

San Diego Astronomy Association

Celebrating Over 50 Years of Astronomical Outreach



July 2020

<https://www.sdaa.org/>

A Non-Profit Educational Association
P.O. Box 23215, San Diego, CA 92193-3215

SDAA Update

Next SDAA Business Meeting

July 14th at 7:00pm
10070 Willow Creek Rd
San Diego, CA 92131

Next Program Meeting

July 15th at 7:00pm
Mission Trails Regional Park
Visitor and Interpretive Center
1 Father Junipero Serra Trail

In keeping with state and local mandates in regards to social distancing, the **SDAA has cancelled all public outreach and club events** for the foreseeable future. These include our regularly scheduled monthly meetings at Mission Trails Regional Park.

The LIPP telescope will also be closed until further notice.

Since TDS is private space there is no reason to lock down the facility but there are actions you can take to help keep the site safe for all of us. If you plan to visit and use the facility, please bring along some disinfectant wipes or disinfectant spray cleaner. When you finish using the restrooms or the warming room, please wipe down the areas that you touched in order to help prevent the spread of any viruses. As much as we love sharing the views of the night sky, try to maintain the recommended 6-foot social distance guideline.

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San Diego Astronomy Association
Incorporated in California in 1963

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Newsletter Deadline

The deadline to submit articles
for publication is the
15th of each month.

July Program Meeting

Date 15 July 20

Topic: Apollo at JPL

Speaker: Blaine Baggett Head JPL Office of Comm & Education

Youtube Video = <https://youtu.be/vPYdY6M4qz8>



Exec Producer - PBS
EMMY Nominated
<https://youtu.be/4SFkmt6cXB8>



Producer - PBS
<https://youtu.be/lqK-QN7iP98>

[Link to SDAA Merchandise Store](https://sdaa28.wildapricot.org/SDAA-Store)

<https://sdaa28.wildapricot.org/SDAA-Store>

[Link to Outreach Calendar](#)

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=g-calendar@sdaa.org&ctz=America/Los>



San Diego Astronomy Association

San Diego Astronomy Association Board of Directors Meeting 9 & 11 June 2020 – Unapproved and subject to revision

1. **Call to Order - June 9**

The meeting was held via Zoom over two nights. On June 9, the meeting was called to order at 7:15pm with the following board members in attendance: Dave Wood, President; Steve Hallman, Vice President; Melany Biendara, Treasurer; Gene Burch, Recording Secretary; Alicia Linder, Corresponding Secretary; Dave Decker, Director; Hiro Hakozaiki, Director; Mike Chasin, Director; Pat Boyce, Director; member Ed Rumsey

2. **Approval of Last Meeting Minutes**

May meeting minutes were approved.

3. **Priority / Member Business** – Ed Rumsey presented a very detailed report on repairing and upgrading the Lipp Observatory building, specifically the warming room roof, which sags and is leaking. Ed has been in contact with a general contractor who is preparing a bid. Ed also met with an excavating/grading contractor to discuss the erosion damage at TDS. The contractor prepared an extensive report on what they feel needs to be done to bring the roads and grounds back to a safe condition. After much discussion, it was agreed to seek at least one other bid.

4. **Treasurer's & Membership Report** - Report approved. Mel presented the proposed 2020-2021 budget, which was discussed at length. The budget allocates funding for the two TDS projects and may be updated once additional bids are acquired.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm to be continued on June 11th

Call to Order - June 11

The second part of the meeting was again held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:15pm with the following board members in attendance: Dave Wood, President; Steve Hallman, Vice President; Melany Biendara, Treasurer; Gene Burch, Recording Secretary; Alicia Linder, Corresponding Secretary; Hiro Hakozaiki, Director; Mike Chasin, Director; Pat Boyce, Director,

5. **Standard Reports**

- a. Site Maintenance Report: Replaced a broken outlet and cover on the South public pad.
- b. Observatory/Loaner Scope Report: Both star parties were canceled. Equipment remains excellent. Social distancing cannot be accommodated in the Lipp Observatory – all June star parties have been cancelled. No loaner scope activity due to social distancing.
- c. Private Pad Report: Four available pads and 5 people currently on the waiting list. Two people on the waiting list are current pad holders looking to upgrade.
- d. Program Meetings Report: 20 May 2020 Speaker / Topic: Speaker: Dr. Quinn Konopacky - Presentation: The Intricate Dance of Star & Planet Formation - Attendees: 74, Current Program Meeting Petty Cash as of 6 May 2020 = \$524 Previous Report (12 May 2020): \$524, Expenses Since Previous Report (as of 6 June 2020).
- e. AISIG Report: The AISIG meeting via Zoom featured several members that presented various examples of processing methods utilizing personally acquired images data or TARO images data. 20 members attended the meeting. Next meeting on June 24th.
- f. Newsletter Report: Current issue looks good with nothing new to report.
- g. Website Report: We had a hacking incident on the website. Someone added some files to the site that redirected users to a couple of unsavory sites. That was corrected and we purchased GoDaddy's security monitoring service. Although the problem was corrected quickly, I can't say that I am pleased with GoDaddy. I am quite sure no one had the password, and no one should have been able to add files to the site like that. Mike Chasin is looking at the possibility of changing our hosting service from GoDaddy to another company.
- h. Social Media Report: No report



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- i. Outreach Report: 10 Events Cancelled, No new events scheduled, No change in the status for the Outreach Program.
 - j. TARO Report: Operations have resumed, weather permitting.
 - k. Merchandise Report: A few more items were sold
 - l. Cruzen Report: Purchased an OEM power supply for the Gemini II control system on the Takahashi/G-11 scope. Made a power supply replacement for the battery that powers the Cassegrain digital setting circles; works great and batteries no longer required. There have been problems with several of the roof rollers coming off and we're looking for a solution for that.
 - m. Astronomical League Report: No report
 - n. JSF Report: JSF Canceled until 2021
6. **Old Business**
- a. Alicia Linder is now our Corresponding Secretary
 - b. Treasurer Report Approved
 - c. Solar Grid Updates – nothing new
7. **New Business**
- a. It was brought to our attention by a non-member that someone who had “*Member – San Diego Astronomy Association*” on their Facebook page made an inappropriate comment relating to current events. This brought negative and unwanted attention to the club and the board decided that we need a policy relating to the use of social media. Mike Chasin is drafting a policy for review.
 - b. Several board members received spam text messages allegedly from President Dave W. It was decided that the directors and committee chairperson phone numbers should be deleted from the SDAA website. Hiro is looking at the possibility of using Google Voice for a general contact phone number for SDAA.
8. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

This is a picture of an asteroid crater in Arizona...
Look how close it came to hitting the visitors centre...





San Diego Astronomy Association



2020 Julian StarFest Canceled

Unfortunately, due to restrictions on large gatherings and in obtaining a San Diego County Events Permit, the 2020 Julian Starfest has been canceled. The event had been planned to be held at the Menghini Winery from August 13 – 16, 2020.

The JSF Committee had already been very active for a number of months to help make this annual event both successful and enjoyable - particularly during the difficult times we are all living through. The committee is very disappointed that they will not be able to hold the 2020 event. However, due to this enthusiastic group of dedicated volunteers, planning for 2021 is already well underway.

The 2021 Julian Starfest is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Menghini Winery from August 5-8, 2021. Special thanks go out to both Toni and Michael Menghini for all their years of support and flexibility in adjusting to the cancellation of this year's event.

For now, we hope you and your families will remain healthy and safe. We look forward to seeing everyone at JSF in August 2021!



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Palomar Science Presentations

As you're aware after 72 years of operation Palomar continues as an active research observatory. Science operations have recently resumed after the Corona virus shutdown. But as of now there are no tours, on site lectures or public access. However, Palomar has always had excellent science presentations, and these have moved online via ZOOM. These lectures (The Greenway Talks) should interest SDAA members and we are all welcome to attend. The picture below shows presentations scheduled through August 8th. To attend you need to have a ZOOM invitation. You can get one by contacting Kin Searcy or Scott Dixon by email: Scott - gscottdixon@hotmail.com, Kin - ksearcy1@san.rr.com

Palomar Observatory Scheduled Greenway Talks Online (GTO)

- June 27: Rick Burruss — "Adaptive Optics at Palomar Observatory"
- July 11: Steve Miller — "Making Large Telescope Mirrors at the Steward Mirror Lab"
- July 25: Rob Zelle — "Exoplanets: Finding Life in the Galaxy"
- August 8: Kaew Tinnanont — "WIRC+POL: Polarimetry at Palomar Observatory"

For an invite contact:
Scott Dixon — gscottdixon@hotmail.com
Kin Searcy — ksearcy1@san.rr.com

(c) Wally Paschallia / AstroPlus.com



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AAVSO Observing Sections' Zoom FREE Webinar Series

Every Saturday (except July 4th) from 11 AM to 1 PM PDT, an AAVSO Observing Section will host a science webinar on Zoom focusing on different subjects within their Section, complete with guest speakers. **The series is open to everyone: AAVSO members, observers, and those who are not familiar with AAVSO at all, free of charge.**

Registration is currently open for webinar Days 2 and 3, and will close at 01:00 UT the evening before the respective webinars. Registration for the others will open on a rolling basis. For each webinar you wish to participate in, click on the respective hyperlinked title in the schedule below.

- Day 1: June 27th, Bright Star Monitor, host David Cowall
- Day 2: July 11th, [Eclipsing Binaries](#), host Gerry Samolyk
- Day 3: July 18th, [Exoplanet](#), host Dennis Conti
- Day 4: July 25th, High Energy Network, host Dave Hinz
- Day 5: Aug. 1st, Long Period Variables, host Richard Roberts
- Day 6: Aug. 8th, Short Period Pulsators, host Eric Hintz
- Day 7: Aug. 15th, Solar, host Rodney Howe
- Day 8: Aug. 22nd, Spectroscopy, host David Whelan
- Day 9: Aug. 29th, Young Stellar Objects, host Michael Poxon
- Day 10: Sept. 5th, Instrumentation & Equipment, host Richard Berry



Curious about AAVSO Observing Sections? [Learn more!](#)

<https://www.aavso.org/>

FOR SALE: an Astronomik CLS EOS XL clip in filter for certain Canon full frame cameras. 5D Mark II, 5D Mark III, and 6D. (5D Mark I will work without LiveView only)
It has never been used and is in perfect condition. New \$180 selling for \$145.
Bill Cecil bicyclingbill@gmail.com





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Filter Drawer for the Starizona 9.25 HyperStar

I have been invited by Ted Ishikawa who owns Astro Hutech to use a new product he is planning to carry in his store.

It is a filter drawer for the Starizona 9.25 HyperStar. It is compatible with the ZWO 2600MC camera that Mike Albers has let me try out.

At the time Ted spoke to me about the HyperStar filter box, he asked me if I know anyone that owns a Celestron 8" RASA scope. I do not, but I told him I would try to find out if anyone of the members of SDAA or others who has an 8" RASA would be interested in trying a filter box for the 8" RASA and give him feedback about it.

Anyone with a Celestron RASA 8" who is interested in trying out a Filter drawer assembly that is made for the C8 RASA and is willing to provide feedback, please contact me or Ted Ishikawa so arrangements can be made to get the sample sent out.

This would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You.

Allen Ruckle alruckle@me.com

The Contact email of Astro Hutech is suggestions@hutech.com or info@hutech.com

You are invited to join your fellow astronomy enthusiasts at the following online events:

General Meeting

Friday July 10th, 7:30pm PDT

Dr. Anson D'Aloisio from University of California, Riverside will be talking about "Cosmic Dawn: The Birth of Galaxies in our Universe"

<https://ocaastronomers.org/calendar/general-meeting-july-2020/>

Open Spiral Bar

Saturday July 11th, 10:00pm PDT

Come and present your club, astrophotos, activities, etc. then socialize and ask questions.

<https://ocaastronomers.org/calendar/open-meeting-july-2020/>

Beginner's Class

Friday July 3rd, 7:30pm PDT

Come and learn how to use a telescope, you can bring yours, virtually, too!

<https://ocaastronomers.org/calendar/beginners-class-july-2020/>

All meetings are free and open to the public but require RSVP.

Reza AmirArjomand

Vice President

Orange County Astronomers



San Diego Astronomy Association

2020 Star Party Schedule

Date	Hours	Type	Sunset	Twilight	Moonrise(set)	Illumination
7/11/2020	8:30 to 11:30 PM	Public	7:58 PM	9:37 PM	12:21 AM	64%
7/18/2020	8:30 to 11:30 PM	Member	7:55 PM	9:33 PM	4:42 AM	5%
8/8/2020	8:30 to 11:30 PM	Public	7:40 PM	9:11 PM	10:49 PM	79%
8/15/2020	8:30 to 11:30 PM	Member	7:32 PM	9:01 PM	3:25 AM	14%
9/12/2020	7:30 to 10:30 PM	Public	6:57 PM	8:21 PM	2:09 AM	28%
9/19/2020	7:30 to 10:30 PM	Member	6:48 PM	8:10 PM	(8:42 PM)	9%
10/10/2020	7:00 to 10:00 PM	Public	6:20 PM	7:42 PM	12:55 AM	44%
10/17/2020	7:00 to 10:00 PM	Member	6:12 PM	7:34 PM	(7:13 PM)	2%
11/7/2020	5:30 to 8:30 PM	Public	4:52 PM	6:16 PM	10:46 PM	61%
11/14/2020	5:30 to 8:30 PM	Member	4:47 PM	6:12 PM	6:48 AM	0%
12/5/2020	5:30 to 8:30 PM	Public	4:42 PM	6:09 PM	9:42 PM	76%
12/12/2020	5:30 to 8:30 PM	Member	4:43 PM	6:11 PM	5:34 AM	0%



San Diego Astronomy Association

SDAA Contacts

Club Officers and Directors

President	Dave Wood	President@sdaa.org	(858) 735-8808
Vice President	Steve Hallman	VicePresident@sdaa.org	(858) 371-9706
Recording Secretary	Gene Burch	Recording@sdaa.org	(858) 926-9610
Treasurer	Melany Biendara	Treasurer@sdaa.org	(619) 213-9887
Corresponding Secretary	Alicia Linder	Corresponding@sdaa.org	
Director Alpha	Pat Boyce	DirectorAlpha@sdaa.org	(619) 227-9614
Director Beta	Mike Chasin	DirectorBeta@sdaa.org	(858) 210-1454
Director Gamma	Dave Decker	DirectorGamma@sdaa.org	(619) 972-1003
Director Delta	Hiro Hakozaiki	DirectorDelta@sdaa.org	(858) 869-9507

Committees

Site Maintenance	Bill Quackenbush	TDS@sdaa.org	(858) 395-1007
Observatory Director	Ed Rumsey	Observatory@sdaa.org	(858) 722-3846
Private Pads	Mark Smith	Pads@sdaa.org	(858) 484-0540
Outreach	Dave Decker	Outreach@sdaa.org	(619) 972-1003
N. County Star Parties	-Vacant-	NorthStarParty@sdaa.org	
S. County Star Parties	-Vacant-	SouthStarParty@sdaa.org	
E. County Star Parties	Dave Decker	EastStarParty@sdaa.org	(619) 972-1003
Central County Star Parties	Dennis Ammann	CentralStarParty@sdaa.org	(619) 247-2457
Camp with the Stars	-Vacant-	CampWiththeStars@sdaa.org	
K.Q. Ranch Coordinator	Dennis Ammann	KQ@sdaa.org	(619) 247-2457
Newsletter	Andrea Kuhl	Newsletter@sdaa.org	(858) 547-9887
New Member Mentor	Dan Kiser	Mentor@sdaa.org	(858) 922-0592
Webmaster	Jeff Stevens	Webmaster@sdaa.org	(858) 566-2261
AISIG	Scott Dixon	AISIG@sdaa.org	(858) 673-9588
Site Acquisition	-Vacant-	SecondSite@sdaa.org	
Field Trips	-Vacant-	FieldTrips@sdaa.org	
Grants/Fund Raising	-Vacant-	Grants@sdaa.org	
Julian StarFest	-Vacant-	info@julianstarfest.com	
Merchandising	Gene Burch	Merchandising@sdaa.org	(858) 926-9610
Publicity	Jeff Flynn	Publicity@sdaa.org	(619) 806-6505
Loaner Scopes	Ed Rumsey	loanerscopes@sdaa.org	(858) 722-3846
Governing Documents	TBD		
TDS Network	Dave Wood	TDSNet@sdaa.org	(858) 735-8808
Amateur Telescope Making	-Vacant-		
ALCOR (Astronomical League Correspondent) Mary Todd		ALCOR@sdaa.org	(858) 560-2052

SDAA Editorial Staff

Editor - Andrea Kuhl

newsletter@sdaa.org

Assistant Editor: Craig Ewing

Have a great new piece of gear? Read an astronomy-related book that you think others should know about? How about a photograph of an SDAA Member in action? Or are you simply tired of seeing these Boxes in the Newsletter rather than something, well, interesting?

Join the campaign to rid the Newsletter of little boxes by sharing them with the membership. In return for your efforts, you will get your very own byline or photograph credit in addition to the undying gratitude of the Newsletter Editor. Just send your article or picture to Newsletter@SDAA.Org.



San Diego Astronomy Association

Free to a Good Home

The following scopes would make great first scopes for younger members:



4" Bushnell Reflector

A four inch (4") Newtonian that appears to have all of its major elements with the exception of 1.25" eyepieces. A German equatorial mount with counter weight. Setting circles are likely very coarse but alt-az adjustments appear reasonable. Tube includes operable 1.25" rack & pinion focuser which seemed pretty smooth, and a finder scope.

With a little bit of cleaning and collimation, this scope should produce nice views. The Newtonian design is pretty easy to maintain and adjust.



Meade Polaris 90mm Refractor

90mm, f_{11} , $F=1100\text{mm}$, refractor in original packaging. Model # 90EQ-D. All parts seem to be in place – have not confirmed. Focuser was smooth. Clean! Should be a perfect first scope as is. My recollection is 1.25" eyepieces – newer models are.

Meade Model 300 – 3.1" Refractor



Complete 80mm Meade refracting telescope. In original packaging. Dave Decker has utilized in the past on a different mount for a double star observing program. He was generally impressed with the optics.

Besides a being a great first scope, this one would serve as a fun double star program instrument for the more experienced observer. Don't let the photo and lack of description deter you if an avid double star observer.



San Diego Astronomy Association

Interesting ATM Projects that still have a serious use:



4" f10 Refractor

This instrument was lovingly crafted. The machine work is beautiful. Even the 1.25" eyepieces were handcrafted. It is presumed the optics were purchased. The rack & pinion focuser is very smooth. Alt-Az mount, which looks to be generic tripod ready. We viewed in daylight and the optics appear to be clean. A correct image diagonal is included. The case displays the same craftsmanship.

This is a spectacular instrument for a back deck!



4" long focal length refractor

Not sure of the focal ratio but suspect $f15$. Another nice ATM project. Edmund Scientific branding can be seen in a number of locations. Woodwork is first rate. GEM mount includes a nice set of rings that appear to be machined at home. 1.25" focuser is smooth with press fit. Balance with included weight felt good. The included box is very nice and surprisingly the rope handle feels good and convenient.



8" Newtonian ATM

Looks to be a Peter De Baan creation but no provenance to support. Handle, wooden tube rings, and small hand knobs at the front of the tube, are what you would expect in a Peter design. The mirror is clearly identified as CAL-ASTRO, Pasadena, Calif. We surmised it was a mirror blank source but again have no documentation. Three vane spider. Focuser and finder appear to be in good condition. No mount. Labeled SDAA #5.

This scope could easily be converted to a traditional Dobsonian.

All scopes are currently stored at TDS. Please contact me if interested. Those with a great re-use plan and willing to travel for transfer of property, will be accorded the highest priority.



San Diego Astronomy Association

NASA Night Sky Notes

July 2020



This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov to find local clubs, events, and more!

Mars's Latest Visitor: NASA's Perseverance Rover

David Prosper

NASA's latest Mars rover, Perseverance, is launching later this month! This amazing robot explorer will scout the surface of Mars for possible signs of ancient life and collect soil samples for return to Earth by future missions. It will even carry the first off-planet helicopter: Ingenuity. Not coincidentally, Perseverance will be on its way to the red planet just as Mars dramatically increases in brightness and visibility to eager stargazers as our planets race towards their closest approach in October of this year.

Perseverance's engineers built upon the success of its engineering cousin, Curiosity, and its design features many unique upgrades for a new science mission! In February of 2021, Perseverance will land at the site of an ancient river delta inside of Jezero Crater and ready its suite of seven primary scientific instruments. The rover will search for traces of past life, including possible Martian fossils, with WATSON and SHERLOC, two advanced cameras capable of seeing tiny details. The rover also carries an amazing instrument, SuperCam, to blast rocks and soil outside of the rover's reach with lasers to determine their chemical makeup with its onboard suite of cameras and spectrometers. Perseverance will also take core samples of some of the most promising rocks and soil, storing them for later study with its unique caching system. Future missions will retrieve these samples from the rover and return them for detailed study by scientists on Earth. Perseverance also carries two microphones so we can hear the sounds of Mars and the noises of its instruments at work. It will even launch a small helicopter - Ingenuity - into the Martian atmosphere as a trial for future aerial exploration!

Would you like to contribute to Mars mission science? You can help NASA's rover drivers safely navigate the Martian surface by contributing to the AI4Mars project! Use this tool to label terrain features on photos taken of the Martian surface by NASA missions to help train an artificial intelligence algorithm to better read their surrounding landscape:

bit.ly/AI4Mars

The launch of Mars Perseverance is, as of this writing, scheduled for July 20, 2020 at 9:15am EDT. More details, updates, and livestreams of the event are available on NASA's official launch page: bit.ly/Mars2020Launch . Dig deep into the science of the Mars 2020 mission and the Perseverance rover at: mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/ . Find out even more about past, present, and future Mars missions at nasa.gov.



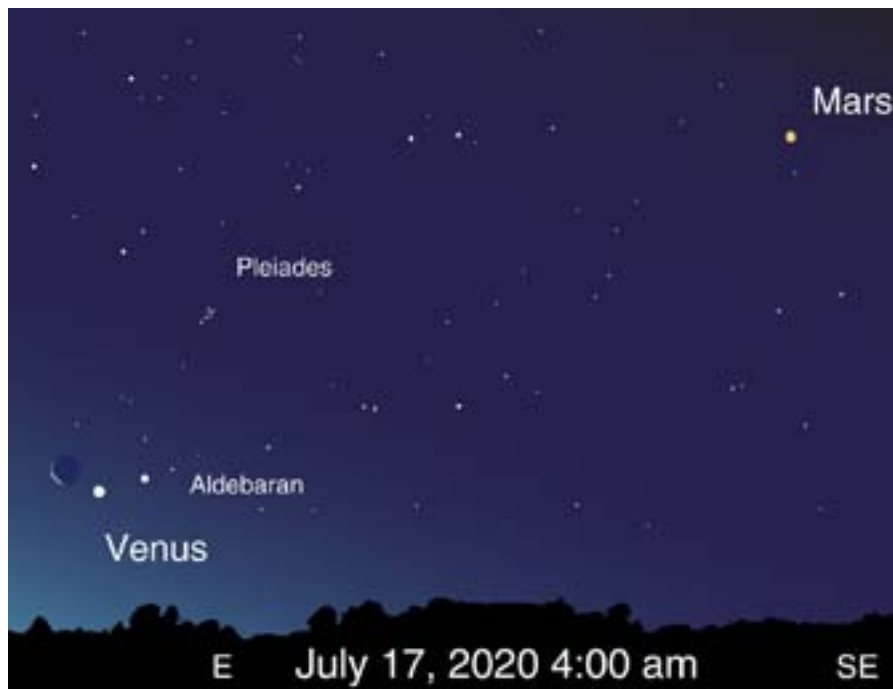
San Diego Astronomy Association

NASA Night Sky Notes

July 2020



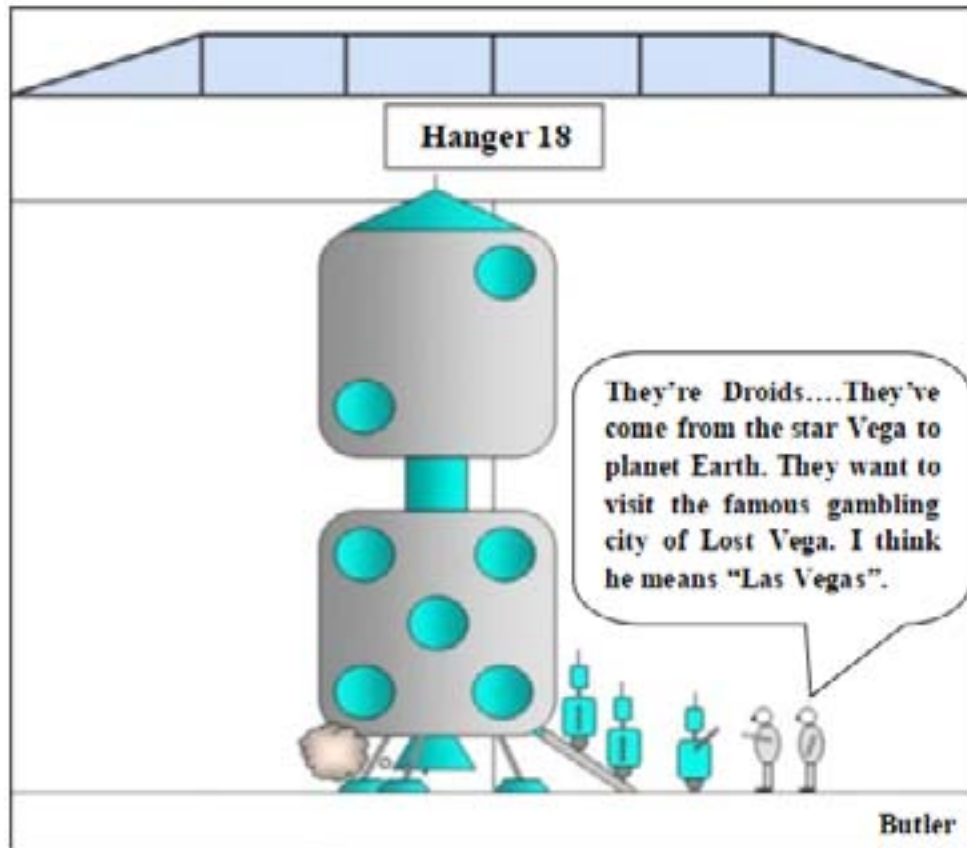
Perseverance inspects a cluster of interesting Martian rocks with its instruments in this artist rendering by NASA JPL/Caltech



Observe Mars yourself over the next few months! Mars can be found in early morning skies throughout July, and by the end of the month will rise before midnight. Mars gradually brightens every night until the close approach of Mars in October. The pre-dawn skies of July 17 present an especially nice view, as the waning crescent Moon will appear near Venus and Aldebaran.



San Diego Astronomy Association



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Send dues and renewals to P.O. Box 23215, San Diego, CA 92193-3215. Include any renewal cards from Sky & Telescope or Astronomy magazine in which you wish to continue your subscription. The expiration date shown on your newsletter's mailing label is the only notice that your membership in SDAA will expire. Dues are \$60 for Contributing Memberships; \$35 for Basic Membership; \$60.00 for Private Pads; \$5 for each Family membership. In addition to the club dues the annual rates for magazines available at the club discount are: Sky & Telescope \$32.95 and Astronomy \$34. Make checks payable to S.D. Astronomy Assn. PLEASE DO NOT send renewals directly to Sky Publishing. They return them to us for processing.