



Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc.

NEWS BULLETIN FOR JUNE 1972

Volume 2 Number 6

A Letter from the President

This coming Saturday, June 10, is the date for our Society's one public star party of the current season. As you know, this is designed not only to be an enjoyable season-opener for the regular members of the L.A.A.S., but also to swell our ranks by attracting interested visitors who may wish to join the Society. At our most recent board meeting I saw a press release prepared by Mike Simmons for distribution to newspapers, and some excellent, professional-sounding radio spot announcements. Mike has sent these to several dozen radio stations in the Los Angeles area, and they will be aired on many stations during this week, free of charge to us.

In addition to press and radio publicity, we must individually act as promoters if next Saturday's event is to realize its full potential as a well-attended and successful membership drive and star party. So please, take a few minutes and call your astronomy-minded friends and acquaintances who don't already belong to the Society. Tell them about the Table Mountain party and how to get there, and urge them to be our guests on Saturday night. Don't forget to mention the 6" telescope raffle! The Star Members will be offering tickets at \$1 each at the star party, and the drawing will be held at our general meeting on Monday, June 12, rather than at the star party itself, as announced incorrectly last month.

I was talking with a longtime Society member recently, and he told me that this Society has sponsored public star parties in the past which were attended by more than 1,000 persons. These were in the city, to be sure, but I believe we can have an attendance of at least several hundred persons this weekend, if you will make it your business not only to come, but to urge others to do so as well.

Bring your telescope, camper, sleeping bag, Norton's, Skalnate Pleso, Palomar Sky Survey, and friends, and meet your fellow members on Table Mountain this Saturday night. . . I'll see you there!

—Art Johnson
President, L.A.A.S.

June Meeting to feature Raffle, Program of Speakers

One lucky individual will go home from the June 12 general meeting with something he or she did not have before. And that is a brand-new 6" Cave reflecting telescope complete with mounting, finder, and eyepieces. This fine instrument has been donated to the Society by Cave Optical Company, to be used as the prize in the fund-raising raffle being managed by the Star Member group. Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets will be used by the Society to complete the observatory structure now nearing completion on the Lockwood Valley property. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the star party this Saturday night, and before the drawing at the Monday night meeting.

As announced before, this month's will be a "Members' Meeting." Four members of the L.A.A.S. will present short talks and photo displays on their work projects and special interests. Speaking will be Jim Little, our new shop director Jim Scarborough, Mike Simmons, and Lew Chilton.

Living as we do in one of the world's great astronomical centers, we are fortunate as few societies are in being able to draw our monthly speakers from the ranks of the world's most prominent professional astronomers. But this bountiful supply of professionals should not be cause for us to ignore the multitude of gifted and articulate lovers of astronomy—amateur astronomers—in our own group. Be with us next Monday evening at Griffith Observatory at 7:45 p.m. and hear what could be the most exciting program of 1972.

Society to hold Summer Meetings

For the first time in recent years, the Los Angeles Astronomical Society will be holding general meetings through the summer months, on its regular second-Monday evening schedule. Your Board of Directors at its April 25 meeting voted to hold general meetings in the months of July and August, the dates being July 10 and August 14, respectively. The tentative location for the July meeting is the auditorium of Belmont High School, 1575 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles. Time is 7:45 p.m. Having this meeting at Belmont will provide the opportunity of seeing our new optical-shop facilities to those who have not yet done so. If these tentative plans must be changed you will be notified in next month's bulletin.

General Vote on Proposed New Constitution to be at July Meeting

Since our present Constitution was adopted in 1955, there have been many changes made in our Society. In order that these changes might be adopted officially in our constitution, a constitution committee was established in February of last year. During the next eight months this committee worked on incorporating all the changes into a new constitution and by-laws. Since November, the Board of Directors has been reviewing the new constitution, making additions and corrections, and has finally approved the document for your consideration.

In order for this new constitution to become effective, it must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting membership of the Society. It is for this purpose that a special ballot will be cast at the July meeting. I am sure you realize that it would be very expensive to send a copy of the proposed constitution to every voting member. However, copies of this document will be available for your inspection at the general meeting of this Society on June 12. If there are any questions or comments concerning the proposed new constitution, feel free to call me at home after 7 p.m.

—Gerald Bilodeau
Secretary, L.A.A.S.

Paper Deadline for W.A.A. Convention is July 15

The annual convention of the Western Amateur Astronomers is set for August 16th through the 19th in Riverside, California. Details were given in last month's bulletin. This is a reminder to those planning to submit papers that your deadline is July 15.

Preparing a paper may be a time-consuming endeavor—indeed, should be if the paper is a good one—but presenting that paper before a group of fellow-astronomers from the western states is a memorable and in most cases a pleasant experience. So write something! Address to which papers must be sent is: Clifford Holmes, 8642 Wells Avenue, Riverside, California 92503.

How to Get to the Lockwood Valley

Editorial apologies are due to Mr. Ed Johnston for the delay in publishing his map showing how to get to the Society's observatory site in Lockwood Valley. After this month's party, which is to be at Table Mountain, all Society star parties during the balance of the 1972 season will be held at the Lockwood Valley site. Please save Ed's instructions, which follow, and his map for future reference.

To find the L.A.A.S. property, drive north on the Golden State Freeway and get off at the Frazier Park exit. Go left at the bottom of the offramp and bypass the town of Frazier Park. Keep going on the main road until you pass the Ev-Bo Gift Shop on your left. Just past the gift shop, the road swings to the right, toward the top of Mount Pinos. Bear left at that intersection and pass the Lake of the Woods Lodge. Continue for about ten miles until you pass the "Welcome" sign and look for the airport. About a mile past the airport, you'll come to a sign that tells you to turn for the boy scout camp and other places. Turn right there and go down Boy Scout Camp Road, past the big dip in the road and past the little dips. Keep a lookout on the right hand side for a white gate, behind which is a cleared field. In case you miss the road, go on down Boy Scout Camp Road until you come to two red buildings on the right. Just past the buildings turn right onto the dirt road. Go up the road until you come to a blue trailer, after passing the barn on your left. Turn right at the trailer and follow the road to the L.A.A.S. land.

Next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. The location will be announced by card.

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