

MAY 1985

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Phoenix, Arizona

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THE MAY MEETING of the Phoenix Astronomical Society will be held on Friday, May 17, at Phoenix College, room C-102, at 8:00 P.m. (see map).

Roger Holt will be our Guest speaker for May. Roger will be speaking on his Africa and Indonesia eclipse trips.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: Dear members, the May meeting will be my last as President, and I would like to thank those of you who made yourselves known and gave me your support this past year.

Heading the list is Harold Moorin, Sec/Treasurer, without whom I could not have functioned. He set-up a new bookkeeping system for us and renegotiated a new insurance Policy that is a real money saver. He also gave his all in establishing a new understanding with Phoenix College regarding our meeting place. This again saved the Society a great expense that truly could not have been afforded by the Society.

Jerry Maurer, Editor: Who was kind enough to volunteer to assemble a monthly newsletter and send it out in sacrifice of his limited personal time, and yet to find space to speak and show his Guidescopes to us at our September meeting at which we also enjoyed member Dan Heim, with the "History of Astronomy".

Bill Krist, Vice-President: For setting up speakers and for presenting us with a technique on developing our own astroPhotographs. Bill was also kind enough to fill in for me without notice.

Louis Boyd, Director: For giving us one of the best lectures on Fotometry and how his homemade computerized apparatus works in tracking fluctuations in star light.

Trevor Tuffin, Director: For somehow finding time to set up

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his quota of speakers for the year.

Bill T. O'Bryant, Member; for speaking to you in February. I understand that he is an outstanding speaker. (Sorry I couldn't be there that night, Bill.)

Stanley Gorodenski, Member and Past President; For giving us our membership directory in which we were able to find many of our fine speakers and for getting together with Bill Krist and me to begin the development of our forthcoming brochure in which Keith Parizek and Evered Kreimer made a very special photographic contribution.

Peter Manly, Member; For a fine Presentation about occultations.

Thank you all for helping to keep the music of the stars alive.

Raul Espinoza
President, PAS

DEAR MEMBERS: Our second shipment of "Mr. Halley's Comet" is going fast. Please contact me if you wish to have some. It still sells for \$1.00. (Sky & Telescope charges \$2.00)

At our April meeting we had the election of officers for 1985-86. So far Bill Krist will be President, Harold Moorin will be Secretary/Treasurer, Richard Wasson will be Vice-President, and Robert Pribeno will be Director. As of this date we do not have an EDITOR. (Any volunteers?)

Dr. A. Kerala of A.S.U. then discussed "Planetary Astrophysics - Theory Of Origin". He went on by saying that we don't have all the answers. He explained that from gas and dust, the actions of angular momentum and the influence of gravitation, requiring rotation to give stability, ultimately forms a star. The temperature in the center of the Protostar causes nuclear reaction dominated by the proton-proton chain. He then discussed the origin of the moon, stating that there were theories only. As for future colonization, he said we could start on the moon, then Mars, and finally on some moons of Jupiter which have water, such as Ganymede and Calisto. This was a thought provoking discussion.

Recently, we were honored to have two outstanding amateurs speak to us. First, Pete Manly gave a dynamic talk on the phenomena known as SYZYGY, where three celestial objects line up. This type of observing is mostly done by amateurs which aid us in obtaining the direct measurement of an occulting body. He plans to measure the diameter of Halley's Comet by this method. Next he showed us some examples of video occultations he had recorded. He demonstrated how an occultation or grazing of the Moon was used to detect deep sky objects.

Next was Steve Doe, who gave us a lively, instructive talk

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on how to construct a Dobsonian telescope. He demonstrated this with a small model he had made. He interspersed his lecture with his own inimitable humor with such expressions as "observing background radiation with binoculars" and a "Quasar-Questar". He then showed some slides on an improved model of a Dobsonian in three sections.

Both talks were so interesting that the two hours slipped by rapidly.

Raul has some interesting speakers for our May 17th meeting. Hope to see you then.

Harold Moonin
Sec/Treasurer

A CARAVAN of SAC members to the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference will depart at 7:30 am from Jerry's Restaurant which is located at Dysart Road and I-10. All PAS members are invited. Contact Jerry Maurer for details at 996-4478.

The next regular meeting of the Phoenix Astronomical Society will be Friday, SEPTEMBER 27. Have a great time at the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference.

