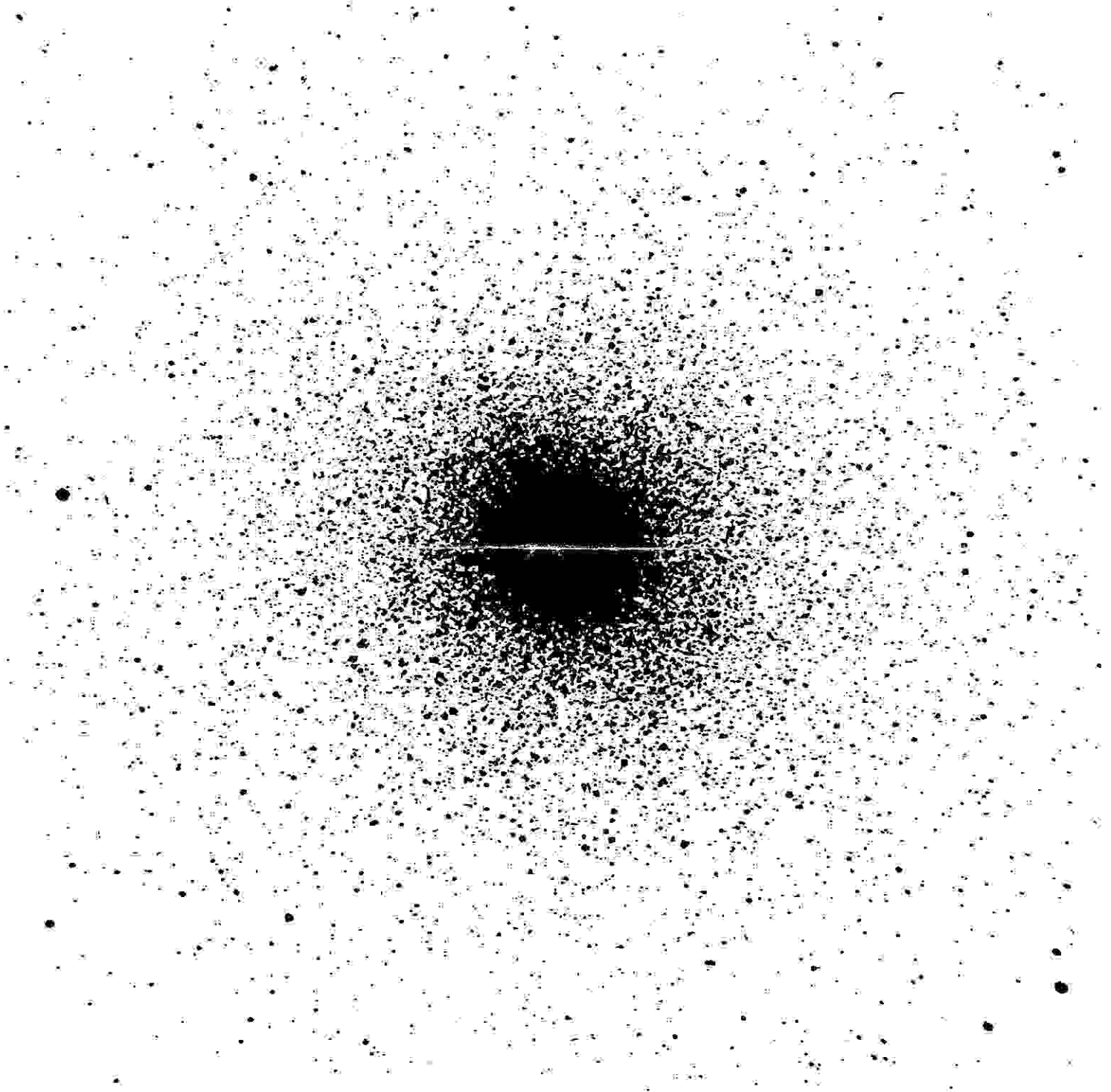


Desert Skies

AUGUST 1991



M13



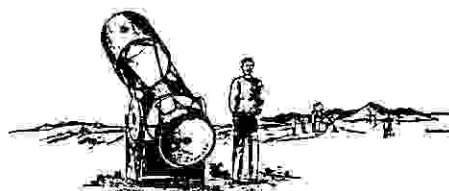
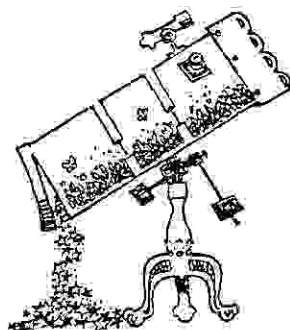
GENERAL MEETING - Friday, August 2, 7:30 p.m. at Steward Obs. lecture room.
Robert McMillan, from Lunar & Planetary Laboratory (U of A) will present a talk on "Stellar Radial Velocities".

The second half of the meeting will be devoted to our members relating their experiences in observing last month's solar eclipse. (See Dean's announcement on the next page.)

EXECUTIVE MEETING - Thursday, August 8, 7:30 p.m. at Flandrau Planetarium

STAR PARTIES - Saturday, August 3, at Empire Ranch
Saturday, August 10, at Empire Ranch

Saturday, August 17, 7:00 p.m. "Stars in the Park" at Saguaro Mt. Park West, Red Hills Headquarters.



You, too, can write articles for DESERT SKIES!

Send them to the editor by the 20th of the month.

4632 E. 14th St., Tucson, AZ 85711 or LPL via UA campus mail

TAAA EXECUTIVE

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------|
| President | Dean Ketelson | 293-2855 |
| Vice-President | Terri Lappin | 790-5053 |
| Executive Sec. | Dick West | 574-0830 |
| Recording Sec. | Sharon Niehaus | 299-7328 |
| Treasurer | Sharon Niehaus | 299-7328 |
| Member-at-Large | Bob Goff | 790-1452 |
| Member-at-Large | Ed Vega | 586-9883 |
| Chief Observer | Andy Meyer | 742-4549 |
| Membership coordinator | Terri Lappin | |
| Past President | Tim Hunter | 299-2972 |
| Desert Skies ed. | Dolores Hill | 325-9820 |
| Asst. ed. | Rik Hill | 325-9820 |

Desert Skies Publishing Guidelines

- *All articles, announcements, news etc. must be submitted by the 20th of the month.
- *Materials received after that date will appear in the NEXT issue.
- *All submissions are retained by the editor unless prior arrangements are made.
- *Articles, artwork, and photos should be camera ready. Photos should be screened.
- *We will not publish slanderous or libelous material!

Send articles, announcements etc. to Desert Skies: c/o Dolores Hill 4632 E. 14th St., Tucson, AZ 85711 (phone: 325-9820) OR Lunar & Planetary Lab, U of A (521-6251).

MEMBERSHIP IN THE TAAA

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Individual Membership | \$20.00 |
| Family Membership | \$25.00 |
| Senior Citizen (over 60) | \$18.00 |

Sky & Telescope subscription (optional) \$18.00

Rates for membership in the TAAA are given above. Members can subscribe to Sky & Telescope at the time of membership renewal, saving over 25% off the cost of a regular subscription. The subscription term must match your membership period. Send one check, made payable to Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, to cover both membership and subscription to: TAAA, P.O.Box 41254, Tucson, AZ 85717. It is best to pay your dues 2-3 months before your membership actually expires.

4 EASY STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

1. Pay your dues 2-3 months early. Your month of membership expiration is listed on your newsletter mailing label.
2. a) Decide if you want Sky & Telescope, then add \$18 to your membership rate.
b) Include Sky & Telescope's renewal notice, if possible.
3. Write one check, payable to TAAA.
4. Send it to TAAA, P.O.Box 41254, Tucson, AZ 85717.

Call the Treasurer if you have any problems.

Partial Solar Eclipse Party a Success!

TAAA volunteers set up scopes outside the planetarium and showed the partial solar eclipse to upwards of 3000 people. Between the media (TV, radio and print) and the crowds it was a festive atmosphere and a lot of fun. There were even jugglers! Many thanks to Duane, Sharon and Tabitha Niehaus, Dick West, Bob Goff, Vivian Lewis, Teresa Lappin, potential new members Richard and Sharon Markel, and anyone else I may have forgotten. It is amazing the amount of local publicity we developed. A large number of Club pamphlets were given out and I've already gotten some calls for information, so hopefully our membership will swell some more. I've got a few slides of the activities for those poor folks who were in Mexico or Hawaii and missed all the fun!

Solar Eclipse Observers Needed for Next Meeting

A large part of the next meeting or two will be devoted to members' eclipse stories and slides or video. If you can be convinced to tell about your eclipse trip, let me know before the next meeting to be scheduled and arrange what you need for viewing. Depending on response, we will keep them short - plan on 10-12 minutes for now. Partial eclipse viewers are also allowed. Now is a great time to show off your photographic skill or relate your travel experiences. I'll be calling around to volunteer people if I don't hear from you so step up and be heard!

-Dean Ketelsen 293-2855

ITEMS WANTED OR FOR SALE.....

If YOU have place an ad and sell the item(s) or no longer wish to run it, please call Dolores or Rik Hill at 325-9820 (home) or 621-6951 (work). Otherwise the ad will continue to appear. Thanks. -ed.

FOR SALE: Two eyepieces: 9 mm and 13mm Nagler's. The 13mm is in excellent condition while the 9mm is unused. @ \$190.00 firm. Also two Celestron Polarizing filters, 67mm dia. @ \$10.00. Call Mike Terenzoni at 577-6857.

WANTED: Broken telescopes! Call Bob Goff at 790-1452.

FOR SALE: Pyrex mirror blanks: 5 5/8" O.D., 1" thick, R=44"...\$13. Call Bob Goff at 790-1452.

FOR SALE: ASTRONOMY magazine 1974-1990; missing 7 early issues; 14 yrs. complete, in good condition...\$150. 8 inch Edmund mirror kit...\$40.00. CAVE drive, 1 1/2 inch shaft with housing, only 40 hrs. running time...\$80.00. Call Mike Sweetman evenings at 297-2781.

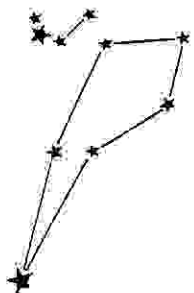
FOR SALE: 2.4" Unitron refractor with equatorial mount, uni-hex, 2 oculars & storage box. Call Jeff Bridges at 888-0591.

FOR SALE: Criterion Solar Prominence Viewer with occulting disc sets for instruments of 1250mm and 2000mm focal lengths...\$300 O.B.O. Contact Steve Edberg, 163 Starlight Crest Dr., La Canada, CA 91011.

FOR SALE: 2" Rack & pinion Novak focuser with 1 1/4" adapter- mint condition (never used).....\$90.00. Call Ray Wallace at 294-1197.

FOR SALE: Yashica 35mm SLR camera/50MM lens...\$150. Call Patrick Craig at 792-4980 (new phone#).

TELESCOPES AND MIRRORS TESTED by Bob Goff.....Call 790-1452.



Star Party Volunteer Roundup!

As one of the ways of going public and increasing the Club's visibility, we are hoping to increase the number of public and private starparties held. It would be nice to maintain a list of people willing to attend these so that the workload could be spread out some among the membership. In the next few weeks, I or another executive member may contact you and query you for your willingness to volunteer, nights that may be better than others, or even location of events preferred (eastside or westside for instance). Ultimately we are looking to increase membership or fund raising as a result of this, as well as maintain our usual program of education. Volunteers are our greatest assets, and your continued assistance is needed, and the organization of our work force is required. Think about what you can do for us and be counted when we come calling!

-Dean Ketelsen 293-2855

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EXECUTIVE MEETING 7-11-91

Members present: Dean Ketelsen, Bob Goff, Terri Lappin, Duane and Sharon Niehaus

1. Upcoming speakers: August's speaker will be Robert McMillin. His topic will be the radial velocity project. The tentative speaker for the September meeting is John T. McGraw.
2. Eclipse update: The members present felt that the activities associated with the eclipse on the mall in front of Flandrau Planetarium were a tremendous success. Members representing TAAA were Duane, Sharon, and Tabitha Niehaus, Bob Goff, Terri Lappin, Dean Ketelsen, and Dick West. Several of the members were interviewed by local radio and television stations as well as the local papers. There was much publicity for the club during the day and the next.
3. Upcoming events: Stars In The Park. Dates can be obtained from the chief observer and will be posted at the next meeting. A star party during Saturn's opposition was also discussed. It will be held at the end of September or early October. The idea of setting up telescopes near McKale Center was mentioned. More details to follow.
4. Treasurer's Report:

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Checking: | \$ 1,985.34 |
| Savings : | \$11,480.49 |
| Paid to | |
| Alpha Graphics | \$67.66 |
5. The RA gear has been installed on the 16 inch. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter.
6. If anyone is interested in joining the local IDA chapter, please contact Dick West.
7. The All Arizona Star Party will be October 4th and 5th. Friday night will be an observing session with a potluck/observing session on Saturday. Volunteers are needed to provide security for telescopes. If anyone is interested please contact Dick West. If volunteers are willing to stay at Empire Ranch, members will be able to setup on Friday and leave their scopes there during the day on Saturday.

Dick West
Executive Secretary

OBSERVERS REPORT

Star Parties

Regular

August 3 Empire Ranch
August 10 Empire Ranch

Public

August 17 "Stars in the
Park", 7pm
Saguaro Mt West
Red Hills
Hdqtrs

I have been attending meetings of the Observatory Fund-raising Committee and would like to state that progress is being made on an integrated plan to obtain corporate sponsorship and/or involvement of a private benefactor. And make no mistake, an integrated plan is needed, outlining in detail everything that's required to meet our goal of having an observatory - from the first correspondence, to the last dab of paint on the front door.

Our plan to date is to initially reaffirm our position in the Tucson community as a source of popular astronomical information. This entails our continuing efforts in sponsoring public star parties. On top of that we need to break into the convention and resort market here in Tucson - offering our services as both an educational and recreational resource. This, I feel, will increase our exposure with the people who can help us the most - corporations and/or private benefactors.

Now, where do you fit in? For the TAA to commit itself as a community resource we need the commitment of you the membership to provide knowledge and expertise, but, more importantly your continued hard work!

We are in need a lot of members to become involved with a telephone "tree" - one person calls two people, those two each call two for a total of four, etc. - to get the word out about important events. We also need computerphiles to monitor the pertinent bulletin-boards and distribute important astronomical information via the above telephone tree.

I would like to set up a "Telescope Bureau", something like a speakers bureau to provide a large pool of members and their telescopes to attend star parties at conventions and resorts - a pool so the same people aren't called upon to attend every month. I'll tell you there are sometimes personal perks here too. A recent event at Canyon Ranch netted a few of us lucky devils a "Spa Day" at the resort!

I'll talk more on this subject in future Observer's Reports (sorry), but now on to Astronomy!

The Eclipse! Hey, I saw it. Through high clouds I saw it, but in Mazatlan my wife and I were the exceptions not the rule. Weather forecasting, or should I say the lack of it didn't give us any information once we were in Mexico. Had the forecasting been available we would certainly become mobile. Despite what the media said about lack of transportation empty buses were a dime-a-dozen on eclipse day in Mazatlan! This leads me to believe that there is a bit of paranoia involved in this eclipse stuff.

On the local scene the eclipse was well attended, thousands on the U of A mall alone - the Enquirer would have thought aliens had truly landed!

Meanwhile, dark-sky was not in abundance this past month. For those who did go to the planned outings, bravo! A spur-of-the-moment outing to Buenos Aires with T. Lappin and G. Rosenbaum was aborted on account of clouds after we reached Three Points - we did try! A lot of people learned about the different types of telescopes, but didn't do much viewing, at "Stars in the Park". However, I would like to thank Frank Lopez of Stellar Visions fame for springing for pizza afterwards - though I wasn't there.

Anyway, better luck this month, and we'll see you out there! Oh, and keep an eye out for Perseid meteors this month!!

Andrew J. Meyer

CELESTIAL CALENDAR for August 1991 (all times are in MST):

- T August 1 Look for "false dawn" caused by the zodiacal light 1 to 2 hours before dawn.
- F August 2 6am, Pluto stationary in RA, resumes eastward motion.
7:30pm, **TAAA General Membership Meeting**, Steward Obs. main auditorium, Robert McMillan, Stellar Radial Velocity Project, Eclipse Roundup follows.
- S August 3 4:25am, **LAST QUARTER MOON**
TAAA Star Party, Empire Ranch, dark sky from 8:51-11:48pm
- S August 4 Iota Aquarid & Piscis-Austrinid meteor shower, ZHR 5
- M August 5 Donati discovers gaseous nature of comets spectroscopically, 1864
- T August 6 9pm, Mercury stationary in RA, begins retrograde (westward) motion. Planet also 2.1° N of Venus
- W August 7 10:14pm, Moon at descending node (longitude 108.8°)
- T August 8 11am, Moon at perigee, distance 56.5 earth radii.
- F August 9 7:27pm, **NEW MOON**
- S August 10 **TAAA Star Party**, Empire Ranch
- S August 11 12am, Moon 3° N of Venus
1am, Moon 0.6° N of Mercury
2am, Venus at aphelion, .7282 a.u. from Sol
- M August 12 **Perseid meteor shower**, ZHR 50-100! Radiant in sky most of the night. This is a good 'un folks!
1am, Moon passes 6° S of Mars
- T August 13 Heinrich Louis D'Arrest, German astronomer, born 1822
- W August 14 1st US craft to orbit Moon, Lunar Orbiter, 1966
- T August 15 **Astrophotographer alert**, catch asteroid 384 Budigala transiting globula cluster M30 tonight, mid-transit 2am, August 16
- F August 16 5pm, Venus 8.6° S of Regulus
9:06pm, **FIRST QUARTER MOON**
- S August 17 7pm, "Stars in the Park" star party, Saguaro Monument West, Red Hills Headquarters, bring your scope and see map elsewhere
- S August 18 3am, Comet Takamizawa at perihelion
Mercury at greatest latitude S of ecliptic (-7.0°)
- M August 19 4pm, Moon at apogee, distance 63.5 earth radii
- T August 20 Kappa Cygnid meteor shower, radiant in sky all night, ZHR 3-5
7pm, Moon passes 0.4° S of Uranus
- W August 21 3am, Moon passes 1.2° S of Neptune
12:13pm, Moon at ascending node (longitude 288.5°)
2pm, Mercury at inferior conjunction with Sol
- T August 22 1pm, Venus at inferior conjunction with Sol, .287 a.u. from Earth. Earth, Venus, Mercury Sun and Jupiter form an almost straight line with Earth.
4pm, Moon passes 1.8° N of Saturn.
- F August 23 12am, Venus 9.6° S of Jupiter, only 8° and 4° from Sol.
- S August 24 1st photograph of Comet Halley, 1909
- S August 25 2am, **FULL MOON**
- M August 26 Mariner 2, 1st Venus flyby launched 1962
- T August 27 A "Blue Moon" in 1883 caused by material sent up by the eruption of Krakatoa
- W August 28 William Herschel discovers Enceladus, moon of Saturn, 1789
- T August 29 1st spectrum of a planetary nebula, NGC6543 in Draco, by William Huggins, 1864
- F August 30 1pm, Mercury stationary in RA, resumes direct(eastward) motion
- S August 31 Look for Jupiter in the early morning sky in the ESE.

Andrew J. Meyer

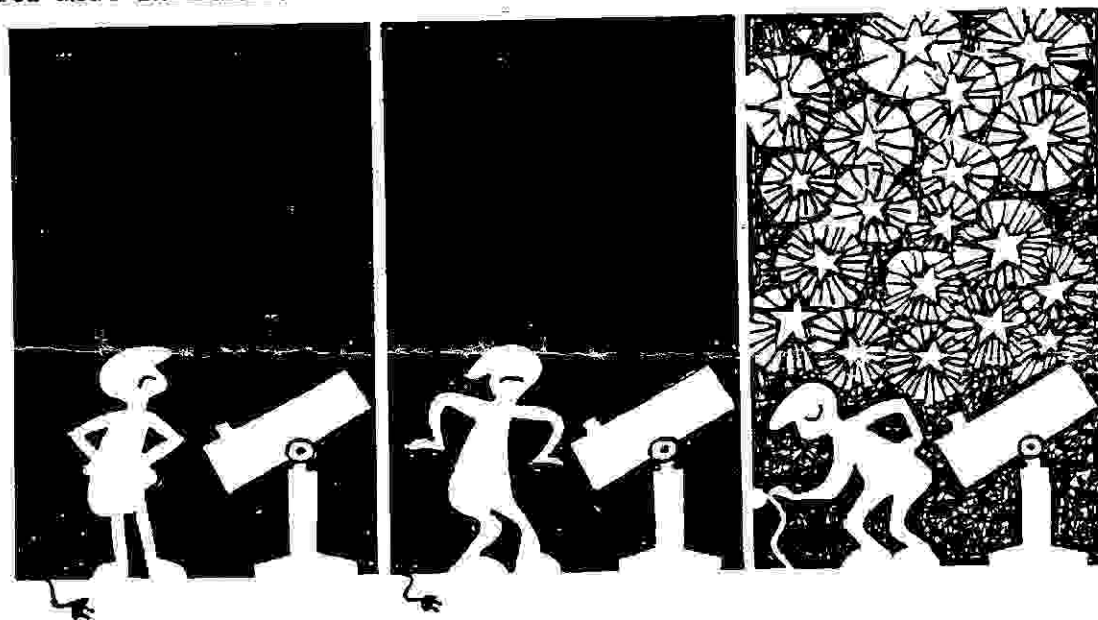
Former TAAA President, Tim Hunter has passed on a note from Dr. Tom Gehrels of Lunar & Planetary Lab. on campus.

"Would you know of a young amateur astronomer who would like to conduct a Pen Pal correspondence with some lively ones in the far south of the Soviet Union? There might be even a possibility someday to visit there, as I did and it was fascinating!

The request for Pen Pal correspondence has come from Dali G. Georgobiani, vice-president of the Georgian Young Amateur Astronomer's Association, Abastumani Astrophysical Observatory, 383762 Abastumany, Georgia, U.S.S.R. I met Dali, her English is very good, She seems at a level of an advanced undergraduate, but in any case has a lively interest and a wide background in astronomy.

I hope you can do something for them. They are isolated but also lively in science interest and political interest also because their country is trying to become independent."

For more information contact Tim or Dr. Gehrels.



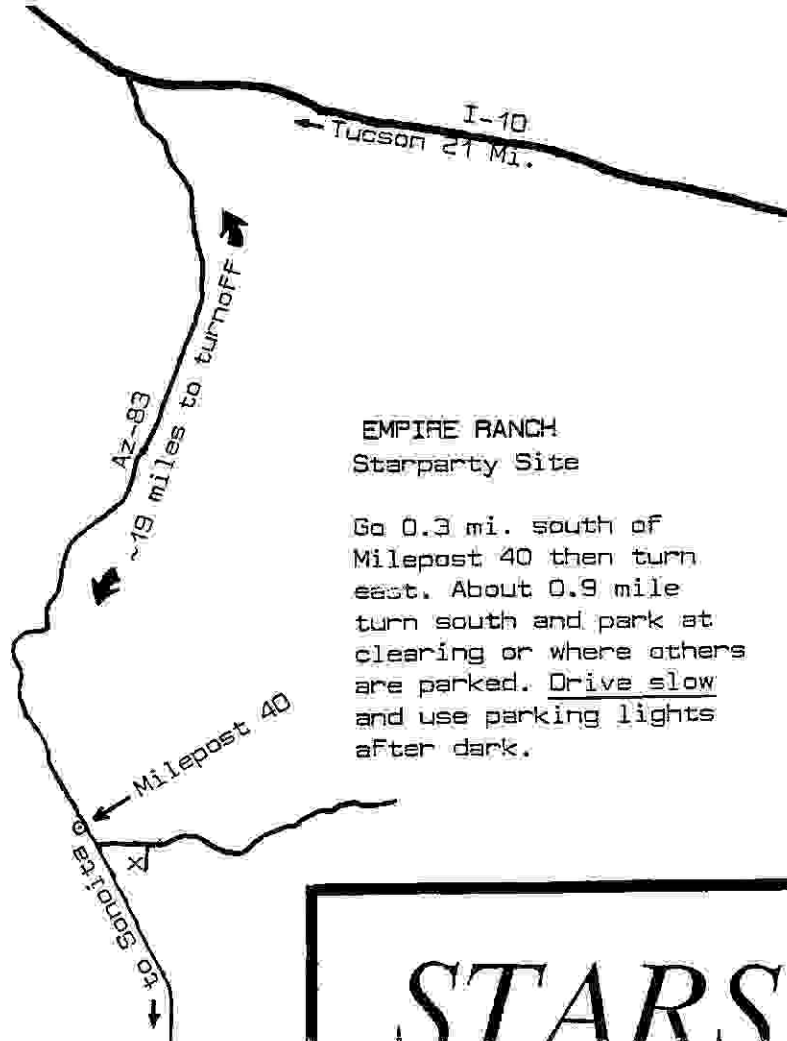
DARK SKIES for August 1991 (in MST):

| | | |
|-----|------------|------------------|
| T/F | Aug. 1/2 | 8:54pm - 10:28pm |
| F/S | Aug. 2/3 | 8:52pm - 11:05pm |
| S/S | Aug. 3/4 | 8:51pm - 11:48pm |
| S/M | Aug. 4/5 | 8:50pm - 12:39am |
| M/T | Aug. 5/6 | 8:49pm - 1:39am |
| T/W | Aug. 6/7 | 8:48pm - 2:47am |
| W/T | Aug. 7/8 | 8:47pm - 3:59am |
| T/F | Aug. 8/9 | 8:45pm - 4:13am |
| F/S | Aug. 9/10 | 8:44pm - 4:14am |
| S/S | Aug. 10/11 | 8:43pm - 4:15am |
| S/M | Aug. 11/12 | 8:42pm - 4:16am |
| M/T | Aug. 12/13 | 8:43pm - 4:17am |
| T/W | Aug. 13/14 | 9:15pm - 4:18am |
| W/T | Aug. 14/15 | 9:49pm - 4:19am |
| T/F | Aug. 15/16 | 10:25pm - 4:20am |
| F/S | Aug. 16/17 | 11:05pm - 4:21am |
| S/S | Aug. 17/18 | 11:49pm - 4:22am |
| S/M | Aug. 18/19 | 12:38am - 4:23am |
| M/T | Aug. 19/20 | 1:29am - 4:24am |
| T/W | Aug. 20/21 | 2:24am - 4:25am |
| W/T | Aug. 21/22 | 3:20am - 4:25am |
| T/F | Aug. 22/23 | 4:17am - 4:26am |

| | | |
|-----|------------|------------------|
| F/S | Aug. 23/24 | none |
| S/S | Aug. 24/25 | none |
| S/M | Aug. 25/26 | none |
| M/T | Aug. 26/27 | none |
| T/W | Aug. 27/28 | none |
| W/T | Aug. 28/29 | 8:18pm - 8:31pm |
| T/F | Aug. 29/30 | 8:17pm - 9:06pm |
| F/S | Aug. 30/31 | 8:15pm - 9:47pm |
| S/S | Aug. 31/1 | 8:14pm - 10:34pm |
| S/M | Sep. 1/2 | 8:13pm - 11:30pm |
| M/T | Sep. 2/3 | 8:11pm - 12:32am |
| T/W | Sep. 3/4 | 8:10pm - 1:40am |
| W/T | Sep. 4/5 | 8:08pm - 2:51am |
| T/F | Sep. 5/6 | 8:07pm - 4:01am |
| F/S | Sep. 6/7 | 8:05pm - 4:39am |
| S/S | Sep. 7/8 | 8:04pm - 4:40am |

Times listed are for Tucson, Arizona when:
 (1) Moon is below the horizon
 (2) Sun is >18° below the horizon
 (astronomical twilight)

Andrew J. Meyer



EMPIRE RANCH Starparty Site

Go 0.3 mi. south of Milepost 40 then turn east. About 0.9 mile turn south and park at clearing or where others are parked. Drive slow and use parking lights after dark.

STARS

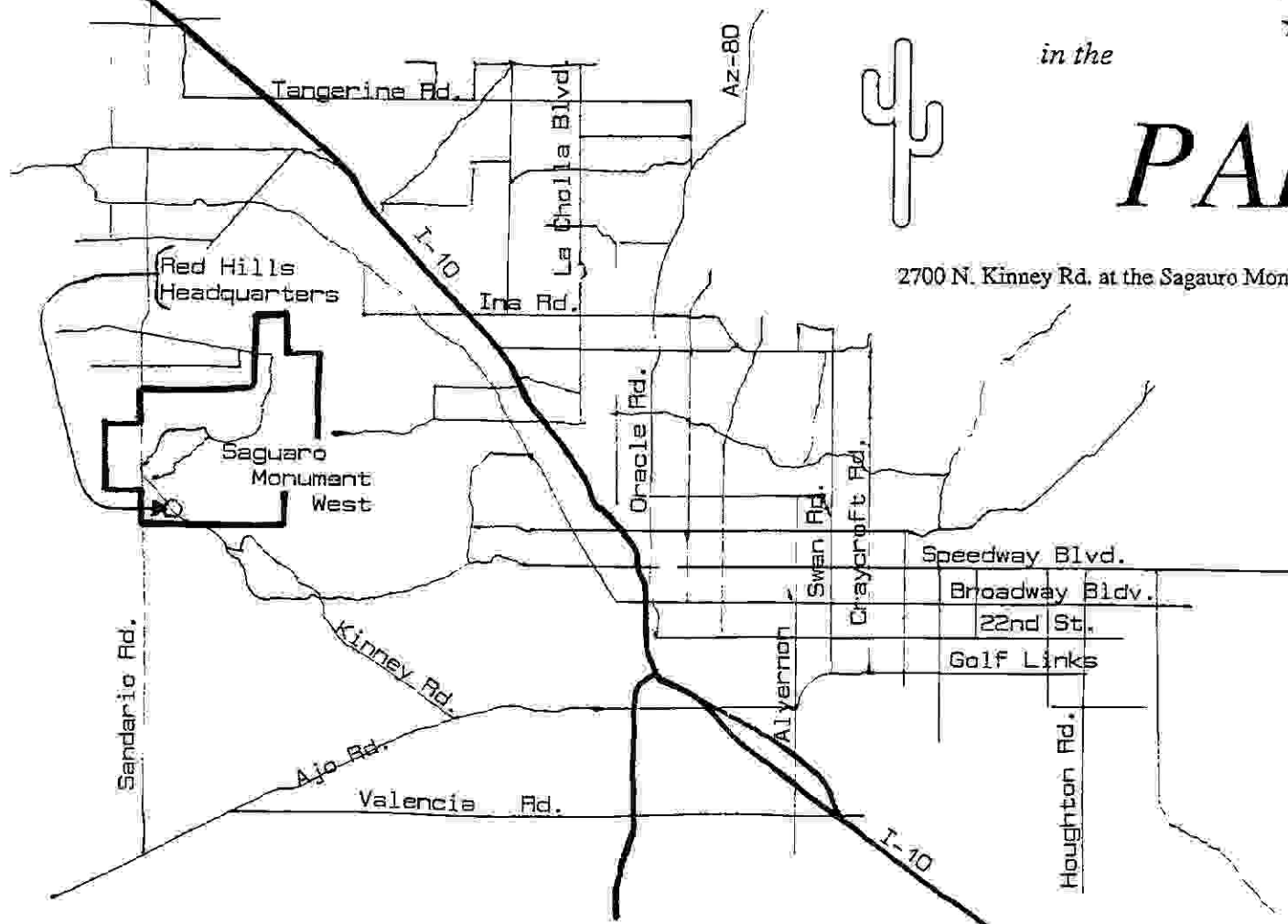


in the

PARK



2700 N. Kinney Rd. at the Saguaro Monument West.

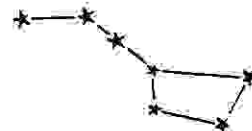


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