



# Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc.

NEWS BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 1972

Volume 2 Number 8

## A Letter from the President

Dear fellow member,

I am glad to be back home again after a memorable vacation to Canada, highlighted by an 1800 mile flight to the Arctic coastline to observe the solar eclipse on July 10th. Not only were observing conditions excellent, but the telescope and cameras functioned well-nigh perfectly, and I was successful in securing a number of good photographs of the diamond ring effect, chromosphere, and inner and outer corona. This was my second eclipse trip, and as of now it seems I am beating the statistics, as my record is 2 for 2.

Besides the eclipse venture itself, I visited three major planetariums, four national parks, and Jack Eastman...altogether a pretty amazing combination for anyone's vacation.

This month we have three major events in the life of our Society, all during the middle of the month. Our regular monthly star party is set for Saturday evening the 12th at the Lockwood Valley property. Mike Simmons is star party chairman this month, and he will be on hand to assist you with problems and to help facilitate an enjoyable and smoothly-run event.

Our general meeting is to be Monday evening the 14th, and will again be held at Belmonth High School, 1575 West 2nd Street, in Los Angeles. Meeting time is 7:45 p.m., and our speaker will be yours truly. Topic of yours truly's talk will be, "Chasing an Eclipse in Canada's Arctic." In addition to this talk we will be favored, as usual, with a review of interesting celestial events of the month in Tom Cragg's observing report. Other reports, plans, and news will also be on the program, and I sincerely hope to see each of you there.

Finally, the annual convention of the Western Amateur Astronomers will be held at Riverside, in conjunction with the ALPO, August 16th through the 19th. Many of you have already registered, but if you have not done so there is still time. See any of our recent news bulletins for details, or contact Mr. Clifford Holmes, 8642 Wells Avenue, Riverside. Plan to bring your telescope and your family (not necessarily in that order of importance!) and attend this fine convention.

*Art Johnson*  
President, L.A.A.S.

## Astrophotography Group to Meet August 12

The Society's special interest group in astrophotography will meet at the star party on August 12 to photograph planets and deep sky objects. A preparatory meeting will be held August 8 at 7:30 at Travelers' Insurance Co., 3600 Wilshire Blvd., Room 300. (All members interested in photographing the sky with telescopes, cameras on tripods, or light sensitive rocks (? -Ed.) are invited to attend.) (Sophisticated equipment is not required.)

## Star Member Report

The star members met on July 31 to discuss construction on the observatory. Ephraim Merritt reported that the track and rollers for the roll-off roof have been ordered and will be delivered in early September. This is a landmark for us since this hardware is our largest single expense.

A work party will take place at the Lockwood Valley property on Saturday, August 12, the day of the star party. Star Members and any other members interested in lending a hand are invited. We will be pouring concrete so wear your old clothes. Bring buckets, shovels, hammers, saws, or cement finishing tools if you have them. (Non-Star Members who will work on Saturday will be invited to spend Friday night at the land to observe in return for their services.)

Anyone who can work in Los Angeles cutting wood for the roof should contact Walt Deutsch at 479-1889. Likewise, anyone interested in Star Membership should contact Mr. Deutsch or any other Star Member.

The next Star Member meeting will be on Monday, August 21 at Palms Recreation Center behind the Palms Library on Overland at the Santa Monica Freeway.

## Board of Directors to Meet August 29

The next meeting of the L.A.A.S. Board of Directors is set for August 29th at the home of Art Johnson, 2845 Antisana Place, Hacienda Heights. For directions telephone him at 336-7468.

## Public Star Party in September

The Society will hold a star party open to the public at Chebiot Hills Playground (Rancho Park at Motor and Pico) on Saturday, September 16. In addition to telescopes, we will want displays of equipment, astrophotos and drawings to impress the public and gain new members. More on this next month *-Mike Simmons*

**NOTE: ARTICLES, PAPERS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS to your L.A.A.S. Monthly Bulletin are solicited!**  
Address them to News Bulletin Editor, L.A.A.S., Box 27787, Los Feliz Sta., Los Angeles 90027.



### Star Member Report

The Star Member meeting on August 21 produced only four (count 'em—four) interested members for discussion of observatory construction. It was decided to complete the outside of the observatory, not including the roof, this year, as it appears that roof cannot be completed until next year. This will involve placing drainage pipes around the observatory and back-filling gravel and dirt up against the wall of the building. We will also build a fence around the observing area. This will probably exhaust most of our construction fund for this year (most of our funds are held for payments on the land.) Next year we will complete the structure with Star Member renewal dues, which are payable in May, and perhaps begin planning for our much-discussed lodge. A contribution of \$200 to the construction fund made recently by a general member will help us greatly.

The work party of August 12 produced many eager laborers and one truckload of concrete. The walls were grouted, two sections of the wall were poured, one of the piers which hold the roll-off roof was poured, and we all got very dirty.

As the star party season draws to a close, many of the Star Members look forward to eight months of observing in solitude in Lockwood Valley. The sky becomes clearer and darker as the water is frozen out of the air. I frequently arrive at the land and begin observing as early as 6 p.m. during the winter. This way I can spend an evening observing and still be home by midnight (before it gets too cold), making week-day trips possible. Fourteen of our forty-eights observing pads are still available to Star Members for a one-time fee of \$20.

For those interested in observing year-round and on non-star party nights during the summer, Star Membership is open to all Society general members for \$50 a year (not a bad price for a private year-round camping and observing site).

*-Mike Simmons*

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

8 INCH REFLECTOR for \$225 or best offer. 8 inch Jaeger objective, Cave diagonal, complete tube assembly, heavy duty equatorial mount, setting circles, clock drive. Andy Wardas, 1223 Carmen Drive, Glendale, Calif. 91207. Phone 242-2495.

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