

# DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

42° 24' 37.7" N. Latitude

Crowell Recreation Center



83° 15' 24.5" W. Longitude

## NEWSLETTER

MAY / JUNE 1988

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

The month of May kicks off Camp Wathana observing sessions, starting on May 6 (map included). Some members that attended the Abrams planetarium and MSU observatory trip have expressed interest in returning to the MSU observatory during the next open house, to do some observing with the 214 in. telescope.

Summer is coming, now is the time to start planning observing and conference trips such as: Stellafane, Astrofest and ALCON.

Unfortunately, long time member Robert Koll passed away. An article about him is included in this issue.

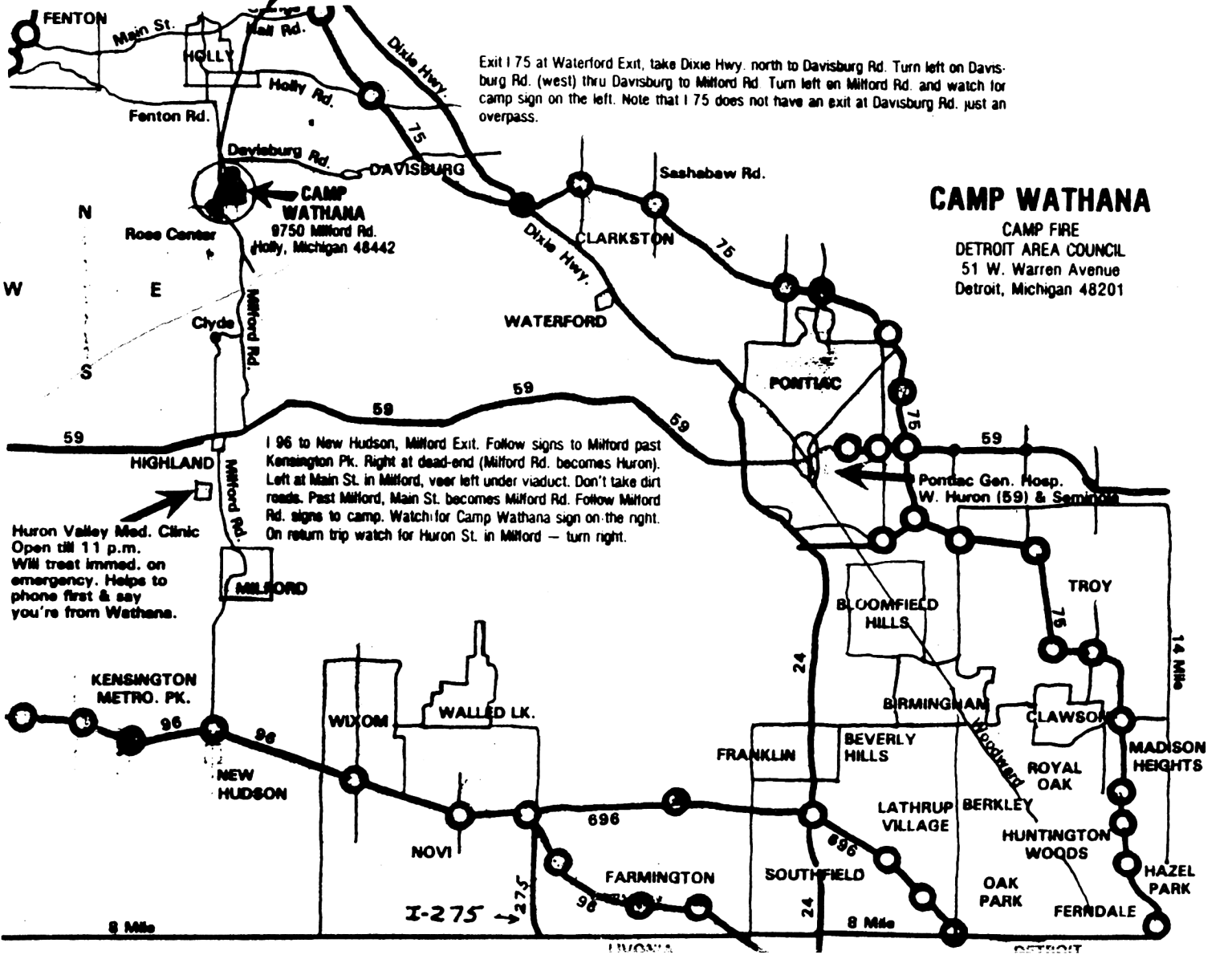
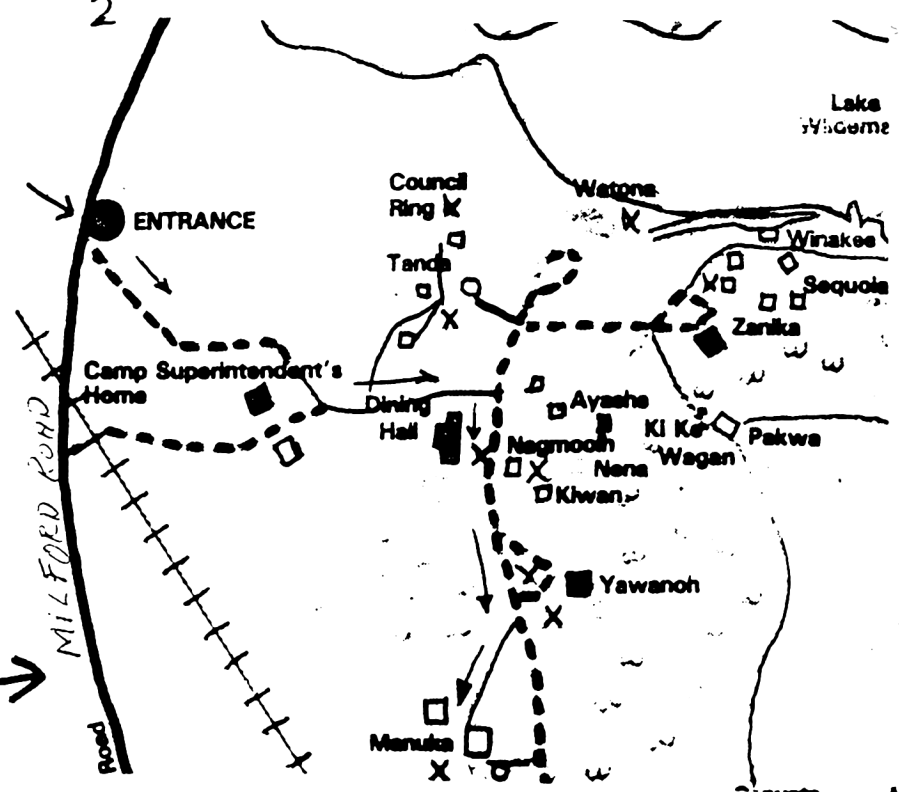
The June 10 meeting is being cancelled, instead we are asking members to attend the Apollo Rendezvous held in Dayton, Ohio. The featured speaker is Clyde Tombaugh the discoverer of Pluto.

Jack Brisbin

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |        |   |         |  |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| MAY 6  | Board of directors meeting at Camp Wathana. Observing sessions at Minuka campsite at dusk. No meeting at Crowell Center.                | June 3  | Board of directors 7:00 PM<br>Workshop activities 8:00 PM                                    |
| May 13 | General meeting and lecture series. 1988-the year of Mars, by Randy Groundwater, president of the Windsor RASC.                         | June 10 | No Meeting   |
| May 20 | Swap and shop astronomical items for sale. Open to general public. Time, 7:445 PM at Crowell Center until 9:50 PM. No admission charge. | June 11 | Apollo Rendezvous in Dayton, Ohio. Featured speaker, Clyde Tombaugh the discoverer of Pluto. |
| MAY 27 | No meeting, Memorial Day weekend.   | June 17 | General meeting 8:00 PM<br>Workshop activities.  |
|        |   | June 24 | Astronomical films 8:15 PM<br>Tentative.   |

Maps for the Camp Wathana observing sessions. Notice, the large map gives you directions from two different freeways in fine print. The campsite map directs you by arrows to the Minuka campsite



Exit I 75 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.

**CAMP WATHANA**  
9750 Milford Rd.  
Holly, Michigan 48442

ASTRONOMICAL SWAP-N-SHOP

The Detroit Astronomical Society will hold another astronomical Swap Shop on Friday May 20, 1988 from 7:45 to 9:45 PM at the Crowell Recreation Center, 116630 Lahser, Detroit. Located 1/4 mile south of Six Mile Rd. (McNichols).

Members of the DAS as well as members of others clubs and the general public are invited to sell astronomical items such as telescopes and parts, telescope making equipment and supplies, books, magazines and astrophotographic equipment.

The Swap Shop is free. there is no table charge, admission or table fee. General public is invited. For more information call Jack Brisbin at 981-4096.

MEMBERSHIP INTEREST

I've talked to Mike Manyak about the use of the Lincoln Park High School telescope for an observing session. He agreed and said May 22 on Sunday would be the most appropriate day at this time with May 23 as an alternate day in the event Sunday is clouded out. We could start observing at 7:30 PM. The telescope is a Newtonian with a 12 in. reflector and a 90 in. focal length. All members are welcome.

Directions to the observatory are: From the north take Southfield Freeway to Dix Rd. which is about 3/4 mile past Allen Rd. Turn right on Dix, to Champaign which is the first light, then left on Champaign for 1/4 mile which would be halfway between Dix and Fort St. The observatory is next to the football stadium.

From the southwest: I-75 to Dix, left to Champaign and right on Champaign to the observatory.

From the northeast: I-75 to Dix, right to Champaign and right again on Champaign to the observatory.

From the west: I-94 to the Southfield Freeway and follow instructions from north.

To all newcomers and friends of DAS members, Annual dues are: regular \$32.50 (18 years or older, family \$37.50 and junior \$22.50. Included is a subscription to Sky & Telescope Magazine and the Reflector, a newsletter of the Astronomical League. Both are mailed to your home.

For membership renewal, forward card from Sky & Telescope Magazine along with dues to th DAS treasurer:

Ted Jasina, 1211 Beaupre, Madison Hgts., MI 48071

I'd like to mention the fact that we had 3 new members join the society on April 15. That was the day Dick Lloyd gave a lecture on double and multiple star systems. The new members are: Duane Birrel of Melvindale MI, Kenneth Webster of Dearborn Hgts., MI and John Stephen West of St., Claire Shores, MI.

Dick Lloyd's lecture on that day pointed out some of the best binary and multiple stars for observation by the amateur astronomer. One of the first mentioned was Albireo (Beta Cygni) a beautiful double star. it's component stars are yellow and blue of magnitudes 3.2 and 5.4 respectively. It is in the constellation Cygnus. In the constellation Lyra, two were given. They are Epsilon and Sheliak. Epsilon Lyrae is a famous multiple star called the 'double double". Sheliak (Beta Lyrae) is an eclipsing bi-

nary with a period of 12.9 days. Algol (Beta Persei) is also an eclipsing binary with a period of 2.7 days. Algol is in the constellation Perseus. Castor (Alpha Geminorum) in the constellation Gemini is a system of six different stars. The two main double stars are Spectroscopic Binaries with periods of 9.2 and 2.9 days. These doubles orbit each other every 420 years. The system is completed by a pair of red dwarfs that are far off and are eclipsing every 19 hours and 33 minutes. Some information from Illus. Ency. of Astronomy and Space.

#### NEWS ITEMS FROM THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY

Keep an eye on Mars throughout these next few months as he becomes more prominent in the evening skies. In April he was a mere 117 million miles away. By September he'll zoom by at a distance of 59 million miles. This is the year for Mars - best he's been since 1956,

Satellite Laser Ranging System to be activated at U S Naval Observatory's station in Miami. This system involves firing a green laser beam at an earth orbiting satellite. The round trip travel time of the pulse tells us the distance to the satellite. Repeated measurements will enable to tell us how fast the earth. is spinning and how much it's wobbling relative to the satellites orbit. This will improve our understanding of time. It will operate through the end of July. The green laser will be easily visible from most areas in Miami.

In a continuing spirit of cooperation in space, the Soviet Space Research Institute and the Soviet government agreed to place aboard the spacecraft destined for the Martian moon Phobos, a plaque commemorating the moon's discovery in 1877 by the american astronomer Asaph Hall. He also discovered the other Martian satellite Deimos. The Soviet Phobos Mission, due for launch in July 1988, should reach the Martian moon in spring 1989.

The US Naval Observatory is the authority in the United States for astronomical data required for timing, navigation, civil affairs and legal purposes.

#### IN MEMORIUM

Robert Knoll    Born October 16, 1938    Died March 6, 1988

Robert Knoll was a member of the DAS for approximately 15 years during which time he was active making telescopes and repairing DAS equipment. Also served on the board of directors for several years. He was an electrical engineer with the Detroit Edison Co. His hobby was target shooting and he was a member and president of the Edison Gun Club. He was active in church work and with young people. He is survived by his wife Yvonne and three children named Wendy, Robert and Scott.

February 12, 1988

Detroit Astronomical Soc.  
7570 Crestmore  
West Bloomfield, MI 48033

Dear Fellow Astronomers,

We extend our warmest invitation to you to attend the 18th annual Apollo Rendezvous and Telescope Fair. There are many ways to participate: your members who are telescope makers will have an area to display and enter their creations in competition for awards. Astrophotography and astronomy related art work can be put on display and entered in competition for an award. Our Flea Market is open to all to buy, sell, trade, and haggle, so tell your members to bring their eyepieces, checks and cash. Members with a specific topic of interest can participate in the 'paper' sessions, an oral presentation. Those members interested in speaking should send a brief description of the topic, the title which will appear in the printed schedule, and the amount of time needed for the presentation (not more than 45 minutes if possible).

And, of course, we will all enjoy participation of your members sharing conversation, observing, and being a part of it all. Because we have a limited number of time slots, please reply soon to ensure your place in the schedule. If you have any questions, or need more advance registration forms, write to me at the address below. We are looking forward to seeing you at the 18th annual Apollo Rendezvous and Telescope Fair.

Respectfully Yours,



Ian Dumbauld  
Chairman Apollo Rendezvous

Apollo Rendezvous  
Dayton Museum of Natural History  
2629 Ridge Ave.  
Dayton, OH 45414

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THE MIAMI VALLEY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
AND  
THE DAYTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

## THE 18TH ANNUAL APOLLO RENDEZVOUZ AND TELESCOPE FAIR

June 10th and 11th, 1988

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Apollo Rendezvous and Telescope Fair, hosted by the Miami Valley Astronomical Society and the Dayton Museum of Natural History initiates the summer season of gatherings for the amateur and professional astronomers of the Midwest. Held the second weekend in June of each year, Rendezvous offers the first opportunity for exchange of information on astronomy, telescope making, and related subjects.

On Friday evening, registration begins at 6 pm in the Apollo Observatory where attendees sign in and gather their Rendezvous materials. At 7:00 pm. there will be an informal slide presentation by Rendezvous participants. Attendees are encouraged to bring slides and photographs of their projects and activities to share with fellow astronomers during this relaxed program session. A star gaze at 9:00pm will be held on the Museum grounds; the 50 cm Cassegrain in Apollo Observatory and the telescopes in the Junior Observing and Training Center will be available.

Saturday brings our major activities! The day begins at 8:00 am with registration, the setting up of private and commercial displays, the Telescope Fair, and the Flea Market. The opening Paper Session kicks off at 9:00. Allowing time for a lunch break, activities continue throughout the day. The second paper session begins at 1:30 pm and concludes at 4:00 pm. At 4:30 pm, our Principal Speaker will present a program. Following this presentation, at 5:20 pm, awards, door prizes, and certificates of merit will be presented.

Our final event will be a star gaze, to be held at the John Bryar State Park Observatory, our dark sky location in nearby Yellow Springs, Ohio. This will begin at 9:00 pm. Our 16" and 12" Newtonians and 9" refractor will be in use. Maps and directions will be provided.

Bring your telescopes! Join us for an enjoyable Friday evening of star hopping, show-off your instruments on Saturday, then join us again Saturday night at John Bryan State Park.

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### CALL FOR PAPERS

If there is one activity that sets our meeting apart from a simple gathering of astronomers, it is the continuing quality of presentations of ideas and activities by participants. This year, we will continue this tradition of sharing, with colleagues, our thoughts and inspirations regarding astronomy, astronomical methods and instrumentation, equipment and design.

You are invited to present a paper, on any subject of common interest during either of our paper sessions. Please send an outline or abstract to the Chairman, Apollo Rendezvous, 2629 Ridge Ave., Dayton, OH 45414. A brief biographical sketch would be appreciated.

## 18th ANNUAL APOLLO RENDEZVOUS AND TELESCOPE FAIR

## ADVANCE REGISTRATION

First Name	M.I.	Last Name			
Street Address		City	State	Zip	
--- Will submit exhibit on _____					
--- Will submit paper on _____					
--- Will bring telescope. Type _____					

Registration Fees:	Single	Family
Advance .....	\$7.00	\$9.00
June 10, 11 .....	\$8.00	\$10.00

Make checks payable to Miami Valley Astronomical Society. Mail this form to  
Chairman, Apollo Rendezvous, 2629 Ridge Ave., Dayton, OH 45414

## APOLLO RENDEZVOUS 1988

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Registration	- 6 to 9 pm Fri., 8 am to 1:30 pm Sat.
Hospitality	- 6 to 9 pm Fri., 8 am to 4 pm Sat.
Informal Slide Presentations	- 7 to 9 pm Fri.
Commercial Exhibits	- 8 am to 4 pm Sat.
Astrophotography Exhibits	- 8 am to 4 pm Sat.
Flea Market	- 8 am to 4 pm Sat.
Telescope Fair	- 8 am to 4 pm Sat.
Paper Sessions	- 9 to 11:00 and 1:30 to 4:30 Sat.
Principal Speaker	- 4:30 Sat.
Awards and Closing	- 5:30 Sat.
Friday Star Gaze	- 9:00 to Midnight, Museum Grounds
John Bryan Star Gaze	- 9:00 to 2222, John Bryan St. Park

MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND RENDEZVOUS 1988

Miami Valley Astronomical Society  
2629 Ridge Avenue  
Dayton, OH 45414

If any members have articles to submit for any future DAS newsletters, send them to your editor at the address below.

Mike Cyrek  
DAS editor  
17149 Caldwell  
Detroit, MI 48212