

LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR JULY 1973

FINAL EDITION OF THE LAAS BULLETIN

The LAAS News Bulletin will close operation with this issue. In its place will be a new bulletin, with a new format and a new name. We are currently searching for a new name for the bulletin, and have decided the membership should make its voice heard. If you have an idea, let us know at the July meeting, or send it to LAAS News Bulletin Editor, P.O. Box 27787, Los Angeles, Calif. 90027 before July 23. The winning name - caller will be announced next month.

HELP! IS THERE AN OPTICIAN IN THE HOUSE?

The LAAS Optical Shop is currently without a director. The shop is being kept open by members of the Board of Directors as an emergency measure to make the equipment available, but instruction and guidance cannot be given in most cases. If you can direct the shop on Friday nights from 6:30 - 9:00 at Belmont High School PLEASE step forward. The shop is in danger of closing during its busiest period. You need not be an expert to help beginners with their projects. Please help if you can.

GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting will be July 9 at 7:45 p.m. at Lemon Grove Recreational Center in Hollywood. To get there, take the Hollywood Freeway to the Melrose or Normandy off - ramp. Go west on Melrose to Kingsley (2 blocks west of Normandy). Turn right and proceed to Lemon Grove, right next to the freeway (on the south side). Our speaker will be Doug Duncan. He will speak on some recent work he did on a newly discovered double cepheid. We will also see some movies of observatory construction over the past three years. Finally, we will hold elections for Vice President and Alternate Board Member as announced last month.

STAR PARTY

The next star party will be July 28 at our Lockwood Valley observing site. Pick up a map at the July 9 meeting if you don't have one.

A REMINDER

There are several books from the IAAS library that are overdue. These books should be returned at the July meeting.

STAR MEMBER REPORT

A work party will be held July 21 to complete the observatory roof. If everything is ready, the telescope may be placed in the observatory the following weekend at the star party. Our building fund is almost depleted, so this work is being partially funded by members who have offered the Observatory Fund long-term, no interest loans in order to complete the construction as soon as possible. The members making these loans are the same ones who have been so generous with their time at the land. If anyone is interested in supporting the observatory financially, either with a donation or by becoming a Star Member (there are many advantages to Star Membership), see Mike Simmons, Star Member Chairman. The next Star Member meeting is July 16 at 7:30 at the Palms Recreation Center, National and Overland in West Los Angeles.

OBSERVER'S CORNER

Everyone is waiting for Comet Kohoutek, but only those with very large scopes can see it now. It should be easy to locate in a couple of months, but will not come to naked eye visibility until fall. The latest estimates place it at between magnitudes -6 and -12 in January. This would be 5 to 1500 times brighter than Venus making it visible to the naked eye in broad daylight. We will give you positions for it when it brightens up a little.

Watch for the Delta Aquarids meteor shower at the July 28 star party. The radiant (area from which meteors appear) will rise at midnight, so observing will be best just before dawn. Don't expect to see the sky covered with meteors; the most you may see is twenty meteors per hour in addition to the usual sporadic meteors.

This star party will be your last chance this year to see the galaxies in Leo and Virgo, so look at these before they set. They will be very low in the West.

This is the time of year that everyone looks at M13 - and ignores all the other good globular clusters in the sky. Compare M13 to M3 in Canes Venatici, M15 in Pegasus (small bright nucleus), and M22 in Sagittarius (large nucleus), and M2 in Aquarius. There are many more.

Object of the month - A planetary nebula that doesn't look like the Ring Nebula; NGC 6543. This planetary is in Draco five degrees west and one degree north of Zeta Draconis (RA - 17h 58.5m, DEC - +66.5). It is as bright as the Ring Nebula, but much smaller. It is a very bright green in an eight inch, and almost a solid disk. It may be very hard to find without a good atlas.

OBSERVER'S CORNER (continued)

For a good inexpensive atlas, try the Atlas of the Heavens, Field Edition. It is unbound, white stars on a black background. There are sixteen 12 by 18 inch charts covering the whole sky. It shows stars to magnitude 7.75, galaxies to thirteenth magnitude, etc., and gives sizes on the charts. It is ten magnitudes more useful than the charts in Norton's Atlas, but costs only four dollars. Order from Sky Publishing Corp., 49 - 50 - 51 Bay State Road, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Check Sky and Telescope for advertisements about this and other atlases.

CLASSIFIED ADS

6 inch reflector. "Dynascope" deluxe model. f/8, 48" f.l. Setting circles. Clock drive. Four eyepieces. Camera mount. Pedestal base on casters. \$ 150. Fred Licht. 839 - 1397. Leaving for Europe.

DATES ON THE LAAS CALENDAR

General Meeting - Monday, July 9, 7:45 p.m., Lemon Grove Rec. Center, Hollywood. (see directions above)
Star Member Meeting - Monday, July 16, 7:30 p.m., Palms Rec. Center National and Overland, West Los Angeles.
Observatory Work Party - Saturday, July 21, Lockwood Valley
Star Party - Saturday, July 28, Lockwood Valley
Board of Director's Meeting - Monday, July 30, 7:30 p.m. location to be announced.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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