



## Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc.

NEWS BULLETIN FOR APRIL 1972

Volume 2, No. 4

### A letter from the President

Dear fellow member,

I am gratified at the large response to my appeal last month for members to complete and mail in our "Needs and Goals of the Society" questionnaire. Several dozens of additional replies have been received between last month and this, and our total number of responses is now quite impressive. Unfortunately, I left behind the compilation of replies which I had prepared today when I came to the printshop, and so faced with the alternatives of getting this publication out very late or deferring the survey results until next month, I have opted for the latter course.

One of the questions in the survey which has been of especial interest to me involved the matter of the Society shops: Should we continue to support an optical-shop program? While I do not have the figures before me now, I am correct in saying that well over ninety percent of you have said 'yes' in response to that question. And so it gives me the greatest pleasure to announce that the Los Angeles Astronomical Society is reopening its longtime optical shop program effective this month. With the approval of your Board of Directors, I have appointed Mr. Jim Scarborough our Optical Shop Director. Jim is currently a professional optician who has had additional experience in making telescope mirrors as the 'T.N.' does--without a roomful of expensive equipment. Not only are we fortunate in having this well-qualified member to act as helper and adviser for mirror-makers, but we have been doubly fortunate in having a tireless and enthusiastic worker in Gordon Mitchell, who has kindly undertaken much of the difficult and often thankless task of seeking out new and suitable quarters for our shop activities. Through his work and that of others we are able to announce that regular Friday-night shop sessions will commence on April 14 at Belmont High School in Los Angeles. Final arrangements as to the room number of our working quarters and the hours of operations are now being concluded with the administration of the school, and will be announced at our April general meeting. If interest and attendance at the Friday night shop sessions warrant, an additional shop night will be established in the future.

The Board of Directors and I will be most pleased to hear your wishes and comments on the future progress of our shop program. I am personally very, very pleased that we have together been able to recommence this valuable program of telescope making. Our Society was founded nearly half a century ago with the making of telescopes as a central activity and purpose, and I believe that as we again offer our members an opportunity to use their own hands to make instruments, we continue to be a strong, useful, and worthwhile organization.

Sincerely,  
Art Johnson  
President

### Meetings on the Agenda

The April general meeting of the L.A.A.S. will be held Monday evening, April 10 at 7:45 p.m. at Griffith Observatory. Our speaker will be Dr. Bruce Murray, director of the Space Photography Laboratory at Caltech. Dr. Murray will be speaking on the most recent Mariner-Mars results.

Tentatively scheduled for our June general meeting is a program of contributions by our own members. Sought are fifteen to twenty-minute talks by three or four members of the Society on projects or subjects of special interest. If you would like to be included on the program for this meeting, please contact our Programs Chairman, Mr. Thomas Cragg.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors to discuss the new proposed constitution will be held at Griffith Observatory on Thursday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m. No other notice will be sent; board members and other interested members are invited to attend.

The Star Member group will hold its April meeting on Monday the 17th at 7:30 p.m. at Palms Recreation Center. Next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m., Griffith Observatory.

### News on Observing/Special Interest Groups

Those of you who signed up for special interest/observing groups are asked to come to Monday's meeting at 7:15 (one-half hour early.) Each group will then decide on a convenient time to get together to plan future activities. In case you have forgotten, the following people have signed up for at least one group:

Ken Gracen, John Bartels, Tom Logan, Vincent Chaney, Jerry Bilodeau, Gary Fowzer, Brian Webb, Mike and Judi Turner, Walter Deutsch, Alma Grant Sessions, Norman James, Chris Connaly, Charles Reeve, Chris Akiyoshi, Mike Simmons, Virgil Klute, J. Howard Parsons, Doug Duncan, Dale Devine, Sally Kaser, Jerry Alcivar, Jack Strosnider, Brian Cain, Phillip G. Armstrong, Art Johnson, Ephraim Merritt, Doug MacElroy, JOHN TAYLOR, VINCENT STOKAS, BOB CATON.

ADD YOUR NAME!

Missing Members?

L.A.A.S. Secretary Jerry Bilodeau notes that he has been unable to contact three of our members. If you know how these people may be reached, please notify him. Their names and most recent known addresses are: Jerry Akivar, 11525 Huston St., North Hollywood; Kepler R. Buckley, 4691 Alta Canada, La Canada; and Donald W. Schultz, 133 E. 229th St., Carson.

Star Members' Dues Are Due.

If you are a member of the Star Member group, note that dues for the year May 1, 1972-April 30, 1973 are payable on or before May 1, 1972. Payment may be directed to the Secretary, Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc., c/o Griffith Observatory, Box 27787, Los Feliz Station, Los Angeles, California 90027.

In addition, all member please note that it is helpful if you indicate on the envelope the general nature of your correspondence with the Society., i.e., Membership Application, News Bulletin Materials, etc.

B.A.A. Handbooks are available—eight of them still on hand, available at the general meeting at \$2 per copy.

Librarian's Note

Society Librarian Lew Chilton notes that the following books are out and unaccounted for: The Sun by Geo. Abetti, Mathematical Recreations and Essays by W. Ball, Memoirs of the Royal Astronomical Society by J.L.E. Dreyer, Astronomy by Fred Hoyle, The Sun by K. Kiepenhauer, Mathematics for Electricians by M. Kuehn, The Galactic Novae by Payne-Gaproschkin, Galaxies by H. Shapley, Mathematical Magic by W. Simon, Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes, Book One by T.W. Webb, The Complete Strategist by J.D. Williams, Photoelectric Astronomy for Amateurs by F. Wood, Making your Own Telescope by Allyn J. Thompson, Variable Stars by J.S. Glasby, Mathematical Puzzles and Diversions, I by M. Gardner, American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac - 1962, and Atlas of Galaxies by E. Hubble.

*unaccounted for  
books on stock  
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- These books only may be returned without payment of fine at the next or any subsequent meeting of the L.A.A.S. Other library materials checked out in the future will be subject

- These books only may be returned without fine obligation at the next or any future meeting of the Society. Other materials checked out for use by members will be subject to a fine of \$1.00 per month for most books, \$5.00 per month for materials from Special Collections, to be so designated by the Librarian. The normal free lending period from our library is one month, or until the next subsequent general meeting. Renewals may be made in emergency cases over the telephone to Mr. Chilton.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

ASTROCAMERA/RICHEST FIELD TELESCOPE. This 4" refractor has a focal length of 24" (f/6). With its 1½" Erfle eyepiece, it has a real field of four degrees! It has an adaptor for 1¼" eyepieces. Also a 4x5 plateholder back, and a cooled-emulsion (dry ice) back which has never been used. Included are a 2" star diagonal (fits the Erfle) and ring mounts so you can fit to your 'scope. \$95 or best offer. Will be at meeting. Doug Duncan, 425 N. El Molino, Pasadena 91106. 796-4641.

10" REFLECTOR F5.6 (NOT MOUNTED) FIBERGLASS TUBE, 2.6" DIAGONAL, FINDER, & ORTHOSCOPIC EYEPIECE. \$250. MARTIN MOSHER, 41653 TOLAND WAY, L.A. 90041 AFTER 6 PM: 255-5638.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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