

San Diego Astronomy Association

Celebrating Over 50 Years of Astronomical Outreach



May 2020

<https://www.sdaa.org/>
A Non-Profit Educational Association
P.O. Box 23215, San Diego, CA 92193-3215

Next SDAA Business Meeting

May 12th at 7:00pm
10070 Willow Creek Rd
San Diego, CA 92131

Next Program Meeting

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

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Incorporated in California in 1963	
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SDAA Update

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.

The Board of Directors will be working on ways to reach out to the membership. Our monthly meetings will most likely happen via the web on a platform such as MS Teams, Zoom or Skype until it's deemed safe to meet as a group. We'll send out additional information on how you can join the meetings once we have the details established.

Newsletter Deadline

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

[Link to Outreach Calendar](#)

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



San Diego Astronomy Association

San Diego Astronomy Association Board of Directors Meeting

14 April 2020 - Unapproved and subject to revision

1. Call to Order

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 7:12pm with the following board members in attendance: Dave Wood, President; Steve Hallman, Vice President; Melany Biendara, Treasurer; Gene Burch, Recording Secretary; Dave Decker, Director; Hiro Hakozaki, Director; Mike Chasin, Director; Pat Boyce, Director.

2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

March meeting minutes were approved

3. Priority / Member Business – none

4. Treasurer's & Membership Report

- a. Report approved
- b. Membership dropped
- c. Mel suggested that we increase the Science Fair awards to \$300, \$200 and \$100 which was approved by the board.

5. Standard Reports

- a. Site Maintenance Report: No Report
- b. Observatory/Loaner Scope Report: Both star parties canceled. Equipment remains excellent. Social distancing cannot be accommodated in the Lipp Observatory – I have canceled the April star parties. Have brought back a Celestron SPC8 from near death, circa fall '84 to spring '85. Dave Decker assisted. A nice 8" SCT on a GEM with control knobs. Added to the loaner scope inventory. The Meade 2080 8" SCT with excellent fork mount needs a similar cleaning. Plan on selling this one with a ton of 80's vintage imaging gear.
- c. Private Pad Report: No Report
- d. Program Meetings Report: The April meeting will be held via Zoom and Steve H. is scrambling to rearrange the schedule and speakers because of the social distancing requirements. We're hoping to record the meeting and post it to the cloud so it can be viewed by those who can't attend the meeting live.
- e. AISIG Report: No meeting in March, next meeting is scheduled for 4/24 via Zoom with Stuart Foreman.
- f. Newsletter Report: Current issue looks good with nothing new to report.
- g. Website Report: Nothing new, but cancellations are being posted as needed.
- h. Social Media Report: No report
- i. Outreach Report: As we suspected last month, the COVID-19 situation has severely impacted the SDAA Outreach Program. Our last completed event was held on March 9. Since that time all outreach activities have been cancelled in compliance with Federal and State guidelines. We fortunately completed (4) events prior to that date, and the numbers are listed below.

Most school districts, public and private institutions, colleges and universities throughout San Diego have cancelled all campus student activities for the remainder of this school year. They are all currently implementing on-line, distance learning programs, which require extensive investment in personnel time, organizational changes, and technology infrastructure. The San Diego Unified School District is in the process of providing Chromebook computers and/or broadband Internet access to any of their 140,000, K-12 students who request such assistance. The 3-week Transition period will run from Monday, April 6, until Monday April 27. At that time, they hope to have the distance learning program fully operational. With this investment completed, it is not likely that they will return to a standard classroom format anytime soon.

The impact of such social paradigm shift to our Outreach Program is devastating. Our current school programs all require classroom and/or evening gatherings providing a “hands on” approach for students to use telescopes to view the sky. We do not currently know how to host “hands-on” learning activities via a virtual classroom format.

We will probably have a better opportunity to partially restore our Public events, hosted by local parks and campgrounds. When such public venues are cleared to again host gatherings, we will hopefully be there as a partner, to begin restructuring the astronomy program.

So, the SDAA outreach Program will be non-operational for the foreseeable future.



San Diego Astronomy Association

Totals for March

Totals for Month:	Events Completed	4
	Events Cancelled	14
	Public Attendance	235
	Private Attendance	135
	Total Attendance	370
	Mem Support	19
Average:	Mem/Event	4.75

Year to Date since January 1

Completed Events since January 1:	29
Cancelled Events since January 1:	21
Events Scheduled since January 1:	50
Public Attendees since Jan 1:	962
Private Attendees since Jan 1:	1727
Total Attendees since Jan 1:	2689

- j. TARO Report: Nothing to report due to the bad weather.
- k. Merchandise Report: Nothing to report.
- l. Cruzen Report: North roof works great. Dennis installed new power and open/close switches as well as the limit switches. Just need to adjust limit switch positions. South roof binds up in a few places, and the motor is catching on the roof structure. Needs work. Dennis will install the power, open/close and limit switches soon. Still need to polar align the Cassegrain. Just need some decent weather.
- m. Astronomical League Report: No report
- n. JSF Report: No report

6. Old Business

- a. Summer Astrofest/Gala/Bash is questionable due to the current social distancing requirements and Gene will reach out to the Natural History Museum for updates.
- b. Solar Grid Updates – nothing new
- c. Site grading still needs to be done, will continue to look for a contractor
- d. Spring clean-up and BBQ planned for May will probably be cancelled due to the social distancing requirements. The combinations on the locks at TDS will be changed soon so watch the newsletter and email for updates.
- e. Modifications to a planned observatory on pad 14 were discussed and Dave W will contact the pad holder with board concerns and input
- f. Still looking for a Corresponding Secretary

7. New Business

- a. Discussed the use of Zoom to hold virtual membership meetings

8. Adjournment

Adjourned at 8:28pm.



San Diego Astronomy Association

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE 2020 Update

ALCon 2020 Postponement to 2021

Submitted by solar on Sun Apr 5, 2020 04:03 pm MDT

As of 4/3/2020, ALCon 2020 has been postponed to August 4-7, 2021, as ALCon 2021.

ALCon 2021 will be held at the Embassy Suites-Albuquerque. Revised information for ALCon 2021 will be published soon.

Refunds will be made for all who have registered for ALCon 2020.

Attention Amazon shoppers!

Did you know that you and your family's purchases on Amazon.com can give back to the San Diego Astronomy Association? Bookmark this link on your family's devices and, when you shop, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the SDAA:



<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0183640>

The AmazonSmile Foundation sends donations quarterly and to-date we've received over \$500 from member purchases since the beginning of our participation. It's a great way to support the SDAA's outreach programs.



San Diego Astronomy Association

COVID Corner: Desktop Citizen Science

While you are waiting for the “all clear”, you can still enjoy astronomy from your home even in quarantine. There are gobs of online opportunities for citizen science from your laptop or desktop.

Zooniverse: [<https://www.zooniverse.org/>]

Maybe the best-known place for crowd sourcing scientific observations, its participants are making real contributions to science online. You can find projects ranging from the **Solar Stormwatch** and **Planet Four**, to **Planet Hunters TESS**, to **SuperWASP Variable Stars** and the **Galaxy Zoo Clump Scout**. Get involved and see why NASA now recognizes Zooniverse as a credible source for scientific discovery.

The MicroObservatory [<https://mo-www.cfa.harvard.edu/MicroObservatory/>]

NASA has sponsored this Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics website and observatories for citizen science for over two decades. Explore the Observing with NASA site to see how you can do your own free observations, join the daily Astro Chats that interest you, or try DIY Planet Search.

Remote Observing and Distance Learning

Each of these organizations offer astronomy training and education online and most have free or low cost remote observing services.

- [Global Hands-On Universe project](#)
- [Las Cumbres Observatory Education & Outreach](#)
- [Global Telescope Network](#)
- [Telescope.org](#)
- [iTelescope.net](#)
- [Slooh](#)

Meetings and Conferences

Organizations are doing virtual conferences in the next few months. Here are some that you may have wanted to attend and now can do so in your pajamas from home ☺:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • American Astronomical Society | June 1-3 |
| • Society for Astronomical Sciences | May 30+ (new calendar in process) |
| • Astronomical Society of the Pacific | Events monthly |



San Diego Astronomy Association

2020 Star Party Schedule

Date	Hours	Type	Sunset	Twilight	Moonrise(set)	Illumination
5/23/2020	8:30 to 11:30 PM	Member	7:46 PM	9:23 PM	(8:56 PM)	1%
6/13/2020	8:30 to 11:30 PM	Public	7:57 PM	9:39 PM	1:52 AM	47%
6/20/2020	8:30 to 11:30 PM	Member	7:59 PM	9:41 PM	5:59 AM	0%
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



An SDAA member enjoying the late night hours at TDS, April 24/25, 2020



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	-Vacant-	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 Hakozaki	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

NASA Night Sky Notes

May 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!

Become a Citizen Scientist with NASA!

David Prosper

Ever want to mix in some science with your stargazing, but not sure where to start? NASA hosts a galaxy of citizen science programs that you can join! You'll find programs perfect for dedicated astronomers and novices alike, from reporting aurora, creating amazing images from real NASA data, searching for asteroids, and scouring data from NASA missions from the comfort of your home. If you can't get to your favorite stargazing spot, then NASA's suite of citizen science programs may be just the thing for you.

Jupiter shines brightly in the morning sky this spring. If you'd rather catch up on sleep, or if your local weather isn't cooperating, all you need is a space telescope - preferably one in orbit around Jupiter! Download raw images straight from the Juno mission, and even process and submit your favorites, on the **JunoCam** website! You may have seen some incredible images from Juno in the news, but did you know that these images were created by enthusiasts like yourself? Go to their website and download some sample images to start your image processing journey. Who knows where it will take you? Get started at bit.ly/nasajunocam

Interested in hunting for asteroids? Want to collaborate with a team to find them?? The **International Astronomical Search Collaboration** program matches potential asteroid hunters together into teams throughout the year to help each other dig into astronomical data in order to spot dim objects moving in between photos. If your team discovers a potential asteroid that is later confirmed, you may even get a chance to name it! Join or build a team and search for asteroids at iasc.cosmosearch.org

Want to help discover planets around other star systems? NASA's TESS mission is orbiting the Earth right now and scanning the sky for planets around other stars. It's accumulating a giant horde of data, and NASA scientists need your help to sift through it all to find other worlds! You can join **Planet Hunters TESS** at: planethunters.org

Intrigued by these opportunities? These are just a few of the many ways to participate in NASA citizen science, including observing your local environment with the GLOBE program, reporting aurora with Aurorasaurus, measuring snowpack levels, training software for Mars missions – even counting penguins! Discover more opportunities at science.nasa.gov/citizenscience and join the NASA citizen science Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/Sciencing/ And of course, visit nasa.gov to find the latest discoveries from all the research teams at NASA!



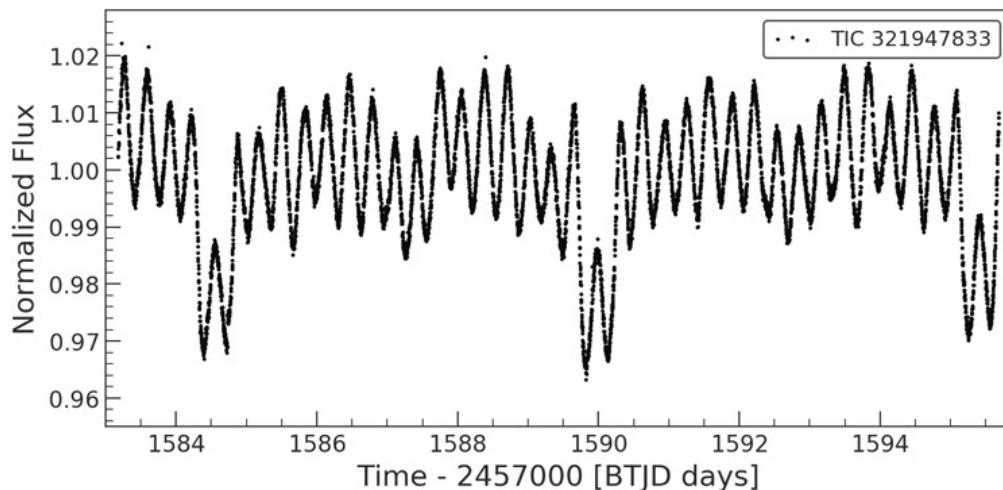
San Diego Astronomy Association

NASA Night Sky Notes

May 2020



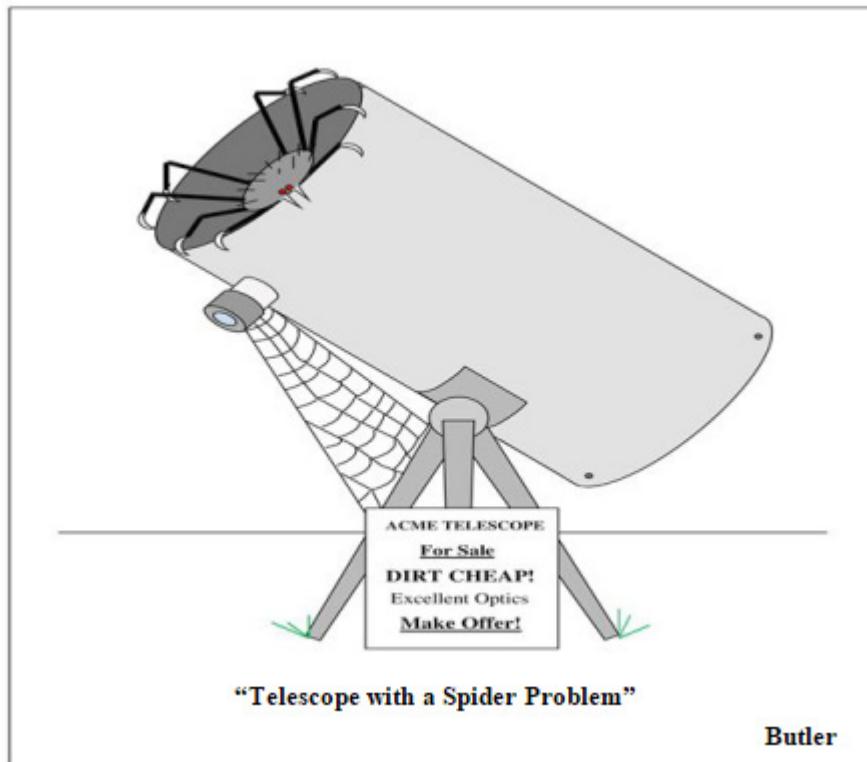
GREAT SOUTHERN JUPITER: Incredible image of Jupiter, submitted to the JunoCam site by Kevin M. Gill. Full Credits : NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS/Kevin M. Gill



Light curve of a binary star system containing a pulsating (variable) star, as spotted on Planet Hunters TESS by user mhuten and featured by project scientist Nora Eisner as a “Light Curve of the Week.” Credit: Planet Hunters TESS/NASA/mhuten/Nora Eisner



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.