

# NOVAC

## The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club

SPECIAL EDITION - December, 1989

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN CONTINUED

Some new items have come up since the last meeting which everyone should be aware of. The Executive/Board of Directors meeting was canceled this month so most of this will be old news and should serve as a reminder.

Our general membership meeting will be held on December 20 at the Arlington Planetarium at 7:30 pm. Bob and I will be giving a talk and slide presentation on our recent trip to Tucson, Arizona to see the Smithsonian's MMT and astrophysical observatories and Kitt Peak National Observatory. You all had better be there or I'll be quite upset!

The new NOVAC hotline has been installed. The number is 703-256-8359. Please call this number to find out cancellation information on any of our events or to leave a message.

Dues will once again be due next month. If you recall, we voted on an increase of dues to \$18 per year. This appeared to be a very reasonable increase taking into consideration some new expenses we have incurred such as or hotline, fund raiser capital, quest for non-profit status and liability insurance.

Laurel Wanrow has delivered her letter of resignation from the Board of Directors. She will, however, remain active with other club functions. Since elections for new Board officials will be held in February, we can probably wait till then to fill the empty seat. Please keep in mind any nominations for the

Board of Directors and bring them to the January meeting.

That's about it. Happy holidays and lay off the egg nog!



Blaine Korcel  
President, NOVAC

### PROGRAMS FOR NOVAC MEETINGS

*by Brent Archinal*

Our plans to have specific programs at regular NOVAC meetings has worked fairly well the last several months and still continues. The September meeting saw an excellent presentation by George Uhl of his computer controlled Celestron 8-inch telescope. The October and November meetings, while not well attended, continued on the theme of providing information for observational astronomers with several useful observing aids and hints described by Al Schumann, Al Boldt, and others. With the December 20 meeting we change gears a little, and as described elsewhere in this issue, Blaine Korcel and Bob Ridgley will give us an astronomical tour of southern Arizona.

For upcoming meetings, an astronomical tour is also the topic of the January 17 meeting, with Brent Archinal presenting "Some Astronomical Views of England and Scotland", showing us the sights, astronomical and a few otherwise of Edinburgh, Scotland and southern England. The

Royal Observatory of Edinburgh, the old and new Royal Greenwich Observatories, William Herschel's house, and Stonehenge will be the primary astronomical points of interest covered.

For our February 21 meeting, we shift back again to what could be called an "observing aid" topic, with Steve Robinson telling us about his "Yale Bright Star Catalog Query and Viewing Program". Steve plans to give us a live PC demonstration of his program, which allows searches by SkyAtlas 2000.0 chart through the very useful Yale Bright Star Catalog. Those present at the meeting will be welcome to try out the program.

We plan to continue to try to schedule programs for all our regular meetings. Those so far have been very well received by those attending. But we need to hear from you! If you have any comments on what topics you'd like to see covered or how our programs have gone, or would like to do a program yourself, let us hear from you. Leave a message on our information hotline (256-8359) or give one of the club officials a call. Currently, all meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 PM at the Arlington County Planetarium. Admission is free and open to the public.

### NEWSLETTER CHANGES

*By Bob Ridgley*

The NOVAC Newsletter will continue to be published every other month. However, beginning with the

next issue (January/February) it will be printed near the end of the first week of each designated month. This will allow it to reach your mail box during or near the end of the second week. We hope that this will be a reminder to attend the general membership meeting which are held on the third Wednesday of each month. The Newsletter will outline the activities which are planned for these meetings. The deadline for advertisements and articles will therefore be last week of the preceding month.

Special thanks to those who have contributed articles to the Newsletter in

the last year. You have helped to make this a publication that we can all be proud of. In order for this Newsletter to continue to be responsive to the needs of the members we must have regular participation by the members. Articles by members or ideas for them are important and I encourage all of you to participate both in the meeting and the Newsletter.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all!

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