

LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MARCH, 1974

MARCH MEETING

Once again, Ed Johnston, our ex officio, has arranged with TRW Corporation for a speaker to address us at our March 11 meeting. Though specifics aren't known at this time, the subject of the presentation will be in the area of space astronomy. If the enthusiasm displayed for our February program is any indication, then this month's program should meet with similar success.

Also slated will be a slide presentation of prize winning astrophotography by Dana Patchick. As an inspiration for other would be astrophotographers, Dana is a junior member who uses a 4-inch short-focus reflector as his principal instrument. Orient Ernest, Brad Wallis, John Sanford--watch out!

Lemon Grove Recreational Center will once again serve as our meeting place. Located near the intersection of Lemon Grove Avenue and Kingsley Drive, it is one block north of Melrose Avenue, adjacent to the Hollywood Freeway in Hollywood.

COMING SOON: A NEW HOME

Beginning with the April meeting and continuing on into the unforeseeable future, the L.A.A.S. will hang its hat at the Los Angeles County Museum of Science and Industry in Exposition Park. Thanks to the unstinting efforts of our president, Ron McKnight, our venerable Society will once again have a meeting place that it can proudly call home. It should be our aim to establish the kind of rapport with the museum and its staff that was enjoyed for nearly a quarter-century at Griffith. Barring unforeseen circumstances and if our relationship with the museum develops fruitfully, there is no reason to believe that we cannot look forward to at least another quarter-century of intellectual growth and prosperity. Additional information, also directions, will be provided in the April Bulletin.

OBSERVATORY NEWS

Four years ago this month quite a few of us observed and photographed Comet Bennett from the Society's, then, newly acquired observing site in Lockwood Valley. Since that time, a great deal of love, labor, time and money has been spent in the improvement of the land and the construction of a large observatory for our 14½-inch Grow telescope. The time is nearly at hand to step back and savor the fruits of our labors. The observatory, its structure now complete, is of innovative design, like no other. Sleek and low, it is modern by anyone's definition, yet it does not seem the least bit out of place among the pinons and junipers. In fact, despite the great many improvements and the high attendance at star parties, we have managed to retain the type of natural beauty characteristic of Lockwood Valley.

Still ahead of us, though, lies the completion of the observatory's interior. Floor, pier, cabinetry and paneling have yet to be installed, but these are projects that the star members feel can be tackled and successfully completed before summer's end, provided enough members continue to contribute their skills and labor as they have so selflessly done during the past four years.

The focus for all this activity and the real star of the show is, of course, our 14½-inch Grow telescope. Renovation and modifications are moving ahead in an attempt to have it ready by the observatory completion date. Thanks to the talents and willingness of member David Sovereign, the 'scope will be operated remotely if desired from a console, and it will have electric guiding and slewing capabilities on both axes. Other notables in this project are Steve Kufeld, Howard Parsons and Mike Simmons.

BOARD CONVENES

Monday evening, February 25, the L.A.A.S. Executive Board convened to discuss the Society's affairs of state. A quorum was present. In attendance were President Ron McKnight, Secretary Wanda Giblin and board members Tom and Mary Cragg, Tom Cave accompanied by Mrs. Cave, Norman Muir, Steve Kufeld, Mike Simmons, Dave Sovereign and Lew Chilton. Among the heady topics discussed were plans for the joint W.A.A.-A.L.P.O. convention which the L.A.A.S. will host this August, agendas for upcoming meetings, new locations for the general meeting and optical shops, star membership, observatory and telescope progress and plans for public lectures. One of the subjects to come to the Board's attention, which will directly affect all members attending meetings, will be the requirement to show membership cards at the door. This will enable us to determine, among other things, the size and make-up (member-non-member ratio) of attendance. A host or hostess will greet each person at the door.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR UPCOMING MONTHS*

- March 11 General meeting at Lemon Grove. Guest lecturer from TRW Corp. Subject: Space Astronomy (tentative and approximate).
- April 8 First meeting at Science museum. Guest lecturer: Dr. David Pierce of El Camino College. Subject: "Philosophy of Astronomy" (tentative).
- May 13 Guest lecturer from J.P.L. Subject: Mariner 10 results.

* Star party dates were not discussed at this last board meeting. They will probably appear in the April Bulletin.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads are provided for L.A.A.S. members free of charge. Non-members are charged \$2.00 per ad per month.

For Sale--3-inch Refractor F/16. Fair condition.
Call 272-3572. Ask for Edward Rosenblatt.

For Sale--One hundred or so back issues of Griffith Observer going back 25 years. Make offer. Contact:
Lew Chilton in the Directory.

Personal-- To Al/c Phil Taylor: Hi Phil! When are you coming home on leave? Can you make it to a star party this year? The gang is hoping to see you. Best wishes.

STAR MEMBER MEETING

The Star Members will hold their first meeting of the year on Monday, March 18 at 7:30 PM at Palms Recreation Center. The Rec Center is behind the public library at National and Overland Boulevards in West Los Angeles. The completion of the observatory and installation of the telescope will be discussed. Interested General Members are also welcomed to attend.

