



FEBRUARY

NEWS AND NOTES

1999

Vol. XXXV ■ Issue #2 ■ February 1999

Published Monthly by the San Diego Astronomy Association

75¢/\$8.00/year

Incorporated in California in 1963  
A Non-Profit Educational Association  
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Keynote speaker, John Dobson, talks at annual banquet.  
See page 3 for more photos.



## Program Meeting

February 19th 1999

### Past Board Meeting by Bill Culviner

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President John Restivo. In attendance were Board members John Restivo, Earl Towson, Lyndel Wall, Craig Ewing, Bill Culviner, Roy Ang, Brian Staples, John Laborde, and Kathy Laborde. Also present were Star Party Coordinator Chairperson and Director-elect Michael Dietz, Site Maintenance Chairperson Jim Traweek, Director-elect Brian McFarland, and member Allen Pellymouter.

#### Agenda Overview

Minutes for the December Board Meeting were read by Bill Culviner. The minutes were accepted as read, with one correction - that they should reflect that the \$525.00 budget item for property taxes does properly reflect one-half of the total property tax bill of \$1050.00.

#### Standard Reports

##### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Lyndel Wall reported total receipts for December of \$1,156.00 and outflows of \$1,719.78, for a net difference of minus of \$563.78. The Treasurer's report was accepted as submitted.

##### Private Pad Report

Brian Staples reported that letters have been sent to apparently delinquent pad owners. There was a report that the south half of the private pad site is without electricity - Brian will check this out.

#### Observatory Report

John Laborde reported that Brian Staples has agreed to be the new Observatory Director. John hopes to replace the burned-out drive motor for the roof-opening mechanism this weekend but if this is not possible, the roof can be operated by hand.

#### Site Maintenance Report

There was no special report; it was further agreed that all issues relating to site maintenance will be reviewed next month.

#### Education Report

Earl Towson expects to have the names of the three winners in the Science and Engineering Fair Awards Program soon. He would like each to receive a subscription to Astronomy magazine and an SDAA associate membership.

The Boy Scouts of America requested postponement of the first Learning for Life Explorer Program. It has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 28. Linnea Lagerquist has prepared her final report.

#### Star Parties

Michael Dietz reported that about three or four people have responded to his plea for volunteers. The Fleet Museum will continue to be the primary liability carrier for Stars in the Park as long as the space theater is doing planetarium shows.

#### Old Business

The annual report is being prepared.

The election results were presented by Earl Towson, and are as follows: President - John Laborde; Vic President - Brian Staples; Corresponding Secretary - Dennis Ritz. Elected to the Board of Directors were: Roy Ang, Michael Dietz, Kathy Laborde and Brian McFarland. All candidates have been notified of the results and the winners have been asked to come to the January business meeting and to the annual banquet for installation.

It appears that the investment in postage (approximately \$80.00) did not significantly change the percentage of the members that vote.

Bill Culviner will ask the Boy Scouts if they would provide a letter confirming insurance coverage concerning the Learning for Life program.

Kathy Laborde will work with Roy Ang on an extension of the microphone at the annual banquet. The menu has been arranged. It was moved, seconded and passed to seat John Dobson's driver at the banquet. Brian Staples reported on prizes obtained to date. Special drawings will be held for Star Party and work party volunteers.

#### New Business

Craig Ewing reported on the possibility of a change in the newsletter

mailing cost and the need to eliminate any text following the zip code on mailing labels - this will be done. John Laborde suggested using a four-digit year date to avoid Y2K problems.

The web site will cost more to run, and an agreement was requested so the Board can review what would be provided for the anticipated cost of \$100.00 per year. It could be fixed so that things could be downloaded from it. Updating is needed. The Board recommended that the election results be included.

Michael Dietz presented a Starry Nights software package donated to SDAA by Sienna.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Jim Traweek, who has volunteered to be Site Maintenance Chairperson. He will take on the warming room project, coordinating with John Laborde, and will attend Board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

## Past Star Parties by Michael Dietz

Nine members came out to the stars in the park in January. We were able to look at the moon, Jupiter, and Saturn before the fog rolled in at about 8:15

Six members came out to Mission Hills on January 8<sup>th</sup> for the Grant Elementary School star party. I started out the evening event with a 30 minute talk on telescopes and the night-time sky. The crowd of 50 to 60 people then headed out to the telescopes to look at Jupiter, Saturn, the Orion Nebulae (m-42), the Pleiades (m-45), and some double stars.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, five members hosted a star party in Escondido at Conway Elementary. Over 200 people came out to observe and were treated to good views of Jupiter, Saturn, M-31, M-42, M-45, and the double cluster.

Four members came out to Alpine for a star party on the 19<sup>th</sup> at Joan MacQueen Middle School for about 175 people. Unfortunately fog moved in early limiting viewing to quick glimpses of the crescent moon, Jupiter, and Saturn. It cleared about 45 minutes later, but most of the crowd had left. Those that stayed were able to see M-31, M-42, M-45, and some double stars.

Four members made it out to the dark skies of Pala on the 21<sup>st</sup> to host a star party for a group of about 50 enthusiastic students and parents. Among the numerous objects seen included the crescent moon, Jupiter, Saturn, the double cluster, M-31, M-42, M-45, and many double stars. It was really nice to be able to see M-31 with the unaided eye at a school star party. A special thanks to Rich Bently, Doug McFarland, and Bill Whalen for making the long drive out to Pala to join me for this star party.

## Future Star Parties by Michael Dietz

Stars in Balboa Park will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Public viewing at the Tierra Del Sol site this month will be on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

On February 4<sup>th</sup> we will be in Escondido at Rincon Middle school located at 9925 Lehner Avenue for a 6:30 star party. To reach the school take I-15 north to El Norte Parkway. Head east on El Norte Parkway to Ash Street. Turn left and head north on Ash Street to Lehner Avenue. Turn right on Lehner Avenue and head east to the school which will be on the right.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> we will be in Alpine for a 6:30 star party at Alpine Elementary located at 1850 Alpine Blvd. To reach the school take I-8 east to the tavern Road exit. Turn right on tavern Road and head south 1 block to Alpine Blvd. Turn left on Alpine Blvd., and head east 1 - 2 blocks past the fire station. The school is on the left.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> we will be in Rancho Bernardo for a 6:30 star party at Westwood Elementary located at 17449 Matinal Road. To reach the

school take I-15 north to Rancho Bernardo Road. Head west to W. Bernardo Drive and turn right. Head north to Matinal Road and turn left. Head west to the school which will be on the left.

For those who would like to help the club and volunteer for star parties, give me a call at 440-4924. I will put you on the list of regular volunteers I call as some star parties are scheduled or canceled after the newsletter is published, and if I know you are interested, I can keep you updated. If you want to schedule a star party for a school or group you are affiliated with, give me a call at least a month in advance to make sure you get the date you want.

## Acknowledgments by Michael Dietz

I would like to thank Roy Ang, Rich Bently, Don Hamm, Jose Magsaysay, Doug McFarland, Michael McGill, Robert Oxle, Dan Schwabe, Jim Traweek, Thad V'soske, and Bill Whalen for their efforts with the school star parties and Stars In The Park. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the students, parents, and teachers.

## 1998 Banquet Review by Kathy Laborde

I would like to thank everyone for attending the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. This has been the highest attendance I have seen since I have been planning the banquet functions. I would like to send a special thanks to the members who have volunteered in helping me at the Banquet. Ed & Ruth Allen, Val Finegold, Chris Weber, Mike Dietz and Thad V'Soske.

Our raffle ticket sales and auction proceeds helped raise \$840.00 this year and we sold \$301.00 in SDAA wear!

I still have plenty of T-Shirts and sweatshirts left. You may place an order with me and I will make arrangements for pickup. To plan an order please call, kathy Laborde at (619) 566-9740.

## A Thanks to the Vendors by Brian V. Staples

Another year, another banquet, and another overwhelming success! The banquet this year brought together more members than ever before, and what may be the most successful raffle and auction yet.

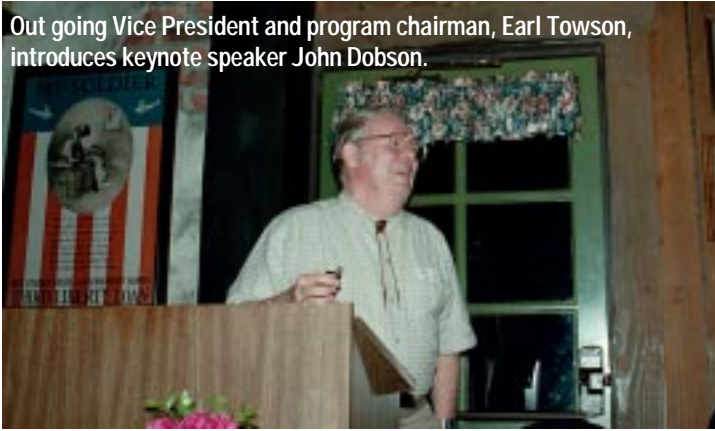
The SDAA would like to thank the following *vendors* for their generous contributions to the door prizes for this year's banquet:

**Astronomical Society of the Pacific** – Grand Tour of the Universe Slide Set.  
**Dennis Mammana** – A beautiful 16" x 20" photo of the Annular Eclipse of 1992, and an autographed copy of his book, *Other Suns, Other Worlds*.  
**Lumicon** – A \$20.00 gift certificate towards any Lumicon purchase.  
**Meade Instruments** – A 14mm Ultra wide Angle Eyepiece.  
**Orion Telescope** – A 1¼" UHC Filter.  
**Reuben H. Fleet** – Two tickets to the Space Theater.  
**Roger Tuthill** – Two 6" Solarskreen solar filters.  
**Scope City** – Three \$25.00 gift certificate towards any Scope City purchase.  
**Sienna Software** – Two copies of *Starry Night Deluxe* software.  
**Sky & Telescope** – A Field Edition of Sky Atlas 2000.0.  
**Televue Optics** – A 4.8mm Nagler Eyepiece.

In addition, the SDAA provide three door prizes to the general attendees, and three door prizes, one each, for members who volunteered throughout the year. Volunteers honored were those who attended school star parties and Stars in the Park, those who volunteered labor at the Tierra del Sol Observing Site, and those who volunteered to host the club's telescope.

The SDAA would also like to thank Roy Ang and Brian McFarland for donating back to the club and the auction the prizes they won in the raffle. And last but not least, we would like to thank all the members who contributed items for the auction, and the members in attendance for purchasing over 600 raffle tickets and items in the auction. Your contributions have helped the SDAA in continuing to be one of the premiere amateur astronomy organizations in the world!

# Photos from our SDAA Annual Banquet at the 94th Aero Squadron



Out going Vice President and program chairman, Earl Towson, introduces keynote speaker John Dobson.



Mike with the mic. Mike Dietz, coordinator of the school star parties, acknowledges all the volunteer help.



Standing from left to right outgoing Pres. John Restivo, Curtis and Lyndel Wall (treasurer), outgoing corresponding secretary, Craig Ewing and Michelle Zandonatti who helps Craig get the newsletter sorted and mailed.



Incredibly after joking about how Jim Doody had won the Meade eyepiece the past 4 years in a row, Jim's ticket won again eyepiece again this year!!!



John Dobson, whose popularized the well-known "Dobsonian Telescope", signs autographs on his latest publication.



Love Birds 1: Ed and Ruth Allen having a good time. Both Ed and Ruth help out each year at the banquet with sales and tickets



Love Birds 2: John and Patricia Raines also having a goodtime at the banquet. Both John and Pat have hosted the club scope several times.



At the Bar: We broke all records surpassing our minimum bar bill by 300%. Good job!!



## SkyWatch For February 1999 by John Mood

[ TIMES PST ] [ \* = EASY ] [ \*\* = MODERATE ] [ \*\*\* = TOUGH ]

Sun., 31 Jan. — FULL MOON, 8:08 a.m.  
Sat., 13 Feb. — STAR PARTY @ Tierra Del Sol.  
Mon., 15 Feb. — NEW MOON, 10:40 p.m.  
Tues., 16 Feb. — Can you spot 19-hour-old New Moon this evening? You'll need to be elevated (try Cowles Mtn where I set my personal best of 15 hrs. 35 min.). Use binocs. [\*\*\*]

Sat., 20 Feb. — STAR PARTY @ Tierra Del Sol.  
Tues., 23 Feb. — VENUS & JUPITER only 17 sec. apart at sunset [\*]; at noon only 8 sec. apart, use binocs 28 deg east of sun [\*\*\*]; closest planetary conjunction 'til 2015.  
Mon., 1 March — FULL MOON, 11:00 p.m.  
Sat., 13 March — STAR PARTY @ Tierra Del Sol.

The PLANETS — EVENING: Lotsa action!! VENUS [\*] & JUPITER [\*] conjunct on the 23rd (see above) w/ MERCURY [\*\*] peeking up late in month & SATURN [\*] still high & bright. Watching the crescent MOON sail by one after another is an awesome sight.

MORNING: MARS [\*] should brighten enuf by the end of the month to see its north polar cap & other details.

N.B. — Contrary to the news media, a "blue moon" is not the 2nd full moon in a month; it is a real atmospheric event in which the moon appears actually blue due to forest fire or volcanic ash absorbing other light in the spectrum.

BEGINNING OBSERVERS — Okay, now tear yourself away from M-42 & point yr telescope at SIGMA ORION IS, one of the most spectacular multiple star systems. It's the star just below the bottommost star of Orion's belt. How many stars can you see in yr scope? Look carefully — there are 9 of different brightness.

EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS — Lots of you have no doubt photographed M-45, the PLEIADES, w/ the associated nebulosity. How many have observed that fuzziness w/ yr eyeball at the eyepiece? Those surrounding the stars MEROPE and MAIA are the easiest to detect but it takes a very dark sky.

TIERRA DEL SOL: Latitude — 32deg 37m 18s North [+/- 1s]

Longitude — 116deg 19m 58s West [+/- 1s] Elevation — 3770 ft [+/- 50ft]

{From USGS 7.5m topographic map.}

For the latest info on new comets, novae, supernovae, etc., consult my bulletin, "L8-Braking Views" on DIGITAL CIRCUS BBS, 223-5348 or 223-2239. Send questions & comments to my e-mail address john.mood@digcir.cts.com. Or, my regular address is in the phone book.

HAPPY VIEWING!

### Private Pad Site Notes

To get on the list for a private pad site, call the club phone (645-8940). Pad holders must be contributing members in good standing and use the pad site at least twice a year. Any development or transfers must be approved by the Board of Directors.

### For Sale

11x80 Giant Binoculars, as New, fully coated. Eye surgery has me seeing monocular...bummer for me, but good for new owner with beautiful stereo views of the heavens or patiently waiting for the next Comet. List over 700, Discounted at 400, first \$250 takes. Includes case. Contact Mark Holmes @ (619) 491-0308 or [Hawgs@home.com](mailto:Hawgs@home.com)

### Newsletter Notes

Submissions for the newsletter are always welcome. If you have an article or item for the newsletter, please submit it by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. For submission information, call Kathy Laborde at 566-9740 send or e-mail to [jlaborde@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jlaborde@ix.netcom.com).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### STARS IN THE PARK

2/3/99 & 3/3/99

### STARS AT THE SITE

2/13 & 2/20

### BUSINESS MEETING (At Laborde's House)

2/11/99

### PROGRAM MEETING

2/19/99

### 1999 SCHOOL STAR PARTIES

RINCON MIDDLE SCHOOL

2/4

ALPINE ELEMENTARY

2/18

WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY

2/19

BLOSSOM VALLEY ELEMENTARY

2/24

### 1999 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CHAIRPERSONS

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**Brian McFarland**

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### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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VOL XXXVII • ISSUE 2 • FEBRUARY 1999  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE SAN DIEGO ASTRONOMY ASSOCIATION  
SUBSCRIPTION \$800/YEAR • SINGLE ISSUE 75¢

619/645-8940

SAN DIEGO, CA 92193-3215

P.O. BOX 23215

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