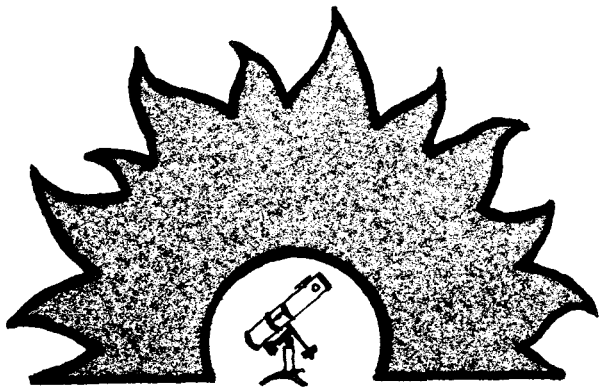




N O V E M B E R

1 9 8 5

PASTIMES

P H O E N I X A S T R O N O M I C A L S O C I E T Y -- F O U N D E D 1 9 4 8

NOVEMBER MEETING NOVEMBER MEETING NOVEMBER MEETING NOVEMBER MEETING

This month's meeting will be held on Friday, the 22nd at Phoenix College, Room C-102 at 8:00 p.m. (see map on back of newsletter).

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Uri Carsenty, Arizona State University. Dr. Carsenty's specialty is spectroscopy of planetary nebulae and he is actively associated with the International Halley Watch Team. His topic will be "Compositional Variations of Comet Halley -- 1910 vs. Today". Don't miss this latest inside information!!

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Secretary/Treasurer Harold Moorin reports that membership rolls have grown dramatically since this summer. Below is a list of new members that we'd like to welcome aboard! We hope you find PAS informative and entertaining, and may this be the start of a long lasting friendship.

Matthew Baisley
Frank and Janet Bramwell
John R. Butler
Steve and Deannea Dagilis
William and Margaret Dinning
Richard D. Fisher, M.D.
Michael and Nancy Haley
Damon C. Hanson
Diane Hardin
Lloyd Allen Horton
Mark Johns
John Kannarr
Kathryn M. Kobor
William and Mary Lawrence
Jim Lemon
Gary E. Link
Frank Martin
Catherin Zabka McIntosh

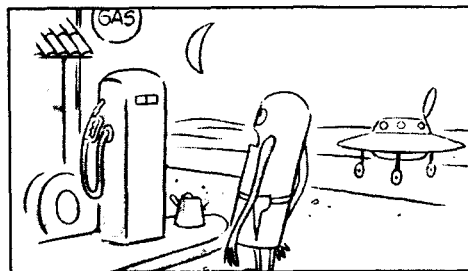
-- Members p2

CARPOOL, ANYONE?

Two prospective members without wheels would like to attend our November 22nd meeting and seek a ride from a willing member.

Louis lives in the vicinity of 40th Street and Thunderbird and would greatly appreciate a permanent pooling arrangement so he can join the club. Bob, on the other hand, lives at about Hardy and Baseline in Tempe and just needs a return trip on the 22nd.

Give a call to your editor at 955-1205 for more details if you drive in from either of these areas. Let's extend the hand of friendship to these budding astronomers!



"Take your finger out of your ear and listen to me!"

Members -- continued

Lester Mills, PhD
 Dustin and Nancy Morris
 Drs. Sateesh and Visaya Nabar
 Henry and Denise Patey
 Sydney M. Peebles
 Ella M. Poeller
 John and Setsuko Ramser, PhD
 Richard T. Searles

Potential members should call Harold Moorin at 933-8896 for membership information.

(NOTES FROM OUR SECRETARY) H.M.

Recently, Bill Krist (PAS President) visited me to help me break in my new Celestron Super C-8. His friendly assistance gave me confidence and a good overview of the basics. Dr. Rich Fisher later joined in for some clear viewing of Jupiter, the Pleiades, the Moon, etc., and Bill remarked that this scope rivaled any in its class. Thank you, Bill.

The new format of our newsletter, PASTIMES, has added a new dimension to our club. Appreciation by our members was demonstrated at the October meeting and our editor, Steve Lewis took an "Aw-Shucks" bow.

Speaking of our October meeting, if you didn't attend you missed a good one on the mystery of "Blue Stragglers". Dr. Linda Stryker shared her research data on these stellar misfits, including HR diagrams of open and globular clusters. Out of 5 proposed theories for their evolution, that of Internal Mixing (rotating cores extending the main sequence lifetime) is the most plausible explanation. More globular cluster work must be completed, according to Dr. Stryker, before this becomes the definitive theory. The new space telescope should help solve this riddle.

For those who have not yet submitted their dues, the time is short since I am about to reorder our Sky & Telescope subscriptions. Please call me at 933-8896 if you need a membership renewal form.

-- Harold Moorin



ASTROBRIEFS

Holy Meteors! A 4 ton sacred stone shaped like a crouching ox and venerated by ancient Chinese in its own temple south of Peking has proven to be a meteor which crashed to Earth 1300 years ago. Curious geologists began testing the nickel-iron and silicate rock 2 years ago because there are no known iron deposits nearby. Although still enshrined, the people have now stopped worshipping it.

Sex in Space? NASA plans for everything. "Our astronauts, says a spokesman, "need more than Tang to keep

* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *
* President	Bill Krist	254-4057	*
* Vice President	Richard Wasson	279-0384	*
* Secretary/Treasurer	Harold Moorin	933-8896	*
* Director	Robert Pribbenow	275-2786	*
* Director	Vernon Weakland	247-5720	*
* Director	Trevor Tuffin	948-3126	*
* Editor	Steve Lewis	955-1205	*
* 2806 N. 33rd Place			*
* Phoenix, Arizona 85008			*
* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *	* * * * *

them happy." Speculation, anyone? How will amorous couples adjust to Newton's Law -- for every action there is an equal reaction. Will there be new meaning to "swept off your feet" and "drifting apart"? Will there be depravity at zero gravity? Since NASA has brought the subject up, we'll keep tuned to this question of moral gravity As The World Turns.

Cosmic Junkyard. After 28 years of space launchings, we now have trash up yonder traveling from 2 to 4 miles per second. Of 5491 orbiting space objects tracked by the North American Air Defense Command, 4000 were identified as pieces of debris. Challenger's window was zapped by a random fragment in 1983 but experts say serious danger is probably decades away. Space planners want a detailed study now to prevent catastrophe. Some feel the Department of Transportation should issue a broader space junk policy.

Adaptive Optics. Solar physicist Robert Smithson has devised a new system, a mosaic of mirrors and electronic sensors which can make 1000 adjustments per second, combining or balancing light into a single focus effectively cancelling out the dusty gaseous Earth "shroud" that scatters the light, blurring telescopic images -- a bane of every astronomer since Galileo. In effect, the system straightens light tilted by turbulence in the atmosphere.

Going Potty. Johnson Space Center has improved the shuttle's commode from a multi-pronged motor driven "blender" with a seat belt (what a wonderful thought) to a simplified space age version of the old country one-holer with a pair of

cushioned thigh clamps. No flush, just a valve in the side of the shuttle. The Soviets simplify it even further -- a baggie for each user, collected into an aluminum can which when full is ejected.

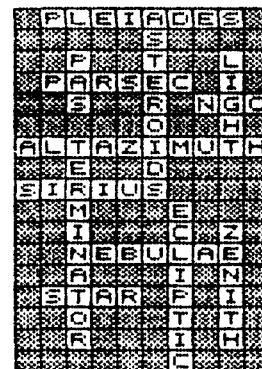
"Limp" Rats Return to Earth. Loss of bone and muscle strength for astronauts? Challenger's April flight included 24 rats whose 7 days in space affected their pituitary glands which govern development and maintenance of muscle strength. The hormone reduction was so dramatic NASA wants more research before beginning any long term human space flights.

Mooning. Dr. Richard H. Durisen of Indiana University/Bloomington has used computer simulations to support the moon creation theory posed in 1879 by George Darwin (son of Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist). Theory: during the first few millions years of Earth's 4+ billion year history when Earth was still molten and fluid, it was disrupted probably by an unstable planet whose impact spun off a thick ring of material which formed the moon. "The present Earth and moon don't seem to have enough angular momentum to justify the moon breaking off in one hunk" Dr. Durisen said.

FOR SALE

Celestron 8 with wedge, tripod, camera adapter and 4 Kellner eyepieces: 6mm, 12mm, 25mm, & 40mm. Great package for \$900. Herm Andresen 997-8759

October Crossword



PEANUTS

