

# THE FOCUS

## The Official Newsletter of United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey

April 1997

Volume III Number II

### **UACNJ to be donated 28-Inch Newtonian- Cassegrain Telescope**

The 28-inch telescope being donated to UACNJ is a one-of-a-kind instrument that was designed and constructed in 1969 by Mr. Otto Naegele, a former resident of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, and member of Amateur Astronomers, Inc. Mr. Naegele had been a professional machinist and tool and die maker for Litton Industries. It is being donated by Mr. Ross Bloom, a resident of Bernards Township who, after the passing of Mr. Naegele, purchased the property on which the telescope and observatory currently resides.

The 28-inch is optically a combination instrument, having both Classical Nasmuth Cassegrain and Newtonian formats, which adds to its scientific value since it can be applied to both planetary and wide field research. The 28-inch also has the unique honor of being the largest telescope to have ever been made in New Jersey, as well as currently being the largest permanently mounted instrument in the state. To be able to construct the massive instrument, Mr. Naegele took six months off from work. He built his own mirror grinding machine to work the glass, and even manufactured his own brass eyepieces.

The telescope having about a 10-foot tube is currently mounted in a 14x14 square foot observatory with a rotating dome, also built by Mr.

Naegele.

The mount is a rugged Cross Axis Equatorial design constructed from a 1948 Willies Jeep axil-universal joint that has been found to be unusually well balanced. For example, the entire instrument, which is considerable in weight, was easily moved into position with the pressure of two fingers. The overall mechanics, in general, appeared in very good working condition.

Although the optics have not been bench tested, they were tested visually on several stars on the evening of January 31, 1997 by several observers from Amateur Astronomers, Inc., the Montclair Telescope Club, the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, the Morris Museum Astronomy Club, and the Skyland Stargazers, all UACNJ consortium members. Included in this group was Mr. Alan Witzgall who is a professional master optician, employed by Optics For Research. The conclusion of the group is that the quality of the optics is from very good to excellent.

Disassembly and transportation of the instrument, from BaskingRidge, to Jenny Jump will be made early in May. The instrument will be placed in storage until a new observatory can be designed and constructed which is expected to take about three years. Although it is too soon for estimates for the cost of the observatory building, it will certainly cost several tens of thousands of dollars. We have set up a building fund separate from the regular UACNJ accounts for donations. Thank you to Mr. Ray Gerow of AAI for starting it off with a generous donation. If you are interested in contributing, please direct them to UACNJ 28-Inch Obs. Building Fund, 20 Helen Street, Warren, NJ 07059.

### **UACNJ WEB SITE**

The UACNJ is planning a web site. This will act as a central information bureau for all UACNJ club information, contacts and activities, as well as a jumping off point to other NJ club web sites, specialty astronomy groups, interests, etc. We hope to have it up and operating by mid-summer. More information will be included in the next issue of the FOCUS.

### **Speakers Bureau**

The UACNJ Speakers Bureau will be updated this year. Gordon Bond and Barry Malpas are working on the project. It is expected to contain over fifty speakers from around the New Jersey area who give presentations on a wide variety of astronomical topics. The database is expected to be available by late summer and will be sent to UACNJ clubs in hard copy as well as on diskette.

### **UACNJ Board Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on  
Saturday, June 7, 1997  
at 10:00 a.m.  
The location will be at StarQuest  
Branchville, NJ  
All are welcome to attend  
for information  
Contact Barry Malpas  
(908)755-6932



# THE JUMP NOTES

## Observer Guide Book

This year each observer will receive an Observer Guide Book which discusses the following criteria of the observatory at Jenny Jump:

- Obligations, Benefits and Responsibilities
- Opening and Closing Procedures
- Helping to Maintain the Facility
- Visitors, Guests and others
- Public Programs
- Use of the Observatories
- Emergency Situations

Each observer is responsible for becoming familiar with the procedures so the facility will stay well maintained, the equipment will be kept in good condition, and observers will know how to conduct themselves in certain situations.

## Donations to UACNJ Observatory

Thank-yous are due to the many people who have donated items to the observatory this past fall and winter. Special thanks go: to Don Greenwood for the heavy duty step ladder, and the binocular microscope, as well as many other useful items; to Dave Kuchinsky for a variety of camera equipment, two Newtonian telescopes, and several eyepieces, including a 25mm Clave, as well as several books; to David Dunham for his donation of many back issues of astronomy journals for the research library; and to Al Witzgall and Barry Malpas for books on the sun, spectroscopy etc. for the library.

Also, a special thank you to Mr. William McCarroll of Lawrenceville, NJ, who has donated an archive of material and photos documenting the Amateur Astronomical Association of Bergen County, a club that formed in the early 1930s and is now no longer in existence. This is a great addition to our history of astronomy in New Jersey project.

Super kudos must go to Mr. Ross Bloom of Bernards Township for his generous donation of the 28-inch Naegle telescope (see article elsewhere.)

Lastly, a lot of thanks must go to the many people who have donated their time and energies to getting the facility cleaned up, organized and ready to go for a new season. Thanks Don Greenwood, Darryl Foyuth, Lonny Buinis, Bruce Gundlach, Ralph Marantino, Saul Moroz, Ken Malpas, Gordon Bond, Dave Henderson, Gil Jeffer, Brian Lemley, Gene Ramsey, Ron Russo, Joe Molnar, Sue Barry, Al Witzgall, Ron Schecter, Larry Smith, and others who I have probably left out.



## UACNJ April-May Programs

April 5 Radio Astronomy

Darryl Foyuth, AAAP

April 12 Astronomy Day

April 19 The Solar System

Steve Clark, AAI

April 26 Deep Sky Observing

Gordon Bond, NDSOS

May 3 The May Sky

Lonny Buinis, HLO

May 10 Deep Sky Astrophotography

Wayne Augenstein, AAI

May 17 The Planisphere - A Useful  
Star Guide for all Amateurs

Joe Molnar, MMAS

May 24 The History of Astronomy

Karl Hricko, AAI

May 31 The Hubble Space Telescope

Alan Witzgall, NJAA

## Spectroscopic Certificate

The new Spectroscopic Certificate made available by UACNJ has its first two recipients. Ralph Marantino and Saul Moroz of Amateur Astronomers Assoc. of Princeton have submitted their observations and will be receiving their certificates shortly. They used a prism eyepiece spectroscope in their observations.

Submissions for  
The Focus  
should be sent to:

The Focus  
c/o Wayne Zuhl  
717 Brookside Place  
Cranford, NJ 07016  
wzuhl@turbo.kean.edu

All news regarding club  
events will be published  
on a first-come-first-  
serve basis.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JERSEY STARQUEST

The Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton will again host its popular Jersey StarQuest. This year's event will be held at the YMWCA Camp Linwood MacDonald, in Branchville, NJ. The program begins at 5 PM Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and runs through 12 PM Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The key features of this fun filled weekend include: Stargazing at an amazing dark sky site on both Friday and Saturday evenings; a Saturday lecture program; a AAAP sponsored "Deep Sky Observing" contest with prizes; an astronomical swap meet, with tables available at no charge; five catered hot meals, and door prizes. Other activities include: basketball, Appalachian Trail hiking, fishing, and fossil hunting. The event will take place regardless of the weather conditions.

Registration includes a camping or RV space, or indoor cabin accommodations available first-come first-served. Registration is \$28 per person, and \$29.50 for food per adult, or \$15.50 per child 12 and under. There is a \$5 discount for registering before April 25<sup>th</sup>, and a \$5 family discount per person after the 2nd family member.

The final registration deadline is May 16<sup>th</sup>. So contact Greg Mauro for more information at (215) 369-1505, or email: gamauro@aol.com