

OBSERVATIONS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

★ President: Edwin Lurcott
★ Treasurer: Steven Lurcott

NOVEMBER 1994
(VOLUME 2, NO. 10)

★ Vice President: Mike Tucker
★ Secretary: Nancy Armstrong

CCAS NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, November 8, 1994
TIME: 7:30 PM EST
PLACE: Planetarium (room 186)
Schmucker Science Center
West Chester University
LOCATION: South Church St. & Rosedale Ave.
West Chester, PA

West Chester University's planetarium projector will be demonstrated by Prue Campbell, a graduate student at WCU with a special interest in planetarium programming. Many CCAS members have not seen the projector in use, so this will be a good opportunity to see the projector put through its paces by Prue. It will be entertaining as well as educational, so don't miss it. Bring a friend!

Socializing over coffee will follow the presentation. All members and visitors are invited.

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OCTOBER CCAS MEETING

Following the business portion of the meeting. Edwin Lurcott's presentation showed how a stellar spectrum is produced and how it can be used by astronomers to extract information about the star. He also explained how the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram was developed and how it can classify stars by their temperature (color) and their luminosity. Slides of stellar spectra were displayed to show the different types and how astronomers identify the elements present in the stellar atmosphere. A question and answer session followed which demonstrated the range of information from the stellar spectra.

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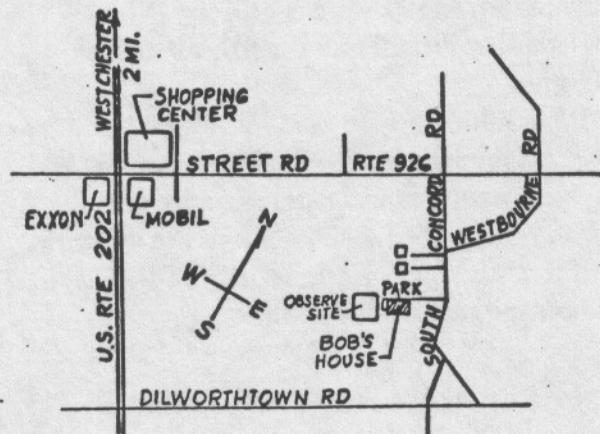
CCAS OBSERVING SESSION

DATE: Friday, November 4, 1994
TIME: 30 minutes before SUNSET
PLACE: Home of Bob Hartje
1314 South Concord Rd.
West Chester, PA
see map below
PHONE: (610) 399-0171

Members of CCAS are invited to our November observing session at Bob Hartje's home. Bob has a large grassy area behind his house from which to observe. Those members with telescopes are asked to bring them for an evening of observing. If you are new to this activity, there will be plenty of help available to help you set up properly. This help will allow you to locate some of the fascinating objects in the night sky. The moon and Saturn will be visible early in the evening. Deep sky objects will be easier to observe after the moon sets. This is an opportunity for those not owning 'scopes to enjoy telescopic views and learn their locations. If you own binoculars, bring them with you.

Parking is available to the right of the driveway as you enter Bob's property. 'Scopes may be set up in the area beyond the garage.

The executive committee wishes to thank Bob and his wife for hosting this observing session.



MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Many CCAS members have completed and returned the Member Survey. If you have not yet handed in your completed form, you are requested to do so. As was stated last month the results of this survey will be used to plan subjects for future meetings. Thank you for completing and turning them in to a CCAS officer, or let them know if you need another form.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST

Included with this issue of "Observations" is a list of CCAS members, their addresses and telephone numbers. Please check these for correctness and let Ed Lurcott know if there are any errors.

This list is for your information and use in contacting other members who may live in your area.

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SELECTION OF CCAS LOGO

Members at the November 8th meeting will be asked to select the final CCAS logo. The logo will be used on all CCAS stationary and membership cards. A large version of the selected logo will be made and displayed at all CCAS functions. If you have a last minute idea for a logo, bring it to the November meeting for consideration.

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WINTER STAR PARTY

Notification of the 1995 Winter Star Party has been received from the Southern Cross Astronomical Society, Inc. This major gathering of Amateur and professional astronomers starts on Monday, February 27, 1995 and continues to Saturday, March 4, 1995 and is held on West Summerland Key just 30 miles northeast of Key West, Florida.

It's not too early to plan for this event. Some CCAS members are interested in going and forming a car pool or small caravan and share driving. A variety of accommodations are available.

If interested, call Ed Lurcott, 436-0387 for information and registration forms.

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SOME HELP HAS ARRIVED

Last month Kathy Cseke volunteered to be our public relations representative. She will be giving notices to the local newspapers about CCAS events. We thank Kathy for taking on this job.

Miss Jill Fragale has volunteered to help with hospitality and refreshments. She would like to have help in this area.

Bob Hartje has offered his back yard as an observing site and will host the November observing session.

We still need help with program planning. Any help will be appreciated. Interested members contact Ed Lurcott at 436-0387.

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FOR SALE

A 4 1/2 " Orion reflecting telescope is offered for sale by CCAS member, Tom Egan. If interested, call Tom at 793-1151.

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NEW GARDEN ELEM. SCHOOL HAD A SUCCESSFUL STAR NIGHT

The science teachers at New Garden Elementary School hosted a successful "Night of the Stars" on October 10th. Even the skies cooperated beautifully. Well over 100 fourth grade students and parents looked at the moon, Saturn, double stars and nebulae. Many had never looked through a telescoped before and expressed their surprise with 'Ooo's and 'Ahh's.

Pete LaFrance organized the CCAS members into 6 or 8 locations with each focused on a different object. Everyone enjoyed the viewing and the students also enjoyed the 'no homework' night. The teachers and students provided welcomed refreshments for the CCAS members.

It was a very gratifying experience for the members who brought telescopes. We received many handmade thank you notes from the students. We plan to keep these cards in our historical record.

The executive committee wishes to thank the people who brought their 'scopes and described the viewed objects. It is this kind of activity for which CCAS was founded: the enjoyment by and the education of the general public.

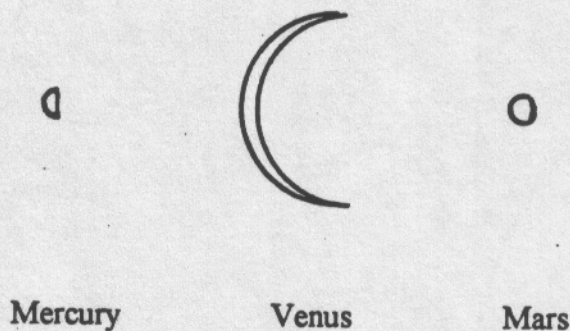
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IN THE MORNING SKY

There is an excellent opportunity to see Mercury during the first two weeks of November. This is the best apparition of Mercury this year. Mercury is low in the eastsoutheastern sky shining at magnitude zero and just north of the first magnitude star, Spica. Mercury reaches greatest western elongation (largest apparent angle from the sun - 19 degrees) on November 6th. It will appear only 50 % illuminated, like a third quarter moon.

Venus joins the morning stars in November and will be only 5 degrees from Mercury between November 12th and the 15th. Venus will be 60 arc seconds in diameter and will appear gigantic compared to Mercury's 7 arc seconds diameter. Venus will only be 10 % illuminated and appears as a thin crescent.

If you venture out in these fall mornings to see Mercury and Venus, you might just as well take a peek at Mars. It is just east of the meridian at this time of the morning. Mars will appear the same size as Mercury but be 90 % illuminated.



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CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY'S PURPOSES

The Chester County Astronomical Society was formed in September, 1993, with the cooperation of West Chester University, as a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and enjoyment of astronomy for the general public. The society holds meetings with speakers and observing sessions once a month. Anyone who is interested in astronomy or would like to learn about astronomy is welcome to attend meeting and become a member of the society.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The present membership rates are as follows:

REGULAR MEMBER

(18 years or older)\$20/year

SENIOR MEMBER

(65 years or older)\$10/year

STUDENT MEMBER

(full-time college student) \$ 5/year

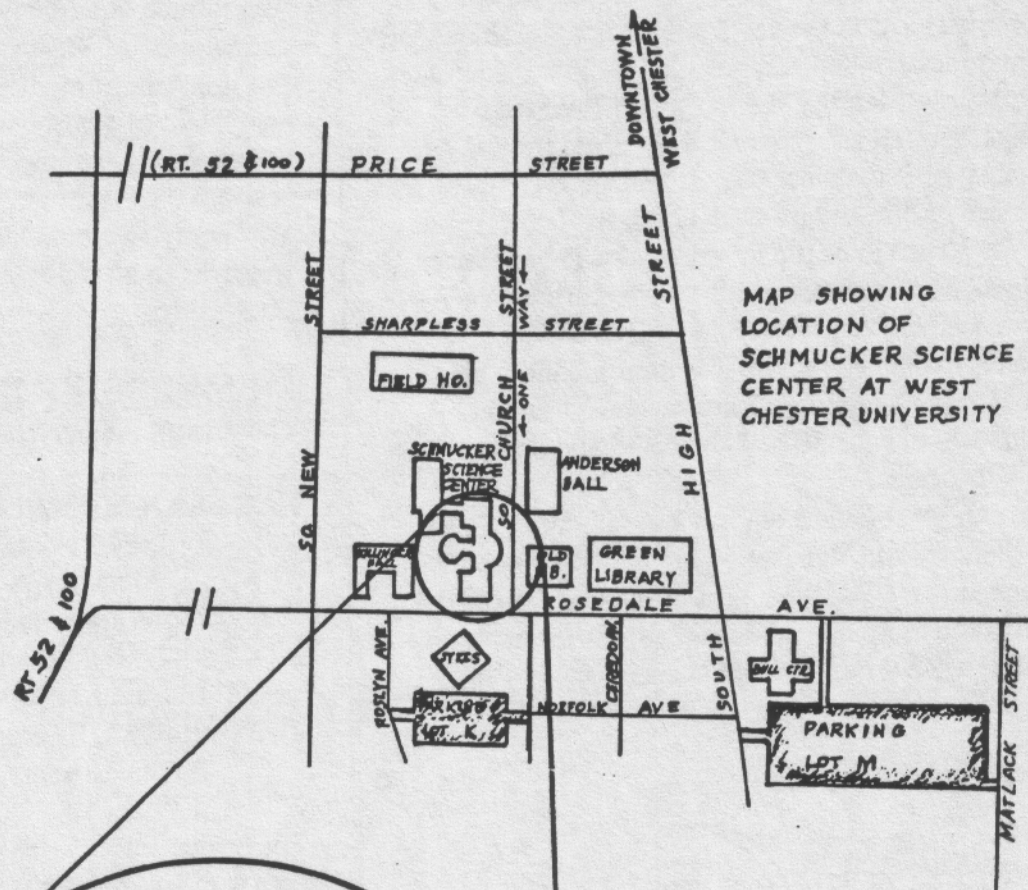
JUNIOR MEMBER

(under 18 years old)\$ 5/year

For further information on membership or society activities you may call:

President: Edwin Lurcott (610) 436-0387
Vice Pres: Mike Tucker (610) 584-8236
Treasurer: Steve Lurcott (610) 268-6943
Secretary: Nancy Armstrong (610) 873-7531
Obs Chrm: Roger Taylor (610) 430-7768
Pubic Rel: Kathy Cseke (610) 644-9543

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MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF SCHMUCKER SCIENCE CENTER AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

