



Cleveland Astronomical Society

Thursday, February 2, 2006 Meeting Announcement

6:15—7:00 p.m. – Get acquainted and snacks

7:45—8:00 p.m. – Short Business Meeting

7:00—7:45 p.m. – Buffet Dinner (Reservations Required)

8:00—9:00 p.m. – Featured Speaker (Free to public)

Leonard Krieger CanalWay Center

4524 East 49th Street (turn onto Whittlesey Way to reach Center), Cuyahoga Heights

Speaker: Dr. Charles H. Grace

Dr. Grace taught electronics at Case, Field Theory at Carnegie Institute of Technology, and Mathematics at Cleveland State University

“The Earth is Slowing Down”

The Earth’s rotation rate is slowing, and a leap-second was added on December 31 last year to coordinate timekeeping. Dr. Grace will explore a number of aspects of this situation in his presentation. First he will cover why the Earth rotates and how the rotation period is measured. He will explain how both the Moon’s gravitational pull and the magnetohydrodynamic losses in Earth’s iron core combine to produce drag. Further magnetic effects from the Earth’s rotating core, including the Earth’s protective magnetosphere, the relocation and the reversal of the magnetic poles, and the nature of the Van Allen belts also will be explored. An existing controversy over whether to reset clocks by one second or to wait 500 years and reset them by a full minute will end his discussion.

High School Teachers interested in bringing one or two students, as our guests, please contact Bob Sledz, President, at 440-333-7827 or sledzbob@yahoo.com, if possible two weeks or more prior to a scheduled meeting date (always the first Thursday of the month).