

LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 1973

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hoped as many as possible from our area can attend the WAA convention in San Diego August 16, 17, and 18. Trips to the Laguna Observatory (San Diego State) and Palomar are included, as well as many papers and exhibits. It's an extravaganza you'll not soon forget. Remember, we are hoping to be the hosts for the WAA meeting in 1974. A good attendance from our area would make a good showing of our interest so more WAA conventioners will want to come to our meeting next year.

We have received official notice that various programs planned at the planetarium on Monday evenings during the fall will most likely preclude our meeting there until perhaps next January. Our meetings will necessarily be at other places until further notice.

Our July meeting at Lemon Grove Playground was well attended, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed Doug Duncan's talk. Our August 13 meeting will be there also. It is near Normandie and Melrose and very convenient to the Hollywood Freeway. Also, a nice coffee shop is nearby and convenient for the second meeting.

WAA CONVENTION

The 25th annual convention of the Western Amateur Astronomers will be held on the campus of California State University at San Diego on August 16, 17, and 18. Headquarters for the meeting, the Aztec Center, is on College Ave. off Route 8 in San Diego. Lodging is at El Conquistador on the campus. The daily charge of \$11 includes three meals. Reservations should be made directly with El Conquistador, 5505 Montezuma Road, San Diego, Calif. 92115.

Besides talks by amateurs, several professional astronomers will give Morrison lectures sponsored by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. On Thursday evening, August 16th, a car caravan will leave for the Laguna Mountain Observatory operated by San Diego State College. Palomar Observatory will be visited during a charter bus trip on Friday afternoon.

The registration fee of \$7.50 (plus \$2 for other family members) includes a copy of the Proceedings; mail to Wilbur L. Will, 3821 King St., Lemon Grove, Calif. 92045 or register when you arrive.

Free space is being reserved for both amateur and club displays, but exhibitors should inform Norman Black, 12493 Escala Lane, Rancho Bernardo, Calif. 92128, of their requirements.

THE NO-NAME NEWS

The bulletin is still in search of a new name. The matter will be resolved at the August meeting with suggestions and a poll. If you have any suggestions, send them to LAAS News Bulletin Editor, P.O. Box 27787, Los Angeles, Calif. 90027.

ELECTION RESULTS

Two elections took place at the July meeting. Ed Johnston was named Vice-President of the Society and Norm James became an Alternate Member of the Board of Directors. Both are recent past Presidents of the Society and Chairmen of committees this year. The busy get busier and the rest of us get the benefits. Congratulations to Norm and Ed.

GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting will be held August 13 at Lemon Grove Recreation Center at Lemon Grove and Kingsley near the intersection of Melrose and Normandie. See last month's bulletin for detailed directions.

STAR PARTIES

The star parties this year have been extremely well attended. Along with large crowds have come problems with noise and behavior. Henceforth, the following rules will be strictly enforced:

1. Noise is to be kept to a minimum. Radios, tape players, and musical instruments are not allowed at all (even softly) at star parties.
2. Lumber, blocks, and other building material are not to be carried about for building benches, tables, apartment houses, or anything else. Besides creating unseen obstacles at night the use of these materials carries a special danger; rattlesnakes have been found among them this summer.
3. Headlights may be used while approaching the land. This constitutes an insignificant annoyance to observers, so members are requested not to yell at cars while they are on the access road.

4. Star parties on the LAAS observing site are for LAAS members and their guests ONLY. Guests must accompany a member or be met by a member at the entrance gate. Members are responsible for their guests. Many persons have been sharing in the activities of the Society without supporting the Society in any way.

5. PLEASE remove your trash. The unsightly trash you see next time may be your own.

These rules are a result of numerous complaints by Society members. They are designed to make the star parties more enjoyable for all our members. The next star party is August 25 at our Lockwood Valley site. Enjoy.

OPTICAL SHOP SPUTTERS ALONG

Lew Chilton has offered to run the LAAS Optical Shop at Belmont High School during August. He will be there on August 8, 15, and 22. The shop may be open August 29 also. Check with Lew at 836-4616 about this date. We are still in need of a permanent director starting in the fall. Anyone with enough knowledge to help beginners get started can fill this position. Please help if you can.

NEW MAGAZINE

Astronomy is a new magazine written for laymen. It includes articles on new discoveries as well as many regular departments on practical observing such as Photography in Astronomy, Gazer's Gazette, and Sky Almanac. Subscriptions for the monthly journal are \$12 for one year, \$22 for two years, and \$30 for three years. Write to Astronomy, P.O. Box 1305, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201, or come to the meeting for more information.

STAR MEMBER REPORT

A longtime member of the Society, Francis Scoville has volunteered to help us complete our observatory roof. Mr. Scoville, a construction carpenter, stepped forward at a most opportune time, just as our funds for hiring labor are becoming depleted. Final construction details will be discussed at the August 20 Star Member Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Palms Recreation Center, National and Overland in West L.A.

OBSERVER'S CORNER

Many amateurs don't realize that the brighter parts of the Veil nebula are visible in a six inch telescope. One such part is visible near the star 52 Cygni, three or four degrees due south of spilon Cygni, the westernmost member of the cross part of the Northern Cross. Another part is two degrees east and one degree north of 52 Cygni.

NGC 7009, the Saturn Nebula, is one of the brightest planetary nebula in the sky. Faint extensions, resembling the rings of Saturn, surrounding the small, bright green disk. Look for it two degrees due west of nu Capricorni. Object of the Month- M76, a double planetary nebula. This fascinating object also designated NGC 650 and 65, is easy in small telescopes. It is one degree north and just a little west of Phi Persei.

DATES ON THE LAAS CALENDAR

General Meeting- Monday, August 13, 7:45 p.m., Lemon Grove recreation Center near Melrose and Normandie in L.A.

Star Member Meeting- Monday, August 20, Palms Recreation Center, National and Overland, West L.A.

Star Party- Saturday, August 25, Lockwood Valley.

Board of Directors Meeting- Monday, August 27, 7:30 p.m. Palms Recreation Center.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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