



Los Angeles Astronomical Society

Submit Bulletin inquiries and materials, including articles, information and ads, to Lewis Chilton, Bulletin editor, 1951 So. Shenandoah St., #10, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

All other inquiries and correspondence should be directed to the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Box 27787, Los Feliz Station, Los Angeles, CA 90027. Please indicate on envelope the general nature of correspondence or to whom it is being directed.

a message from the President

With the rising of the summer Milky Way in the eastern sky, the star party season is once again upon us. It's time to resurrect your dormant scope, clean off the cobwebs, and haul it out again. Our first star party was May 1st; we'll have an illustrated report at the May 10th meeting for those who missed it. The next star party is May 29th. If you have a new telescope or have never quite figured out how to use the old one, come early between 5 and 7 p.m. and join our orientation clinic. Several experienced members ("experienced" means they make the same mistakes, only they've been making them longer) will assist with set-up, use of the telescope and star maps, or any other problems you may have encountered. We will also suggest objects for observation. If you don't have a telescope, there will be a number available, each trained on a different celestial object. This will be an informal clinic. After the initial session, help will be provided as needed during the early evening. Other clinics will

follow in the season to come, the next most likely being devoted to astrophotography. More information next month. If you have any suggestions regarding these clinics, see me at the meeting.

The 16- and 14½-inch telescopes will be set up for observation in the observatory (no, we aren't going to make a pair of binoculars of them) for all attending the star party. Remember to follow the rules of courtesy outlined below so that all may equally enjoy this event. Mike O'Neal will officiate as star party chairman (star pig, for short). See him for aid and assistance.

Our April meeting was a case of good news/bad news. The good news was a number of member's reports on Comet West, astrophotography and star parties, as well as an excellent speaker in Dr. Guido Münch. The bad news was the museum's failure to provide a microphone and lantern slide projector for Dr. Münch. No matter all is in order for this month, and we will have reports on amateur activities to complement our professional presentation (see elsewhere for details). Good viewing.

--Mike Simmons

Cragg Accepts Australia Position

At the April meeting, Tom Cragg announced his recent decision to accept the offer made by the Anglo-Australian Observatory to join their staff at Siding Springs, Australia as head night assistant [see SKY & TELESCOPE, October, 1975, pp. 224-228]. Tom and Mary, his wife, are now awaiting the okay of the Australian government's immigration officials. When obtained, they will make preparations to move, probably in June or July.

[Continued on next column]



Mary and Tom Cragg, with Walter Haas at left. Photo taken by L.Chilton at 1974 WAA/ALPO convention at UCLA.

I'm sure I speak for all the Society when I say that I received this revelation with mixed feelings; happy to hear of their good fortune, sad that we are going to lose them to those bloody lucky Aussies.

With his parents as sponsors, Tom joined the Society as a junior member in 1939. Since then he has been a great force and influence, having served as an officer and president many times and on the Board of Directors for many uninterrupted years. His variable star work and his association with the AAVSO are legend. He was the recipient of the Western Amateur Astronomers' G. Bruce Blair gold medal in 1963. His contributions to amateur astronomy in general and to this society in particular are inestimable. Good luck Tom and Mary. You'll both be missed most profoundly.

[It is my desire to gather enough material of interest to work up a biographical sketch about Tom for publication in some future issue of the Bulletin. What do you the readership think of this idea? --editor]

calendar

GENERAL MEETING

Dr. David Pierce is a noted authority on asteroids. However, this will not be the subject for

[Continued on reverse side]

his talk at the May 10th general meeting. Instead, he will discuss "The Search for Extraterrestrial Life," a research topic that he is engaged in at the Jet Propulsion Laboratories in Pasadena, where he is employed as astromechanic. Dr. Pierce is also chairman of the department of astronomy at El Camino College. Plan to attend.

A portion of this meeting will be devoted to amateur endeavors. We would very much welcome your participation. If you have slides or photos that would interest others at the meeting, bring them along.

WHERE: Kinsey Auditorium, California Museum of Science & Industry, Exposition Park.

WHEN: Monday evening, May 10th, 7:30 p.m.

OTHER MEETINGS IN MAY

STAR MEMBER MEETING - Monday, May 17th, 7:30 p.m.
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Monday, May 24th, 7:30 p.m.

Both meetings will convene at the Palms Recreational Center, located on Overland Avenue, just north of the Santa Monica Fwy., behind the Rancho Park Library.

RIVERSIDE TELESCOPE MAKERS CONVENTION - May 29, 30, 31 at Big Bear, California. For information write Phillip Wolfe, 8952 San Vicente, Riverside, CA 92503, or phone (714) 688-1594

STAR PARTY RULES

1. Only LAAS members and their guests may attend.
2. Please arrive before dark, if possible.
3. Parking lights only when approaching the observing area. You will be guided to a parking spot, if necessary.
4. Cars in the observing circle for unloading large telescopes only. No cars in observing area after dusk.
5. Dim red flashlights only.
6. No open fires.
7. Take all your trash with you when you leave.
8. No radios or musical instruments please.

classified

FOR SALE: 36-exposure rolls of fresh Kodak 103a-F astrophotographic film. \$2.50 per roll in 35mm format only. Price goes up after May. See Sam Sjogren at meetings or star parties, or phone (213) 628-1433.

FOR SALE: Historical 12-inch reflector, f:7. Optics by James Herron. 3-inch diameter shafts. Currently mounted and in operation at Mount Wilson Observatory. Leaving country, priced for quick sale. Contact T.A. Cragg c/o Hale Observatories, Mount Wilson, CA 91023, or phone (213) 440-1157 or 1119. Or write him at 5116 Caroli Lane, La Canada, CA 91011, or phone (213) 790-0366.

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