

LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

**BULLETIN
APRIL
1981**



GENERAL MEETING

**MONDAY
APRIL 13**
7:45pm
at GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY

Our speaker for the April 13 general meeting is Dr. Alan Dressler, an astronomer with Mt. Wilson/Los Campanos Observatory. His topic is "The Formation of Galaxies."

How galaxies form has long been a mystery. Are the spiral galaxies winding up or unwinding? What causes their shape? Why are some galaxies symmetrical and others irregular? Considering that the galaxies are several billion years old, and we have studied them for only a few hundred years, these simple questions become very complicated

Upcoming LAAS events:

Star Party: Saturday, April 4

Board of Directors: Monday April 6
7:30pm

Star Members: Monday, April 20
7:30pm

Star Party Season Open



On Saturday, April 4th, pull out the the old 'scope, dust off the cobwebs, load the family into the station wagon and head out to the LAAS Lockwood Valley observing site for the first star party of the year.

But before you pull out of your driveway, make certain to bring plenty of warm clothes, camping gear, water and whatever other essentials you feel will make your evening under the stars more enjoyable. Remember, you'll find no water, electricity (also no lights or other pollution) and only one outhouse. members and guests are asked to arrive before dark, if possible, and to haul out ALL their trash. Please leave Lockwood Valley cleaner than you found it.

Only LAAS members and their invited guests may attend--our observatory site is not a public campground. This last point has caused such a problem in recent years that members will be asked to show their membership cards and guests, excluding immediate family, will be required to sign a guest book

PAST MEMBER

Gordon Mitchell, LAAS past president and member for 25 years, passed away on January 6 of this year at the age of 68. Gordon was more than a member, director and officer. His great enthusiasm and willingness to help others set set him apart. Through his LAAS activities and position as Telescope Demonstrator at Griffith Observatory for 13 years, Gordon introduced many young people to astronomy. He had a gift for developing the budding interest in the people he taught. His enthusiasm was catching.

It is hard for us at first to realize that astronomy was not Gordon's primary interest. Visitors to the telescope at Griffith Observatory would sometimes ask me where the "professor" was that evening, thinking that this was his life's work. But music was his life-long avocation. I can remember when I first learned this. I thought, "How can anyone create so much interest in, and be so enthusiastic about a field which is not the dominant area of his life. As I got to know him better I understood. All of life was a passion with Gordon, and astronomy was one of his greatest passions. In the last year and a half of his life, Gordon traveled around the world and then, a few months later, flew to Africa for his first solar eclipse.

Gordon Mitchell leaves behind a legacy of musicians and astronomers who were encouraged and guided by him, and many, many people who are grateful for the opportunity of knowing him.

Gordon was cared for in his last month by a hospice which helps terminally ill patients get the treatment they need at home rather than staying in the hospital. The LAAS has made a contribution to the hospice in Gordon's name. Individuals may send donations, if they wish, to:

Verdugo Hills Nursing Assoc.
109 E. Harvard St.
Glendale, Ca. 91205

--Micheal Simmons

Star Members

Due to recent problems, the lock on the observatory will be changed during the first part of April. Until the new security system is installed, you will have to contact one of the following star members and check out the observatory key.

Joe Addison
5025 Kester Ave.
Sherman Oaks, Ca. 91403
(213) 789-2875

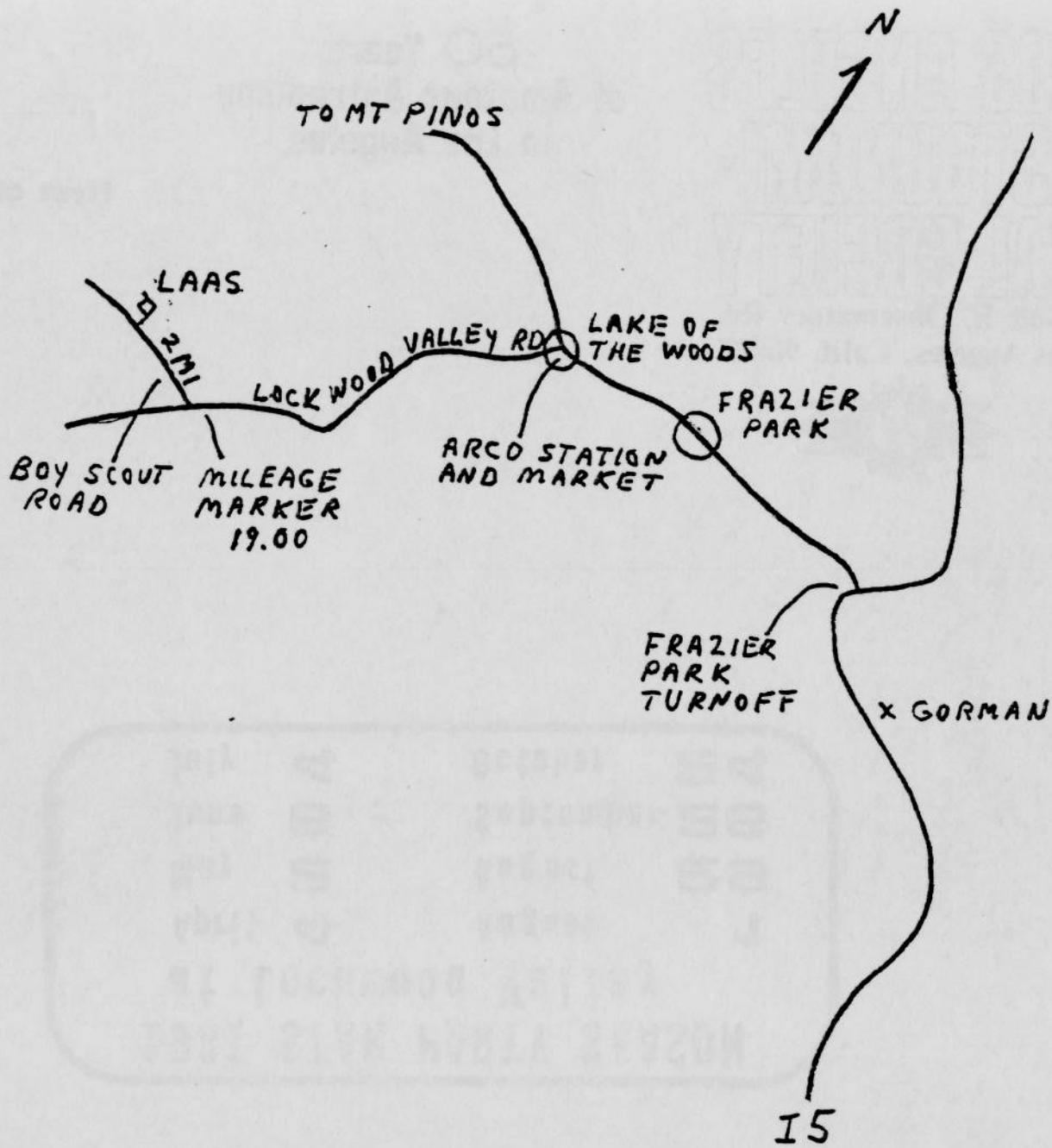
Howard Packer
6431 Lindenhurst Ave.
L.A. Ca. 90048
(213) 935-0547

NEW MEMBERS

At the March meeting of the Board of Directors, seven applications for membership were approved. These new members are:

Stephen Bream
Allan Catanzaro
Paul Kuhlmann
Paul Lawler
Ambrose Marbory
Micheal Mayerchak
John Wallace

We would like to officially welcome these people to the society and we hope to see them at future LAAS events.



LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMI- CAL SOCIETY

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



50 Years
of Amateur Astronomy
in Los Angeles

first class mail

1981 STAR PARTY SEASON
at Lockwood Valley

April	4	August	1
May	29	August	29
June	26	September	26
July	4	October	24

for current club events

662-LAAS