



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.

August Meeting

"Doing An Astronomical Business in Japan"

Meade Instruments is an American business firm specializing in the importation and sales of Japanese optical goods and accessories, aimed primarily at the amateur astronomy market.

This month, Dr. John Diebel, Meade's president, discusses the Japanese optical industry, an industry which has received the respect and admiration of the world for its fine astronomical optics (not to mention its cameras), produced by such well-known companies as Goto, Nikon and Unitron. What few westerners realize, according to Dr. Diebel, is how culture differences affect doing business with the Japanese. After hearing the fascinating stories he has to tell, you will look upon your Japanese eyepieces and finderscopes with a feeling of wonder and amazement you never felt before!

Dr. Diebel, an engineer by education, obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Cal Tech and his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from USC. He was five years a member of the LAAS in the late 1950's.

Plan to attend what promises to be a most informative presentation on Monday, August 8th, at 7:45 p.m. at the California Museum of Science & Industry's Kinsey Auditorium in Exposition Park. See you there!

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

Monday, August 8, 7:45 p.m.

Other Meetings...

STAR PARTY - Saturday, Aug. 13, Lockwood Valley, dusk til dawn. Observatory dedication ceremony Saturday afternoon.

STAR MEMBERS - Monday, Aug. 15, 7:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Mon., Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m.

LAAS Observatory Dedicated

Those visiting Lockwood Valley this summer have seen the observatory nearing completion. The building has been painted and the permanent redwood stairway installed. The 14-1/2 inch Grow telescope, installed on its permanent mounting last year, has been reworked and now operates properly. And the whole site has been cleared of construction debris and beautified.

Though there will always be things to do and projects to contemplate over pie and coffee, the time has at long last arrived when star members can pause in their work and say with pride, "Look what we've done!"

On Saturday, August 13th, at the next regularly scheduled star party, you'll have an opportunity to inspect YOUR observatory and give the star members a pat on the back, for on that date the LAAS' own Lockwood Valley observatory will be officially dedicated and a job begun in 1971 will be completed. It is hoped that you and every other member will be there.

The dedication will take place at 7 p.m., but you should arrive earlier to set up your telescope. Pictures will be taken for an article to be submitted to SKY & TELESCOPE, including aerial photos from a private aircraft just prior to the dedication ceremony. We'd like readers of SKY & TELESCOPE to see a well attended star party, so please make an effort to arrive early. Bring a picnic dinner and try to arrive by 6 o'clock or earlier.

The 14-1/2 inch will be available for viewing all evening, as will the 16-, 15-, and 8-inch reflectors, also the Carroll 4-inch refractor. The Perseid meteor shower, just past its peak, may provide some celestial fireworks.

This is certainly the most exciting event in this society's fifty-one year history, so be a part of that history and attend!

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

What's Your Project ?

-Lu Rarogiewicz

Go for an LAAS award this year! Are you working on a telescope, accessory, or an interesting project involving photography, electronics--or just making a list of what can be seen with binoculars in the city? Whatever it is, if you find it worthwhile enough to do, the Awards Committee would like to know about it. Awards are given to both junior and senior members for their achievements. It's easy to be a candidate, just contact Awards Committee members Lu Rarogiewicz, Steve Kufeld or Phil Taylor at any LAAS activity--especially star parties--and we'll take it from there. That's all there is to it! You can also nominate others who have projects you feel rate recognition.

Little Known But Interesting Celestial Objects -Lu Rarogiewicz

These August evenings, just after twilight has fully faded, Scorpius rides due south about as high as we ever see it here in Southern California. Westward from the 'stinger' of the scorpion lies a wide double star--mu--in that part of the scorpion's body as it curves down well below Antares. Below mu Scorpii lies a wide triple--zeta--and between them lies a field of four clusters: H12, NGC 6231, 6242 and 6268. Away from city lights, this grouping of stars and clusters looks like a faint comet to the naked eye. The sight is particularly beautiful in binoculars or an RFT. The cluster NGC 6124 can be seen about five degrees to the right (to the west) of mu and zeta, forming a rough isosceles triangle with them.



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LOS ANGELES
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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50 Years
of Amateur Astronomy
in Los Angeles

