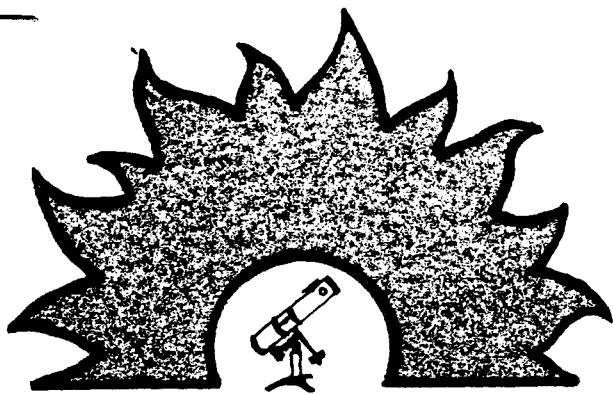




MAY 1986

PASTIMES

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY -- FOUNDED 1948

MAY MEETING MAY MEETING MAY MEETING MAY MEETING MAY MEETING MAY MEETING

Our final meeting before the summer break will be held this Thursday, the 29th of May at Phoenix College, Room C-102 at 8:00 p.m. (see map on back of newsletter). Conflicts with the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference and classroom availability necessitated the Thursday night meeting time.



Our speaker for the evening will be Glendale Community College's Professor of Astronomy, **John Winters**, who will disclose to us the latest findings in **Radio Astronomy**. (Rumor also has it that he will also have slides of New Mexico's **Very Large Array** of radio telescopes -- an impressive sight, to say the least!)

NOTES FROM OUR SECRETARY

As usual, our April business meeting was the site of our annual election of officers. A slate of nominees was presented by the nominating committee and no further nominations were forthcoming from the floor. Voting was brief and unanimous. Our officers for the 1986-1987 PAS year will be:

President: **Bill Krist**

Vice President: **Richard Wasson**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Harold Moorin**

Director: **Trevor Tuffin**

Director: **Raul Espinoza**

Director: **Robert Pribbenow** (continuing)

Editor: **Steve Lewis**

Special appreciation goes to Stan Gorodenski and his nominating committee members for their fine work.

The remainder of the meeting was a potpourri of miscellaneous business and entertainment. Preplanning was done for

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ASTROBRIEFS

Supernova Superfind. Within days of its collapse, a supernova in galaxy M99 was recorded by astrophysicists at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. This will give scientists about two months to study this rare occurrence of a star burning out, collapsing in a cataclysmic rush of material toward its center. Details from this study could help measure distances to far-off galaxies and help determine the size of the universe . . .



Shooting Gallery. Eugene Shoemaker of the U.S. Geological Survey in Flagstaff believes that a nervous nation could mistake a colliding space object for a nuclear strike and retaliate. Small objects can explode high in the atmosphere with the force of a one megaton (or larger) nuclear weapon. An asteroid, about a half mile in diameter, called 1986 JK is

Notes -- continued

possible summer star parties (to be announced in a summer bulletin!?). **Raul Espinoza** recommended an observing site at McDowell Mountain Regional Park, northwest of Phoenix. The park can accomodate a large group, has nice facilities, is easily accessable and has pretty good skies.

A brief discussion of possible student membership rates ensued but no formal action was taken. (Input, anyone?)

The topic of rent and insurance increases for our present meeting place was also discussed. Anyone knowing of other good meeting places should contact any of our officers (listed below). We enjoy our Phoenix College location but must keep in mind our limited financial resources. (You'll notice a change in paper format for this month's **PASTIMES**. This is a savings of \$10 to \$12 per month.)

Jerry Maurer reviewed the upcoming Riverside Telescope Makers Conference schedule for May 23-26 and gave out information to interested parties. We hope to have reports from members who made the trek to this outstanding event.

On the entertainment side of things, **Dusty Morris** shared his prints of Halley taken with FUJI 1600 print film, and **Bill Krist**, **Raul Espinoza**, and **Steve Lewis** showed their latest slides of Halley to round out the evening.

Treasurer's Report: We have funds in three accounts totaling \$2967.61. Have a good summer!

-- **Harold Moorin**

Briefs -- continued

due to come within three million miles of the earth on May 29th or 30th. This object will miss Earth but another may not. Objects are believed to come this close about once a year although most go undetected. Joseph V. Smith, geologist at the University of Chicago has called for an expanded sky watch and suggests an international group be formed to design space craft to deflect threatening space debris

Meanwhile, in our local quadrant

Jerry Maurer reported a naked eye sighting of Halley as late as the 10th of May from atop the 5,000 foot high McCloud Mountains outside of Hillside (about 40 miles N/NW of Wickenburg). This former site of the National Amateur Observatory association is noted for its great skies and difficult access . . .

Stan Gorodenski recruited seven of his astronomy buddies on the 17th for an early Saturday morning "power lift" of his newly finished observatory dome frame. The 12' diameter, 350+ lb. homemade steel tube structure is a nice piece of engineering and hard work -- as was affixing it in a stable on-edge position on the flat bed trailer that took it up to his lot near Prescott

Bill Krist has already lined up two good reasons to return this fall. Tentatively scheduled as speakers for September and October are astronomers Susan Wyckoff (a "Halley Wrap-up") and Ann Cowley ("Chinese Astronomy")

Newcomers to astronomy and our club will also be pleased to know that member **Raul Espinoza** will be including a monthly "Back to Basics" column in **PASTIMES** starting in September.

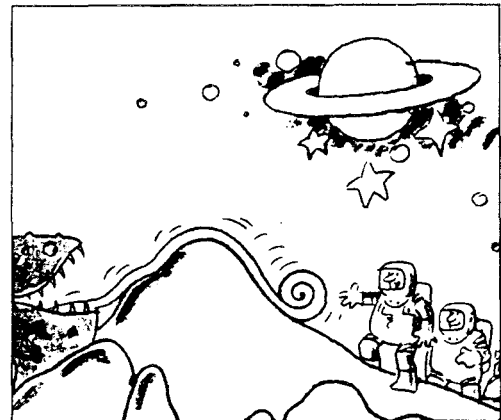
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*	President	Bill Krist	254-4057
*	Vice President	Richard Wasson	279-0384
*	Secretary/Treasurer	Harold Moorin	933-8896
*	Director	Robert Pribbenow	275-2786
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Fly That By Me Again!? Voyager 2 transmitted back good hard data regarding Uranus, like its 17.24 hour Uranian day, thunderheads of methane in its atmosphere, five moons of between 300 and 1000 miles in diameter, 10 smaller moons of less than 100 miles across, and moon composition figures of 50% ice/30% rock/20% carbon-nitrogen compounds. But, did you also know that Voyager 2's computer was constructed before the Apple II series? Its flyby of Uranus was only one minute, nine seconds earlier than projected in 1981. Voyager's signals from Uranus were 100 billion times weaker than the power of your digital watch. For Voyager to reach the Oort Cloud at 35,000 mph it will take another 22,000 years -- and that's still only $\frac{1}{4}$ the distance to Proxima Centauri!

Holy Focus, It's VATT Man! If all continues as planned, the \$1 million Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT) could be operating from atop Mt. Graham (near Safford, AZ) within two years. Their telescope, with a main mirror six feet across, has been made possible by techniques devised by a University of Arizona group led by Roger Angel. The parabola-shaped mirror faces are formed by melting glass over honeycomb molds inside a spinning oven. About four of the nine Vatican astronomers live and work in Tucson using Steward Observatory and some teach at the U of A, smilingly referred to as "Vatican West." The mirror was molded inside a building that was once a Jewish temple

A Sad Good-bye. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astronomy and leading expert on Unidentified Flying Objects died Sunday, April 27th at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital. George Rieke, deputy director of Steward Observatory described the

former head of Northwestern University's department of astronomy as a scientific leader, "distinguished by having a very open mind and a sense of fairness." In 1983 Dr. Hynek founded the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois and in 1985 brought the center here to Scottsdale where it will continue on. The gentleman, who coined the phrase "close encounters of the third kind," directed the Air Force's Project Blue Book, investigating UFO's from 1948 to 1969. He was only 75 years old



"Look! They're rolling out the carpet for us!"

M E M B E R S H I P N E W S

A hearty welcome to the following new members! Please add them to your 1986 Membership Roster (blue sheet).

TED & ANNE CURTIS	3733 W. Hidalgo Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85041	243-5117
SAM F. INSANA	1940 E. Palo Verde Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85016	265-7680

And please change the name and address of member K. Diane Hardin who was recently married (best wishes!).

K. DIANE GRAVES	13835 N. 184th Ave., Waddell, AZ 85355	584-5438
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