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Number 1

SKY-LINES

phoenix astronomical society, inc.

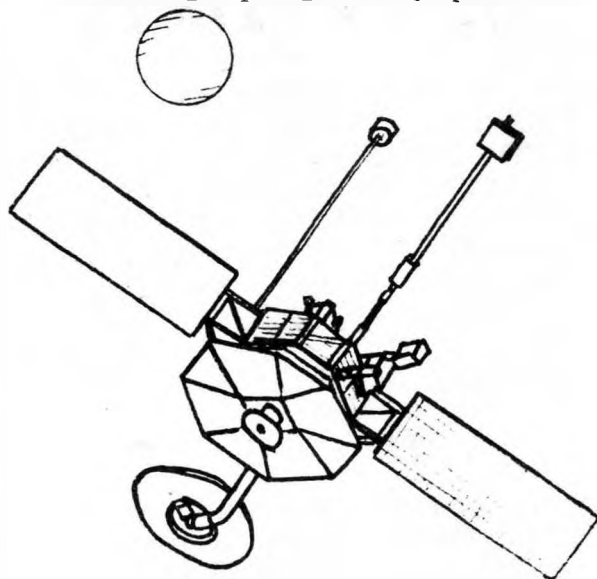
DR. STROM TO SPEAK ON MARINER 10 VIEWS OF MERCURY MAY 30TH

The speaker for the last regular PAS meeting of the 1974 - 75 season, at Phoenix College 8 pm May 30, will be Dr. Robert G. Strom, Assistant Professor of Astronomy at the University of Arizona, Tucson. His topic will be "Views of Venus and Mercury from Mariner Ten." Dr. Strom is a member of the television Experiment Team and one of the principal investigators on the NASA Mariner 10 Project. Although plagued by problem that at times threatened its mission, the Mariner 10 spacecraft completed a successful flyby of Venus and no less than three such encounters with Mercury. The project achieved some notable scientific firsts, including a sequence of pictures that revealed the complex patterns of cloud formations in the atmosphere of Venus; and thousands of detailed closeup pictures of the surface of Mercury, showing its terrain to be like that of the Moon.

Dr. Strom will illustrate his talk with slides from the latest (March 16) encounter with Mercury, and a sound film featuring a time-lapse sequence of the cloud formation patterns on Venus.

A detailed description by

Dr. Strom of the Mariner mission and the photos of Mercury taken during the first two encounters appeared in the June, 1974, issue of Sky and Telescope Magazine.



NEW OFFICERS ELECTED DUES INCREASE OKAYED

PAS members attending the annual business meeting April 25 in the Science Auditorium (Room 102) at Phoenix College unanimously elected the slate of officers proposed by this year's Nominating Committee.

Cliff Vaughan will serve as President; Louis Boyd will be Vice President; and Chuck Nash will continue as Secretary-Treasurer for the coming year.

Retiring President Paul B. Hartman offered congratulations to the new officers and introduced Vaughan and Boyd to the membership.

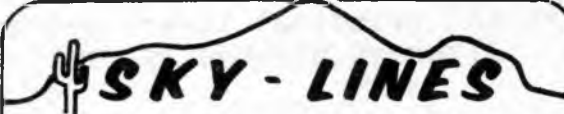
Secretary Chuck Nash presented a report on the club's finances, stating the club was in excellent financial standing with a balance of \$486.60 at the end of the season. Fund raising for the 24 inch telescope is also progressing, as reported elsewhere in this issue.

Nash also reported that group subscription rates are to be raised by Sky and Telescope Magazine in July. After some discussion a resolution to increase PAS annual membership dues to the following amounts passed unanimously:

Membership	Dues
Single.....	\$12.00
Single - Sustaining....	\$13.00
Family.....	\$15.00
Family - Sustaining....	\$20.00

This is the first increase in dues for PAS in some years and it is felt the increase, while necessary, will not prevent anyone from participating in PAS membership, and will aid expansion of club activities.

On behalf of all the membership we would like to say: "Thank you!" to Helen Lines, Eleanor Nash, and Mrs. Harry Simmons for serving refreshments at the Phoenix College meetings this year; also to Bill Anderson for arranging for our meeting hall and projection equipment.



Monthly Newsletter of the
PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY,
INC, Phoenix, Arizona. A non-
profit, educational, scientific
corporation. Mailing address:
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1974 - 75 Officers

President: Paul Hartman, Jr.
Vice Pres: Frank Bramwell
Sec-Treas: Chuck Nash
Directors: Bill Anderson
 Jim Conley
 Keith Parizek

LUNAR ECLIPSE MAY 24 WIDELY OBSERVED

Clear skies over Phoenix Saturday night produced a spectacular sky show as the Moon was eclipsed in Scorpio. A large number of PAS members planned to observe and photograph the eclipse, and they were not disappointed.

Early reports were that this eclipse was unusually dark compared to that of January, 1972, the last total eclipse visible here.

West of Phoenix at Good-year Bill Seidler and another P.A.S. member treated some 30 Boy Scouts and adults of BSA

SUMMER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED

Plans are now being made for a series of star parties to be held this summer. The first outing is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 7, at the Paradise Valley Park Community Center. For more information call Cliff Vaughan (838 - 7107) or Louis Boyd (275 - 8258).

* * * *

Troop 91 to telescopic views of planets Venus and Saturn and the eclipse. Troop Leader Walter Kilbourn commented, "This has been an educational and interesting experience for all of us; it was my first view of Saturn's rings!"

ARIZONANS ATTEND CALIFORNIA A.T.M. CONFERENCE...by Gene Lucas

Members of three Arizona astronomy clubs were among more than 200 amateur astronomers who attended this year's Amateur Telescope Makers Conference May 9-11, sponsored by the Riverside, California, Astronomical Society. A dozen speakers presented talks on aspects of telescope making and amateur astronomy. Fifty or more telescopes were on display at Camp Oakes, near Big Bear Lake high in the San Bernardino National Forest. Moderate temperatures prevailed at the 7300 foot camp elevation and many of the participants camped out, while others stayed in the dormitories or at nearby motels.

Clear, dark skies Friday and Saturday nights offered an opportunity to observe and photograph some favorite celestial objects. Sunday a special tour was arranged of the Hale Observatories' Big Bear Lake Solar Observatory.

Arizona amateurs met by the author at the Conference included Thomas Caudell, Vice President of the Tucson Amateur Astronomers Association, who participated in the telescope judging for Merit Awards; and Jarvis "Jay" Osborn, President of the Prescott, Arizona, Astronomy Club and his Wife. Osborn received a Merit Award for his Optical Caustic Tester.

2 4 INCH TELESCOPE FUND STILL G-R-O-W-I-N-G !!

Secretary Chuck Nash reports contributions from PAS members to the 24 Inch Telescope Fund reached \$1200 as of May 15th. This is \$300 less than the amount needed for the optics and some \$600 short of the goal announced in March. At the April 25 business meeting Jim Conley reported work on the primary mirror was well under way and delivery of the new Cassegrain optics from Donald Loomis, Tucson optician, is expected sometime this summer.

PAS members voted in February to contract with Mr. Loomis for new Cassegrain optics for the Amos Hoff 24 Inch Reflector acquired last year from Phoenix College. A goal of \$1800 was established to meet the cost of the optics plus a sum to make necessary modifications to the telescope mounting.

Contributions are being solicited only from PAS members until Federal Tax Exempt Organization status is granted to PAS; outcome of the application is pending. Meanwhile all contributions are being held in a special Trust Account.

PAS members wishing to make a donation to the Telescope Fund should contact Chuck Nash, 2736 West Rose Lane, Phoenix, Arizona 85017. (Phone 242 - 1581.)

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Chuck Nash, Secretary
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