

LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 1973

GENERAL MEETING-NEW DATE

The next general meeting will be Monday, September 17, the third monday of the month, at 7:45 P.M. at the Griffith Observatory. We are holding our meeting one week later than usual this month to take advantage of an open night at the Observatory. There will be a guest speaker (to be announced), a report on the WAA convention, an observing report, and more. See you there.

RELATIVITY AND COSMOLOGY

Dr. William Kaufmann, director of the Griffith Observatory, will explain relativity from holes in space to space travel between universes in a UCLA Extension series of six slide-illustrated lectures. Titled "Relativity and Cosmology," the non-technical program will meet Wednesdays, October 3 to November 7, 7:30 to 9 p.m., in Room 100 Moore Hall on the UCLA campus. Lecture topics include an "historical introduction," "why study relativity?" "the special theory of relativity," "traveling near the speed of light," "warped space-time and black holes" and "white holes and worm holes." Other sessions will deal with space travel to other universes, astronomical observations, stellar evolution, exploding galaxies and quasars, and the shape and creation of the universe. In his concluding lecture, Dr. Kaufmann will explore the ultimate fate of the universe, current research in cosmology and the 3 degree black body radiation. The fee for the series is \$25 and one unit of credit may be earned. Further information is available by writing Biological and Physical Sciences, University Extension, UCLA, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024, or telephone (213) 825-3839.

OPTICAL SHOP

Beginning September 20, the Optical Shop will be open Thursday evenings, from 6:30 to 9:15 at Belmont High School in Room 410 until further notice. All LAAS members are invited. Members of the Board of Directors are currently operating the shops. We are still looking for a permanent shop director. There must be someone in our Society who can run the shops. Please help if you can.

WAA CONVENTIONS

The 1973 WAA convention in San Diego was attended by many LAAS members. We will have a report at the general meeting. The 1974 convention will be held jointly with the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO), on the UCLA campus and will be hosted by the ALPO and the LAAS. Tom Cragg, LAAS President, has been elected WAA President for the coming year. And, of course, congratulations to Ray Coutchie, winner of the 1973 Bruce Blair Award.

LIBRARY BOOKS

The following people have library books which are overdue: Scott Webster (due in April) Todd Lyons, Mark Friedgen (2), Joe Kiss, and Ruth Mabbett. These books should be returned at the September meeting so that others may use them. The library will be open after the meeting for checking out and returning books.

STAR PARTIES

The August 25 star party was attended by about half as many people as the previous star parties this year. Even though, there were plenty of good telescopes. Dave Sovereign brought his new 12 inch Cassegrain, and the LAAS 14 1/2 inch telescope made it's first appearance this year. The 14 1/2 inch will also be at the September 22 star party for observing by all members. Get directions to the LAAS observing site at the general meeting.

STAR MEMBER REPORT

Observatory construction has slowed some the last half of this summer, largely due to financial difficulties. We are in better shape now, though, and will be working hard the next two months to ready the observatory for use and for the onset of winter. The 14 1/2 inch telescope has been reassembled. A few problems in the mount are left to be ironed out, but it is just about ready to go into it's new home. It's first test at the August star party was quite a success. The central star of the Ring Nebula was seen by numerous observers despite hazy skies. Star Members should get some good observing done with it in the clear winter skies this year. Because of the late date of the general meeting, the Star Member meeting will be postponed a little. Star Members will receive a notification of the meeting by post card, or call Mike Simmons at 884-7156. We will be discussing observatory construction and telescope use for the coming year.

OBSERVER'S CORNER

Some good double stars for small telescopes can be found this month. Gamma Andromadae is a bright, wide yellow-orange and blue-green pair similar to Albireo. Iota Trianguli is also a yellow-blue pair. I Arietis (Aries) is an interesting white and green pair. It is 1 1/2 degrees north and 3/4 degree west of Belta Arietis. Look at the open clusters in the Milky Way while it's still around. M29 and M39 in Cygnus are very good, and M11 in Scutum to the south is beautiful.

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