



A letter from the President

Dear fellow members,

In this space last month I asked that you assist the Board, the other officers, and me by taking the time to fill out a questionnaire on the needs and goals of the L.A.A.S. In the same issue Doug Duncan requested that those interested in joining observing/special interest groups to fill out another questionnaire and send it to him.

During the past four weeks I have received exactly twenty-six questionnaires in the mail or in person. Doug told me that he has received approximately the same number of responses. Since our group presently has in excess of 325 members, it is clear that only a small minority, less than ten per cent., of the membership has responded to either questionnaire so far.

I promised last month to present in this issue a summary of people's responses, but I am going to defer this report another month in hopes that those of you who have not yet answered these questionnaires will do so now. You may not necessarily be interested in joining a special interest group (though naturally we hope that you are), but everyone should be interested in having his voice heard with regard to the things our Society should be doing. And to us who you elected, information about you the members is incredibly useful.

For instance, think how this information could have helped in the preparation of the questionnaire. From the responses received so far, I know that in our group we have one industrial designer, two salesmen and a photographer who could have assisted in copy preparation and layout, a psychologist whose assistance would have been invaluable in designing a questionnaire with maximized attention-getting power, nine students and a teacher who could have proofread and corrected, four engineers, three technicians, a physicist, an optician and a reinforcing specialist to carry out the complex task of printing, stamping, addressing and mailing the questionnaires; and a psychiatrist to help ease my frustration at the small number of questionnaires returned.....See what I mean?

No kidding, though, we really would love to hear from you so that the board and I can try to direct the Society and its activities in the ways you want. So how about it? Take a minute or two to fill out that obnoxious questionnaire (you'll find it in last month's bulletin) and send it to me. Then you will have done your part, it'll be off your mind, you won't feel guilty anymore, and you can look forward to seeing the results of your toil in neat statistical form in the bulletin next month. I promise.

I am happy to announce that Mr. Lew Chilton has kindly agreed to undertake the job of L.A.A.S. Librarian for the present at least. He will be on hand before and after our meeting on Monday, March 13, to receive books you may have to return and to check out materials to any member in good standing who wishes to borrow them.

Mr. Ted Sobelman, our treasurer, has prepared a financial statement for our Society for the fiscal year ending December 31, 1971. This report is reproduced for your information elsewhere in this bulletin.

We have many important matters to discharge at our meeting on Monday night the 13th, and an excellent program in store. I hope to see all of you there.

Sincerely,
Art Johnson
President

Tom Cragg to speak at March 13 Meeting

The March 1972 meeting of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc., will be held on Monday, March 13 at Griffith Observatory at 7:45 p.m. Among the items on the agenda for the business portion of the meeting is a special election to fill the vacant office of Recording Secretary.

Our program for the evening will feature our own Mr. Thomas Cragg of Hale Observatories, Mt. Wilson. Tom will be speaking on 'Astronomy Down Under' as he describes the astronomical tour of New Zealand and Australia which he and Mrs. Cragg took a year ago. In addition to showing some slides of his trip, Tom will point out some spectacular southern objects which he observed, using the planetarium sky.

In addition to this fine program, a film on Apollo 15, entitled, "In the Mountains of the Moon" will be shown. This film features excellent color movies taken by the Apollo 15 astronauts as they drove their vehicle across the lunar terrain.

Star Party Dates Set

At its most recent meeting the L.A.A.S. Board of Directors voted to establish the following dates for star parties during the 1972 season: June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, and October 7. All of these are Saturdays. All of the parties with the exception of the first will be held at the Society's observatory site in Lockwood Valley. The first star party will be held at Table Mountain, and will be open to the general public. It is intended to be a membership-building affair and will be publicized widely. We are especially anxious to have a large turnout of our own members on this occasion to talk with the interested public, show them their telescopes, and answer any questions about the field of amateur telescopes, amateur astronomy, and the L.A.A.S., of course. Details will be forthcoming in a later bulletin.

L.A.A.S. to host WAA in 1974

At the January meeting of the Western Amateur Astronomers in Fresno it was confirmed that our group, the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc., will be the hosting organization of the WAA convention in 1974. Our own bid for this convention had been on record for some time, but had been held in abeyance at the request of the L.A.A.S. board of directors until a decision was reached on whether a national convention of amateur astronomers would be held in Denver in '74. Since Denver has indicated that this plan is not contemplated for that year, our bid was acted upon at the request of Mr. Ed Johnston, representing the L.A.A.S. at the January meeting, and was confirmed. Art Johnson has appointed Ed Johnston chairman of a planning committee to lay the groundwork for what will be a most important project for our group in the coming two years. It is anticipated that Ed will have a preliminary report in a short while, which will appear in this bulletin.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS. (Classified advertisements of interest to amateur astronomers will be included in this bulletin, as space allows, at no charge to members. Rates for nonmembers and for display advertising will be quoted upon request. The Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc., bears no responsibility for the accuracy of statements and/or representations made in classified advertisements, nor for the quality of any goods or merchandise offered therein. Advertisements and requests for rates should be sent to News Bulletin Editor, L.A.A.S., Box 27787 Los Feliz Station, Los Angeles California 90027.)

FOR SALE: COMPLETE OBSERVATORY. Includes telescopes: Cave 6" f/11 reflector with clock drive and electric declination...controls on both axes....100 lbs. lead in base mounting.....Cave custom astrographic unit. Cameras mounted include: F8 Bell & Howell telephoto, 36" fl, 4x5 press camera back--F 2.8 Kodak Aero Ektar, 7" f.l., 4x5 press camera back--F8 Bausch & Lomb Metrogen, 6" f.l., 8x10 back. F8, 500mm Accurra cat. (folded optics) - 3 1/2" Tasco refractor with finder scope. -- illuminated reticle eyepiece -- clock driven with electric declination. Cave Observatory 12 1/2" (Mirror guaranteed to 1/30th wave) 2" focuser with 1 1/4" adapter - 6" custom-built guide-refractor-scope, baffled and with 6" de cap (has Jaegers f/8 optics). Main scope is clock driven with electronic declination and illuminated setting circles. Also many eyepieces, cameras, and other accessories. Estimated \$5000 replacement cost. Excellent condition, personal inspection invited. Submit bid. -Ed Andrews, P.O. Box 455 Pearblossom, California. (805) 944-2606

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