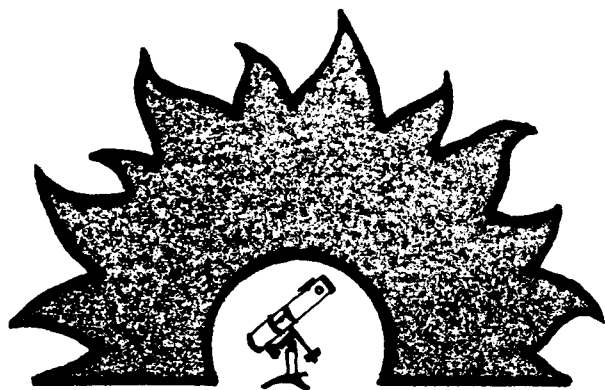




September, 1989

PASTIMES

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY -- FOUNDED 1948

The New Meeting Location

**The Next Meeting is September 22nd, at Brophy Prep.
(see map on the last page)**

This year there is a change in the the meeting location. We will be having this and future meetings at Brophy Prep. Brophy is located about a quarter mile south of Camelback Road, at the Highland Ave intersection. The meeting will be at **7:00 PM (new time)** in the Physics lab on the second floor.

Dr. Peter Wehinger will be giving an interesting and informative talk about comets, with special emphasis on Halley's comet.

A special Note of thanks to Fr. Bob Mathewson, S.J. (President of Brophy Prep.) and Fr. Fran Stiegeler, S.J. (Principal) for allowing PAS to use the facilities.

About the Speaker...

Dr. Peter Wehinger has a bachelor's degree in physics and a doctorate in astronomy. He has spent the last eight years conducting research in the field of imaging and spectroscopy of quasars and comet research through the International Halley Watch program. In the next six months, Dr. Wehinger will be concluding the Halley research with the completion of an information release on Compact Disc ROMs. Each disk is capable of storing 650 megabytes of information and will be accessible by personal computers. For comparison, a typical paperback book contains only 0.5 to 0.8 megabytes of data.

It happened this Summer

At the end of last January, Phobos II entered the orbit of Mars. In March, as it was approaching its planned fly-by of Phobos, the probe with its deteriorating transmitter, had trouble reorienting itself back at the Earth. Communication with the probe was only partially re-established before it was lost again, with further attempts being unsuccessful. Some theorize that it may have been hit by a meteoroid.

During May, Magellan was launched from the space shuttle. Magellan will reach Venus 15 months after the launch. At that time, it will start the mapping of Venus' surface using radar. In route to Venus, Magellan will orbit the Sun one and a half times. (Galileo, on the other hand will only take 6 months to reach Venus on its way to Jupiter). Magellan must take the longer route to Venus because Galileo's flight time is more than 5 years, so it gets the shortest route to Venus.

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has had its launch date pushed back once again. It won't be launched now until next Spring, and might be pushed back still further. The main reason for this delay was because NASA was having trouble getting the Columbia ready for its August launch. One of the two launches between Magellan and Galileo has been postponed. Galileo fortunately has priority because of its limited launch window, so its other missions that get pushed back.

Hipparcus was launched early August. The launch went perfectly, unfortunately the kick motor of the satellite failed to ignite, leaving the satellite stranded in a highly elliptical geosynchronous transfer orbit. Hipparcus was intended for measuring the proper motion of stars more accurately than can be done on Earth. It looks as though Hipparcus might be usable, if only for about 3 hours each day. It is unknown how the crossing of the Van Allen belts several times a day will affect the satellite.

On Friday, August 25th, Voyager II passed the planet Neptune. Neptune was its final flyby on its way out of the solar system. Voyager performed perfectly throughout the flyby, giving scientists a final flood of information. It will be months, even years, before all the new data is finally digested.

Renewing Memberships

It's that time of year again. Time to round up everyone and get them to rejoin PAS for the new year. Those of you who already have a *Sky & Telescope* subscription can receive a lower membership rate. Otherwise, your *Sky & Telescope* subscription will just be extended. See the application form on the next page. The application is needed by October 31st, to insure no delay with *Sky & Telescope*.

Please make checks payable to PAS and bring the application to the meeting or mail it to Keith Parizek at: 3329 E Mescal St., Phoenix, Az 85028. Thank You.

The Space Flower

I saw a flower of infinite grace
Bloom in the sunshine of outer space.
Was Venus its home, or Mars its Abode?
No matter which, beside me it rode
Round mother earth in elliptical spiral
(Sparkling with dew drops mile after mile).

By Mildred Karch Moorin
October, 1961