



Los Angeles Astronomical Society

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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.

July Meeting at Kinsey Auditorium

This month's meeting departs somewhat from the usual guest speaker format. Instead, several guests will give mini-presentations from five to fifteen minutes in length. Questions and answers will follow.

Tom Dougherty of Pancro Mirrors will discuss optical coatings; Charles Chinzi, optics; Tom Cave of Cave Optical Company, telescopes and their English heritage; Mike O'Neal, astrophotography; Jerry Bilodeau, variable stars. Audience participation during the question and answer session is encouraged. See you there!

**Kinsey Auditorium,
Museum of Science & Industry
Exposition Park**

Monday, July 11, 7:45 p.m.

Other Meetings...

STAR PARTY - Saturday, July 16, Lockwood Valley, sunset til dawn.

STAR MEMBERS - Monday, July 18, 7:30 p.m.

BOARD of DIRECTORS - Monday, July 25, 7:30 p.m.

The Star and Board meetings convene at the Palms Recreational Center, located on Overland Avenue, just north of the Santa Monica Freeway, behind the Rancho Park Library.

Next Month...

**Observatory dedication
Electricity for Lockwood
Another fund raiser
Mars Hill revisited
And more!**

What do you do when you give a party and nobody comes? Well, that's what happened last month after star members announced a work party (fact is, few of the star members even showed).

One star member, to paraphrase a now famous movie line, was mad as hell and decided to do something about it. What did he do? This: he dumped neat piles of gravel on your observing pad, on mine, in fact, on most all the pads! Had he gone bananas? Perhaps, but there was method in his madness. In order for members to use their pads at the next star party on July 16th, they'll have to shovel aside the gravel, and in so doing, will accomplish what star members were unable to do

last month for lack of participation.

The gravel should effectively abate the dust that has so plagued observers for the past seven years. The big question, of course, remains: will members cooperate by wielding broom and shovel at the next star party? One thing's for certain, if they don't, they will have one mad star member to reckon with, and



that's star member, spelled H-O-W-A-R-D P-A-C-K-E-R!

Ads

~~3.1-inch Meade equatorial refractor with motor drive and many accessories. Less than one year old, in excellent condition. Cost \$300 now \$225 will sell for \$350. Contact Derek Reynolds at (213) 848-1998 after 6 p.m. weekdays or any time weekends.~~

BULLETIN Editor on vacation this month

PROBLICOM

LAAS member Ben Mayer achieved national recognition in 1975 after accidentally photographing Nova Cygni while patrolling for meteors --a fine example of serendipity (see GRIFFITH OBSERVER, November 1975, pp.18-19)! Since then he has been enthusiastically dedicated to the proposition that amateurs can still make useful contributions to astronomy. He is currently recruiting other amateur astronomers to participate in his PROBLICOM project (acronym for Projection Blink Comparator), a program he recently described at the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference in Big Bear. In this endeavor, he has received the encouragement and endorsement of J. Mattei of the AAVSO, W. Liller of Harvard and H. Epps of UCLA. For an explanation of the construction and use of PROBLICOM, see SKY & TELESCOPE, January 1976, pp. 59-60.

If you'd like to know more about PROBLICOM, how to enjoy your avocation even more,

and how to make an important contribution to the science of astronomy, contact Mr. Mayer by writing him at 1292 Stradella Rd., L.A., Calif. 90024.

WAA = NAA in 1977

The 4th Annual National Amateur Astronomers (NAA) Convention will be held August 10-13, at the University of Colorado at Boulder, bringing together four organizations for the first time: the Astronomical League, Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers, International Occultation Timing Association and the Western Amateur Astronomers. The LAAS is an affiliate of WAA.

This year's convention will be of truly national proportions, with many exhibits, field trips and other activities planned. You may wish to include it in your vacation plans, but you'd better hurry. For registration information, write IMMEDIATELY to Denise Nye, Convention Registrar, 5604 Bowron Place, Longmont, Colo. 80501.



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50 Years
 of Amateur Astronomy
 in Los Angeles