

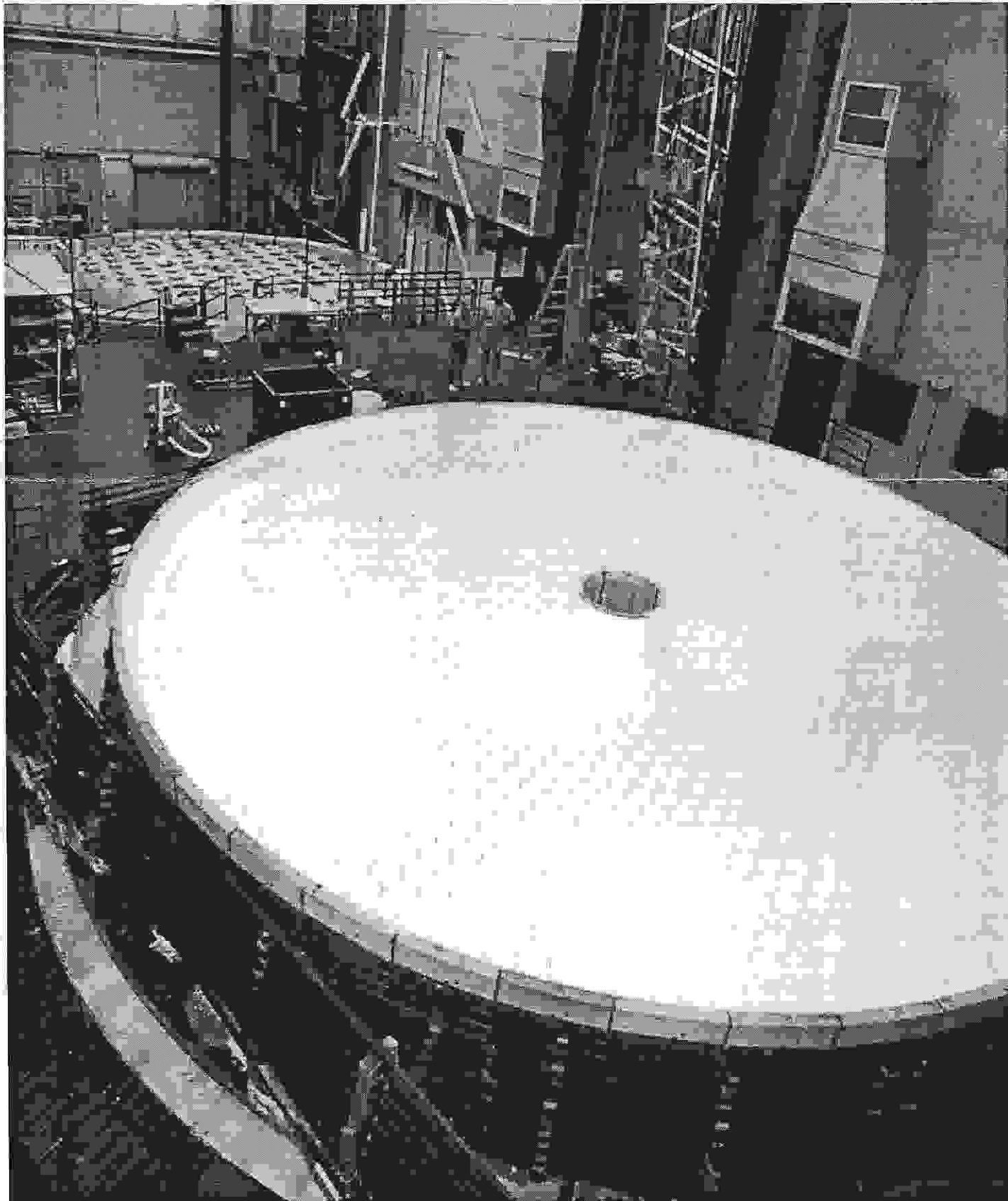


Desert Skies

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association

Volume XLIII, Number 10

October, 1997



Calendar of Events

BEGINNERS LECTURE: October 3, 6:30 pm at the Steward Observatory Auditorium - room N210. This month's topic "About Binoculars" by Phil Farnham.

GENERAL MEETING - October 3, 7:30 pm at the Steward Observatory Auditorium - room N210. Topic is Member's Night.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - Thursday, October 9, 7:00 pm at the NEW LOCATION Steward Observatory, Room N305.

STAR PARTIES & EVENTS:

October 3-4 - All Arizona Star Party
October 6 - Edge Charter School
October 7 - Booth-Ficket Elementary
October 10 - Cholla High
October 18 - Whipple Observatory

October 25 - Empire Ranch
October 25 - Photo Show & Swap Meet
October 24-24 - Starry Nights
October 28 - Marana High

Newsletter Schedule: Deadline for articles: Monday, October 20. Folding Party: Wednesday, October 22. The newsletter is scheduled to be in the mail at least one week prior to the following month's General Meeting.

Cover: The Mirror Lab's latest casting, an 8.4 meter for the Large Binocular was declared a success when the oven was opened on September 11th. This photo was taken the 17th and shows that progress has been made on removing the oven walls in preparation for further dismantling of the outer tub walls. In the background the 6.5 meter for Magellan I (a Chilean project for the Carnegie Institute) awaits processing.

TAAA Home Page: <http://www.primenet.com/~lwilson/taaa/taaa.html>

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President	Terri Lappin	579-0185	tlappin@as.arizona.edu
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Star Parties	Karen Allen	749-5744	
Deep Sky Astrophotography SIG	Ray Wallace	294-1197	

TAAA Mission Statement

We are a source for anyone interested in astronomy. It is our mission to nurture a person's natural curiosity about the night sky. By giving people a knowledge and understanding of astronomy, we enhance their enjoyment of the sun, moon, and stars. Through our public activities and school evening observing sessions, we bring astronomy to persons of all ages. Our regular meetings and observing sessions offer members a forum to meet others with similar interests and experiences and to learn from one another.

Membership in the TAAA

Regular membership	\$ 23
Senior (over 60) membership	\$ 21
Add for Family membership	\$ 5
Add for Astronomical League	\$ 3
Add for Sky & Telescope	\$ 27
Add for Astronomy Magazine	\$ 20

Rates for membership are given above. Family Membership includes two adults plus minor children. Members may subscribe to Sky & Telescope or Astronomy Magazine (or both) at the time of membership renewal, saving substantially over the regular subscription rates. To assure we understand what you are paying for, please identify which class of membership and what options you want. Send one check made payable to TAAA to cover both membership and magazine subscription(s) to:

Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association

Attn: Renewals
P.O. BOX 41254
Tucson, AZ 85717

Send Address Changes to:

TAAA
Attention: "ADDRESS CHANGE"
P.O. Box 41254
Tucson, AZ 85717

Desert Skies Publishing Guidelines

All articles, announcements, news, etc. must be submitted by the newsletter deadline listed above. Materials received after that date will appear in the next issue. All submissions are retained by the editor unless prior arrangements are made. Partial page article submissions should be submitted on Wordperfect compatible files on a floppy. Full page articles, artwork, and photos should be camera ready. We will not publish slanderous or libelous material. Send articles, announcements, etc. to:

TAAA - Desert Skies
PO Box 91316
Tucson, AZ 85752-1316

OR email: ninalehman@aol.com or nlwagner@aol.com

Desert Skies is published monthly by the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association, PO Box 41254, Tucson, Arizona 85717

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. Find your membership class and its rate. Add the Family Membership rate to this if applicable.
3. If you desire membership in the Astronomical League or magazine subscription(s), add the appropriate amounts to your membership rate. If this is a renewal, include the renewal notice if possible. Be sure to identify which options you are paying for.
4. Write one check, payable to TAAA, and send it to the address given above.

Call the Treasurer if you have any problems.

President's Message

We have a promising Member's Night planned this month thanks to several TAAA members. Already we have almost 90 minutes of presentations including video of an occultation, CCD imaging and a presentation about Leonid meteors. There are other presentations, so look at the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

What kind of meetings would you like to see in the near future? The board of directors discussed this topic at our last meeting and came up with a few ideas. I would like to try something other than the standard lecture setting. This may mean having to meet at a different location, but we can work that out. The ideas

that we discussed was a Telescope Workshop with various stations set up for things such as collimation of optics, cleaning of optics, using setting circles, polar alignment, and others. Also discussed was having a flea market with members bringing items for astronomy that they don't want anymore. A fun idea that was mentioned was an Astronomical Jeopardy. Apparently this was done at the last Riverside Conference. If you have any ideas let me know. I think anyone from other astronomy clubs would have ideas that we didn't think of.

See you under clear skies!
Terri

Meeting News

Beginner's Lecture

This month's Beginner's Lecture will be presented by Phil Farnam. His lecture will be about binoculars and how they can be most useful for astronomical viewing. He will demonstrate how binoculars should be used and will bring some binoculars to the meeting. *

Featured Speaker: You

The month is member's night and already we have some very interesting presentations scheduled. Ray Wallace will have a video of a Moon/Saturn occultation (weather permitting) and will talk about a

counterweight system for a Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Andy Keefer is going to talk about the Leonid meteor shower and say a few words about icy meteors. Alfredo Garcia, Jr. will talk about his efforts at CCD imaging with a Meade Pictor 416 CCD. Erich Karkoschka will be on hand to talk about the Planets this month. Tim Hunter has slides of the Table Mountain Star Party that he attended. If you have a presentation, give Terri (579-0185) or John (620-6502) a call ASAP so you can be sure there will be time for your presentation. *

Club News

Deep Sky Astrophotography (SIG)

The Deep Sky Astrophotography SIG plans to have photo sessions during the coming months of this year on the following dates: October 4, 25. November 1, 20, 29. December 20, 27, 1997. -- And January 3, 1998. For time and places, call Ray Wallace, 294-1197. SIG NEWS *

Volunteer Needed

We are looking for someone to check out a few resorts in the Tucson area and determine which ones are conducive to star parties. If you know a little about the night and observing maybe you're the person for this job. You will call a few resort to get permission to visit their resort at a time convenient to you (day or night) and then report your findings to the TAAA Board of Directors. You don't need to decide which resorts to look at, we already have some selected. Give Terri a call at 579-0185 if you're interested in helping us out. *

Newsletter Editor Needed

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, Nina and Nancy will be stepping down as editor's of Desert Skies as of the December 97 issue. I join all members in expressing our thanks to them for making Desert Skies one of the best newsletters in the country. Their excellent editing skills have been much appreciated by all of us, especially those contributing articles and information for the newsletter.

Consequently, we are looking for a new editor(s). If editing the newsletter appeals to you, talk to them about what they do. They are willing to show anyone what they do (including spell-checking, formatting, and proof-reading). Some postal rules need to be followed, but once the boiler plate is created, those are easy to follow. Members write most articles, but a small amount of writing is required. The newsletter is printed by Roger Tanner and folded by several people. Terri currently does the actual mailing. The hardest job for the editor is getting contributors to submit articles on time. Getting a cover can also be challenging.

Nina and Nancy have really automated much of the newsletter and those contributing articles have become used to this. Future editors should have access to email and a computer is absolutely essential now. Nina and Nancy use WordPerfect, but any word processing program would be okay. The editor position is appointed by the president, so talk to either Terri or Nina and Nancy about this really important position. *

From the Mailbag

Here are some things that recently landed in our PO Box. These items will be at the next meeting, so ask Terri about anything that catches your eye. Mention of an item does not indicate its endorsement by the TAAA.

* Reports

Minutes from the recent meeting of the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership. This includes the discussions regarding the mine that is being proposed on the east end of the Santa Rita mountains not far from our current observing site.

* Samples

The Astronomical Pocket Diary. Has a neat flip diagram of the planets in orbit about the sun for each week.

* Books

Mars The Living Planet
catalog of Signal Processing books

* Trips

Many companies have sent us information for several eclipse trips.

* Catalogs

We always have a selection of catalogs including Meade, ASP Conference Series, Novagraphics, Edmund Scientific, Swift Binoculars, Sky Publishing, Kalmbach Publishing, two Meteor Catalogs. There are many others.

* Newsletters

Save the Scenic Santa Ritas, International Dark-Sky Association, Saguaro Astronomy Club (PHX), East Valley Astronomy Club (PHX), Astronomy Club of Sun City West (PHX), Albuquerque Astronomical Society (NM), Salt Lake Astronomical Society (UT), Denver Astronomical Society (CO), Peoria Astronomical Society (IL), Warren Astronomical Society (MI), The Universe in the Classroom (ASP). *

Member News

We welcome the most recent members who have joined the TAAA: Jim and Joanna Kramer, Ken and Chris Friskey, the Bruce Johnson family.

Most of you heard at the last meeting that David Levy was diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent surgery to remove the cancer. He is recovering from that surgery, but doctors have found more cancer in his kidney. He will undergo further surgery to remove this. Our best wishes and prayers are for David and a speedy recover. We look forward to seeing him and Wendee at a meeting soon.

(This featured section of the newsletter is meant not for gossip but to let everyone know what is going on with each of us. If you have something to contribute (new job, new baby, new telescope, special recognition, etc.), send it to Terri and it will be incorporated into this section. *)

Wonderful news

By DAN WATSON

STEWART OBSERVATORY MIRROR LAB

After a marathon firing cycle of 128 days, this morning we finally opened the oven and have had a chance to clean up and inspect the mirror blank. It gives me great satisfaction and relief to announce that the operation was a complete success! 300 random measurements give an average faceplate thickness of 1.5 inches. The glass is uniformly clear and bubble-free, with no visible indication of where new glass melted with the old. Rib geometry is unchanged (and excellent), and surface devitrification is negligible. All repairs on the mold held up and performed as expected, so there were no new leaks at the displaced edges of the tub walls. All-in-all, it's a beautiful casting and can expect to have an indefinite lifetime in the service of science. LBT1, 8.4 meters diameter, as-cast weight of 42,000 lbs.

Of course there is still much to do to remove the mold material, then to grind, polish, and figure the surface. It will be at least a year in the finishing, while on Mt. Graham, construction of the telescope proceeds well, with crews racing with impending winter to finish the separate massive concrete foundations for the telescope pier and building.

A very happy casting crew sends thanks to all of you who have written with your support and good wishes, and more thanks to the many people who have contributed their technical expertise and experience. *

Dark Skies for October 1997

DARK SKIES (no twilight, no moonlight) for Tucson in 24-hour MST: 18=6pm, 20=8pm, 22=10pm, 0=12am
RISE, SET, VISIBILITY for sun and bright planets: rise for morning object, set for evening object

Tu/We 30/ 1	19:31 - 4:57	Sa/Su 11/12	2:24 - 5:04	Tu/We 21/22	19:06 - 22:50
We/Th 1/ 2	19:30 - 4:57	Su/Mo 12/13	3:31 - 5:05	We/Th 22/23	19:05 - 23:44
Th/Fr 2/ 3	19:28 - 4:58	Mo/Tu 13/14	4:39 - 5:05	Th/Fr 23/24	19:04 - 0:38
Fr/Sa 3/ 4	19:31 - 4:59	Tu/We 14/15	- - -	Fr/Sa 24/25	19:03 - 1:31
Sa/Su 4/ 5	20:09 - 4:59	We/Th 15/16	Full Moon	Sa/Su 25/26	19:02 - 2:23
Su/Mo 5/ 6	20:50 - 5:00	Th/Fr 16/17	- - -	Su/Mo 26/27	19:01 - 3:16
Mo/Tu 6/ 7	21:34 - 5:01	Fr/Sa 17/18	19:10 - 19:25	Mo/Tu 27/28	19:00 - 4:08
Tu/We 7/ 8	22:24 - 5:01	Sa/Su 18/19	19:09 - 20:13	Tu/We 28/29	19:00 - 5:01
We/Th 8/ 9	23:18 - 5:02	Su/Mo 19/20	19:08 - 21:04	We/Th 29/30	18:59 - 5:17
Th/Fr 9/10	0:17 - 5:03	Mo/Tu 20/21	19:07 - 21:57	Th/Fr 30/31	18:58 - 5:17
Fr/Sa 10/11	1:19 - 5:03			Fr/Sa 31/ 1	18:57 - 5:18

Weekend	Sun	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Vi=Visibility
Sa/Su	Set	Rise	Rise Vi	Set Vi	Set Vi	Set Vi	Rise Vi	
4/ 5	18:03	6:19	5:49 9	20:06 -3	20:39 2	1:41 -2	18:22 0	-3 brilliant
11/12	17:54	6:24	Set -	20:05 -3	20:30 2	1:13 -2	Set 0	0 conspicuous
18/19	17:46	6:29	17:56 -	20:05 -3	20:22 2	0:46 -2	5:46 0	3 moderate
25/26	17:38	6:34	17:59 -	20:07 -3	20:15 2	0:21 -2	5:16 0	6 naked eye limit
1/ 2	17:32	6:40	18:04 9	20:10 -3	20:09 2	23:55 -2	4:46 0	9 binoculars limit

By Erich Karkoschka

*

Star Parties & Events

All Arizona Star Party October 3-4

This is the sixteenth annual All-Arizona Star Party. It is a two-night event, held during the new moon of October. This year's event is once again sponsored by the East Valley Astronomy Club (EVAC). In the past, this event has been sponsored by other Arizona clubs.

The star party takes place at a site south of Arizona City, which is almost equally distant (about 55 miles) from Phoenix and Tucson (see the map). The site is remote and very dark. The only facilities available will be a port-a-pottie.

Staying the night means you have to plan ahead. The desert tends to be hot and sunny during the day and cold at night. Last year the temperature ranged from the lower 50's at night, to 104 during the day. After a 100 degree day, a 50 degree night can seem bitterly cold, so plan accordingly. Remember to bring warm clothes, food, and drinks. It is best to bring too many warm clothes than too few.

All Arizona astronomy clubs are invited and it's hoped for a large turn-out. Last year there were more than 50 vehicles on the observing field on Saturday night. So plan on being there early to see old friends and to make new ones. Last year, Friday night was clear the entire night while on Saturday night, it clouded up by 10 PM.

Those planning on staying for both nights may want to get a motel room back at the Interstate. The 100+ degree days make it difficult to get any rest. Having a room can save you two hours on driving home and you get to sleep in air conditioned comfort.

Please make every attempt to arrive before dark. After dark the site is difficult to find, even if you know where it is.

SWAP MEET

On Saturday afternoon, October 4th, there will be a swap meeting at the site from 4:30 PM until sunset. Bring money to buy or things to sell or trade.

For those staying both nights, here is a list of restaurants at the given I-10 exits: #194 - Dairy Queen, Burger King, Denny's; #198 - Wendy's; #200 - Iron Skillet, Subway, Burger King; #203 - Pizza Hut, McDonald's, Taco Bell, Waffle House, and Mexican Food.

*

Edge Charter School 6 October

Set up will be at 6:30pm, to start at 7:00 pm. We need 1 scope. The school is located on Helmet Peak Rd in Sahuarita. There will be approximately 20 high and jr high students. Call Karen Allen to sign up or for more information. Her number is 749-5744.

*

Booth-Ficket Elementary October 7

There will be a star party at Booth Ficket. We need 5 scopes. Set up is 6:30pm, to start at 7:00 pm. Call Karen Allen at 749-5744 for sign up or more information.

*

Cholla High October 10

This party is called "Project Mesa". There will be about 100 people. Cholla High is located at 2001 W. Starpath Blvd. We need 5 or 6 scopes. Setup is 6:30 pm to start at 7:00 pm. Call Karen Allen for more details at 749-5744. *

Whipple Observatory Open House October 18

The Whipple Observatory will present an Open House and Star Party on Saturday, October 18. Observing will begin at 6:30 p.m. courtesy of telescopes provided by the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association and Sonora Astronomical Society.

1 p.m. Visitors Center opens

5:30 p.m. Informal lecture on astronomy by Observatory staff

6:30 p.m. Observing begins (in parking area next to Visitors Center).

On view: Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, galaxies, star clusters, double stars, a few meteors, and later, the Moon. Dress for cool evening temperatures. Small flashlights and binoculars are useful to bring.

Please cooperate with staff directing parking when you arrive. The parking spaces nearest the building are reserved for TAAA members and their telescopes. Visitors should park along the driveway or in the parking area outside the gate or along the road as directed. (Please note: Visitors will be allowed to park cars next to the building in the space usually reserved for telescopes until 5 p.m. At that time, visitors will have to move their cars to other parking spaces so that telescopes may be set up.)

For more information call 670-5707. In case of threatening weather, call 670-5707 after 2 p.m. on the 18th for information about star party cancellation.

The Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory and Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association present this opportunity to see the stars under dark Southern Arizona skies. *

Empire Ranch Dark Sky Observing October 25

We've had some pretty bad luck during monsoon season, but hopefully this month we can get back out

to Empire Ranch. Arrive around sunset and plan on observing under the clear southern Arizona sky that makes Arizona famous. (Positive thinking keep clouds away!) Please remember that others are observing or photographing the sky, so before you leave make the rounds and tell everyone you will be turning on some lights. *

Photo Show and Swap Meet 25 October

Those members in the know probably already know this, but if you want some great deals in used camera gear, head on down to the Sabbar Shrine Temple at 450 S. Tucson Blvd between 10am and 4pm.. Similarly you can likely unload some equipment if you would rather have some cash in your pocket. See you there if you check it out! *

Starry Nights Festival October 24 - 25

All Western Region Starry Nights Festival will be at Joshua Tree National Park this year. Details will be forthcoming in the next issue of Desert Skies. *

Marana High October 28

Details not available as of this printing. Call Karen Allen for information/signup at 749-5744. *

Halloween Observing October 31

All members are encouraged to set up a telescope for the kids in your neighborhood to look through while they are trick-or-treating. This year there will be no moon, but Jupiter and Saturn will both be visible. Mars and Venus will be a little too low to see this year. *

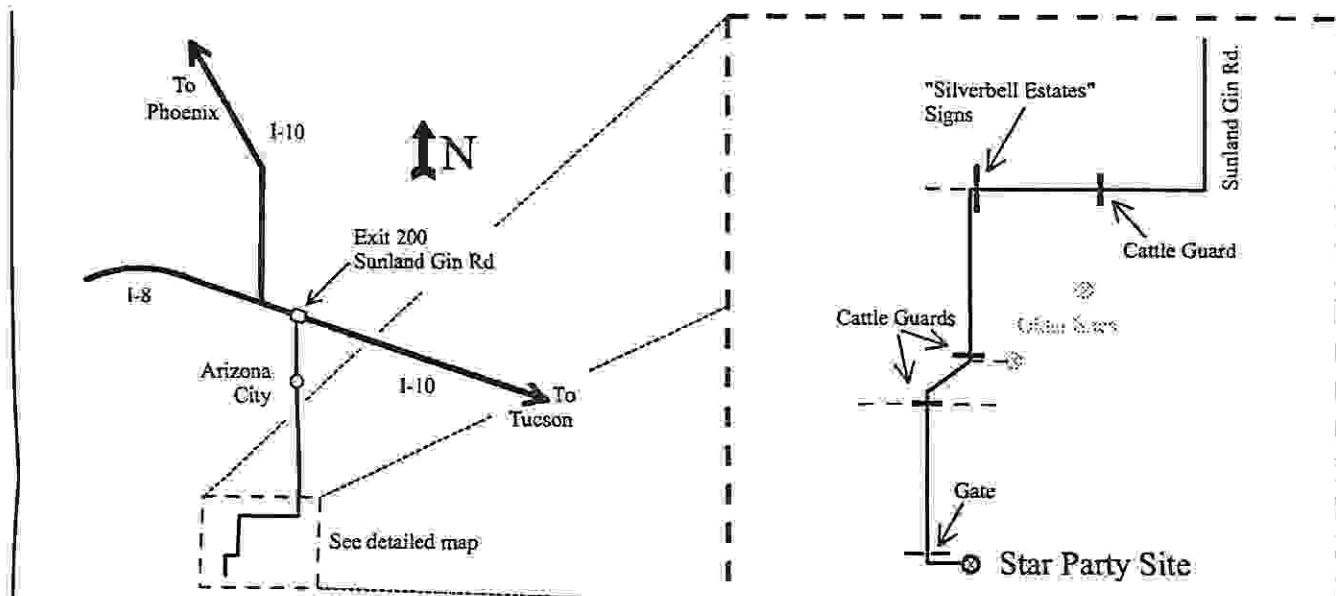
4th Avenue Street Fair December 12, 13, 14

The 4th Avenue Winter Street Fair is planned for December 12, 13, and 14. If the TAAA is selected in a lottery drawing then we will have a booth at this fair. If selected we will have our astrophotos available for \$5 donation each. We may also pick up some new members. In the event we are selected, people will be needed to man our booth from 10am until closing each day of the fair, and we need 3 people who can volunteer 2 hours each to the fair for miscellaneous jobs (mostly booth sitting for vendors). We will find out on Oct 10th whether or not we are selected and will need to provide a schedule of volunteers in early November. If you can help let me know. There will be a sign up sheet for potential helpers at the next meeting. (This is about the 5th time we are entering the lottery. We haven't been selected yet, but we should beat the odds this time around.) *

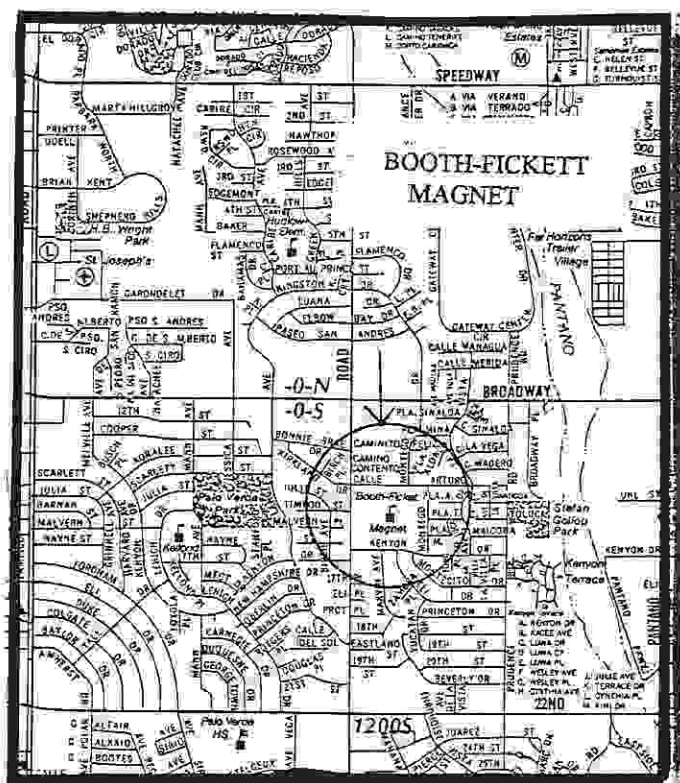
Maps

All-Arizona Star Party

October 3-4, 1996



Take I-10 to exit 200 (Sunland Gin Road.) Turn right (south) after exiting the freeway. After about 15 miles, the pavement ends and about one mile further, the road turns sharply to the west. After another four miles, the main road will turn south just after the "Silverbell Estates" signs. Three miles past the signs, the road will veer off to the west, and five miles further, the road will pass through a gate. Turn left immediately after the gate and continue for another 2/3 of a mile to the site.

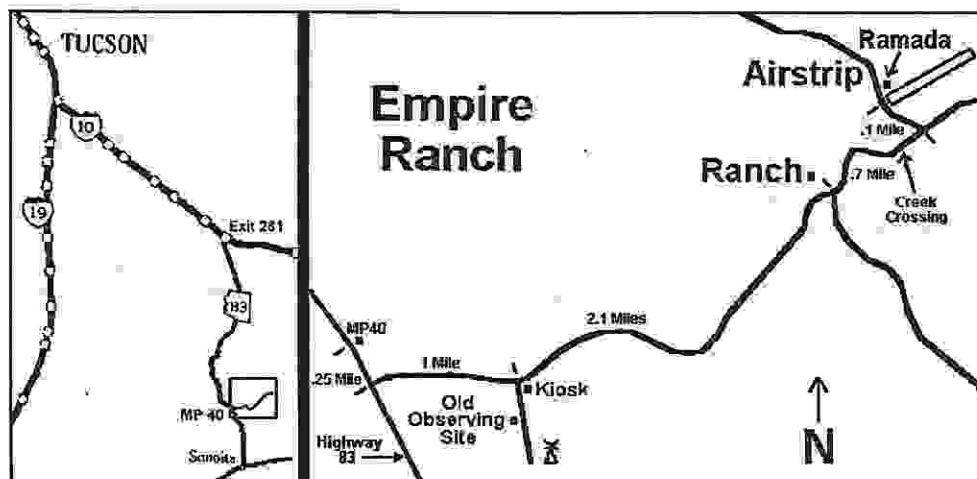
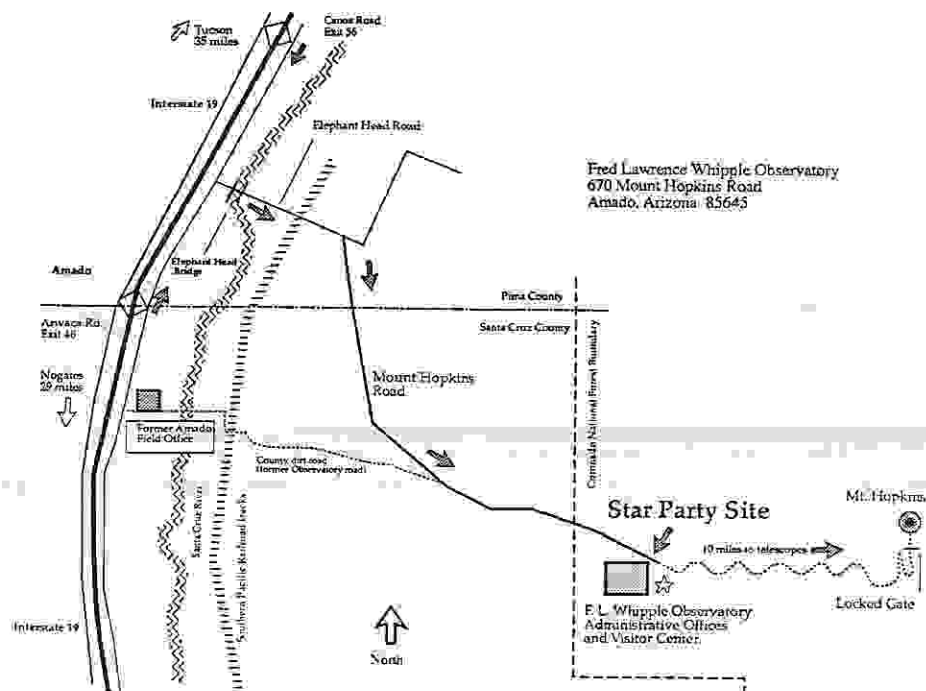


How To Find The Observatory Offices

The new administrative complex for the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory is 43 road miles south of Tucson and 38 road miles north of Nogales, Arizona.

From Tucson, drive south on Interstate 19 to exit 56 (Canoa). At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn left and drive under the freeway to the frontage road on the east side. Turn right and drive south three miles to Elephant Head Road. Turn left and drive east, crossing the Santa Cruz River on Elephant Head Bridge. One mile east of the river, turn right on Mount Hopkins Road. Drive southeast about seven miles to the Observatory Office (end of pavement).

From Nogales, drive north on Interstate 19 to exit 48 (Amado/Arivaca Junction). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right and then left onto the frontage road. Drive north for about two miles to Elephant Head Road. Turn right and drive east, crossing the Santa Cruz River on Elephant Head Bridge. One mile east of the river, turn right on Mount Hopkins Road. Drive southeast about seven miles to the Observatory Office (end of pavement).



More Survey Results

Observing Site

What distance from Tucson are you willing to drive to site:

- 30 minutes - 3
- 1 hour - 30
- 90 minutes - 16
- More than 90 minutes - 3
- No response - 7

Assuming mostly paved roads, how much dirt are you willing to drive on:

- Paved only - 2
- Good dirt - 37 (suggestions [12] range from 2 to 30 miles, with an average of 6.9 miles)
- Rough dirt - 15 (suggestions [5] range from 1 to 10 miles, with an average of 3.3 miles)
- No response - 7

Should members be permitted to build observatories on site:

- Yes - 44
- No - 8
- n/a - 7

If yes, how much per year

- Don't know (14)
- Free (11)
- At cost
- \$1
- \$10 (2)
- \$25
- \$50 (3)
- \$50 - 100
- \$100 (40)
- \$120

If no why not

- Insurance
- Liability. Who gets what spot
- Liability - Want large clubhouse for storage
- Need definition of control of style, zoning, ownership, removal
- The site should be open to all members not exclusive to one

Should a portion of membership dues be used to build

- Yes - 36
- No - 13
- n/a - 10

How much of dues would be used

- As appropriate
- Don't know (4)
- 5%
- 10% (3)
- 10 - 15%
- 10 - 20%
- 15%
- 20%
- 25% (2)
- 25 - 50%
- 85%
- \$3
- \$5 (3)
- \$10 (4)

Number of responders willing to donate - 17 (some are already).

Number of responders willing to help with site testing - 25

TIMPA

Should the TAAA investigate this site further

- Yes - 43
- No - 7
- n/a - 9

Would you use the 16" telescope if it were located here

- Yes - 41
- No - 7
- n/a - 11

How often would you use this site

- Once a year - 3
- A few times a year - 35
- Once a month - 7
- More than once a month - 2
- Never - 2
- No response - 10

Do you think a portion of the land and telescope fund should be used for this site

- Yes - 29
- No - 17
- n/a - 13

Generally most negative responses came from members wanting dark sky or already owning their own observatory

30" Telescope

First time I've heard about this project - 9

This project is:

- Interesting - 4
- Too much to undertake - 2
- I don't care about it - 4
- No response - 9

What would you use the 30" for

- Visual observing - 44
- CCD imaging - 17
- Astrophotography - 13
- Research - 4
- No response - 11
- (Many multiple responses)

Where would you prefer the 30" to be built

- Close to town - 2
- At our future dark site - 38
- On public land (state park, etc.) - 5
- At a professional observatory - 12
- No response - 13
- (Many multiple responses)

Should a portion of membership dues be used to build:

- Yes - 30
- No - 13
- n/a - 16

How much of dues should be used:

- Don't know - 5
- Raise dues:
- 5 - 10%
- 10% (6)
- \$2
- \$3
- \$5 (2)
- \$7
- \$10
- \$20

Number of members willing to donate - 16

What would make you a more active member:

Better work schedule and more about Astronomy

Expert speakers. Use of 30". Use of dark site by my RV based telescope

Fewer conflicts between club activities and the demands of my employment

Finding members with similar interests to mine. Less clouds. Shorter work hours

Have access to a close, relatively dark observing site. I believe convenience outweighs "dark skies" for the most part.

If I want to observe at a dark site, I can go to Kitt Peak or Mt. Lemmon. Suck a site would promote more observing by more people.

I have completed very little of this survey, but I am an interested member

My level of activity will probably remain limited

I live in Phoenix, so being more active is not practical

I live too far away

I think I'm about as active as I can be

I think the TAAA is a fine organization, but Astronomy is one of several hobbies which must be coordinated within my overall schedule. I am probably about as active as I will ever be.

Overall, I think you folks do a great job. I have always thought so.

I'm intimidated to come "on-board" because I'm so new at this. Basic classes probably would help

If it were easier to meet and talk to other members. Friday evening is not a good time for me, and an auditorium is not the best place for mingling

If we had experienced mentors to help us, we would volunteer more often

Independent wealth. I will when I become knowledgeable enough to contribute

Meetings on Saturday

More free time from work

More involvement amongst members with each other on projects etc. Different members have expertise in areas of

Astronomy which should be shared and made available to others.

More time (2)

More time in day. Will be able to participate after school is over

More time. More portable equipment. Clubhouse storage at dark site

My participation has been school and other star parties

Nothing. I do my own thing

Once I complete my undergraduate studies, I will have more time to devote to amateur Astronomy. I would like to see more emphasis placed on telescope making and other activities pertaining to amateur Astronomy

Opportunity to learn to build telescope. Volunteer as a partner with a professional astronomer to do research. Some

way to merge Boy Scouts and Civil Air Patrol activities with TAAA activities

Recovering from disability

Reorganization of priorities

Weekend meetings are difficult, except for observing. Wife and I enjoyed the X-mas party. Have more ways to meet

each other. Listening to THE David Levy was a thrill

What suggestions do you have for improving the TAAA

30" telescope should be able to be built with current funds. Find free public land. Build simple alt-az mount for best observing. Simple building

An all-out effort to get an observatory built

Beef up the Sierra Vista AA club's activities. Form satellite organizations

Create professional/amateur working relationships, fellowships and scholarships for students and amateurs

Decide on the land, build the 30" without trying to please everyone

Have a buddy system for beginners with an advanced teacher helping/leading/teaching

I am pleased to be a member of the TAAA. This is the best Astronomy club I've ever been associated with

Keep up the great job! Much appreciated

I do find the newsletter interesting and enjoy attending meetings

I feel like most of us are strangers. I believe that the club could be stronger and move forward as a whole if members were in contact with each other.

I have difficulty with meetings on Friday night

I have much more to learn than to suggest

I think this is a great club. Keeping it great requires a good mix of experienced Astronomers with leadership qualities and fresh groups of beginners who will become experienced

It's a good club. I may have an alternate dark sky site. Call me

It's a pretty good group. I'm the one who has been hesitant

It's already more than I could expect. I'm very impressed with you all

More activities at TAAA starparties directed toward helping newcomers and beginners

More amateur related activities not necessarily at monthly meetings

More Astronomy articles in Desert Skies

More membership participation in lectures. Special interest groups. Board should make decision about land and 30" with member input.

Much more amateur participation!

Perhaps if the club held star parties at high schools we could increase student interest in science. The 30" telescope ought to be built by club members, using our skills and at our expense (out of pocket if need be)

Promote more observational (vs. Armchair) Astronomy. I'm one of the few that regularly attend dark-sky activities at

Empire. Meetings and speakers devote too much time to overly technical subjects and not enough to amateur Astronomy. More "hands-on" Focus.

Support learning through guided and self-guided materials. Club is over dominated by advanced/pro Astronomers and intimidating to beginners. Focus more on observing and less on lectures. We really need an observatory as club focus

Take a poll for preference on meeting night. I vote for Tuesday night.

Keep "amateur" a priority. A club can't meet the needs/wants of everyone. I think priorities should be set as to what our club should do to serve its members. Also a member should keep in mind that you can't please all the

people all the time. I basically get what I want out of the club, but in general, our meetings are too long

This is an excellent club! I like it the way it is

We talked about the land fund when I was chief observer 11 years ago! I would have quit looking when I found something reasonable and moved ahead. The club is looking for the perfect site a the perfect price and we won't get either. We could have had a good site for a decent price and been using it for 5-8 years already. I'm grateful to the club for the support of Dark Skies and for sending this out to give me a change to vent. Keep star parties going for older kids less interested in play. *



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TAAA Board of Directors Meeting September , 1997

The September Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors was not available as of the deadline of this issue of Desert Skies.

Desert Skies Classified

FOR SALE: 2" Helical low profile focuser with 2" long extension tube \$20; 10.5mm Tele Vue Plossl Eyepiece \$50; 7.4mm Tele Vue Plossl Eyepiece \$50. Eyepieces come with dust caps for bottom. Call Terri 579-0185 (before 9pm). (10-97)

For Sale: Telescope making components: primary and diagonal mirror holders; spiders; primary and diagonal mirrors; 16" diameter fiberglass tube 100" long; Telrad; copy lens; 2" focuser; drawtubes etc. Most items unused, like new condition. I will have a list at the TAAA meeting. Call Gary Rosenbaum 579-0185 (before 9pm). (10-97)

FOR SALE: Astrographic camera, manufactured by J. W. Fecker, 1931. 11 inch entrance aperture lens, 2 element lenses. Asking \$3000. Contact Hal Halbedel at 520-318-8614 or e-mail halbedel@noao.edu. (11-97).

FOR SALE: 1997 Pierre Schwaar custom made 12 1/2" reflector. 68" focal length (F5.44). 16" oversized tube assembly, 66" long. Candy Apple Red with custom auto body finish. Big Foot mount with rotatable saddle. 2" R & P focuser and 8 X 50 illuminated reticle finder. \$2500 value; sale price: \$1850. Call Jody Humber (602) 584-2289 (work) or (602) 412-2329 (home). (12/97)

FOR SALE: Eyepieces - 10.5 mm. Fl. Orthoscopic, \$25. 7/8 inch fl. Brandon, \$40. 4 mm. fl. orthoscopic, University optics, \$25. All in excellent condition.

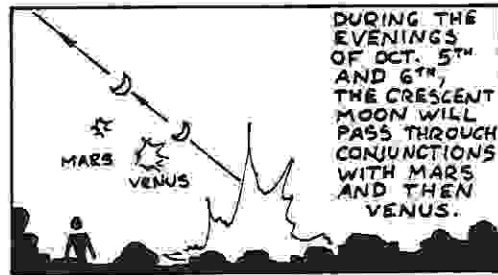
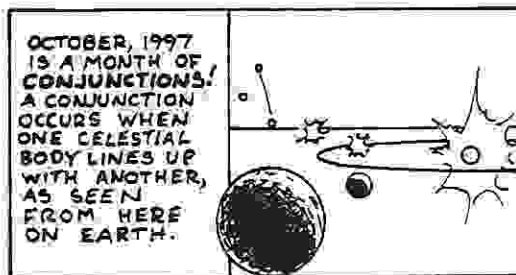
Celestron filter set, threaded for celestron 1 1/4 inch eyepieces. Purple, blue, green, light yellow, orange, neutral density. \$5 each or all for \$25.

Barlow lens, 1 1/4" 2X. \$25.

Celestron illuminated cross-hair eyepiece, 12.5 mm fl. With 2 D-cell battery pack and rheostat. Fits 0.96" or 1 1/4" with adapter, \$40.

Star Diagonal, 1 1/4", \$20. For all of the above, call or contact Duane Niehaus at 797-4189. (01/98)

Your ad will run for 4 months unless specified. Month and year of last appearance is last item of ad. For additions or changes to this list, call Nancy or Nina at 579-1382 or email to ninalehman@aol.com or nlwagner@aol.com.



Oct
97

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