

Re: NYC Events February 10/11

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From: JOHN PAZMINO (*john.pazmino_at_relaynet.org*)

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www.fixthemlo.org for latest news.

No aurorae so far. We expected something based on an alert in mid and late January. Aurora were reported from northern England, Norway, and Scotland, at least, but nothing for us in the City. Cloudy skies were probably the main reason for negative reports from here. Please, when ever stargazing, scan the sky for northern lights. I have a draft article about aurora viewing in the files section of NYSkies at `\files\PazDraft\aurora.txt`. Give it a lookover.

City news

The City continues its march into the 21st century as Earth's one place to live, work, play. Inflation is still very moderate, as is the unemployment rate. We can do better, yes. Compared with many other economic and social centers across the country, New York is the one place to be.

Even if only for one night. On New Year's eve 2-1/2 million souls packed into and around Times Square to watch the ball drop. This is the second highest attendance ever, topped only by the millennium New Year's eve in 1999. (3-1/2 million — quite the population of Chicago! — were on hand for that.) Please understand that the very square can hold only 2/3 million people, closed packed. The rest are huddled on the surrounding streets in line-of-sight of the ball.

One evidence for the gravitation or magnetism of the City is the continuing inflow of immigrants. They come not only from overseas, but from elsewhere in the United States. Just since 2000 they settled here to add about 150,000 new residents thruout the boros. Some number-crunchers believe that during 2004 the City topped a full 10 million residents (with those not crazy about census reporting). If not in last year, I figure that surely in 2005 we'll edge over that mark.

The red-tail hawk flap died out after the Fifth Av coop restored the hawk nest in late December. The initial ardor to somehow honor Lincoln Karim, arrested during a protest rally at the coop house, cooled off. Amateur Astronomers Association no longer is actively pursuing proposed accolades for him.

The NY Jets football team had the chance to get into the Super

Bowl this year. On January 15th with only a few seconds left against the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Jets had an easy field goal to win the game. They missed! A couple seconds to go for a second shot. Missed again! The score then tied at 17-17, the game went into overtime. Pittsburgh scored its own successful field goal, taking the Super Bowl chances away from the Jets.

Just when we were sitting back to relax, the skies being cloudy so often, we got whumped! A fire on January 23rd near Chambers St, IND 8th Av, totaled a signal control room. The subway signals for a ha'K around the fire were knocked out, forcing trains to move thru under human supervision. Service on the whole 8th Av corridor was deeply slashed. Repairs are beginning at end January with gradual restoration of full service in six to nine months. stations all along the line.

At or just after end February 2005, New York transit fares go up. The date as at end January is still uncertain. The 'token' remains at \$2, meaning there is no change in value or use of the stored-value MetroCards. The 30-day MetroCard goes to \$76; 7-day, \$24. Bridge, tunnel, and regional rail rates also go up.

THAT Section (formerly Astropolitics)

With the brouhaha within Amateur Astronomers Association shifted to the AAA_Politics Yahoo forum, NYSkies no longer promotes that business here. Of course, any news about the club posted into NYSkies can be 'political'. If that's your take, get over to AAA_Politics and bellow! It's just as free for all and free-for-all as NYSkies encourage until AAA_Politics was created on 2004 June 29.

There are two big stories in January 2005,

First is a secret closed meeting of Amateur Astronomers Association's Board of Directors on January 4th. Agenda: kick John Pazmino out of the club. The brief meeting, not even a full hour that including sundry other business, mechanically voted to revoke Pazmino's membership.

On January 8th Pazmino received what at first looked like a prank letter. It was a photocopy, unsigned, in a fudged envelope. It seems that this letter is the 'official' notification of membership revocation! To 'enforce' this phoney expulsion, AAA president Michael O'Gara actually called New York City police to ask Pazmino to leave the Recent Astronomy Seminar on January 13th! He did, and so did three other Seminar members. A couple days later, Frank Schmidt resigned as from his Seminar chair and Board of Directors seat.

The other is the hearing on January 27th in small claims court for John Pazmino's loss of astro gear in the Great Eclipse Theft of 8 November 2003. His case may be the first of five more, one each for the other victims in the same incident. After club and claimant presented their cases, the judge reserved decision until early February.

What? Your fat is boiling over these items? Step right over to AAA_Politics. The folk there, including some club leaders, are itching to turn up the heat under you.

NYSkies

Astronomers are exploiting NYSkies as a quick, handy, friendly, and

Continued in next message.

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