

THE FOCUS

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GEORGE LOVI MEMORIAL LIBRARY OPENS

by Kevin Conod

I had the pleasure of attending the dedication ceremony for the George Lovi Memorial Library on Sunday, September 10th. The event at the NJ State Planetarium in Trenton was well attended, the crowd of about fifty included family, friends, planetarians and amateur astronomers. All were there to honor the memory of the late George Lovi, astronomer, author, cartographer and long time resident of New Jersey. He was known to many of us through his monthly columns in *Sky & Telescope* magazine.

George's sister summed him up: he was a lover of books. But he wasn't just a lover of books - he was a book! Indeed George was well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of astronomy (as well as history, railroads, and a half-dozen languages). Others, family members, friends, colleagues, regaled the audience with tales of his achievements, laced with many humorous anecdotes and memories of George's life, loves and eccentricities.

The highlight of the dedication was the announcement made by Joe Rao and Sam Storch. After many months of effort, they got the IAU (International Astronomical Union) to name an asteroid after George. Asteroid 1984EG is now Asteroid 5943 Lovi. The confir-

mation letter arrived just in the nick of time for the ceremony.

After the dedication, the crowd toured the George Lovi Memorial Library. Set up in the offices of the Planetarium, the collection contains over 1,200 books, atlases and thousands of periodicals, many rare and out of print. It also contains miscellaneous globes and telescopes.

Before he passed away, George often worried what would become of his book collection. Now he may rest assured, the collection is in good hands and is open to amateur astronomers for research by appointment. Contact Dick Peery at the Planetarium at 609-292-6333. I encourage you to make use of this wonderful resource.

January Board Meeting

All Board members were in attendance. Delegates were seated (identified) and a quorum was declared. The Treasurer reported a net balance of \$5151.22. Barry Malpas reported on the UACNJ Observatory and a budget for 1996 which was approved. He announced a meeting there on Feb. 3 regarding Observatory site plans. Barry requests scrap lumber for forms for poring foundations. He requested funds for a soda machine: Larry Smith knew of such a machine for a lower cost, and was encouraged to acquire it. Barry announced a library of books and magazines at Jenny Jump, and other materials available to member clubs and their members. Donations of materials and dollars are encouraged.

V. P. Ron Russo discussed possible revisions to the UACNJ Constitution.

The Credentials Committee will examine these and other issues and report proposed changes to the Board. A discussion of large expenditures lead to a rule that requests for funds over \$500 will be voted upon at the following Board meeting unless a 2/3 vote overrides this rule. It was also ruled that a summary of Board minutes be published in the Newsletter, and full minutes distributed to all delegate clubs, and that an agenda be distributed at subsequent meetings.

Saul Moroz was approved as chairman of the Membership Committee. Also, a History Committee was approved. Rick Kurczewski reported on the Light Pollution Committee, expressing concern about the NJ Light Pollution Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11PM. The next meeting will be at Jenny Jump on Saturday, March 30th. An Executive Board meeting was held in February at Jenny Jump, to prepare for the March meeting.

Submitted by Herbert R. Johnson,
Recording Secretary

UACNJ Board Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Sat., March 30, 1996 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at the UACNJ Observatory at Jenny Jump State Forest. All are welcome to attend the meeting.

For directions call Barry Malpas at: 908-755-6932



THE JUMP NOTES

Several events will be taking place in the near future at the UACNJ Consortium observatory at Jenny Jump State Forest in Hope, NJ.

There will be regular **Saturday Work Sessions** on March 30th, April 13th and 27th, May 11th and 25th. Work sessions usually begin at 10 a.m. and run all day. During these Saturday work parties, renovations are made to the house and the grounds and anything else that needs work. If you haven't yet attended a work session, you really should. You'll not only be helping with the site but it's a great way to meet people from other clubs.

In mid October we received the official word from the State that the site plan has been approved. This means that new observatories can begin construction in the spring. We will begin setting up work crews to help dig and pour the foundations. Get out there and give a hand!

On March 30th at 1 p.m. a class dealing with building CCD Cameras will be held in the house.

We need your support to make the Observatory a success. If you're already a supporting member of the Consortium then you know that yearly dues are due. Regular membership is \$20, Sustaining memberships cost \$50. Your dues help pay the bills that are incurred at the Observatory to keep it operating. This may sound like a beg-a-thon but that money is needed to help keep this fine dark sky site available to amateur astronomers. If you are not a Consortium member and would like to become one, contact Barry Malpas at 908-755-6932 for more



Upcoming Events at NJAG

The APRIL 10th meeting of the *North Jersey Astronomical Group* will feature Dr. Bodhan Paczynski of Princeton University. His talk will focus on the exciting field of gravitational lensing

and will feature "Project OGLE" - Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment. Montclair State University, Richardson Hall, Room 226, 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 11, is Astronomy Day at the Newark Museum. The festival will feature Planetarium shows, solar telescopes, and workshops for children five to ten years old. Astronaut Terry Hart will speak about his mission aboard the space shuttle. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., 49 Washington Street, Newark. (201) 596-6611 or via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.rutgers.edu/newark/MUSEUM/dreyfuss.html> for more information.

RADIO ASTRONOMY UPDATE

By Herb Johnson and Daryl Foyuth

The construction of the 40 square foot, 400 MHz antenna was completed by Herb in January, but the antenna must be "tuned" to 406 MHz by physically trimming each of the 16 dipole elements to the correct half-wavelength size, about 35 cm; and other physical adjustments. Darryl will tune the antenna, pending better weather, in his backyard. The 70 foot underground conduit for the cabling was completed with exhaustive ditch work in January just before snowfall, and this month.

Meanwhile, Darryl has received the two custom-built RF amplifiers from Advanced RF Devices and they are very professional. The down converter to produce a 28 MHz output is under construction by Down East Microwave, who is building it at cost. In Internet correspondence between Herb and the Taunton School (college) Radio Observatory in Somerset, UK (England), they consider our efforts "on the right lines" and have helped with filter designs.

We hope to mount the antenna at Jenny Jump in March, and use a short-wave initially to listen and detect "signals" (actually noise of various sorts) from the Sun, the galactic plane, and several strong stellar sources. A chart recorder and a detector/integrator circuit will be completed and tested by March 30th, when we expect "first signal".

This project was funded by UACNJ as part of their plans for Radio Astronomy at the Jenny Jump site. We encour-

age contributions to UACNJ from clubs and their members in support of Radio Astronomy. For more information or to attend our next Jenny Jump meeting, contact our Chairman, Darryl Foyuth, at (609) 538-8120.

Northeast Astronomy Forum & Telescope Show V

The Rockland Astronomy Club is once again hosting the Northeast Astronomy Forum. This year's event will be held on Sunday, April 14th at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, NY. The festivities begin at 9 a.m. and continue on until 7 p.m. Admission is only \$10.

Some of the leading astronomical manufacturers and dealers will be set up in a "swap table" type area. Vendors will have almost anything that the amateur could possibly want, such as telescopes, binoculars, eyepieces, CCD's books, meteorites, jewelry and other astronomical accessories and novelties. There will be door prizes and a raffle as well.

A terrific selection of lecturers will be speaking throughout the day. The keynote speaker will be **Dr. David Crawford** of the IDA who will be discussing Light Pollution and ways of fighting it.

For info call (201) 768-6575 (evenings).

AAI Running Two Trips To 1998 Eclipse

AAI is sponsoring two different trips to observe the February 26, 1998 total solar eclipse. There are both land and sea trips available.

The land trip consists of seven nights in Aruba. Airfare, hotel and transportation to the eclipse site are all included in the \$1550 cost.

If you're more inclined to observing the eclipse from the ocean, AAI is also running an Eclipse Cruise. The Cruise ship departs from Miami and will sail about the Caribbean for nine nights. The cost of the sea trip is \$1700.

If you interested in going on either one of these trips you'll want to put in your deposit right away, as space is extremely limited. For more info on the land trip contact Joe Arcaro at 908-889-6607 (evenings). For cruise information call 908-248-2378 or 908-855-6941.