



A Letter from the President

Dear fellow member,

By the time this reaches you I hope to be out of the country. Before someone shouts "Scoundrel!" and calls for an audit of the Society's books, I hasten to explain the reason for my flight: an appointment I have to keep with the sun and the moon on July 10th in northern Canada. There, from a tiny village at the edge of the Beaufort Sea and called by the Eskimos Tuktoyaktuk, ninety-one other observers and I hope to watch as a total solar eclipse invokes its magic and unfolds its unique beauty for a brief 150 seconds over the desolate tundra of the Arctic coastline.

Tuktoyaktuk is situated in the Canadian Northwest Territories in latitude 69° N., and is perched on the edge of the Arctic Ocean, just east of the Mackenzie River's estuary. My own research program, if it deserves the dignity of the name, will consist of direct photography of the partial and total phases, and an attempt to determine for how long before and after totality the corona can be detected visually.

Besides myself, Ron McKnight of the Society will be going on this expedition, which is organized by the Calgary Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Ron will be flying directly from Los Angeles to Calgary to join the charter flight, which originates there; while I am planning to drive the approximately 1200 miles to Calgary, taking in some of the observatories and planetaria on the way. It is an exciting prospect, and I suppose the general membership will be obliged (or at least invited in a friendly way) to view some of the slides and movies I expect to be taking.

Since the date of our July general meeting is coincident with the date of the eclipse, I will clearly have a problem making it, and Doug Duncan, Society Vice-President, will be presiding and offering an excellent program on the Big Bear Solar Observatory. Please note the new location for our general meeting: **Belmont High School in Los Angeles**. The time is, as usual, 7:45 p.m.

The Star Members' fund-raising raffle produced \$579 in revenue after expenses. I am delighted, and I wish to add my hearty thanks to those of everyone associated with the project. These thanks go, naturally, to you the members, who bought raffle tickets by the dozens and gave your time in many cases to make this event the unqualified success that it was. To the lucky winner of the fine 6" Cave reflector, Mr. David Beraru, our congratulations and a wish that he will well use his fine new instrument.

Before closing my letter and packing a few final items like my prefabricated igloo, it gives me great happiness to report to you that at its last meeting the Board of Directors voted unanimously to recommend to you that our highest honor, Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc., be conferred upon a man whose numerous contributions to our group have incalculably benefited the Society through the years, Mr. Thomas Cave. If your ballot at the July general meeting supports the Board's recommendation, a certificate of Honorary Lifetime Membership will be presented to Tom in the near future.

Have an astronomical summer, and I'll see you next month!

Art Johnson

W.A.A. CONVENTION REMINDER. . . Don't forget that the 1972 convention of the Western Amateur Astronomers will be held in Riverside next month. Full details were given in our May 1972 bulletin. Dates are August 16 through August 19. The Riverside Astronomical Society, hosts for this year's event, have arranged an excellent program at a superb location, "Bannockburn" at the University of California at Riverside campus. The cost is only \$9.25 per person per day, which includes meals and lodging (double occupancy) at Bannockburn. Information and registration forms will be available to all interested members at our July 10 general meeting. **CORRECTING** an error in our June bulletin, the papers chairman for the W.A.A. is Mr. William R. Smith, 1190 Villa, Apt. B, Riverside, California 92507. We hope to see all our members at Riverside next month!

Constitution Vote Set for General Meeting

This is the final reminder that the proposed new constitution for the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc., which has been produced by the Constitution Committee and recommended to you by the Board, will be voted upon by the general membership at the meeting on July 10.

Dates on the L.A.A.S. Calendar

July 8, Saturday—July 9, Sunday

Star Party at Society's Lockwood Valley property. For map and directions see last month's bulletin.

July 10, Monday

General Meeting at Belmont High School, 1575 W. 2nd St., Los Angeles, 7:45 p.m.

August 1, Tuesday

Board of Directors meets at home of Ed Johnston, located at 3544 Garnet Street, Torrance. No other notice will be sent. Time is 7:30 p.m.

Favorable Grazing Occultation on August 5

On Saturday morning, August 5, a very favorable grazing occultation of the 5.0 magnitude star 125 Tauri will pass through southern California. The moon will be only 17% sunlit and the graze occurs on the dark limb. Consequently, the graze should be easy to see even in small telescopes.

The L.A.A.S. led a very successful expedition to observe a graze of this same star from Castaic Junction in 1966. Members are invited to join another large expedition planned for this year's graze. The site will be in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Accurate position predictions for the graze are being prepared by Dr. David W. Dunham of the University of Texas, who will be in southern California for the event.

Aside from a telescope, observers should have a portable tape recorder and a short-wave radio. If short-wave is not available, an AM radio will do. Walkie-talkies can also be used. If you are interested, contact Bob Fischer at 2401 S. Hacienda Boulevard, Hacienda Heights, California 91745, telephone (213) 333-3981.

*-Richard Nolthenius
University of Arizona*

Star Member Report

Construction on the observatory in Lockwood Valley is about to resume. Last year the foundation of the observatory was poured and the block walls built. This year the wall must be filled with concrete for strength and the roof must be built. Anyone having knowledge of where lumber can be picked up in any size and length (such as scraps, used lumber, etc..) should contact Ephraim Merritt at 285-1639.

Concrete pads for individuals' telescopes were built last year and are now available for use by Star Members. The 14½" Grow telescope, which will be available to all Star Members when the observatory is completed, will be at the remaining star parties this year.

Any general member interested in Star Membership should contact Mr. Walt Deutsch or any other Star Member at the July 10 general meeting.

-Mike Simmons

Astrophotography Group to Meet

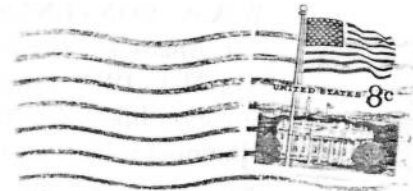
The Society's special-interest group in astrophotography will meet on Tuesday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m. at Travelers Insurance Company, 3600 Wilshire Boulevard, Room 300, in Los Angeles. All those interested are invited to attend and bring astrophotos, cameras and other equipment, and questions.

July General Meeting set for 10th at Belmont High School

For the first time in many years, the L.A.A.S. is meeting throughout the summer months. This month's general meeting will be held on Monday evening the 10th of July at 7:45 p.m. at Belmont High School, site of our Society's Optical Shop sessions each Thursday evening. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria, and after the meeting members will be welcome to inspect the optical shop facilities, which are situated in the Adult Education/Administration building at Belmont, room 408.

In addition to Tom Cragg's monthly Observing Report, the program will feature as the evening's main event a talk by Society Vice-President Doug Duncan on the Big Bear Solar Observatory and its scientific programs. Doug, who is now a senior majoring in astronomy at Caltech, spent last summer working with the noted solar astronomer Dr. Harold Zirin at the Big Bear facility. His presentation will include spectacular motion pictures of the sun taken at Big Bear.

LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Box 27787, Los Feliz Station, Los Angeles, Ca. 90027



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RESULTS OF SURVEY ON NEEDS AND GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

A total of 60 respondents have provided the following information on our membership. Note that some of the questions called for more than one answer, and that some respondents did not answer all questions. The following information has been compiled by Art Johnson, who hopes that it is complete and accurate but cannot guarantee that it is.

Average age of respondents: 33.3 years

Occupations represented: Student (14), Technician (7), Engineer (5), Salesman (4), Optician (3), Physicist (3), Writer (2), Teacher (2), Physician, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Pharmacist, Photographer, Geophysicist, Dentist, Attorney, Realtor, Tree Surgeon, Industrial Designer, Systems Programmer, Contractor, Machinist, Planetarium Guide, Retired.

Average number of years in L.A.A.S: 5.1

Question: Do you attend the general meetings? Yes - 51 No - 9

Question: Do you attend the star parties? Yes - 37 No - 14

Question: Do you think the speakers at meetings are generally: Too technical (3) Not technical enough (6) About right (32)

Question: Would you wish to have more speakers on: Solar system Astronomy (9) Stellar astronomy (10) Extragalactic astronomy and cosmology (21) History of astronomy (3) Instrumentation (2) —What the amateur can do (22) Space exploration (2) Radio Astronomy (1)

Question: Have you ever used the Society's shops? Yes - 27 No - 27

Question: If so, did you do optical work (26) or machine work (11)?

Question: Were the optical shops a factor influencing your decision to join the L.A.A.S? Yes - 30 No - 19

Question: Should we continue to actively sponsor shops? Yes - 53 No - 0 No opinion - 2

Question: Do you feel that the news bulletin is useful to you? Yes - 52 No - 1

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

4" RFT REFRACTOR - ASTROCAMERA FOR SALE. I built this telescope in the machine shop of the Big Bear Solar Observatory, using a 4" f/6 lens. It has a 2" diagonal and 1½" f.l. Erfle eyepiece, giving a spectacular field of 4 degrees, perfect for RFT uses. It also has a camera back which takes a 4 x 5 plateholder (1 included) or a cooled emulsion (dry ice) camera back, which I've never had a chance to use. Also included, 1½" eyepiece adaptor and rings to mount on your telescope. It also has a built-in socket to attach to a tripod for visual use. I would like \$95 for my work, but I am willing to bargain. —Doug Duncan, tel. 796-4641. TF