

Detroit Astronomical Society Newsletter

42°29'20.3"
N Latitude

Southfield Rec. Cen.



83°14'32.7"
W Longitude

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/1991

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This years Astrofest was bigger than ever. We had clear skies on Friday and partially clear skies on Saturday. During the day it was hot and sunny. Over all, the conference turned out quite well, but the facilities were used to their capacity and the crowds get bigger every year.

Hidden Hollow, unfortunately, left some of us with mixed feelings because of the weather. It was cold and rainy, but the attendance was above the 300 mark and started on Friday afternoon. There were some interesting lectures on CCD imaging and where the industry is going. The idea of holding the Great Lakes Regional (Astronomical League) along with the Hidden Hollow 91 was a good idea. Hope they continue to do this.

Those of you who have an interest in Archeo-Astronomy will have a chance to listen to Professor Jim Scherz. He is the president of the Ancient Earthworks Society. I wont go into details of the lecture but this is one lecture you wont want to miss.

This years Christmas Party has a different twist to it. The party will be an observing session at Camp Dearborn (see map). Get there between 7:30 and 8:00 pm.

Clear skies!

Jack Brisbin

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Meeting location: Southfield Civic Center, Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, community room 224.

November 1, Friday	Board of Directors, 7:00 pm. Workshop activities 8:15 pm.
November 15, Friday	General meeting and lecture series by professor Jim Scherz of the Ancient Earthworks Society at 8:15 pm.
December 6, Friday	Board of Directors, 7:00 pm. Workshop activities 8:15 pm.
December 20, Friday	Special Christmas Party and observing session at Camp Dearborn site (see map). Get there between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. DRESS WARMLY.

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST

SMURFS 1991:

The second annual SMURFS (Southern Michigan Universal Regional Festival of Stargazers) was held on August 16,17 and 18. It was a huge success. In spite of the weather (rain and thunderstorms), everyone had a great time. Friday afternoon was nice and sunny. Tents were set up, RV's

and campers made ready, and acquaintances renewed from a year ago. However, the clouds rolled in Friday evening and no viewing was achieved. The rain and thunderstorms continued throughout Saturday, but intermittent and a covered pavilion enabled lots of activities to proceed including the very unique awarding of "door prizes". You have to be present to believe this!

Well, the astronomy Gods prevailed and about 7:00 pm Saturday, the clouds departed and a full (but damp) evening of viewing was enjoyed by all, including campground attendees who were invited to public viewing session. I don't know how many telescopes were set up on the hill, but there were a large number of various styles and sizes for people to view thru.

Lots of clubs throughout Michigan were present, even a couple from New York. All toll, there were over 50 attendees with a good contingent from the D.A.S. The Genesee Astronomical Society of Flint did another great job of pulling this event together.

We're looking forward to SMURFS III.

John Lines

If anyone is interested in going to Canada for an evening of lectures on astronomy, the Windsor Centre of the RASC invites you to attend their meetings which are held at the University of Windsor, Essex Hall, room 186 at 8:00 pm.

Scheduled talks are:

October 15 - Guy Mason of the Toronto Centre will give a talk entitled "Videotaping Occultations" which will include the showing of two tapes, one of which involves the Moon and M45.

November 19 - Steve Dodson talks on science projects of Science North from Sudbury, Ontario.

December 13 - At 7:30 pm, they will have a social gathering with refreshments and informal talks.

For more information, call Joady Ulrich at (519) 945-3132.

The scheduled talk by Professor James P. Scherz is also sponsored by the City of Southfield as well as the DAS. There will be information of interest to archeologists, Native Americans, surveyors and even conservationists as well as astronomers, both professional and amateur.

For more information, call Skywatchers Hotline at (313) 837 0130. Incidentally, an official certificate has now been issued to the DAS regarding the Skywatchers Hotline as a Service Mark and is effective for a period of ten years.

The new president of the Warren Astronomical Society is Bob Halsall and he takes office on the first of next year. He is replacing Marty Kunz who was required to relinquish his post after a two year term.

The map to the Camp Dearborn Christmas Party and observing session is on page 5.

The last page has a membership application for new members as well as renewals for the older members. All the membership information is supplied by the form. Please fill out completely.

OBSERVATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

November

1	20 UT	Moon 6° S of Jupiter
2	09	Moon 6° S of Venus
3		Taurid Meteors*
6	11	New Moon
		Venus 6' N of 3.8 m
		Beta Virginis

December

2	14 UT	Moon 8° S of Venus
6	04	New Moon
8	14	Moon 0.6° N of Uranus
	20	Moon 0.2° S of Neptune
10	10	Moon 3° N of Saturn
14		Geminid Meteors*

November

December

8	05	Moon 0.7° S of Mercury	21	06	Mercury 7° N of Antares
11	03	Moon 0.4° N of Uranus			at m 0.0 and 1.0
	07	Mercury 2° N of Antares		10	Full Moon
	11	Moon 0.4° S of Neptune	22		Ursid Meteors*
12	22	Moon 2° N of Saturn		09	Solstice
13	18	Venus is 1.5' S of m	26	17	Moon 7° S of Jupiter
		m 4.0 star Eta Virginis	27	10	Venus comes very close to
14		Andromedid Meteors*			5.6 m star Zeta Librae
18		Leonid Meteors*			
21	23	Full Moon			
22		Neptune is 7' S of			
		Omicron Sagittarii			
		at m 8.0 and 3.9			
29	08	Moon 6° S of Jupiter			
	09	Venus 4° N of Spica			
		at m -4.2 and 1.0			

* Taurid Meteors:
 Split into two branches with radiants near Pleiades and the Hyades. Slow at 30 kms/s. Bright, many fireballs.

Andromedids:
 Radiant 1h40m+44° near Gamma Andromedae For 40° N lat, radiant in sky all night. Slow and faint but some brighter than first magnitude, often red, trains of orange sparks. 5-15 p/hr

* Leonids:

Radiant 10h8m+22° in the Sickle. For 40° N lat, radiant rises about 11 pm. Swiftest of all showers at 71 km/s. Many bright, some fireballs, greenish or bluish, probable count about 40/hr.

Gemonids:

Radiant 7h28m+32°. Speed 35 km/s, rate about 50/hr, bright with some fireballs. Mostly white with some yellow and others blue, orange, red and green.

Ursids:

Radiant 14h28m+78° near Beta Ursae Minoris. Medium speed at 33 km/s. About 10-15 p/hr. For 40° N, radiant in sky all night.

Planets:

Mercury	Visible in mornings from Dec 14 to Dec 31. In evening sky during Nov and to Dec 3.
Venus	In morning sky
Mars	In morning sky during last three days of Dec in Ophiuchus but close to sun.
Jupiter	In morning sky during Nov and Dec in Leo.
Saturn	In evening sky during Nov and Dec in Capricornus.
Uranus	In evening sky during Nov and to early Dec in Sagittarius.
Neptune	In evening sky during Nov and to early Dec in Sagittarius.

MULTIPLE STARS:

♄ Arietis is a triple system at magnitudes 5-8.5-10.5. the AB separation is 3.2" and AB to C is 25". The coordinates are 02h46m+17.2°.

♌ 509 Camelopardi is also a triple system at magnitudes 7.5-11-8.5. Separations are 12" and 38". Spectrum is B9 with coordinates 04h14m+62°.

SHORT PERIOD VARIABLES:

U Pegasi has a period of .375 days and is one of the better known eclipsing binaries. Magnitude varies from 9.2-9.9. Spectrums are dF3+dF3 and the coordinates are 23h55m+16°.

SW Tauri has a period of 1.6 days and is a Cepheid. Spectrum is F4 and coordinates are 04h22m+04°. Magnitude variation is 8.6-9.7.

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RED STARS:

19 Piscium (TX Pis) is deep red with a spectrum of N0 and the magnitude varies from 5.5-6.0. Coordinates are 23h44m+3°.

S Cephei is very red star with a spectrum of N8e and color index of 5.5. Its magnitude variation is 7.4-12.9. Since it has a period of 487 days, I cannot say what the present magnitude is. Coordinates are 21h36m+78°.

COLOR STARS:

55 Piscium is orange yellow and blue green. Spectrums are K0+F3 with magnitudes of 5.5 and 8. Coordinates are 00h37m+21°.

1 Arietis is gold and blue with spectrums of K0+A6 and magnitudes of 6-7.5. Coordinates are 01h01m+22°.

Besides M31 in Andromeda, there is NGC 891 which is similar to the famous NGC 4565. However, this galaxy is exactly edge on. Its magnitude is 12 which would require a 6" scope on a clear night. It seems to show light all along the dust band with a span of 12'. Coordinates are 02h23m+42°.

Refer to the November issue of S & T, page 516 for the asteroid 702 Alauda's passage along side of NGC 891.

NGC 2403 in Camelopardalis is a very large (16'x10') and bright Sc spiral galaxy that is visible in binoculars with a magnitude of 8.8. It is considered to be a young galaxy because of a large number of blue giant stars in its system. Coordinates are 07h32m+66°.

Sources of observational data: *Astronomical Almanac* by USNO, *The Constellations* by Lloyd Motz and Carol Nathanson, *Astronomical Calendar* by Guy Ottewell, *Burnhams Handbooks* and *Observing the Constellations* by John Sanford.

Any comments or contributions to the newsletter send to:

MIKE CYREK EDITOR 17149 CALDWELL DETROIT MI 48212-1226.

Phone 366-3595, if no answer, leave message.

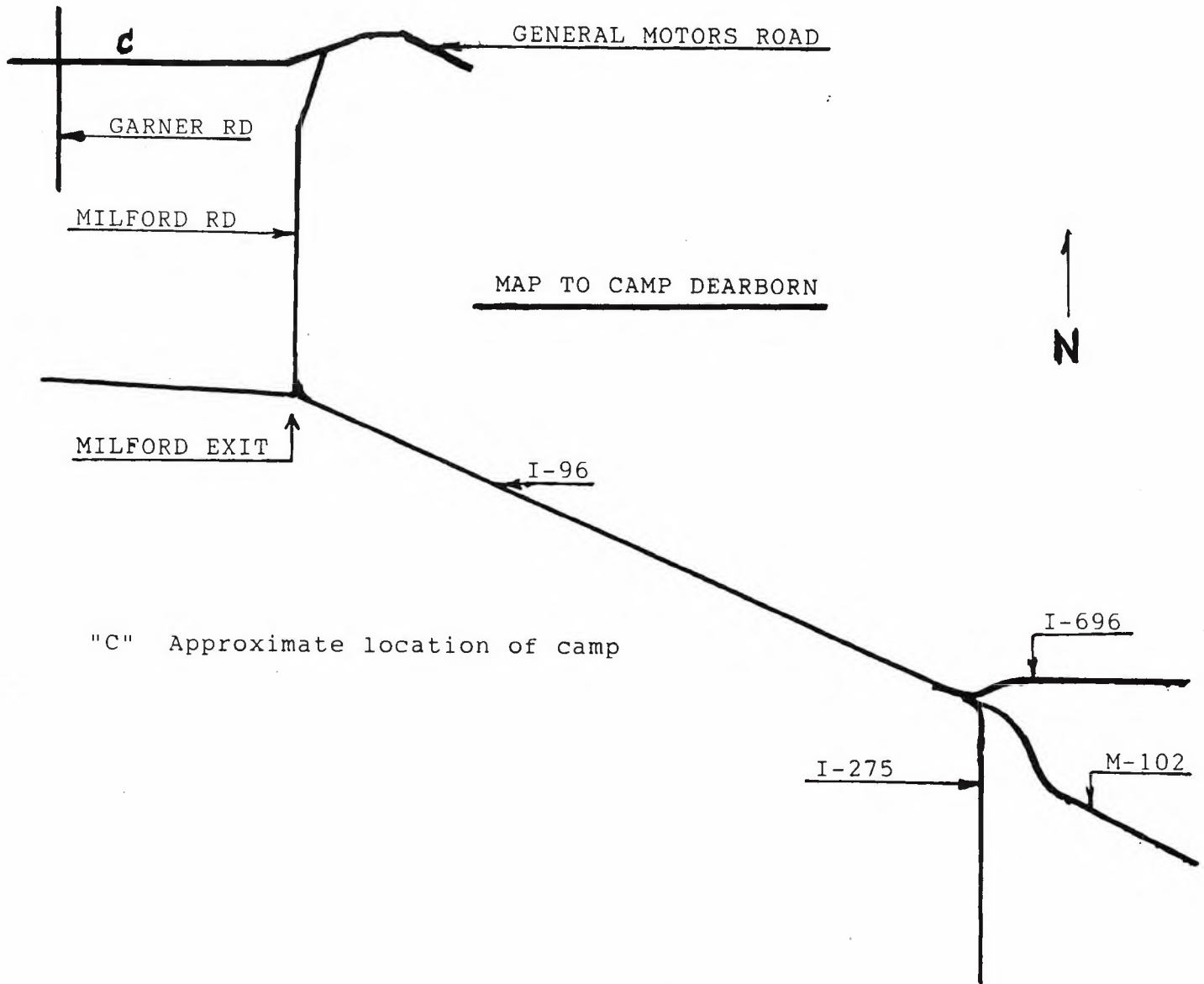
GENERAL INFORMATION

The DAS 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 DAS generally meets the first and third Friday of each month at the Parks and Recreation Building in the north end of the Southfield Civic Center located at 10 1/2 mile on the east side of Evergreen St. Follow th Civic Center Drive to the left to the parking lot. The P & R Bldg is diagonally across from the lot. Since we are guests here, it is important to be considerate in the use of this facility 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 generally start at 8:15 pm. Confirmation of meeting dates and other events can be had by calling the Skywatchers Hotline at 837-0130.

During the summer months of July and August, the meeting dates are reduced and emphasis is placed on scheduled star parties.



"C" Approximate location of camp

DIRECTIONS:

Enter I-96 from M-102, I-696 or I-275 and heading west, exit at Milford Road heading north for about 4½ miles to General Motors Road, turn left heading west. Camp Dearborn is on the right hand side. Look for a large identification sign of the camp and continue up the entrance road to a large hill where the party and observing session will be. The entrance should be before you get to Garner Road and may be closer to Garner than Milford Road.

A reminder again; the nights can get cold so dress warmly.

SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

(please print)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

_____ FAMILY \$39.50 (all members living at one address)
Membership includes Sky and Telescope magazine,
Reflector, newsletter of the Astronomical League,
D.A.S. newsletter.

_____ REGULAR \$34.50, 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER, Membership
includes, Sky and Telescope, Reflector, D.A.S. newsletter.

_____ JUNIOR \$24.50, 17 YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER, Membership
includes, Sky and Telescope, Reflector, D.A.S.
newsletter.

_____ REGULAR (NO MAGAZINE) \$18.00, Membership includes
D.A.S newsletter and Reflector

Membership dues are used to finance the SKYWATCHERS HOTLINE and
all DAS activities.

If you are a new member, how did you find out about the D.A.S.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO : DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
SEND CHECK AND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO:

MR. JOHN LINES
2795 MERCURY DRIVE
LAKE ORION, MICH 48360

SKYWATCHERS HOTLINE (313) 837-0130, IS A REGISTERED SERVICE
MARK OF THE DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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17149 CALDWEL
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