiral galaxy in Andromeda with its two companions M32 and NGC 205 which is visible to the naked eye. Then there's the galaxy M33 in Triangulum which lies about 15° to the southeast of M31.

The constellation of Pegasus seems to be devoid of stars visible to the naked eye. However, there are a couple of stars worth seeing. Beta(β) Pegasi is an immense red giant approximately 100 times the diameter of the sun, with an irregular variable brightness between mag 2.4 to 2.7. The other is Epsilon(ϵ)Pegasi also known as Enif. It is a brilliant orange supergiant 500 light years away with a mag of 2.4. Binoculars or small telescopes show it to have a wide companion star of 8th mag.

Above and to the right of Epsilon Pegasi is the globular cluster M15. Too faint to be seen with the naked eye, it shows up clearly in binoculars as a fuzzy patch of light. A 6th mag star lies nearby as a guide to its location.

4
Information and registration forms for the two conferences mentioned by Jack are reproduced on the latter pages of the newsletter.

The Skywatchers Hotline is working again. For additional information on observing or club events call (837-0130).

William E. Miller has renewed his membership in the DAS. All other members wishing to renew, please mail your renewal card from S & T along with your dues. The 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 along with our newsletter.

Mail to: Ted Jasina, 1211 Beaupre, Madison Heights, MI 48071.

JAMES OLDEN PASSES

On August 20, longtime DAS member James Olden passes from this life. James, who was born in Meridian, Mississippi in 1915, joined the DAS in 1959. At that time he was employed by the Department of Street Railways (DSR).

James for many years was very active with his two daughters Linda and Portia at the weekly meetings at the Elmwood Recreation Center.

In 1961 he obtained a position as a clerk in the U.S. Federal Courts and remained in the justice system until his retirement in 1984.

In addition to his daughters, he is survived by his second wife Marion, his stepson Victor Notman and his stepdaughter Mary Lou Cook. He will be missed by his many friends in the society.

Sources of observational data: Astronomical Calendar 1989 by Guy Ottewell and the Monthly Sky Guide by Ian Ridpath and Wil Tirion.

Eulogy for James Olden written by longtime member Richard Lloyd

Any news items, observational data or projects by our members should be submitted to the editor about two weeks before publication.

Mike Cyrek, Editor
17149 Caldwell
Detroit, MI 48212-1226
366-3595

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 features 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.



1989
REGISTRATION / / 89 R

NAME(S) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 ASTRONOMY SOCIETY _____

REGISTRATION FEES, BEFORE AUG. 27
 ADULTS - \$15 EA () = \$ _____
 (SPOUSE) - \$10 EA () = \$ _____
 KIDS UNDER 12 - \$5 EA () = \$ _____
 KIDS UNDER 6 - FREE () = \$ _____

LATE REGISTRATION, AFTER AUG. 27
 ADD \$2.00 PER ADULT () = \$ _____

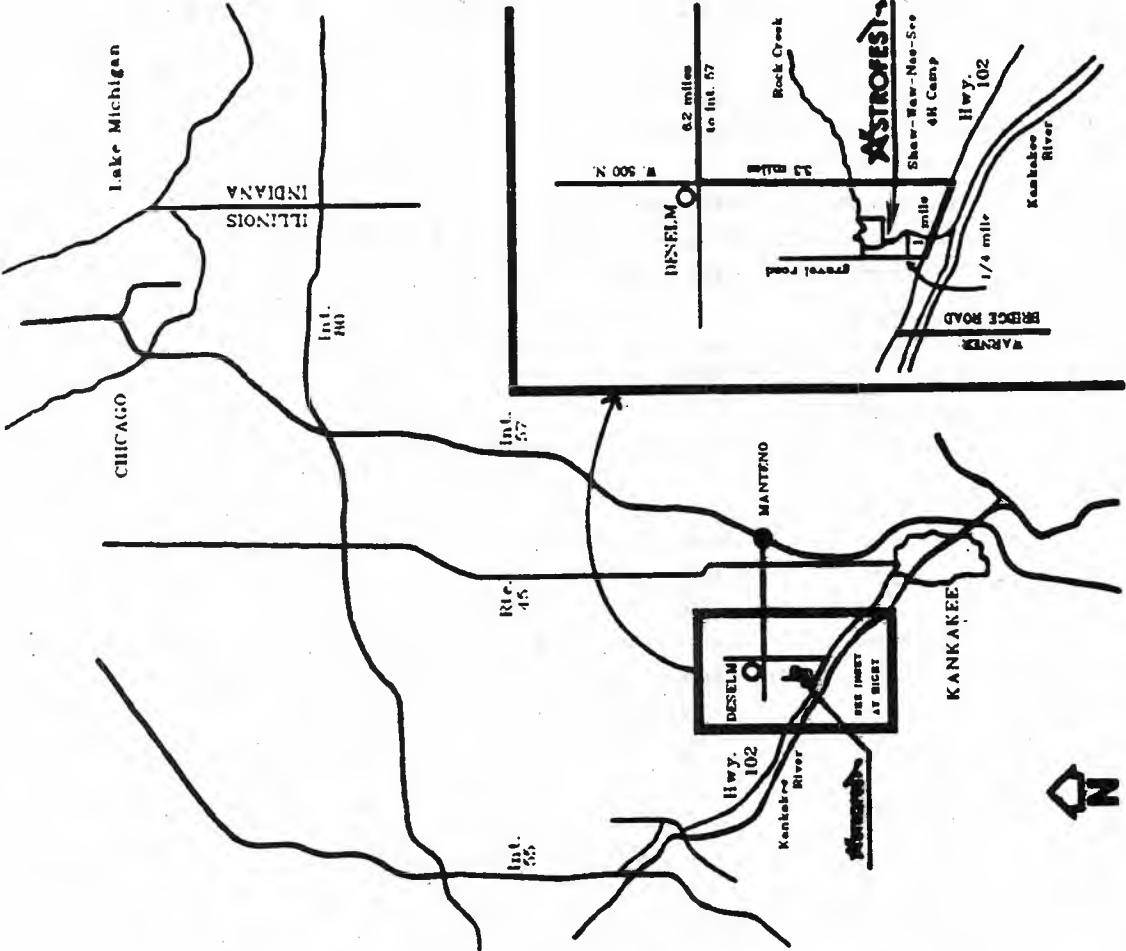
MEALS, NOT AVAILABLE AFTER AUG. 27
 LUNCH - \$4 EA () = \$ _____
 DINNER - \$5 EA () = \$ _____

CAMPING, (Includes Fri. & Sat.)
 \$12 PER PERSON BUNKS () = \$ _____
 AGE 6 & UP (this or
 Is a 4-H Camp fee) CAMPERS () = \$ _____
 (The camping fee applies to anyone on site
 between 10 pm & 6 am for any reason)

(MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
 Chicago Astronomical Society) TOTAL \$ _____

FLEA MARKET SPACE ()
 PRESENTATIONS () (Please send presentation
 synopses by Aug. 16)
 ASTROPHOTO ENTRY ()
 TELESCOPE DISPLAY ()

ASTROFEST, P.O. BOX 596, TINLEY PARK, IL 60477



LOCATION MAP



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday evening, September 29th, 1989

- 5:00-11:00 Registration: Mohican Building
- 7:00-7 Copus Hill Tour, Movies, Slides, Snack Bar.
- 8:00-7 Star Party. The 31" will be open.

Saturday, September 30th, 1989

- 8:00-7 Registration: Mohican Building
Donuts and coffee provided
- 9:30-10:10 "Amateur Contributions to Super Nova Research."
—Steve Lucas
- 10:10-10:40 "Some Corrections to the RNGC, and Suggestions for Amateur Contributions."
—Brent Archinal
- 10:40-11:00 Break
- 11:00-11:45 "Acausal Tables of the Gods; Do Alien Insurance Men Live in our Midst?"
—Tom Burns
- 11:45-1:15 Lunch
- 1:15-2:10 "Comet Hunting and Other Stuff."
—David Levy
- 2:10-3:10 "The Naked Can Only See to Mag. 6."
—Stephen James O'Meara
- 3:10-3:30 Break
- 3:30-5:30 Seminar: "The Bookends Discuss Visual Observing", or "The Great Ohio Tomato Toss!"
—O'Meara & Levy
- 5:30-6:00 Closing Remarks and Door Prizes
- 6:00- Dinner
- 7:00-8:00 Copus Hill Tour, Link-up with the Compu-Serve Astro-Forum in the Mohican Building
- 7:15-7 Star Party, Videos, Snack Bar, etc. The 31" will be open.

Facilities at Hidden Hollow Camp

Several of the large cabins at Hidden Hollow Camp will be designated as dorm type accommodations for single registrants. Other smaller cabins will be available for families or groups attending together. The dorm type cabins have shower and restroom facilities, while the smaller cabins do not.

The cabins are rustic in nature, so you will have to bring your own sleeping bags or bedding.

Sky High Lodge sits at the opposite end of the ridge from the Warren Rupp Observatory. Providing a magnificent view of the surrounding country-side, the lodge is the setting for our lectures and meals. A large lower level deck provides ample space for telescope displays. The indoor display area for commercial exhibits, flea market, and astrophotography exhibits is roomy and well-lit.

The Mohican Building is our registration center and the location for our Compu-Serve Astro-Forum activities, plus the video and slide shows if the weather is not conducive to star gazing. The snack bar is also here.

REGISTRATION

HIDDEN HOLLOW '89

Full Conference

The full conference package includes:

Lodging for both Friday and Saturday nights

Lectures all day Saturday

Saturday morning wake-up coffee and donuts

Lunch Saturday (Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, potato salad, salad, drink)

Dinner Saturday (a cook-it-yourself steak broil, vegetable, potato, dessert, drinks, the works!)

Speakers Only

Includes lodging Friday and Saturday nights, wake-up coffee and donuts Saturday morning and admission to the lectures and Star Parties.

Star Parties Only

Includes observing site and power outlet (limited number) for both nights.

Remittance:

_____ adults	x	\$25 for each full convention package	\$ _____
_____ adults	x	\$12 for lectures only + coffee/donuts	\$ _____
_____ adults	x	\$4 for each star-party only registration	\$ _____
_____ children	x	\$12 for each full convention (ages 0-15)	\$ _____
_____ children	x	\$3 for lectures + coffee/donuts (ages 0-15)	\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed Is:			\$ _____

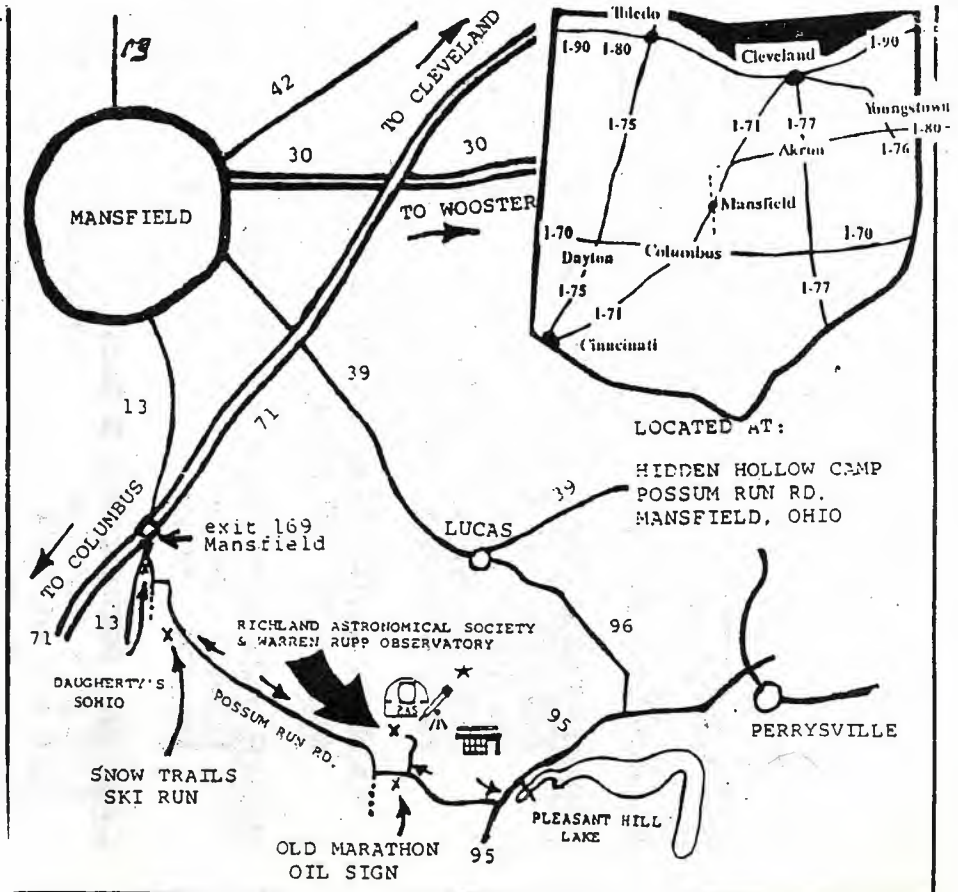
Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Bringing telescope? _____ Type _____
 Club _____

We can not guarantee meals for registrations postmarked after September 10, 1989, so please register early!

Commercial Dealers and Speakers only, receive full admission at no charge.

Clip this registration form and mail before September 10th, 1989 to:

Hidden Hollow '89, Post Office Box 653, Ashland, Ohio 44805



LOCATED AT:
 HIDDEN HOLLOW CAMP
 POSSUM RUN RD.
 MANSFIELD, OHIO