



OBSERVATIONS



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

★ President: Edwin Lurcott
★ Treasurer: Steven Lurcott

MAY 1995
(VOLUME 3, NO. 5)

★ Vice President: Mike Tucker
★ Secretary: Nancy Armstrong

CCAS MAY MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, May 9, 1995

TIME: 7:30 PM EDT

PLACE: Planetarium (room 186)

Schmucker Science Center

West Chester University

LOCATION: South Church St. & Rosedale Ave.

West Chester, PA (see maps)

It will be election night at the May meeting of CCAS. A list of the candidates and the office they will accept is enclosed.

Hugh Harber, Associate Professor of Astronomy and Science Education at West Chester University, will be speaking on "Advances in Teaching the Aerospace Sciences." His presentation is an overview of the aerospace topics that will become part of the science curriculum of the twenty-first century. They include such topics as planetary exploration, space stations, satellite communications and navigations, earth observing satellites, satellite telescopes and space planes.

As indicated by our survey, many CCAS members showed an interest in this area of astronomy. We are looking forward to Hugh's presentation.

All members are invited and may bring friends. Following the presentation, members may socialize over coffee. In addition, if sky conditions permit, we may use the observatory on top of Schmucker Science Center. Members must proceed as a group to the observatory where Ed Lurcott will operate the 12" scope.

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APRIL CCAS MEETING

Mr. Al Nacman, an educator with many disciplines was our delightful speaker in April. He focused on Maria Mitchell's contributions, not only to astronomy in early America, but on her efforts to encourage women to pursue science as a career. He outlined some of her life's accomplishments, illustrating the Bell theory (everything has an effect on everything else). He related how through her work and her students' work, she greatly influenced the role of women in science in the nineteenth century. We thank Al for his enlightening presentation. We wish him well in his continuing research projects.

CCAS OBSERVING SESSION

DATE: Friday, May 5, 1995

RAIN DATE: Saturday, May 6, 1995

TIME: sunset - ?

PLACE: Brandywine Valley Association (BVA)

(location of our summer meetings)

1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road

West Chester, PA (see map)

Several groups joined us for our April observing session. A Cub Scout den, a camping Girl Scout troop and BVA members enjoyed seeing the night sky wonders. Thanks to the CCAS members who shared their 'scopes. It was a bit chilly, but a good time was had by all.

May's observing session on Friday the 5th (rain date Sat. 6th) will also be at the BVA at sunset. The first quarter moon will be dominating the western sky with Mars overhead. Jupiter rises later in the southeast. For the larger 'scopes, Pluto should be visible at magnitude 13.7 (the brightest it ever gets). Good finder charts appear in the May issue of *Astronomy*, the April issue of *Sky & Telescope* and the 1995 *Observer's Handbook*. A multitude of M objects are now high up in the evening sky.

All are invited. 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 the 'scopes. 'Scope owners are always pleased to have others look through them. Plus, binoculars will enable you to see many objects in the sky, bring a pair!

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. Even though it is Spring, the evenings still get chilly, so DRESS WARMLY! For further information call Ed Lurcott.

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Frank Angelini has already helped CCAS by participating in our observing sessions. He joins CCAS as the fifty-fourth member. We look forward to his continued involvement in CCAS activities. Welcome Frank!

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SUMMER MEETINGS

This summer CCAS will combine its general meetings with its observing sessions at the BVA. Our June meeting will be near first-quarter moon, on June 2nd (rain date June 3rd). Several members have requested new-moon observing sessions. Therefore, the July meeting will be held on Friday, July 21st (rain date Sat., July 22) and the August meeting on Friday, August 18th (Sat., Aug. 19th). If the primary date is clouded out, the general meeting will be held regardless of the weather. Please remember, our regular meeting date (second Tuesday of each month) will resume in September (12th) at West Chester University.

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TELESCOPE NEEDED AT RIDGE PARK SCH.

The Ridge Park School has asked CCAS to help with their "Star Night," Wednesday, May 3rd (rain date Thurs., May 4th). The school is located between Conshohocken and Plymouth Meeting, off Butler Pike. A map is enclosed for your convenience. Those volunteering should meet at the school at 7:30 PM to set up before sunset. There will be about 40 first graders with their parents, so we need a number of telescopes to accommodate them.

Those who participated at New Garden School last year will remember how thrilled the kids and parents were to see celestial objects for themselves. It is very gratifying to see their excitement. While the Ridge Park School is not in Chester County, it is still another opportunity for CCAS to become better known and promote astronomy to the general public (one of the purposes of CCAS).

If you think you can help, please call Ed Lurcott at 436-0387.

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NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY: MAY 6

Exton Square Mall has granted CCAS space for a display table in front of Pearl Vision Center on the upper level. From 10 AM to 8 PM, Saturday, May 6th, 1995, CCAS will display posters, photographs and other astronomical items to the general public. The purpose of this display is to acquaint the public with our society, to encourage them to join us and to experience the joy of astronomy.

Members are urged to help by spending an hour or two behind the table to answer questions and hand out copies of the CCAS pamphlet. Ed Lurcott plans to be at the table all day, but he could use the help to talk to several people at once. Many Chester County residents are unaware of CCAS who may be interested in joining. The more help we have the easier it is.

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MASON-DIXON STAR PARTY

The sixth annual Mason-Dixon Star Party will be held on June 23 -25, 1995 at the Spring Valley County Park, York County, PA. This telescope star party in one of the most remote areas in southern York County. Weather permitting, there will be dark skies for observing on Friday and Saturday evening. Most attendees camp in the park, but nearby motels are available. This is a fun time for amateur astronomers and their families with activities for the children, food available at all times, swap tables, telescope judging and speakers.

If you have never been to a star party, this is a good one to start with as it is nearby, well organized and well attended. Cost: \$10/person, includes camping. Contact Ed Lurcott at 436-0387 for registration forms.

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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.

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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
Pubic Rel: Kathy Cseke (610) 644-9543

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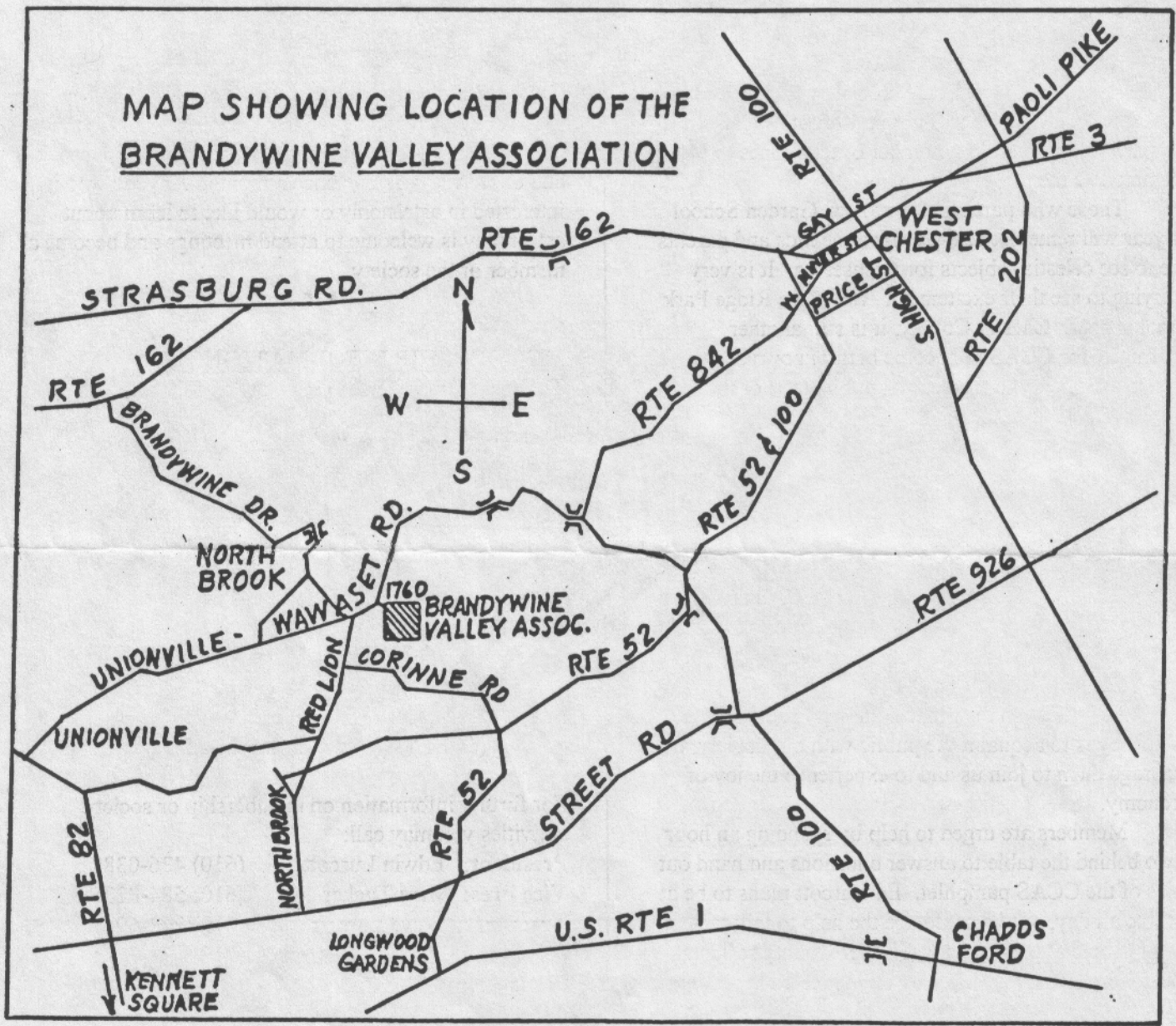
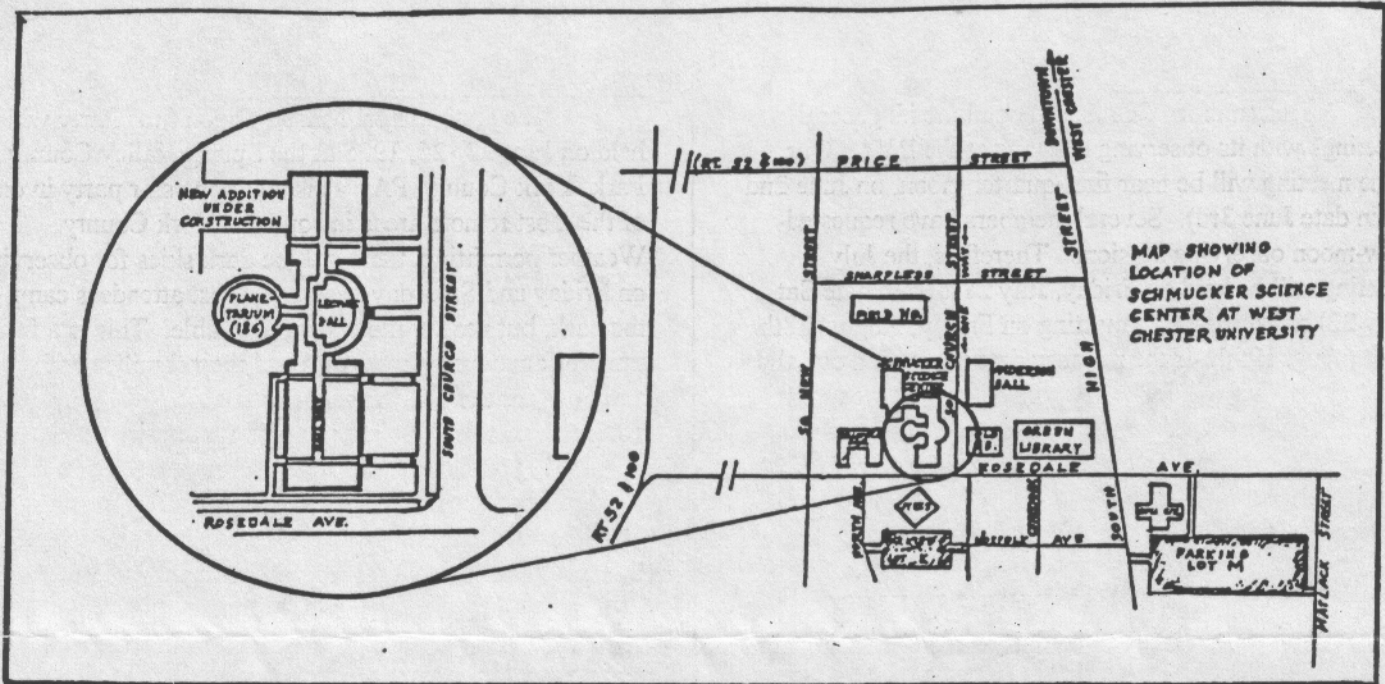


EXHIBIT B-1 FOR OFFICERS OF CHESTER COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

