

As you know Jay Rhoads, our Observing Chairman, had a difficult operation during the summer from which he is recovering nicely. Also he is going to school 4 nights a week this fall; throw in Carol, a baby, and a beautiful little girl child and you can easily wonder how he has time to pick up a telescope and go look for a dark sky. However Jay and Carol do manage all of that. Weather and other possible domestic duties permitting, I will join them out at our observing site on Saturday Oct. 11 for some observing. I plan to go out during the afternoon and do a little work.

Our next observing alert is going to be a party, starting with a picnic on Saturday afternoon November 8 and extending into the night. I especially call on the women in the club to pitch in and make this outing a success. Fried chicken in a basket sounds fine to me. And if we have any exotic picnickers in the club that's alright too, bring your dried snails, chocolate covered ants, and pickled chicken knuckles.

I've decided to let the club members in on my secret parking area at Bradley. As you approach the observatory from the direction of down town Decatur on either Chandler Rd, or McDonough, the first cross street as you pass Agnes Scott is Dougherty, if you will turn in that street you will find ample parking in 2 parking lots. Its an easy walk down a brick path on the east side of the power plant and up to the observatory. Dr. Robert Hyde has usually arrived ahead of you and turned on the lights to guide you along the path, but you dont need that if you can see in the dark the way I can. Its only about 200 feet and you probably need the exercise.

----- Announcement from Special Projects Chairman Jim Brown

After the meeting, a brief workshop is scheduled to discuss apparent celestial motion setting circles and polar-alignment of fork-mounted telescopes. Several Celestron telescopes will be on hand for demonstrations. In addition a workshop is being planned for Nov./Dec. to build the Coulter $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch RFT. Anticipated cost is in the \$50-60 range including mount. Because we need a head count, be prepared to say whether you want to build one. Also we would like to know how many people in the club have a telescope and what type. A signup sheet for this will be available at the meeting. Anyone wishing to mail in this information can send it to Lee Wilson, or Jim Brown.

Jupiter and Venus will have a close encounter, witnessed by nearby Saturn, on Oct. 30/31. For possible attempt by club members to see this event at Villa Rica contact Jay Rhoads.

The AAC meeting this month will be Friday 17, 8:00 PM, at Bradley. Our speaker is John Humphries from NASA's Space Telescope Group in Huntsville Alabama. He will be telling us about the Space Telescope Project and if the mundane problem of glueing the heat dissipation bricks on the Space Shuttle is ever solved this great event may may happen in our life time.

This is my first attempt to use our new Mimeograph machine purchased from David Speering's father for \$75. Its a small table model, with a hand crank, if you are reading this line its a success.

-lee wilson *lee*