

OCTOBER 1984

Phoenix Astronomical Society, Inc.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

PRESIDENT	RAUL ESPINOZA	948-3617
VICE-PRESIDENT	BILL KRIST	254-4057
SEC/TREASURER	HAROLD MOORIN	933-8896
DIRECTOR	VERNON WEAKLAND	877-3166
DIRECTOR	LOUIS BOYD	275-8258
DIRECTOR	TREVOR TUFFIN	948-3126
EDITOR	JERRY MAURER	996-4478

3321 E. YUCCA ST.
PHOENIX, AZ 85028

Well, the nights are getting longer and the days are getting shorter, and no more 100+ degree days and no more muggy nights. Summer is gone, and along with it, the dreaded monsoon season.

)-)-)-)- IT'S AUTUMN -(-(-(-(-

I am happy to announce that, due to September's starparty, I have fully recovered from an almost fatal attack of "Monsoon-itis".

This month we have two very exciting speakers. The first speaker will be Pete Manly. Pete will be giving a talk on how and why to observe occultations. Being involved in recording occultations is one way the amateur can contribute to professional astronomy. Pete is a member of PAS and is currently the President of SAC. He is also the Southwest coordinator of the International Occultation Timing Association.

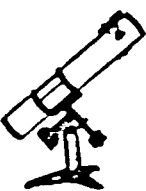
Our main speaker for October will be Steve Coe. Steve will be talking about "BUILDING INEXPENSIVE TELESCOPES". Steve is a member of SAC, and a former Vice-President of PAS. For several years Steve has been writing a column in the SAC newsletter called "What's UP". His column is now syndicated and appears in several astronomy club newsletters across the nation.

The meeting will be held FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, at 8:00 pm in PHOENIX COLLEGE, ROOM C-102 (see Map).

IF ASTRONOMY is the oldest of the sciences, surely amateur astronomy may rightfully claim to be the oldest of the scientific hobbies. No one can date that remote epoch when astronomy "began". We can say only that the fascination of the heavens is as old as man's ability to think; as ancient as his capacity to wonder and to dream. The appeal of astronomy is both intellectual and aesthetic; it combines the thrill of exploration and discovery, the fun of sight-seeing, and the sheer pleasure of first-hand acquaintance with incredibly wonderful and beautiful things. But it also offers the privilege, not to be taken lightly, of adding something to the knowledge and understanding of man.

An amateur, in the true and original meaning of the word, is one who pursues a study or interest for sheer love of the subject; and in this respect the division between professionals and amateurs is indeed indefinite. We are all impelled by the same wonder and curiosity, we are all exploring the same Universe, and we all have the enviable opportunity of contributing something to the store of human knowledge

Robert Burnham, Jr.



Phoenix Astronomical Society, Inc.



PHOENIX, ARIZONA

**** SKY LINES ****

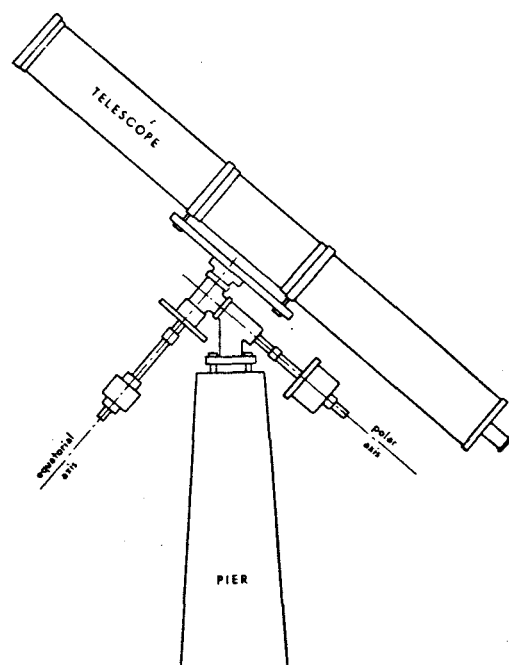
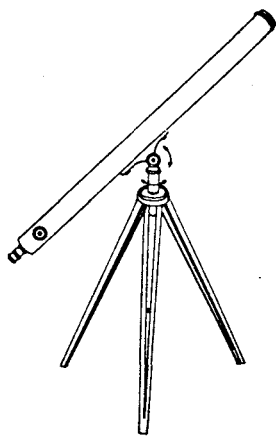
ALBIREO (Beta Cygni) in Cygnus, at magnitude 3.09, is one of the most beautiful double stars in the sky, considered by many observers to be one of the finest in the heavens for a small telescope. The brighter star is a golden yellow or "topaz" at magnitude 3.09. The "sapphire" companion has a magnitude of 5.11.

For the average amateur telescope there is probably no pair so attractive, though the color effect seems to diminish in either very small or very large telescopes, or with too high a magnification. No more than 30x is required on a good 6-inch to show this superb pair as two contrasting jewels suspended against a background of glittering stardust.

Albireo is believed to be a physical pair, although no evidence of orbital motion has been detected since the first observations of F.G.W. Struve in 1832. The brighter star is a spectroscopic binary (too close for any telescope to resolve). Any planet residing in this system would have at least three suns. Imagine how beautiful the sunsets must be.

For the sake of argument, let's say that the two components of Albireo are exactly the same distance from the Earth. At that distance (410 light-years), and with an angular separation of 34.3 arc-seconds, the distance between the two stars would be about 400 billion miles. If 54 earth-type solar systems were placed end to end, they could pass between the two components without touching either one. If the earth was reduced to the size of a dime, the distance between the two stars would be approximately 553.5 miles. If the entire solar system was reduced to the size of a dime, the components would be approximately 2-feet, 3-inches apart.

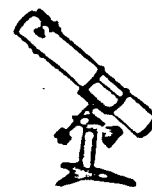
JM





Phoenix Astronomical Society, Inc.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



MEET JERRY MAURER: Jerry was born in Long Beach, California on July 14, 1942. He moved to Phoenix with his parents at the age of 11. Jerry served in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1966 aboard the aircraft carrier "Kearsarge". During that time he spent seven months patrolling the coast of North Viet Nam. The highlight of Jerry's naval career was May 16, 1963, when, as a member of the Project Mercury Recovery Team, he and his shipmates picked up L. Gordon (Gordo) Cooper after his three day orbital flight in "Faith-7", the last of the one man orbital flights.

On August 26, 1977, Jerry married Audrey Wilson from Morristown, New Jersey. Together they have four children, ages 16, 17, 18 and 19; three girls and a boy. The oldest is in the Marines with the goal of becoming a Marine pilot. His three daughters are still living at home. Jerry is an elder at Chaparral Christian Church of Scottsdale where he is the sound engineer for the church's weekly television broadcast on Scottsdale cable.

Jerry's first experience at looking through a telescope happened at the age of 6 when one night, on a deer hunting trip with his father, Jerry looked at the moon through the scope on his dad's deer rifle. He was never the same after that.

Jerry joined PAS in 1977. In 1978 he was Vice-President. In 1979 he was elected President. After that he spent two years as Director, and is now the PAS Editor. Jerry has a 10-inch Newtonian that he designed with the help of one of the members of PAS for astro-photography.

ON THE MARKET ON THE MARKET ON THE MARKET ON THE MARKET ON THE

FOR SALE: 13 mm NEGLER, TELE-VUE eyepiece. Pin-point star images all the way out to its 82 degree apparent field of view. Fits 1-1¼ or 2 inch eyepiece holder. Call: Ron Schmidli at 276-8343

FOR SALE or TRADE: 4 ft x 6 ft utility trailer. Call: Gene 266-2988

TRADE: New 7.4 mm Plössl eyepiece for Meade 7.4 mm research grade orthoscopic eyepiece. Call: Jerry Maurer at 996-4478

FOR SALE: C-8, C-90, set of 5 BRANDON eyepieces, ASTRO-PHYSICS drive corrector with automatic tracker and guidescope, and other goodies. Call: Joe Callahan at 984-2445

THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS NOVEMBER 19

Thanks, Audrey & Helen

"Fascinating, Captain"*

Entries for the LOGO CONTEST have already started coming in. Don't be left out!

*Mr. Spock was overheard commenting.



Phoenix Astronomical Society, Inc.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



Dear Members:

During our first meeting of the fiscal year, we were delighted to see the showing of the home-made Newtonian by Jerry Maurer, a most dedicated astronomer. The tube was unusual, being made of steel. We enjoyed hearing of his experiences.

Next, Dan Heim, one of our distinguished members, gave a lecture on "The History of Astronomy in the 16th and 17th Century", assisted by Mrs. Heim. Dan's graphic explanation of how Isaac Newton discovered gravity and how it operates was very interesting. Although he displayed the mathematics involved, he explained this phenomena in simple language. My understanding of the forces of gravity was greatly enhanced. Dan's dynamic lecture displayed his knowledge of astronomy and physics. We all either learned something or our knowledge was refreshed. Our thanks to Jerry and Dan. The meeting was attended by 27 members and guests.

Raul Espinoza has more meetings of interest planned. We look forward to seeing you. We also anticipate your LOGO creations. Please bring them to the next meeting.

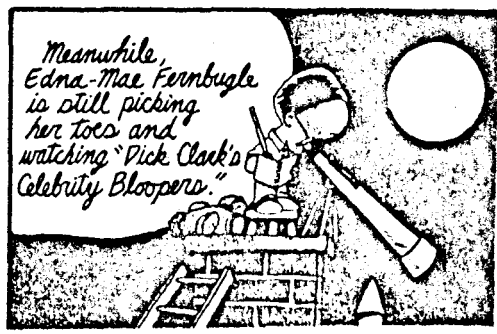
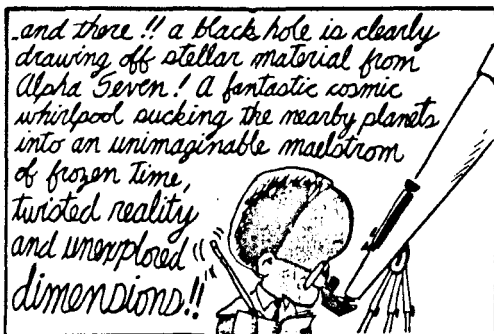
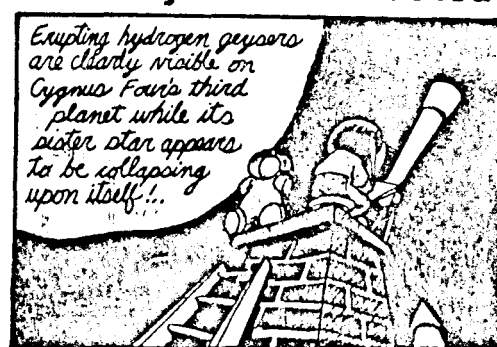
(Harold Moorin
Secretary/Treasurer)

PS: The ALL ARIZONA STAR PARTY on September 29 was a total success. The clouds went away just after dusk for a night of very good seeing. There were amateur astronomers from Tucson, Yuma, Prescott, Flagstaff and Phoenix. About an hour after dark I counted 76 astronomers and 47 telescopes. My compliments to Steve Coe and Gene Lucas of SAC for planning and executing such a successful star party.

JM

BLOOM COUNTY

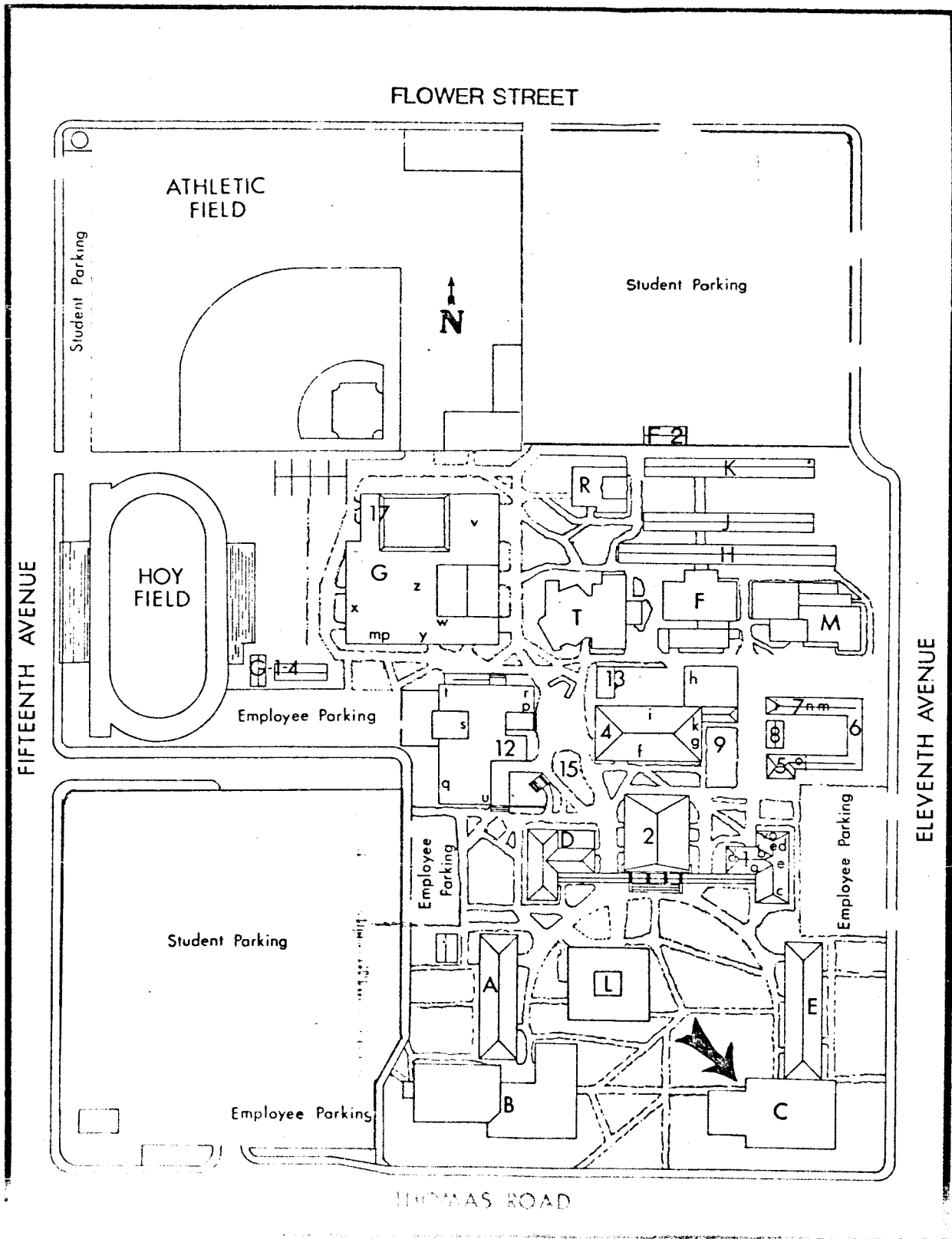
by Berke Breathed





Phoenix Astronomical Society, Inc.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



PHOENIX COLLEGE
"A Maricopa Community College"