

OBSERVATIONS

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

★ President: Edwin Lurcott
★ Treasurer: Steven Lurcott

DECEMBER 1994
(VOLUME 2, NO. 12)

★ Vice President: Mike Tucker
★ Secretary: Nancy Armstrong

CCAS DECEMBER MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, December 13, 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 (see maps)

Those attending the December meeting of CCAS will be treated to a demonstration of a computer Internet connection by Dr. Michael Martens, Associate Professor of Physics at West Chester University. A computer Internet connection allows the user access to a great many fields of interest. Dr. Martens will attempt to find sources of astronomical information available on Internet. This connection will be most exciting, especially to those of us who do not have access to such equipment and to those of us who are new to this source of information and communication.

All members are invited and may bring friends. Socializing over coffee will follow the presentation.

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NOVEMBER CCAS MEETING

Prue Campbell, graduate student at West Chester University gave an excellent demonstration of the planetarium projector in Schmucker Science Center at the CCAS November meeting.

She projected the central meridian, ecliptic and equatorial circles onto the dome which helped everyone understand the celestial coordination system. Identifying familiar constellations became increasingly difficult as more and more stars were projected. Prue showed how the stars would appear if one were at the North Pole or at the equator.

In addition to the projector demonstration, Prue displayed slides taken by the Hubble Space

Telescope before and after its repair. The comparison revealed the enhanced resolution and increased magnitude capability.

The executive committee wishes to thank Prue for giving this excellent presentation.

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CCAS OBSERVING SESSION

DATE: Friday, December 9, 1994
RAIN DATE: Saturday, Dec. 10, 1994
TIME: 7:00 PM - ? E.S.T.
PLACE: Brandywine Valley Association
(location of our summer meetings)
1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road
West Chester, PA (see map)

CCAS members and friends are invited to our December observing session at the Brandywine Valley Association (BVA) property on route 842, approximately 6 miles west of West Chester.

Saturn and the first quarter moon will be high in the west followed by many deep sky objects. Mars rises about 10:30 PM but still appears rather small (9 arc sec.). Larger 'scopes may glimpse the polar ice cap and the beginning of surface detail. Binoculars will show the daily motion of Mars passing 2.3 degrees north of Regulus.

A limited number of electrical outlets are available. Those bringing 'scopes may drive up the farm road to the left of the parking lot.

Members not owning 'scopes are encouraged to come and enjoy the views through 'scopes. 'Scopes owners are always pleased to have others look through them.

The BVA is allowing us to use their facilities and CCAS members are reminded that we should leave the area as clean as we found it. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

DRESS WARMLY !!!

For further information call Ed Lurcott: 436 - 0387

SUCCESSFUL OBSERVING SESSION

Those who attended the November observing session at Bob Hartje's home will attest to the success in spite of intermittent clouds. Much was accomplished in the way of adjusting and aligning telescopes. Much more can be accomplished at the next session, especially if the weather cooperates this time.

We were treated to pastries and hot beverages by our hosts during the observing session. The society wishes to thank the Hartje's for their hospitality.

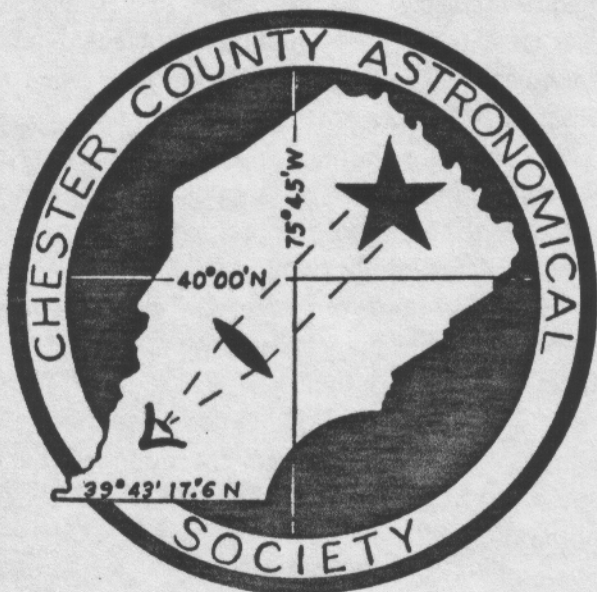
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CCAS LOGO RESULTS

We congratulate Ed Lurcott for submitting the winning CCAS logo. Many thanks to Kathy Cseke, Mike Phillips and Holly Silverthorne for their logo ideas.

The new logo consisted of a Chester County outline within the circular wording, "Chester County Astronomical Society." Superimposed over the county outline is a profile of a human eye looking through a lens at a distant star; representing our members, astronomical equipment and the science of astronomy, respectively. A 40 degree latitude line and a 75 degree 45 minute longitude line cross over the county outline.

The logo will be reproduced and used on CCAS stationery.



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WINTER STAR PARTY

Winter Star Party will be held at West Summerland Key, FL, Monday, February 27, 1995 to Saturday, March 4, 1995.

It's not too early to plan for this event. Some CCAS members are interested in going.

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

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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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ASTEROID (4): VESTA

If you have never seen an asteroid, now is your chance. Between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter lies the orbits of many minor planets (asteroids). Vesta, one of the four largest asteroids, is easily visible with binoculars at magnitude 7. It brightens to mag. 6.4 on December 25 and fades to mag. 7 by the end of January. On December 9, Vesta can be located just 4 1/2 degrees north northwest of Gamma Gemini passing close to Nu Gemini.

Vesta moves west northwest at a rate of 14 arc minutes (almost 1/2 the apparent diameter of the moon) per day. Note Vesta's position among the stars on the first night, then note its change in position on a following night. This will verify its identity. You may then like to follow its movements in the next few months. In mid-February its path among the stars turns around and goes eastward and fades to mag. 8. A close approach to Epsilon Gemini on April 24 permits one to see its movement in less than an hour.

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NEW MEMBERS OF CCAS

The Chester County Astronomical Society welcomes Barbara Metford and Kathy Buczynski as new members, both joined at the November meeting.

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SEASONS GREETINGS

The executive committee wishes all members and friends of the Chester County Astronomical Society the best of the holiday season, a Happy New Year and many clear night skies in 1995.

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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 meetings and become a member of the society.

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

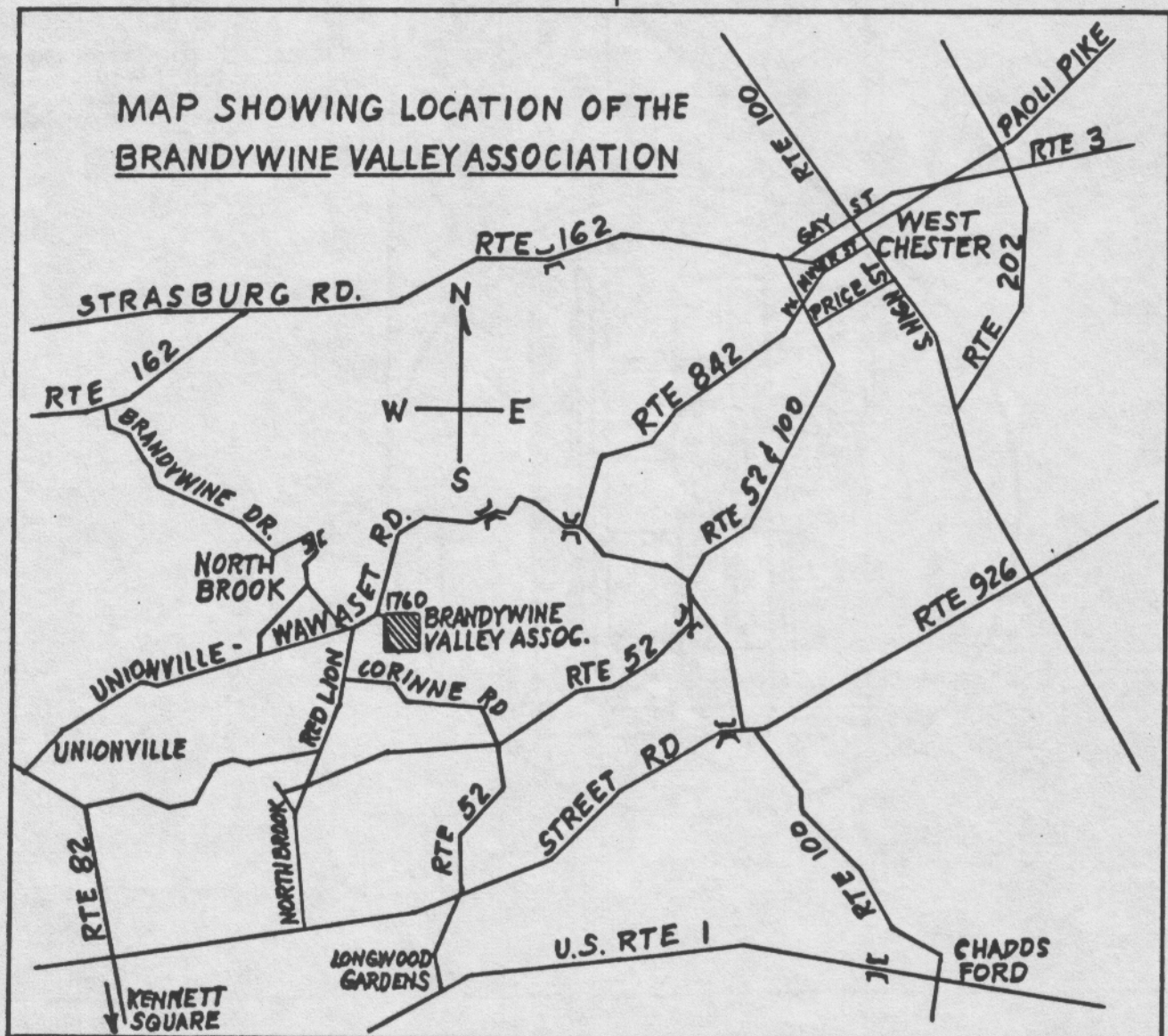
(full-time college student) \$ 5/year

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



MAP SHOWING
LOCATION OF
SCHMUCKER SCIENCE
CENTER AT WEST
CHESTER UNIVERSITY

