

The Mason-Dixon Astronomer

Westminster Astronomical Society of Maryland

March 1986, Vol. 3 No. 3

Radio Astronomy at March 26 Meeting

Dr. Gary Karshner, radio astronomer and instructor at Gettysburg College, shall be guest lecturer at the March 26 Meeting of the Westminster Astronomical Society, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 111 of the Lewis Science Hall, at Western Maryland College. In his talk Dr. Karshner will be discussing "Modern Radio Observational Techniques" using, for instance, the Very Large Array (VLA) radio telescope. Dr. Karshner started as an amateur astronomer in Northern California. Currently his chief research interest is "normal galaxies" and the relationship between galactic gas and dust in star formation.

This talk is the next in a series on the electromagnetic spectrum. In past meetings speakers from the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and the Space Telescope Science Institute have discussed infrared and x-ray astronomy, respectively.

Dinner with Dr. Karshner shall begin at 6:00 p.m. on the night of the meeting at Fan's Chinese Restaurant, 59 W. Main Street. Reservations are unnecessary, but please come no later than 6:00.

WAS Welcome Wagon

We extend our warmest greetings to the newest members of the ever growing Westminster Astronomical Society. The Neumanns, Peter, Ursula, and Karl, joined under the family membership plan. Blaine Roelke gave his son Frank a one-year MDA subscription.

Peter Neumann
4210 Middleburg Rd.
Union Bridge, MD 21791

Frank Roelke
422 Sycamore Ave.
Westminster, MD 21157

President's Report

March and April are the months in which we get our last good look at Comet Halley. We have enjoyed the experience but let me say, especially to the new members, that Halley is a grand though insignificant part of the beauty of our heavens. As I prepare to travel to Peru in April, the thought of finally observing the southern skies is even more appealing than the opportunity to comet watch from the Peruvian desert and Andes Mountains. Get out there and learn the sky. The best opportunities are with other members at the monthly star parties. Be seeing you at the meeting.

-- Curt Roelle

Messier Marathon Leaves Bitter Memories

The March 7-8 star party goes down in the WAS archives as

the coldest ever, so far. Temperatures that dropped to +2 degrees F. and gale winds made for a night in which Charles Messier himself probably would have said "to Hell with comets!", as he retired to a warm cozy fire inside.

Curt Roelle began observing alone at home at 7:00, plagued by wind gusts which kept knocking over the step ladder to his 12.5". Steve Rice and Robert Sier Jr. showed up at 10:30, Todd Bonner came at 2:30, and Joe Pekala brought new life at 5:00 in time to view P/Halley. A major highlight occurred when Steve and Bobby successfully located the southern globular cluster Omega Centauri, as it culminated only 3 degrees above the horizon.

At 4:00 the group took an hour break to warm up and watch astronomy videos before meeting Halley before dawn, which could be observed with the naked eye. In all six dozen Messier objects were observed before Scorpius and Sagittarius rose, but it was too depressing to continue after 9 hours outside in that weather with those summer constellations lolling about.

April Star Party

Mike Scalion hosts a star party every month on the Saturday nearest New Moon. Often in months such as this, when New Moon occurs mid-week (April 9), he has star parties on both the preceding and following Saturdays, which would be April 5th and 12th. It is advisable to call Mike and confirm the dates. Mike's address is 2201 Green Haven Way, Hampstead, telephone 239-3105. A map is enclosed in this issue.

T-Shirt Orders

Mike Scalion shall be taking orders for the first batch of WAS T-Shirts at the March meeting. A price list is included in this issue. You may choose any style of shirt you wish, but please note that some require a minimum order. Study the list and have your orders written down on paper, along with your cash, and give them to Mike. You may also mail him your order. For convenience assume that we will order shirts in the "6-11 item" price range. Please include 5% sales tax. Any over or under payments shall be resolved when the shirts arrive. The company recommended that dark colors be avoided in order to bring out detail in the logo.

Astronomy Magazine Group Rates

Those wishing to receive Astronomy, Deep Sky, Telescope Making, or Odyssey magazines can do so at discount prices through the WAS. Each magazine is published by Astromedia Corp. and is made available at a savings to club members. The only catch is that each magazine ordered must have a minimum of five subscribers.

If you already subscribe to any of these magazines, you may renew at the discount price, but please provide your address label when ordering from Joe. Since we are joining mid-year, new subscribers shall pay only \$8 for the May-December Astronomy. Current subscribers need to pay \$1 per issue to extend their subscriptions through the December following the expiration date. After this the club subscribes as a group one year at a time.

Joe is accepting cash orders until March 21 and will explain everything and answer questions at the meeting. The magazine costs are listed below:

Magazine	Issues	Cost
Astronomy	12	\$12
Odyssey	12	\$10
Deep Sky	4	\$7
Telescope Making	4	\$8

WAS Joins Astronomical League

The Westminster Astronomical Society is now an official member of the Astronomical League (A.L.). What this means is that each person is eligible for League benefits such as a discount book service, various observing programs, and the quarterly newsletter The Reflector. There are of course many more benefits besides the safety in numbers of belonging to the "world's largest federation of astronomical societies."

A bonus benefit for the WAS will be the 1986 A.L. National Convention (AlCon '86) in August, being sponsored by our big brothers, the Baltimore Astronomical Society (BAS). The two convention Co-Chairmen, Mike Potter and Dave Pessagno, are members of the WAS, as are at least four other subcommittee chairmen. If anyone is interested in helping the BAS, please contact any of the Convention Planning Committee members, Mike or Dave, Nancy Raab, Blaine Roelke, Curt Roelle, or Barry Willen. It is your League, and you can help put WAS on the map by contributing your time. The committee meets at 7:30 on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, at the Maryland Science Center at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Hatter Planetarium

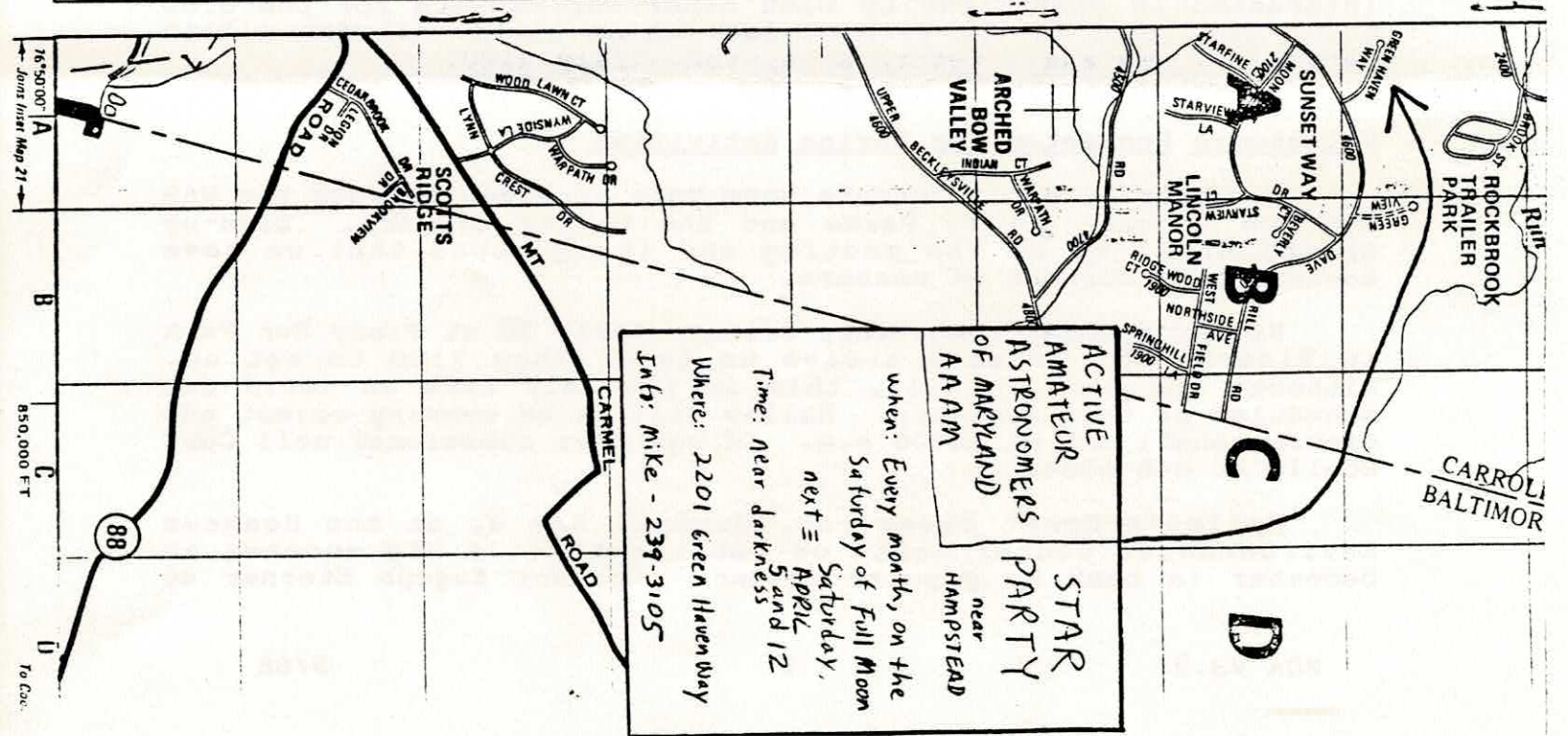
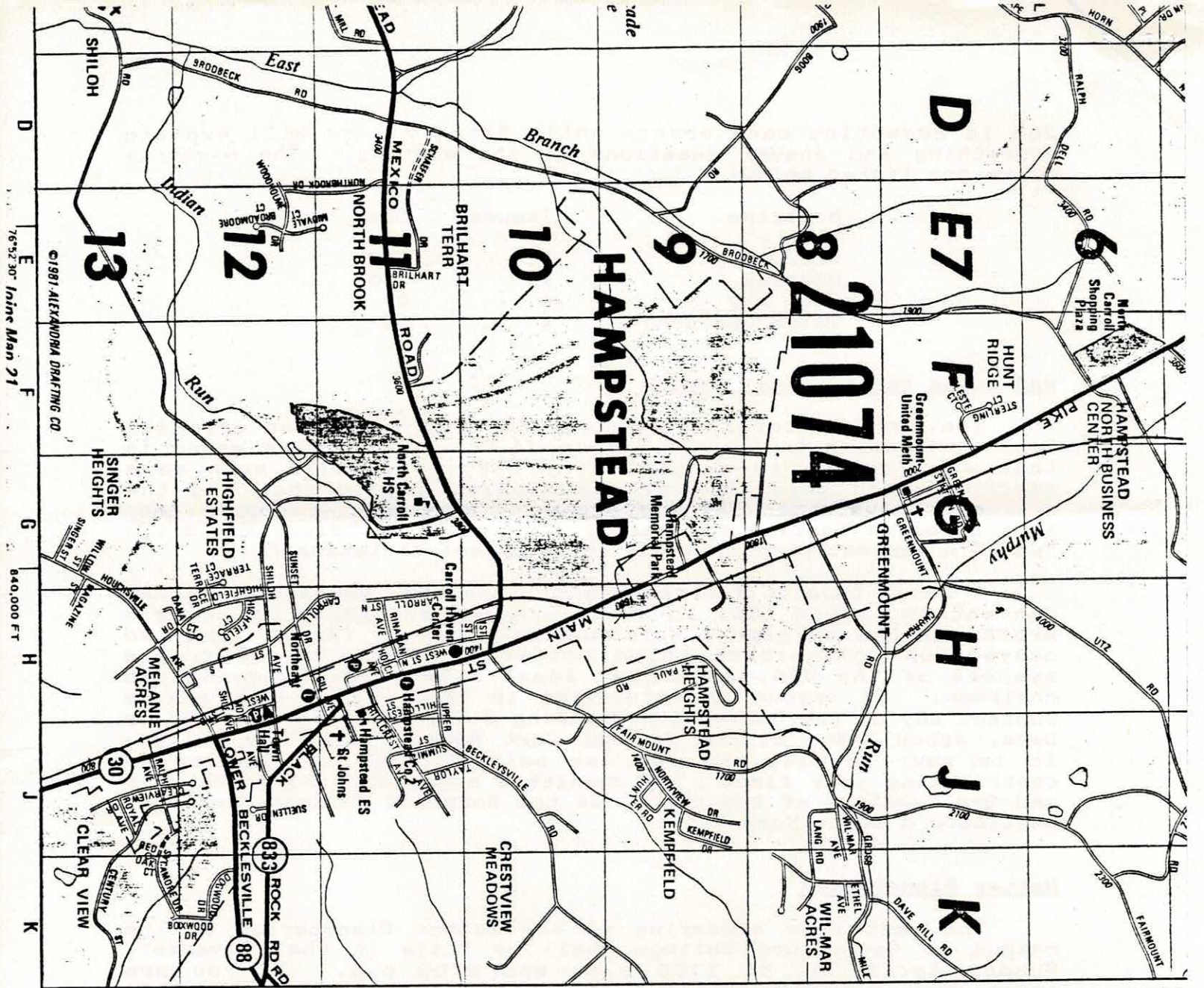
The next show appearing at the Hatter Planetarium on the campus of Gettysburg College shall be "Life in the Universe", Sunday April 20, at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in carpooling up with other WAS members for the 3:00 show, then meet in the parking lot behind Lewis hall for a 2:10 departure. We shall return at approximately 4:30.

Volunteers Requested for Spring Activities

A number of public events have been arranged between the WAS and the Carroll County Parks and the County Library. Sign-up sheets shall be at the meeting and it is hoped that we have another good turnout of members.

Halley's Comet observing, Friday, April 25 at Piney Run Park in Eldersburg. Please arrive no later than 7:00 to set up. Although the moon is full, this is the only time we could get scheduled at this facility. Halley will be an evening object and viewing shall end at 10:00 p.m. If you have questions, call Curt Roelle at 848-6384.

Halley's Comet observing, Sunday, May 4, at the Hashawa Environmental Center north of Westminster. A big success in December is back by popular demand. Contact Eugene Sterner at



ACTIVE
 AMATEUR
 ASTRONOMERS
 PARTY
 OF MARYLAND
 AAAAM
 STAR
 PARTY
 NEAR
 HAMPSTEAD

When: Every month, on the
 Saturday of Full Moon
 next = Saturday,
 APRIL
 5 and 12
 Time: Near darkness
 Where: 2201 Green Haven Way
 Info: Mike - 239-3105

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76°32'30" Inland Map 21

640,000 FT

76°50'00" Johns River Map 21

850,000 FT

To Cont.

346-7725 for more information.

Satisfied visitors pause beside WAS member Tom Appler (holding Zeiss binocular) and his 10" Newtonian during the December 14 Christmas Comet Watch at Hashawa.

Photo by Curt Roelle



Astronomy Day, Saturday, May 10, at the Carroll County Public Library Main Branch, in Westminster. Page 397 of this month's issue of Sky & Telescope highlighted last year's Astronomy day in Westminster, calling it a "success story of note", with displays that were "very good bait ... innovative ... cashing in on the popularity of video", in three paragraphs of text (Britain's Royal Astronomical Society received two paragraphs in the same article). Eugene Sterner reminds members to consider what they can contribute in the way of displays: posters, photographs, models, telescopes, computers, videotapes, etc. He needs to know so that we can start publicizing it. This event shall be held during daylight hours.



Guests, some born years after the Apollo moon landings, admire a type of moon rock known as a breccia at the first of two 1985 Astronomy Days, on June 8.

Photo by Curt Roelle

Corrections

Because of "enhancements" made to utility routines used by other programs during the past year, the Messier Marathon schedule gave incorrect culmination times in the February MDA.

WAS CALENDAR

March	23	2:00 p.m.	Planetarium - meet at Lewis Hall
	26	6:00 p.m.	Dinner with Speaker - Fan's Rest.
		7:30 p.m.	Monthly meeting - Lewis Hall, WMC
April	5	dusk	Star Party - Mike Scalion, Hampstead
and/or	12	dusk	
	20	2:00 p.m.	Planetarium - meet at Lewis Hall
	25	7:00 p.m.	Public Halley Watch - Piney Run Park
		to 10:00 p.m.	
	30	7:30 p.m.	Monthly Meeting
May	4	7:00 p.m.	Public Halley Watch - Hashawa Center
		to 11:00 p.m.	
	10	9:00 a.m.	Astronomy Day - Library, Westminster
		to 5:00 p.m.	

Westminster Astronomical Society

3481 Salem Bottom Road
Westminster, Maryland 21157



Curt & Cheryl Roelle F-11/86
3481 Salem Bottom Road
Westminster, MD 21157

Universal Graphics

1206 MAIN ST/HAMPSTEAD/MD/21074/374-9031/848-3530

PRICE LIST

MESH BASEBALL CAPS

6 - 11.....	3.70
12 - 24.....	3.45
25 - 48.....	3.35
49 - 100.....	3.25
101-200.....	3.15
201-299.....	3.05
300+.....	2.95

WINTER BASEBALL CAPS

6 - 11.....	4.20
12 - 24.....	3.95
25 - 48.....	3.85
49 - 100.....	3.75
101 - 200.....	3.65
201 - 299.....	3.55
300+.....	3.45

TENNIS VISORS

6 - 11.....	3.60
12 - 24.....	3.35
25 - 48.....	3.25
49 - 100.....	3.15
101 - 200.....	3.05
201 - 299.....	2.95
300+.....	2.85

50/50 BLEND T-SHIRTS

ADULTS CHILDS

6 - 11.....	5.10	4.80
12 - 24.....	4.50	4.20
25 - 48.....	4.35	4.05
49 - 100.....	4.20	3.90
101+.....	3.90	3.60

65/35 BLEND T-SHIRTS

ADULTS CHILDS

6 - 11.....	5.90	5.55
12 - 24.....	5.40	5.05
25 - 48.....	4.95	4.65
49 - 100.....	4.80	4.50
101+.....	4.55	4.25

BASEBALL/LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS

ADULTS CHILDS

6 - 11.....	6.50	6.20
12 - 24.....	6.20	5.90
25 - 48.....	5.90	5.60
49 - 100.....	5.60	5.30
101+.....	5.30	5.00

CREWNECK SWEATSHIRTS

Infant/Toddler (2,4).....	10.00
Youth (6/8 to 14/16).....	11.00
Adults (S to XL).....	11.50
Adults Ex. Size (2X, 3X).....	14.25

HOODED ZIPPERED SWEATSHIRTS

Youth (6/8 to 14/16).....	14.90
Adults (S to XL).....	15.90
Adults Ex. Size (2X, 3X).....	19.85

PULLOVER SWEATSHIRTS

Youth (6/8 to 14/16).....	13.90
Adults (S to XL).....	14.90

GOLF SHIRTS

3 Button with Pocket.....	12.25
without Pocket.....	11.50
4 Button with Pocket.....	13.30
without Pocket.....	12.95
Size 2X or 3X.....	13.65

50/50 BLEND T-SHIRTS

Size 2X (50-52).....	7.55
Size 3X (54-56).....	8.15

MUSCLE SWEATSHIRTS

Adults (S to XL).....	10.50
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FULL SIZE: \$2.00

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