NORTHERN LIGHTS

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NORTH CENTRAL REGION

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ROAMING THE REGION

Bill Pohnan and Orville Brettman (both of Argonne A.C., Elgin A.S., Racine A.S.) are starting a study of the distribution of young spiral galaxies in the vicinity of older, larger spirals. This study will be made using the National Geographic - Palomar Sky Survey at Yerkes Observatory. Bill and Orville have received special permission from Dr. C.K. O'Dell, Yerkes Director, to use the Sky Survey. The project is based on an idea suggested by Dr. Halton C. Arp,Hale Observatories, and is expected to take a minimum of six months. (Readers are referred to Dr. Arp's article in the December 17, 1972, issue of Science, "Observational Paradoxes in Extragalactic Astronomy.")

James E. Kloeppel, a high school junior, is in the process of reactivating the Sioux City Amateur Sky Observers. Besides being a member of the American Meteor Society and a lunar occultation observer, Jim has had an article published in a recent issue of The Amateur Astronomer (now Modern Astronomy). Since he is planning a trip to Canada for this summer's solar eclipse, Jim would appreciate hearing from experienced eclipse observers regarding suitable films for photographing the eclipse. His address is 1421 Ingleside Ave., Sioux City, Ia., 51105.

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CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE

The 26th Annual Convention of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League will be held on Saturday, May 20,1972. The convention location will be the Brooks Memorial Union of Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Registration will begin at 8:30 Saturday morning and the first paper session will begin approximately an hour later. The Milwaukee society is host for this year's convention.

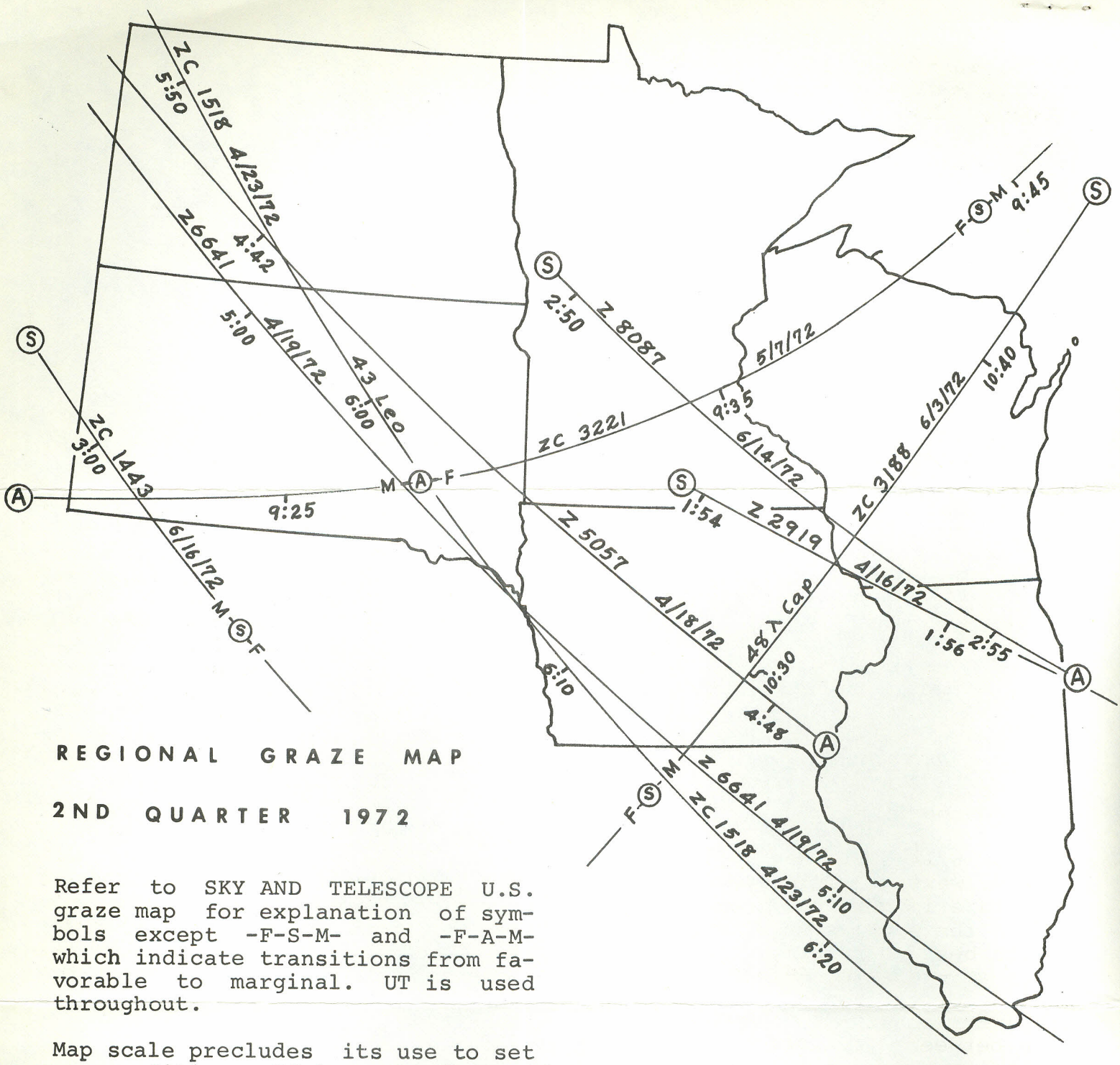
Advance registrations of $1.50 per person or $3.00 per family must be received by May 13. Registration fees after May 13 will be $2.00 per person or $3.50 per family. Send registrations to:

Mrs. Wm. B. Albrecht
5648 N. 34th Street
Milwaukee, Wis. 53209

Papers at past conventions have demonstrated the wide variety of talents in our Region. Individuals, especially juniors, are urged to consider sharing that special project or interest area with the rest of us at the coming convention. Those intending to present a paper should send the title, a brief summary, a time estimate, visual aids required and your name to:

William DuVall
518 Emmertsen Road
Racine, Wis. 53406

The evening banquet will begin at 6:30 pm in Brooks Memorial Union.



REGIONAL GRAZE MAP

2ND QUARTER 1972

Refer to SKY AND TELESCOPE U.S. graze map for explanation of symbols except -F-S-M- and -F-A-M- which indicate transitions from favorable to marginal. UT is used throughout.

Map scale precludes its use to set up expeditions. If interested, contact H.F. DaBoll, Rte. 1, Box 261B, St. Charles, Illinois 60174, phone (312)-584-1162 for detailed predictions or information on an expedition already in your area. Include star name or number, date and approximate longitude of proposed observation. Also mention if you have experience at graze planning or observation.

As used below "IMBSW" means "it might be seen with."

The next worthwile Pleiades passage for the NCR will occur in July.

Only northern limit grazes at the dark limb are shown on this quarter's map. Only two are favorable at any point within the NCR.

Z2919, 4/16/72. Mag 8.5, Moon 7% sunlit, waxing. Marginal. Saturday evening. DaBoll-Larson expedition probably near Plainfield, Illinois, where IMBSW a 6-inch.

REMEMBER THE CONVENTION MAY 20TH !

Z5057, 4/18/72. Mag 8.5, Moon 25% sunlit, waxing. Marginal. Monday evening. IMBSW a 6-inch.

Z6641, 4/19/72. Mag 8.5, Moon 35% sunlit, waxing. Marginal. IMBSW a 6-inch. There probably will be an expedition near St. Louis for this Tuesday evening graze.

ZC1518 (43 Leonis), 4/23/72. Mag 6.3, Moon 76% sunlit, waxing. Favorable in ten states and Canada. Expect an expedition in Iowa and at least two in Missouri. About midnight Saturday - Sunday. IMBSW a 5-inch.

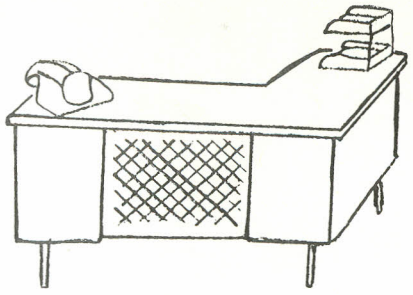
ZC3221, 5/7/72. Mag 7.6, Moon 40% sunlit, waning. Marginal to favorable. IMBSW a 4 1/4-inch at its most favorable point, near the twin cities. Fox expedition planned near North St. Paul for this Sunday morning graze.

ZC3188 (48 Lambda Capricorni), 6/3/72. Mag 5.4, Moon 66% sunlit, waning. Marginal for NCR observers. At least a 6-inch should be used for this Saturday morning graze at the DaBoll-Fox expedition, probably near Boscobel, Wisc.

Z8087, 6/14/72. Mag 7.5, Moon 9% sunlit, waxing. This Tuesday evening graze is marginal because it is low in the west, soon after sunset. At its best near Farmington, Minn., where at least a 6-inch is recommended for the Fox expedition. Possible Larson and/or DaBoll expedition between Rockford and Aurora, Illinois, where at least an 8-inch might be appropriate.

ZC1443, 6/16/72. Mag 7.6, Moon 25% sunlit, waxing. Marginal because of twilight. IMBSW a 6-inch in South Dakota.

EDITOR'S CORNER



Paul Sventek (Argonne A.C.) has raised the question, "Why is so much space given to grazes while little, if any, is given to other topics - like variables?" I wonder if other readers may ask the same question.

The answer is twofold. First, to my knowledge, there is no national organization for grazing occultations. Graze data is communicated through personal correspondence by Dave Dunham, a small group of individual computers and a slightly larger group of profile plotters. Many societies in our region participate in the graze program and NORTHERN LIGHTS is providing an additional information link for those societies and individual observers.

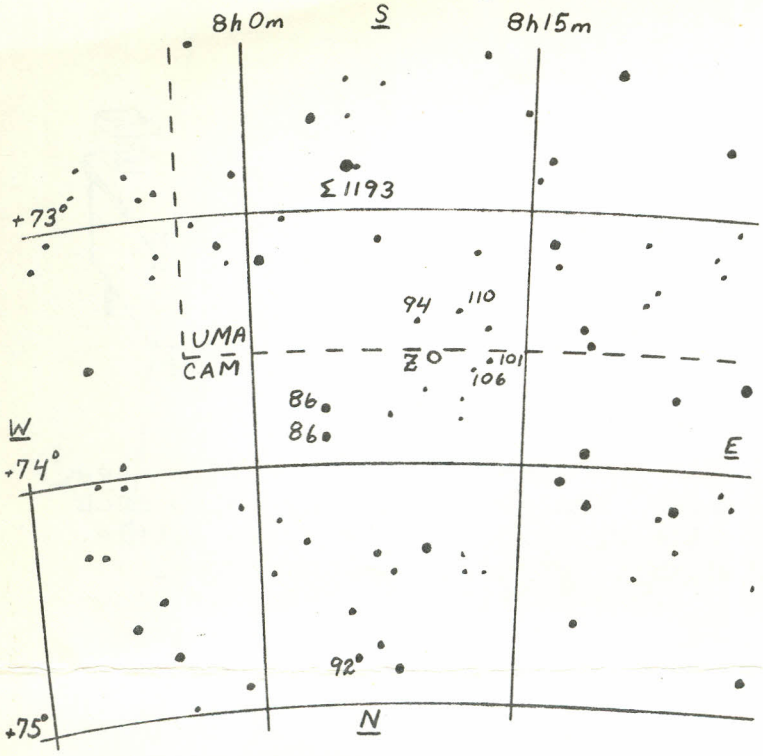
Second, graze information is published because it is submitted. If you feel some facet of our hobby is being neglected, please let me know and feel free to submit brief notes for consideration. Mr. Sventek has done just that with his request for variable star observations on the back page.

Begin planning to attend the Regional Convention on May 20. It is your participation that will make it a success. Junior members especially are encouraged to participate. I will see you in Milwaukee.

REGION (cont'd)

The 3M Club Astronomical Society has organized a "Hot Line" phone service. Members participating in this service are willing to call or be called any time (and they mean any time) day or night when another member observes a transient phenomenon. Phenomena such as aurorae, sun dogs, zodiacal light, rich meteor showers and exceptional seeing conditions are expected to be included.

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Z CAMELOPARDALIS

From AAVSO Chart 081473 (b)

Do you get bored between grazes? Here is a project which takes less time than observing a graze and has about the same scientific value. This quarter's project is the surveilance of dwarf nova Z Camelopardalis. A 6-inch telescope should easily show this star's antics.

Since its discovery in 1904, Z Cam. has shown very irregular variations from long periods of constant magnitude to maxima every 20 days or so. Presently, Z Cam. shows a minimum near 13 with maximum near 10.5 about every 30 days.

To find Z Cam., center 22 and 27 Ursae Majoris in your finder. Swing west about 6° past 22 UMj until you reach the double star Σ1193. Stars of this binary are magnitude 6 and 9 with about triple the separation of Mizar. From the double, Z Cam. may be located from the chart.

Send magnitude estimates to Paul Sventek, 5552 S. Normandy, Chicago, Illinois 60638.

REGION (cont'd.)

Two Racine amateurs presented papers at the Astronomical League Convention in Memphis last August. Orville Brettman presented a paper on photographic techniques for nova identification and William Duvall read Joseph Kris' paper on axis orientation of nearby stars. Mr. Kris was unable to attend the convention himself. Attendees of last spring's Regional Convention will remember that Mssrs. Brettman and Kris gave their excellent papers at that convention also.

Peoria Astronomical Society now has an "honored person" in its membership. At a Christmas Eve gathering a famous chemist handed Pat Davis a small box. Upon opening it, Pat found a small, brown rock with a slick, hard surface. Looking like obsidian the rock was, in fact, a tektite picked up on the moon by Neil Armstrong. Pat has agreed to allow other Peoria members to touch the hand that touched the moon rock.

The Des Moines Astronomical Society has purchased a 16-inch mirror blank which they plan to convert into a Cassagrain telescope for club use. Like most of us the Des Moines society has to operate within a limited budget. Members plan to do much of the work themselves but the club would welcome any tips or suggestions from other individuals or groups having experience with a similar project. Contact Des Moines Astronomical Society, Box 3561, Des Moines, Iowa 50322.

During January's lunar eclipse, Homer DaBoll was finally able to record a graze with his 16" telescope of "Have Telescope - Will Travel" fame. Previous attempts had been foiled by poor sky conditions.

MAY 26 IS DEADLINE FOR JUNE ISSUE