



NEWS BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 1972

A Letter from the President

Dear fellow member,

With the recent banishment of Daylight Savings Time, or Darkness Wasting Time as astronomers have been known to refer to it, we are reminded that the long autumn nights are with us again. Time to take that telescope out of the garage or closet and maybe to begin again on an observing program, or possibly transport it to the Lockwood Valley if you're a Star Member for a rewarding, albeit a chilly, weekend of skygazing. The Star Members have graciously offered any member the privilege of joining them at their informal dark-of-the-moon star parties during the autumn and winter months. *If you wish to attend one of these parties, please contact any Star Member with whom you're acquainted and make arrangement to go as his guest.*

This is the one requirement.

I hope to see each of you at our general meeting this coming Monday evening, November 13, at Griffith Observatory at 7:45 p.m. Dr. Harlan Epps of the Department of Astronomy at U.C.L.A. will be our featured speaker, and will favor us with a talk on recent research on quasi-stellar objects. Dr. Epps has outstanding qualifications to speak on his subject, and his talk promises to be informative and rewarding.

In other news, plans have been concluded for our annual banquet, which is to be held on a Sunday evening, January 14, at an excellent restaurant in Los Angeles, Les Freres Taix on Sunset Boulevard. You'll find further details elsewhere in this bulletin. I can only urge you to purchase your tickets early and plan to join your friends at the banquet, a longtime and cherished Society tradition.

See you at the meeting Monday night.

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

Society Elections Scheduled for December Meeting

The annual election of officers and directors of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc., will be held at the Society's general meeting on Monday, December 11 at Griffith Planetarium at 7:45 p.m. As required by the Constitution of the L.A. A.S., the Nominating Committee, Norman James, chairman, will announce its nominations at our general meeting on November 13. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted at that time, and a printed ballot will be provided to speed the voting process at the December meeting. Provision will, of course, be made for write-ins, so that in effect further nominations may be made on the night of the elections. **Absentee ballots will be available** for those who do not anticipate being able to attend the December general meeting. These may be obtained by mail by writing to the Society at its mailing address at the Griffith Observatory, at least two weeks in advance of the election date.

Star Member Report

Work continues on the observatory right up until the first snow. The walls have been water-proofed and prepared for a drain pipe around the perimeter. Gravel and dirt will then be back-filled against the walls. We must also build a fence across the access road to the observatory site. During the winter we will work on the 14½ inch telescope to prepare it for mounting in the observatory next year. Any star member with the experience and desire to help with this project should contact Walt Deutsch at 479-1889.

The track for the roll-off roof has arrived. This is good news for those of us who have pondered over the last two years how we could ever afford it. Somehow we did, but more obstacles lie ahead; specifically, several hundred dollars' worth of plywood for the roof. Another raffle, anyone?

Thirteen of our forty-eight telescope pads are still available to star members for a one-time fee of twenty dollars. Contact Walt.

During the winter and spring months the star members will hold small unofficial star parties. The 14½ inch telescope will probably be at a number of them, for the use of everyone present. Any general member interested in attending may come as a guest of a star member. Contact any star member for information just prior to new moon. (! -Ed.)

Star members who have thus far braved the elements to observe in Lockwood Valley include:

-Ephraim Merritt and his famous 14¼ inch off-axis reflector with electronic slewing on both axes and control console with digital readouts.

-Ed Johnston and his new 4 inch aerial camera which he mounted on a 2.4 inch refractor and guided by hand!

-Norm James and his 12 inch *f/5* sphere-mounted reflector.

-Norm Muir, whose 6 inch reflector disintegrated in the back seat of his Datsun on a recent trip and has not been heard from since.

-Ron McKnight, whose 12½ inch will return to Lockwood Valley soon after an extended absence.

-John Taylor and his new 8 inch reflector.

-And of course, yours truly, totin' the Society's 14½ inch.

All Star Members and guests are invited to join the crowd.

-Mike Simmons

Awards Committee

The Society's Awards Committee, Thomas Cragg, chairman, will consider members' suggestions of recipients for various awards in the field of telescope making, observing, astrophotography, service to the Society, or other appropriate categories. If you have a project, photograph, or other personal accomplishment that you wish considered, please do not hesitate to make known the fact to Mr. Cragg. His address is Hale Observatories, Mount Wilson, California. Awards will be made only in categories where the Committee judges there to have been made a worth contribution during the year 1972. The awards will be presented at the Society's annual banquet on January 14.

Annual Banquet Set for January 14

Our Banquet Committee, Ron McKnight, chairman, has concluded arrangements for our annual banquet, to be held on Sunday evening, January 14 at Les Freres Taix Restaurant, 1911 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles. A no-host cocktail party will begin at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6:30. Featured will be a choice of *entrees*: either roast beef or deep sea bass, potatoes, vegetables, soup and salad, dessert, and beverage. The cost is a modest \$4.50 per member. At the most recent board of directors meeting, everyone who had dined at Les Freres Taix agreed that it is one of the outstanding restaurants in Los Angeles, and we believe we can assure you that you will enjoy the food at this traditional Society function, not to mention the program and the door prizes. **BANQUET TICKETS at \$4.50 will be on sale at the November and December general meetings or by mail from the Society at its Griffith Observatory mailing-address.** You will assist the banquet committee by securing your tickets early.

Name Tags are Now Available.

They include the Society's name and the view of Newton's telescope taken from the center of the Society logo, engraved in white with blue background. The cost is \$2 IN ADVANCE. Orders will be taken at any general meeting, or contact Mike Simmons.

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