



Los Angeles Astronomical Society

Editor.....Lewis Chilton
Associate editors..Michael O'Neal
Michael Simmons

Submit BULLETIN inquiries, articles and ads to Lewis Chilton, BULLETIN editor, 1951 So. Shenandoah Street, Apt. #10, Los Angeles, CA 90034.

All other correspondence should be directed to the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, 2800 E. Observatory Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90027. Please indicate on envelope the general nature of correspondence or to whom it is being directed.



The June meeting at Griffith Observatory might best be described as a sentimental journey, for it was to be Tom and Mary Cragg's last LAAS meeting and Tom's last "Tour of the Summer Skies," before their departure and the beginning of a new life in Australia (see the August GRIFFITH OBSERVER).

In the photo at left above, Griffith Observatory's Ronald Oriti greets Mary and Tom Cragg at the entrance, just prior to the beginning of the June meeting. In photo at center, Tom accepts the plaque presented by LAAS President Mike Simmons honoring Tom's 37 years in the Society. In photo at right, Mary Cragg is summoned to the floor to share the honors and receive warm applause. Photos by Clarke Harris.

WAA Convention

Plan to attend the 1976 convention of the Western Amateur Astronomers at San Marcos (near Escondido, some thirty miles north of San Diego). This year the convention is being sponsored by the Palomar Amateur Astronomers under the overall direction of Rick Crockett. The convention will take place at Palomar College August 18th through the 21st, Wednesday through Saturday. The theme of the convention this year is "In the 200th Year, Under the 200-inch." Registration forms, information brochures, restaurant and hotel lists and paper registration sheets will be available at the meeting. The climax of this year's convention is the banquet which will honor the recipient of the G. Bruce Blair medal, Sir Patrick Moore. This is one WAA convention that shouldn't be missed. See you there.

Lockwood Star Parties

The July star party was well attended by people, telescopes and meteors (the Capricornids). The Society's three big 'scopes were in operation and were used by all. The weather was mild, and so were the people, with a few exceptions. Please be considerate of those whose obligations make it difficult to arrive before dark. Lights, for safety sake, must be on the approach to the site, especially by those unfamiliar with the road, so please DO NOT yell "lights" at those cars. The experienced observers in our Society agree that these lights have little if any effect anyway. If you want to use the site and observatory by yourself or with a few chosen friends, consider star membership. Also, please remember that cars are strictly forbidden in the observing circle after dusk. (Continued on next column)

Our next galactic gala will be August 28th. Maps to the site will again be available at the meeting. Plan to arrive early and have a picnic dinner, but please remember to take your trash out with you.

calendar

August Meeting

"The Riverside Telescope Makers Conference" is the subject of this month's featured speaker, Clifford Holmes. As president of the Riverside Astronomical Society, the Western Amateur Astronomers and recipient of the G. Bruce Blair medal for 1975, Mr. Holmes has been one of the driving forces behind this conference. People and telescopes from all over the state have made this convention, with its huge star parties, one of the big events of the year. This should prove to be a most interesting presentation. Plan to attend. Also on tap for August will be an illustrated report about last month's star party, and perhaps even more!

WHEN: Monday, August 9th, 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Kinsey Auditorium, California Museum of Science & Industry, Exposition Park.

OTHER MEETINGS...

- ✓ STAR MEMBER MEETING - Monday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
- ✓ BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Monday, August 30, 7:30 p.m.

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

- ✓ STAR PARTY - Lockwood Valley, August 28, dusk till dawn.

(Continued on other side)

The Awards Are Coming, The Awards Are Coming!

HELP! The Awards Committee has a problem - You can solve it by suggesting entries to be considered for awards. Some categories are: astrophotography, telescopes (optics, mechanical, mounts, electronics, etc.), literary, astroart, service to the Society, observing/research projects and any other item of interest to us amateurs. Don't be shy - contact Lu Rarogiewicz, Steve Kufeld or Phil Taylor at any meeting or Star Party.

Public Star Party

The Society is planning to hold an in-town star party for the public sometime in October. The last event of this type received much news media coverage and put us in contact with many prospective members. These events are always lots of fun. If you would like to participate, contact president Mike Simmons.



Tusquellas Meats at Farmers Market has a two-day special on 10-lb. bags of ground beef at \$8.80 and 5-lb. bags of beef patties (about 40) at \$9.80. This is the bottom-bottom price, the cheapest in town and it's fairly freshly-ground from John's own, not some bought for the occasion by riff-raff.

Classified

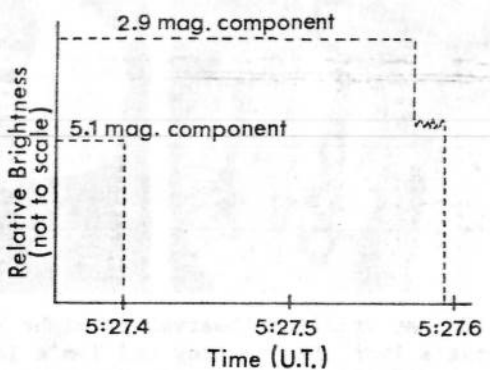
FOR SALE: 36-exposure rolls of Kodak 103a-F film. 35mm size. \$2.60 per roll. See Sam Sjogren at our parties or meetings.

FOUND: One flashlight, two small alarm clocks at the June star party. To claim, call Lewis Chilton at (213) 836-4616. Last call.

The July Occultation of Beta Scorpii

by Philip Taylor

The evening of July 7th and 8th afforded a splendid observation of the occultation of Beta Scorpii, in spite of hot, steamy skies over Studio City. The 5.1 magnitude component of the optical double immersed first and instantaneously. The second and brighter 2.9 magnitude component disappeared in a most unusual way. At the moment of contact its intensity dropped by about one-third then flickered for one second before disappearing (see graph below). The time span between the immersion of the first star and the second was 11.6 seconds. The first contact point occurred approximately 45 seconds later than what was predicted by the U.S. Naval Observatory for Los Angeles (5:26.6 U.T.). The first contact point at my observing site occurred at 5:27.4 U.T.



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Los Angeles, Calif. 90027
2800 E. Observatory Rd.

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