

Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc.



October 1972

A Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Member,

Those of you who were at the last general meeting will recall that most of the people present at that time were interested in the idea of extending the star party season for one more month and having a star party in October. Responding to this wish, the Board of Directors voted at its last meeting to have an official star party at the Lockwood Valley site on Saturday evening, October 7th. And so it shall be, weather permitting. If you were at our September star party at Lockwood, you know that temperatures there are rather on the low side—from the point of view of southern Californians, at least—so if you have a heavy coat and a couple of extra blankets, maybe you'd better bring them along this coming Saturday night.

Our general meeting this month will be next Monday evening, October 9th at Griffith Observatory at 7:45 p.m. In addition to the regular monthly observing and other reports, we will be favored to have as our main speaker for the evening Mr. Thomas Cave, Honorary Lifetime Member of the Society. Mr. Cave's topic will be 'An Astronomical Tour of Europe.'

The calendar reminds us that year's end is not far off, and the board has acted on several annual matters of interest. Our annual banquet will be held in January of 1973, and a suitable location is now being investigated by Banquet Committee chairman Ron McKnight. If at all possible, this banquet will be held on a Saturday night rather than on the usual Monday for the convenience of those members who have to get up early on weekdays—which includes most of us!

One feature of our banquet is the presentation of awards to members who have made outstanding achievements and contributions to astronomy during the preceding year. As few or no new telescopes were completed by members and shown at star parties during the past season, it appears that the Telescope of the Year award will not be made. However, such other achievements as may be thought worthy of recognition will be considered for an award by the Awards Committee. Its chairman this year is Tom Cragg. If you wish to suggest someone for consideration for an award, please feel free to contact him.

Finally, the annual elections are not far off. They will be conducted at the December general meeting. Mr. Norman James is chairman of the Nominating Committee and is responsible for placing in nomination the names of candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Society as well as members at large of the Board of Directors. Mr. James will announce the Committee's nominations at the November general meeting. At that time, further nominations from the floor will be welcomed. The officers and directors elected in December will be installed at the banquet in January.

I hope to see all of you at the star party Saturday night and at the general meeting at Griffith Observatory on Monday evening.

—Art Johnson
President, L.A.A.S.

Shop is Open Friday Evenings

This is a reminder to any member interested in making his or her own telescope primary mirror. The Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc. continues to sponsor an Optical Shop for your benefit. The shop sessions are conducted every Friday night from 6:30 to 9:00 on the fourth floor of the administration building at Belmont High School in Los Angeles. They are under the direction of Mr. Jim Scarborough. At the shops you may receive advice and instruction in mirror making, as well as assistance in the final figuring and testing of your mirror. Mirror making kits, abrasives, and other supplies are available at the shops as well. If you are considering making your own telescope, we urge you to take advantage of this service, which is one of the benefits of membership in the L.A.A.S.

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

- Star Party at Lockwood Valley.....Saturday evening, October 7
- General Meeting at Griffith Observatory.....Monday evening, October 9, 7:45 p.m.
Speaking, Thomas Cave; topic, 'An Astronomical Tour of Europe'
- Board of Directors Meeting.....Tuesday evening, October 31, 7:30 p.m. Location to be announced.

Meteor Shower Due

A display of the Giacobinid-Zinner meteors is expected on early Sunday morning, October 8th. There is a fair possibility that this year's shower may be a spectacular one. If you're planning to attend the star party, you'll be all set with good skies for observing the shower. If you're not planning on attending the star party but are interested in seeing the shower, why not change your mind and attend the star party!

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