

Oct. 14, 2017: San Diego Astronomy Association's Annual BBQ

Notes –

- 1) The following is a chronological sequence of events related to the SDAA purchasing the 10-acre property located at Tierra del Sol
- 2) This document is, and will hopefully be, a never-ending work-in-progress
- 3) This is not an official, SDAA-sanctioned document
- 4) A Tierra del Sol resident informed me that a gentleman named Ken Bourke sold the property to the SDAA. I have tried to contact Mr. Bourke several times to confirm this statement but have been unsuccessful.

Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the SDAA Owning the Property at TDS

1964

Feb.: Jeff Lynn and others scouted the backwoods of Cleveland National Forest for a permanent observing site

Apr.: The observatory site committee found a potential permanent observing site

1969

Dec. 5: The board discussed starting a money-raising project to buy a permanent observing site

1970

Jan. 9: Observing Site Committee members: Howard McCalla, Jack Shears

Mar.: Some members went to Ramona to examine a possible observing site

1971

Mar. 5: Jim Little was appointed as Observing Committee Chairman

May 28: A committee of six, headed by Jim Ballard, was appointed to investigate the possibilities of obtaining a permanent observing site for the club

1972

Apr.: Observing Site Committee members Fleming, Hatchett, and Laborde investigated a spot in The Lagunas near the SDSC Observatory

May 19: The observing site committee was still scouting places suitable for a permanent club site

July 21: The observing site committee went to Lake Morena again

1973

Mar. 16: The club was waiting for a response from the County Planning Commission about a permanent observing site at Lake Morena

Sep.: The County Park Commission rejected the club's plans for a permanent observing site at Lake Morena

Dec. 14: Club officers checked out possible permanent observing sites submitted to them and none were suitable

1974

June: The club was still looking for a permanent observing site

1975

June 20: The club learned that the potential permanent observing site land near Campo was misrepresented as to legal description and location and the club backed out on the deal

June 20: It was announced in the Program Meeting minutes "For a long time, we have been talking about and looking for some land in the back country for an observing site; now our opportunity to fulfill this dream has arrived, thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. James Lipp and pledges by other members."

July: Jim Lipp found the property at TDS

July 18: Jim Lipp pledged \$4,000 and other members pledged \$1,000 towards purchasing the permanent observing site land

July 26: 11 members checked out the site at TDS; it was decided that this would be the SDAA's new observing site

Aug. 8: Escrow for the 10 acres of permanent observing site land at TDS was started with a \$500.00 deposit, the club needed to pay the balance of \$9,500.00

Sep. 19: The club offered \$100.00 for a [private] pad or \$500.00 for an observing site [private observatory] at TDS

Nov. 21: For TDS, Bill Lucas was appointed Observatory Committee Chairman, Jim Lipp was appointed Land Use Committee Chairman, Bill Bridge was appointed Rules and Regulations Committee Chairman

1976

Feb.: Plans for the layout of the observing site were submitted to the county planning department for obtaining a use permit

Feb.: A plaque was given to Bill and Vi Whigham at the January 24th star party for providing the club with an observing site at their home for the past few years

May: At TDS -- (1) Brush clearing, road construction, and parking construction were about to begin; (2) Observatories, club house, and fencing construction were in the future; (3) Initial areas had been bulldozed and work crews had been cleaning up and burning bushes; (4) \$15,000.00 was estimated to cover entire development costs; (5) Approximately \$5,300 was pledged and donated during March

July: At TDS, the next order of business was to level and surface the parking and general observing area

1977

Jan. 21: At TDS -- (1) The land had been surveyed, fenced, and the roads had been graded; (2) Observatories, pad sites, rest rooms, and club house had been laid out; (3) The well, electricity, septic tank, and drain lines had been completed; (4) Some members had poured their pads and improved their individual observing sites; (5) The next project was to black top the large observing site for all members to use; (6) Afterwards should come the restrooms and club house

Feb.: At TDS, work started on the Jim Lipp Observatory -- (1) Electrical and trenching (Allen Ruckle); (2) Cement work (John Laborde), (3) The walls (Mike Albers); (3) Framing of the partitions, roof, floors, and other woodwork (Jim Lipp, Bill Lucas); (4) Plumbing (a licensed plumber); (5) The restrooms and the large observing pads

May 20: At TDS, the large pad for general observing would be poured around the first of May and the restrooms would be up around the middle of May

Sep. 10: Member Star Party (TDS, inaugural/unofficial)

Oct. 15: Member Star Party (TDS, observing site dedication)

Nov. 18: The observing site was completed, approved by the county, and officially dedicated

To provide more information for this document, send email to 'inspektor2001@yahoo.com'.