

# Harford County Astronomical Society

NEWS LETTER  
Number 4

July 1970

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July Programs

Tuesday, July 7, 1970

Featured at this meeting will be two movies obtained from Radio Corporation of America. They are "Universe", an award winning film, made in Canada, and a short film on nuclear energy.

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Thursday, July 16, 1970

Dr. B. L. Souther, distinguished member of the Baltimore Astronomical Society will deliver at this meeting an interesting paper entitled "Constructing a Sundial." Dr. Souther will cover the entire procedure for the construction and alignment of a sundial.

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Observing Night Scheduled for July 24th.

The H.C.A.S.' second observing night is scheduled to be held on July 24th, weather permitting. The place will be Harford Glen and the time from 8:30PM to 12:00PM. Directions to Harford Glen will be given at the July 16th meeting and in case of bad weather the night for observation will be rescheduled for July 31st.

The list of objects that can be viewed on July 24th include Jupiter, Venus, M13, the Ring Nebula, the Great Nebula in Andromeda and all the other objects normally viewed in a summer or early fall constellation.

To make the night a success, your support is requested. It should be interesting so try and be there.

For further information contact Jeff Coomer (679-8433).

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Sky and Telescope at Last - Lewis Berman

At the July 7th meeting, orders will be taken for Sky and Telescope Magazine. Members wishing to receive it should bring the payment of \$4.00 to that meeting. Non-members wishing to join the Society and receive Sky and Telescope should bring \$6.00. According to Sky Publishing Corporation, persons who already have a subscription will receive a refund unless there are only one or two months left on their subscription.

To simplify the job of the Membership Secretary and to avoid inevitable confusion, all subscriptions will begin with the August issue, no matter whether the subscription fee is paid in that month (example: If a person joins in November he will pay for and receive back issues from August and must renew his subscription the following July.)



For further information contact Mr. Heppner (939-2975).

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### M.E.R.A.L. Convention Report

On June 19th and 20th the Baltimore Astronomical Society played host to a convention of the Middle East Region of the Astronomical League (MERAL). The convention was attended by Mr. Harold Berman, Lewis Berman and Jeff Coomer from our Society.

The Friday night session featured a brief demonstration of the Planetarium of the Towson State College and a phenomenal new motion picture entitled "The Violent Universe". This film was produced by the British Broadcasting Company and was two and one half hours long. It covered various items ranging from the Sun to Quasars and Pulsars. Also contained were interviews with thirty top astronomers who spoke on varied and controversial subjects and there were some excellent film clips and photographs. If you ever have the opportunity to see this film, I highly recommend that you do so.

On Saturday, morning and afternoon sessions were held. A variety of interesting papers were given on topics ranging from sungrazer comets to how to construct sundials. (The paper on sundials will be delivered to the M.C.A.S. on July 16th - see announcements on July programs). Exhibits brought to the convention by some of the attending persons were also a feature of the Saturday sessions. On display were such things as a solar prominence telescope, a number of astro-photographs and many more items of interest to amateurs.

A banquet in the evening capped off the activities of the convention. Francis J. Hayden, Director of Georgetown University Observatory was the featured speaker. Mr. Hayden spoke on the "Time Scales for the Stars" and brought to a close a very successful M.E.R.A.L. Convention. (By J. Coomer)

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### Astronomical Events for July 1970

MERCURY \* At superior conjunction July 6th. July 30th Mercury is 0.3 degrees north of Regulus and they both set at 9 PM.

VENUS \* Sets about 2 hours after the sun most of July. Notice location of moon and Venus on July 6 and 7. On July 7 Venus is occulted by the moon - visible in East Indies. On July 11, Venus is 1.1 degrees north of Regulus.

JUPITER \* In Virgo, sets about 11:30 near the end of July.

SATURN \* Rises near midnight at the end of July in the Aries-Taurus area.

MOON \* New moon - July 3; First quarter - July 11; Full moon - July 18; Last quarter - July 25. Apogee - July 7, perigee - July 19. Regulus and Venus are occulted by the moon July 7. The Venus occultation is visible in East Indies, the Regulus occultation in parts of the Americas. On July 7th Antares is occulted - visible in Antarctica, South Africa.

JULY 4 \* Earth at Aphelion, over 94,500,000 miles from the sun.

JULY 22 - AUGUST 5 \* Delta Aquarid meteor shower, peak July 29 - twenty meteors per hour.

Planetary Configurations - July 1970

July	D	H	M	Event
	4	-	-	Earth in Aphelion
PM	6	06	-	♃ ♄ superior
AM	7	00	-	♃ ♄ (-90.9 degrees N. Occn.
AM	12	09	-	♃ ♄ (-46 degrees W.
PM	26	08	-	♃ ♄ (-18 degrees S.

(By David Thomas)

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We wish to thank Mr. Frye for taking the time to present us with his informative talk on the astronomical facilities in Aberdeen Proving Ground.

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Editor:

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Articles may be submitted to Post Office Box No. 7, Aberdeen, Md. 21001.

Articles must be in the hands of the Editor by the 21st of the month.

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The Editor is not responsible for the contents of any article submitted to him for publication.