

REFLECTIONS



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August, 1991

The nucleus of the edge on spiral galaxy NGC 891 taken by Jack Newton with a 25" f5 telescope and a SBI CCD camera.

R. Tanner, ed.

University Lowbrow Astronomers

The University Lowbrow Astronomers is a club of astronomy enthusiasts which usually meets in the historic "Detroit Observatory" on the corner of Observatory and Ann Streets in Ann Arbor. The meetings start at 7:30 on the third Friday of each month and are open to the public. For further information, call Fred Schebor at 426-2363.

This Month:

August 16 - Meeting, Detroit Observatory in Ann Arbor. John Lafitte will demonstrate his **homemade computer controlled 10" Dobsonian telescope** using his **Amiga computer**.

"Artsy and Meaningless" Slide Show by Fred Schebor plus a **Demonstration of Foucault Testing** by Doug Nelle.

ASTROFEST Coming up soon!!!!

The Astrofest is coming up in the first week in September. This is the best big star party that is anywhere near us. There will be observing Friday and Saturday night; a Swap Shop Saturday morn, and talks all Saturday culminating in a feature talk by a interesting person and the Door Prizes. Since you are surrounded by 600+ enthusiastic and friendly amateur astronomers it is usually a lot of fun even when it rains. Usually there are several big light buckets, some fine refractors, and several very interesting homemade scopes. The deadline for registration and being sure of getting the meals on Saturday is August 24. Fred will have registration forms at the meeting.

Next Month:

September 3 - Computer Subgroup Meeting at Roger Tanner's house. Fred Schebor will bring over the club software library for copying and demonstration. Note that this date is a Tuesday.

September 6-8 - Astrofest, held in **Kankakee Illinois** by the Chicago Astronomical Society.

September 7 - Open House, Peach Mountain Observatory, bring scopes.

September 14 - Open House, Peach Mountain Observatory, bring scopes.

September 20 - Meeting, Detroit Observatory in Ann Arbor. The 1991 version of the infamous

Club News

Peach Mountain Observatory Policy

The following is the club policy concerning members reserving the Peach Mountain Observatory for personal observing:

A. Friday and Saturday are OPEN nights. Open means the night cannot be reserved. The first half of the night is intended for visual use and the second half is for photography, unless agreed otherwise by the members present.

B. Any non-reserved night is Open.

C. Reservations for the telescope are as follows:

1. You must be a club member and you must be approved on knowledge of use of the telescope by the observatory director.
2. No more than three consecutive nights a month per membership.
3. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance and not more than six weeks ahead.

D. Reservations apply only for the 24" , not the building (for power/warmth) or the grounds.

E. Extraordinary astronomical events have priority over the above rules.

F. Under no circumstances drive down to the telescope on an open night after twilight. If you need to drop off a telescope, walk down first and check with whomever is setup and observing to avoid spoiling either night vision or pictures.

Public Open House Policy

The above policy may be a moot point with the 24" out of operation but the last point is very applicable especially on public open houses. Several people have driven into the open house area after twilight to unload or load their telescope. If you drive with lights off, this is especially dangerous with little kids around. If you drive with lights on, you blind everybody else, and you still can't see very well. There is not much room on the hill so the standard

policy is not to park on the hill, but park out by the small dish. If you arrive before twilight you can drive down to unload, but drive back up to park. If you arrive after twilight, walk down and ask some members to help you carry your equipment down. If your stuff is very heavy just make sure you get there early.

If you decide to leave before the open house is over or while there are still several people observing, ask for help to carry your equipment, or bring a wagon or cart. Alternatively, consult with the people present to see if you could bring your car down to pack up.

Chasing the Meteorite by Matthew P. Linke

A small group of volunteers gathered near Chelsea on the morning of April 26th. Their mission: have a nice walk in the woods. That is all that was promised them, and that is exactly what everyone received.

Any attempt to recover a meteorite recalls analogies relating needles and haystacks, and this was no exception. Despite the three different witness accounts of a fall in this area, our hopes were never high. The area, a small section of state land north of Chelsea, proved to be easy to walk. The ground was reasonably clear and seeing was good. After four hours of walking though, the most exciting find was probably a combination of a painted turtle and various bones and glacial erratics.

For anyone wishing to return to the site it is easy to locate. Take M-52 north out of Chelsea until you come to North Territorial Road. The site is bordered by a gravel pit to the north, a lake to the south, and swamp to the west. From the point just north of where the guard rail starts to about half way along the rail marks the prime area worth searching. If you do visit the site please be careful with cigarettes and trash. For questions, please contact me at 747-1381, or 572-0534.

Subgroup Reports

Computers in Astronomy Subgroup

The sixth meeting of the Computers in Astronomy Subgroup was held at Kay Wilks house. There were five members present. At the meeting Kay Wilks demonstrated her bulletin board system and some of the software on the system.

Public Domain Discs!

Kay made up a couple of discs with several PD programs on them and handed them out at the meeting, so those people who missed this meeting missed out on a good deal!. The discs contained the documentation on using the Kitty Hawk bulletin board, a demo copy of a popular communication program (ProComm Plus), a computer clock setting program (TIMESET60), a couple of programs to display the phases of the moon on a CGA screen (PHOON), and to display the planetary system on a EGA screen, (AUTOEGA). Since the files on the discs were compressed the compression/uncompression program (PKZIP), was included on the discs

The Kitty Hawk Bulletin Board System

Kay has her bulletin board running on a 286 PC clone with over 100 megabytes of compressed files. The bulletin board software is called Kitty Hawk because the woman who wrote was a pilot on the Kitty Hawk. This software performs the usual bulletin board functions like answering the phone when some calls with their modem, and allowing the viewing, down loading, and uploading of files. As with most bulletin boards there is a message area where you can leave and read messages for and from others on the bulletin board. Another capability of the software is to echo the caller's screen on the bulletin screen. This allows a user who is having problems to call Kay on her other phone line and Kay can see exactly what the user is talking about.

Kay and Ed Galipeau demonstrated using the bulletin board by using her other PC computer to dial up the computer by dialing out her second phone line. The communication program (ProComm Plus) on the second PC established the link with the bulletin board system and then she

logged on the board. Then Kay demonstrated how to explore the system, what file areas were available, and then how to download a file. She has set up an astronomy area in the file system. This could be used by the club members to exchange files.

Kay will allow users to log on to look around but requests frequent users to register with her and pay a yearly fee (\$25).

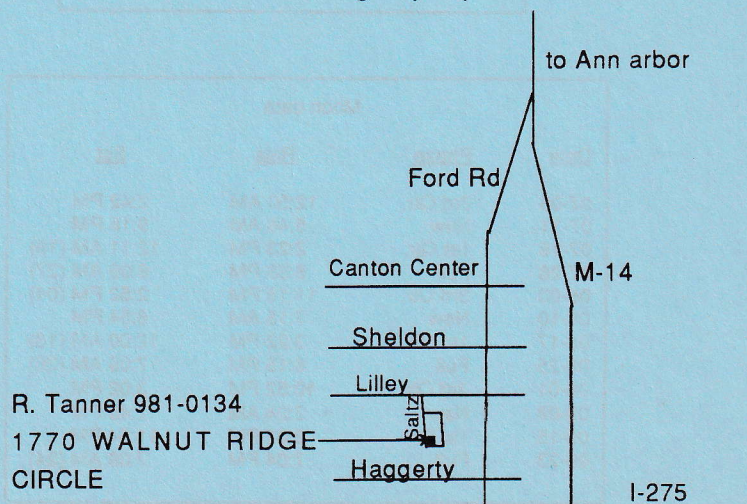
Timeset 6.0

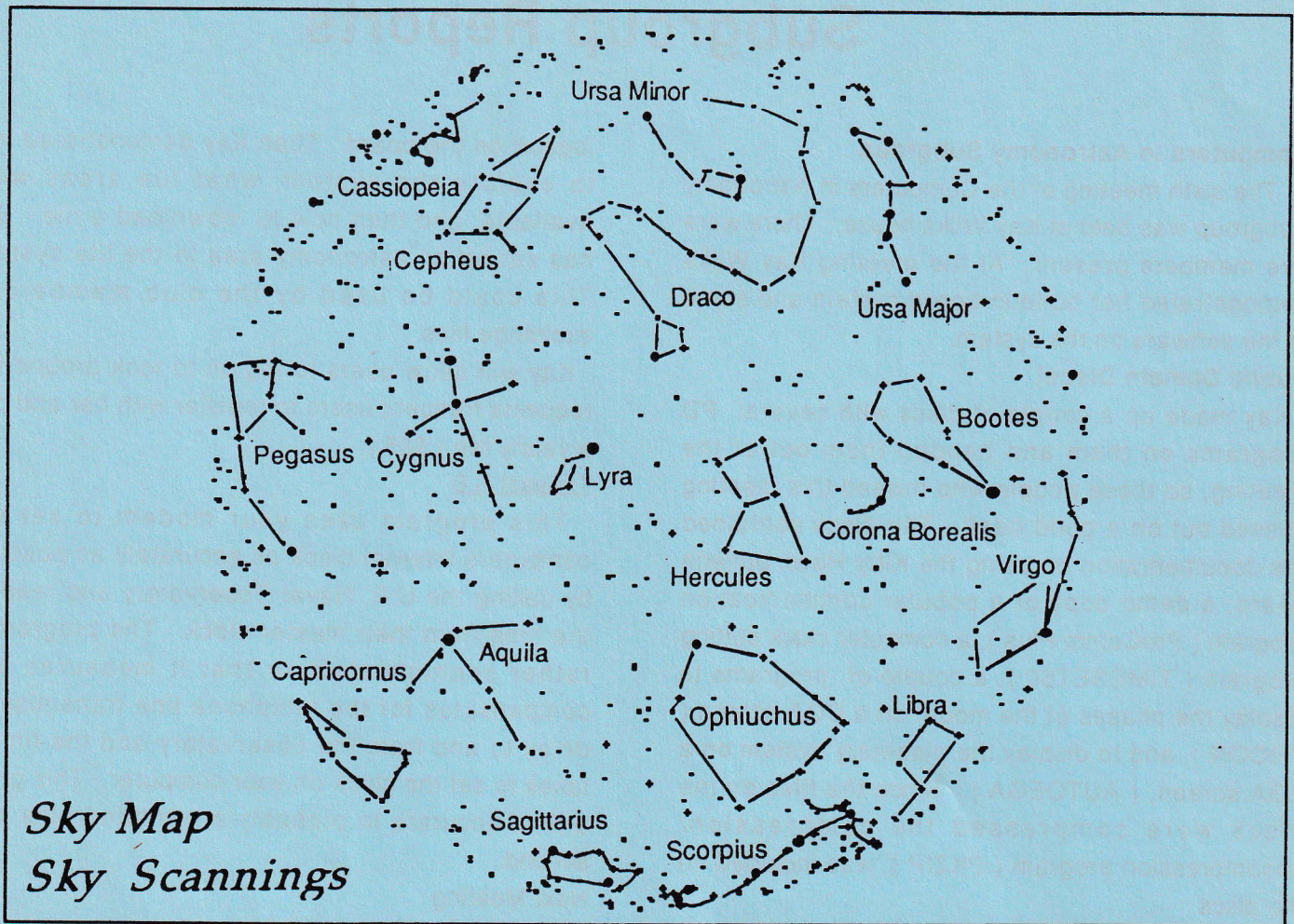
This program uses your modem to set the computers internal clock as accurately as possible by calling the U.S. Naval Observatory and reading the time from their master clock. The program is rather sophisticated, in that it measures and compensates for the telephone line transmission delay to and from the observatory and the time it takes to set the clock on your computer. This gives a time accurate to probably a few hundredths of a second.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **September 3** (to avoid the Labor Day Holiday) at **7:30 at Roger Tanner's** house. The map below provides directions. Fred Schebor will bring the **club software library** and demonstrate a few programs which we haven't seen so far. People are encouraged to **bring discs** and copy any public domain or shareware software that is in the club library.

Lastly, I must apologize to Fred Schebor for calling him Paul in the last subgroup report. - R. Tanner





Sunrise and Sunset data

Date	Sunrise	Sunset
07-01	6:02 AM	9:17 PM
07-15	6:12 AM	9:11 PM
07-30	6:26 AM	8:58 PM
08-01	6:28 AM	8:56 PM
08-15	6:42 AM	8:37 PM
08-30	6:58 AM	8:13 PM
09-01	7:01 AM	8:10 PM
09-15	7:16 AM	7:46 PM
09-30	7:32 AM	9:19 PM

Map is accurate for:
 Midnight on July 15
 10:00 p.m. on August 15
 8:00 p.m. on September 15

Moon data

Date	Phase	Rise	Set
07-05	3rd Qtr.	12:50 AM	2:42 PM
07-11	New	5:46 AM	9:18 PM
07-18	1st Qtr.	2:23 PM	12:11 AM (19)
07-26	Full	8:58 PM	6:09 AM (27)
08-03	3rd Qtr.	11:18 PM	2:52 PM (04)
08-10	New	7:15 AM	8:54 PM
08-17	1st Qtr.	3:22 PM	12:00 AM (18)
08-25	Full	8:15 PM	7:09 AM (26)
09-01	3rd Qtr.	10:52 PM	3:02 PM
09-08	New	7:24 AM	7:45 PM
09-15	1st Qtr.	3:02 PM	11:54 PM
09-23	Full	7:04 PM	7:09 AM (24)

Visible planet rise and set data
for mid-month, July, August, and September, 1991

Date	Planet	Rise	Set
07-15	Mercury	8:20 AM	10:29 PM
	Venus	9:42 AM	10:57 PM
	Mars	9:24 AM	11:02 PM
	Jupiter	8:20 AM	10:28 PM
	Saturn	9:42 PM	7:19 AM (16)
08-15	Mercury	7:51 AM	8:39 PM
	Venus	7:58 AM	8:26 PM
	Mars	9:03 AM	9:44 PM
	Jupiter	6:52 AM	8:44 PM
	Saturn	7:33 PM	5:05 AM (16)
09-15	Mercury	5:56 AM	7:19 PM
	Venus	4:52 AM	5:58 PM
	Mars	8:44 AM	8:24 PM
	Jupiter	5:25 AM	6:59 PM
	Saturn	5:26 PM	2:55 AM (16)

Places:

The *Detroit Observatory* is at the corner of Observatory and Ann Streets in Ann Arbor, across from the old U of M Main Hospital. The Detroit Observatory is an Historic Building which houses a 19th century 12-inch refractor and a 6-inch transit instrument.

The *Peach Mountain Observatory* is the home of the U of M radio telescope and the 24-inch McMath telescope used by the Lowbrows. This observatory is located northwest of Dexter, off North Territorial Road, West of Dexter-Pinckney Road. The entrance is just west of Sportsman's party store and is marked by a small maize and blue university sign. Go through the gate and follow the gravel road. Once parked at the observatory parking lot, follow the path away from the radio telescope and around the fenced in compound to the telescope.

Times:

The monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are either at the "Detroit Observatory" in Ann Arbor or at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Meetings held at Peach Mountain are cancelled if the sky is not clear at sunset.

Public Star parties (Open Houses) are held on the Saturdays before and after the new moon at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Star parties are cancelled if the sky is not clear at sunset. Many members will bring their own telescopes. Your scope is welcome. Wear warm clothes for the season and bring insect repellent. The next scheduled Open Houses are listed on the first page.

Dues:

Membership in the Lowbrow Astronomy Club is \$20 per year for individuals or families ,and 12 per year for students. Among other things, this entitles you to use the club telescope after some training.

Magazines:

The Lowbrow Astronomy Club offers discount subscriptions to popular astronomy magazines:

Sky and Telescope : \$18/yr.

Astronomy : \$14/yr., 12 issues.

Deep Sky : \$8/yr., 4 issues.

Odyssey : \$10/yr., 12 issues.

Telescope Making : \$8/yr., 4 issues.

All except Sky and Telescope require 5 club members to subscribe for the discounts. Contact Dick Sider (663-3968) for more info.

Sky Scannings:

The *Sky Scannings* and *Sky Map* section in the issues of the *REFLECTIONS* are produced by Matt Linke of the U of M Exhibit Museum.

Newsletter Contributions:

Please send any information, short articles, or drawings to the address below. The closing date is 10 days before the meeting. Currently there are not many people contributing and we could use some fresh observations from the members.

University Lowbrow Astronomers Reflections
1770 Walnut Ridge Circle
Canton, Mich. 48187

Important Numbers:

President: Fred Schebor 426-2363

VicePres: Stuart Cohen 665-0131

Doug Nelle 996-8784

Paul Etzler 426-2244

Treasurer: Richard Sider 663-3968

Observatory: D.C. Moons 373-1452

Newsletter: Roger Tanner 981-0134

Membership: Ron Avers 426-0375

Peach Mountain Keyholders:

Tom Ryan 662-4188

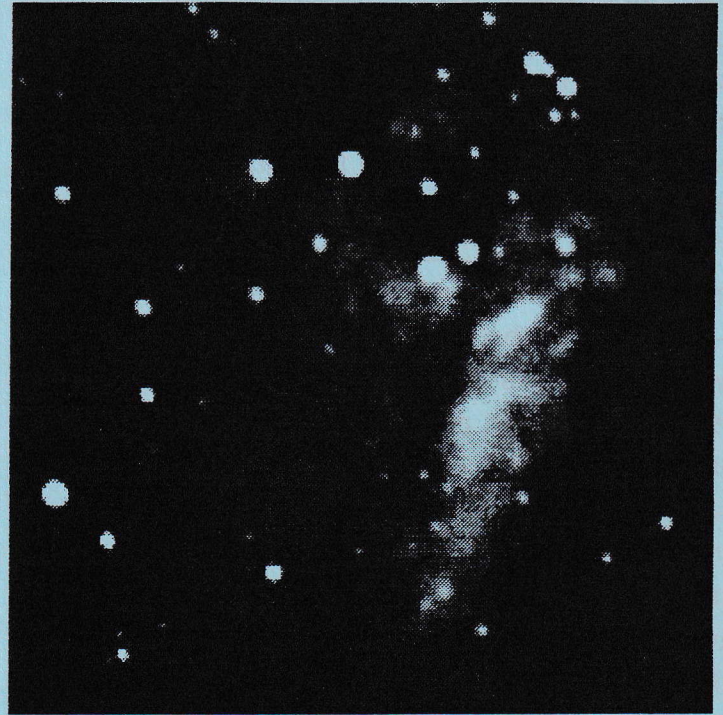
Fred Schebor 426-2363

Doug Nelle 996-8784

Monthly Meeting:

A Computer Controlled Telescope

At the
Detroit Observatory
in Ann Arbor



CCD image of the Omega Nebula (M17), was taken by Richard Berry with a 6" f5 telescope and a LYNX camera. The exposure was 200 seconds and the contrast was stretched with the AstroIP software.

University Lowbrow Astronomers
9287 Chestnut Circle
Dexter, MI 48130

President: Doug Hale 928-4784
Vice President: Fred Schmitt 458-2383
Treasurer: Richard Sitar 683-3888
Observatory: D.C. Moore 318-1427
Newsletter Editor: Janet 981-8184
Membership: Ron Avast 458-6312

Peach Mountain Keyholders:
Tom Ryan 652-4188
Fred Schmitt 458-2383
Doug Hale 928-4784

The monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at the Detroit Observatory, in Ann Arbor at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Meetings held at Peach Mountain are cancelled if the sky is not clear or cloudy. Public Star parties (Open houses) are held on the Saturdays before and after the month of the Peach Mountain Observatory. Star parties are cancelled if the sky is not clear or cloudy. Many members will bring their own telescopes. Your scope is welcome. There will be coffee for the visitors and bring your own. The next schedule Open houses are listed on the next page.

Membership in the Lowbrow Astronomy Club is \$20 per year for individuals or families and \$10 per year for students. Younger students may join for \$5 to use the club telescope after some training.