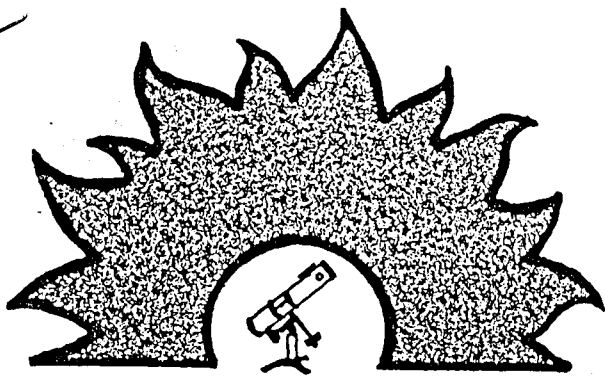




PASTIMES

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY -- FOUNDED 1943

MARCH MEETING

Dr. Clyde Tombaugh will speak on his "Discovery of the Planet Pluto" on Friday, March 25, at 7:45 PM. at Brophy Prep Gymnasium, 4701 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, Arizona. Please note the location change. There will be a 5.00 dollar fee, all of which will be donated to Dr. Tombaugh's young scholar fund. We are grateful to the fathers at Brophy Prep for letting us use their location. Please attend, and bring as many guests as you are able. Dan Heim, a PAS member, as well as a faculty member at Brophy also deserves thanks for helping us have this facility for what should be a big group. Dick Wasson, Pete Manly, Stan Celestian, Dan Ward, Gerry Rattley, have been working hard to make this meeting a success. If they ask you to help with any details at the last minute, please make yourself available for their needs.

FACTS ABOUT PLUTO

1. Pluto is the ninth planet from the sun with a mean distance of 39.44 astronomical units.
2. Its diameter is about 1800 miles and its period of revolution is 247.7 tropical earth years.
3. After its discovery in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh, other astronomers looked at plates as far back as 1908 and located images of Pluto.
4. In 1978, James Christy at the Naval Observatory in Flagstaff discovered Charon, Pluto's only known satellite.
5. Charon has an orbital period of 6.4 days and is 12000 miles from Pluto.
6. Pluto is most probably a giant spheroid of ice.

For rest of the story, we look forward to seeing all members, scientific groups, and the general public at Dr. Tombaugh's lecture.

Harold Moorin

STAR PARTY: MARCH 19th, STARTS TWO Hr's BEFORE SUNDOWN.
McDOWELL MOUNTAIN PARK, EAST ON SHEA TO 1st ENTRANCE TO
FOUNTAIN HILLS AND ON THE WAY TO RIO VERDE JUST 4 MILES
PAST THE TOWN. TURN LEFT AT PARK ENTRANCE AND FOLLOW THE
SIGNS TO THE BOYSCOUT CAMPGROUND

BRING YOUR PICNIC AND TELESCOPE, LETS HAVE A
GOOD TIME. IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL CLEAR, SEE YOU THERE.

FOR SALE:

AUTO-FOCUS FOR MEAD CAS. \$ 50.00, call 948-3617 TALK TO
RAUL.

NEXT STAR PARTY: Sat. APRIL 14th SAME PLACE. BRING \$1.50
per person.

COMET WILSON (19861)

K. Meech, Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii, re-
ports: "CCD observations of comet Wilson obtained on Feb. 14, 15,
and 16 under photometric conditions, with the University of Hawaii
2.2-m telescope on Mauna Kea, show a possible split nucleus. A
round 'condensation' appeared $\sim 9''.1 \pm 0''.1$ from the nucleus at p.a.
 $= 119^\circ \pm 2^\circ$ on each of the three nights. The feature is obviously
associated with the comet, as all other objects on the CCD frame
are significantly trailed since the telescope was tracked at the
cometary rate. Another image taken Feb. 13 also shows the feature,
but measurement is difficult due to a nearby bright star. Prelimi-
nary Mould r magnitudes (within a 5"-radius diaphragm) for the nu-
cleus and the feature were ~ 14.6 and > 15.3 , respectively; these
brightnesses did not change appreciably over the three nights."

Total visual magnitude estimates: Feb. 8.25 UT, 12.3 (A. Hale,
Las Cruces, NM, 0.41-m reflector); 13.22, 13.0 (C. S. Morris,
Whitaker Peak, CA, 0.26-m reflector); 14.85, 13.2 (S. Korth,
Dusseldorf, West Germany, 0.36-m reflector); 16.24, 12.5 (Hale).

COMET WILSON (19861)

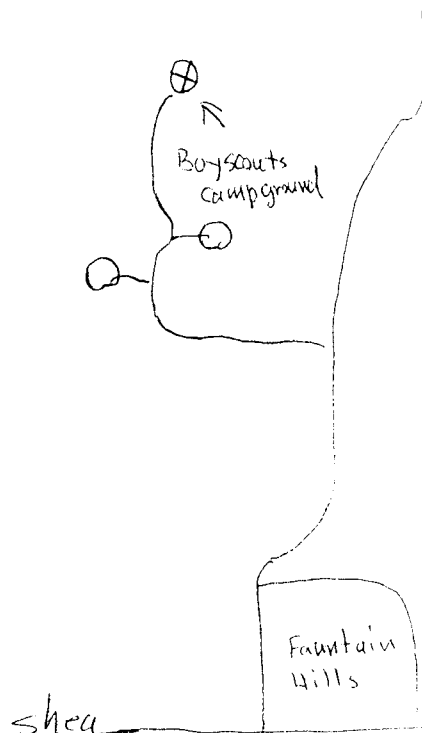
S. M. Larson, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, writes that
broad, red-band CCD images with the 1.5-m Catalina reflector by D.
Levy and himself on Feb. 23.4 UT confirm that the comet has split
(cf. IAU 4552). The well-defined secondary was more diffuse than
field stars. A 300-560 nm CCD spectrum showed only continuum.

J. V. Scotti, University of Arizona, reports the following
data obtained with the 0.92-m SPACEWATCH camera at Kitt Peak: Feb.
13.27 UT, principal nucleus $m_2 = 17.7$, second nucleus $m_2 = 19.6$,
separation $8''.4$ in p.a. 117° .

D. Jewitt and J. Luu, Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
report that observations with the McGraw-Hill 2.4-m telescope (+
Mascot CCD camera, Mould r filter) on Feb. 22.22 UT show that the
secondary nucleus is $8''.7$ east and $4''.7$ south ($\pm 0''.6$) of the main
nucleus, and that the secondary is fainter than the primary by 2.0
 ± 0.2 mag. The secondary appears broader than stellar images.

COMET WILSON (19861)

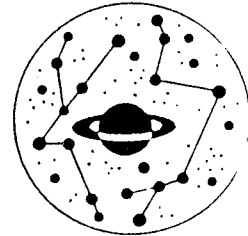
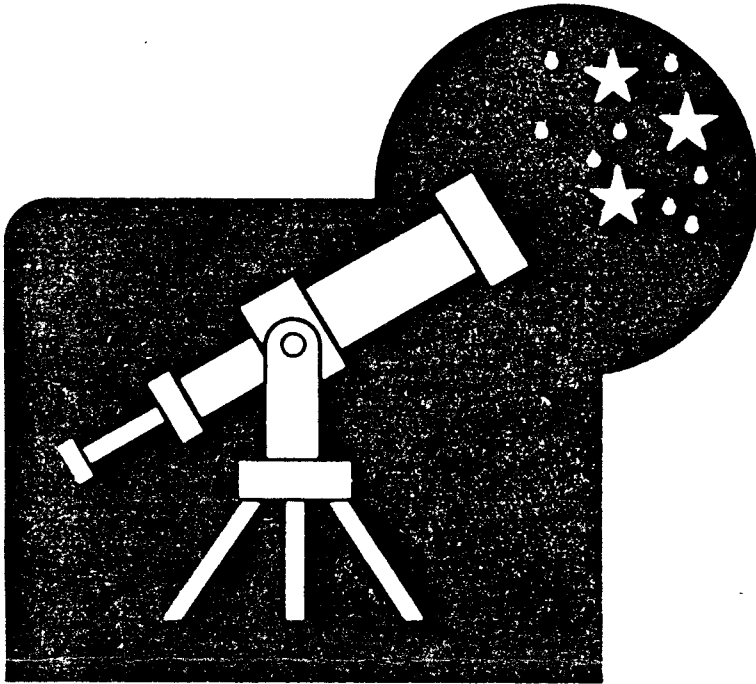
Z. Sekanina, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute
of Technology, reports: "Analysis of the available separations be-
tween the two nuclei on Feb. 13-22 (IAUC 4552, 4555) indicates that
the comet broke up 132 ± 7 days after perihelion, or about 1987
Aug. 31, at a heliocentric distance of 2.3 AU (mean residual of the
fit $0''.22$). The differential nongravitational deceleration of the
secondary nucleus is 63 ± 11 units of 10^{-5} solar attraction. Fol-
lowing is an ephemeris for 0^h ET (equinox 1950.0): Feb. 29, posi-
tion angle 116° , separation $10''.6$; Mar. 20, 115° , $12''.0$; Apr. 9,
 116° , $12''.5$; Apr. 29, 117° , $12''.7$."



PHOENIX PARKS, RECREATION
AND LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

NORTHEAST DISTRICT
SPRING 1988

VIEW THE STARS

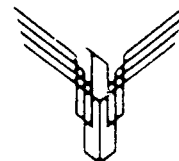


MARCH 26
6PM - 10PM
at REACH 11

Join us for an evening of STAR GAZING and PLANET WATCHING at the PHOENIX REACH 11 RECREATION AREA located at the N E corner of Tatum and Union Hills. Telescopes will be available for Gazing along with videos taken through the eyes of a telescope. Refreshments will be served. Cost is only \$1 payable at the park, however **PRE-REGISTRATION** is **REQUIRED** by calling 262-7901.

co-sponsored by The Sahauro Astronomy Club

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INVITATION TO AN AFTERNOON WITH CLYDE TOMBAUGH

DATE: 26 March 1988

Time: 1:30 to 4:30

Place: Home of Keith Parizek, 3329 E. Mescal St.
Phoenix, phone 996-1013. Go to 32nd st. and Shea, north to Desert
Cove, east to 33rd st. then north to Mescal st. and turn east.

Cost: 5.00 donation or more at the door to the
Tombaugh scholar fund.

Bring: a folding chair, or comfortable standing shoes,
questions about any aspect of astronomy for Dr. Tombaugh, or any
interesting thing that would provoke interesting discussion.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

*OK
invite
please
Thank to 32nd
1. night*