

San Diego Astronomy Association

Celebrating Over 50 Years of Astronomical Outreach



January 2025

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

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

Next SDAA Business Meeting

January 14th at 7:00pm

Via Zoom

Next Program Meeting

January 11th

Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa &
Marina
1441 Quivira Rd, San Diego



CONTENTS

January 2025, Vol LXIII, Issue 1
Published Monthly by the
San Diego Astronomy Association
Incorporated in California in 1963
Program Meeting/Banquet....1
December Minutes.....4
Night Sky Charts.....13
Astronomical League16
Private Pad News.....18
SDAA Contacts.....19
NASA Night Sky Notes...20
TDS 2025 Star Party Schedule...24

Annual Banquet January 11th 2025

2025 SDAA BANQUET REGISTRATION

Click [HERE](#) to register

Newsletter Deadline

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

Link to SDAA Merchandise 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



We're excited to announce that the annual SDAA banquet will be held at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, 1441 Quivira Rd, on January 11, 2025. This year the Board opted to reduce ticket prices to only \$65 per person!

The evening begins with a no-host cocktail hour from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, which will be the perfect opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. It's also a great time to look at auction items and buy raffle tickets!

Our dinner and program meeting will be from 6:00 to 7:00, followed by our guest speaker, world renowned astroimager Adam Block. Adam has won over 100 NASA APOD awards. His presentation is titled "Ancient Echoes of a Forgotten Sky". This will give us a view of the night sky through the eyes of one of the best astroimagers on Earth! This will NOT be a class on PixInsight, Photoshop, or how to autoguide!

Raffle tickets are only sold at the event and winner must be present to claim and win.

We have some amazing raffle items! As of today, we will have:

- one ZWO SeeStar \$500 value
- one ZWO 2600 MC Duo \$1800 value
- one ZWO Air Plus 256G \$300 value
- Astro-tech UWA eyepiece set \$400 value
- Astrotech XWA eyepiece set \$860 value
- Explore Scientific eyepiece set \$720 value

Raffle items include the following gift cards:

- \$500 Woodland Hills Telescope
- \$500 Agena Astro
- \$500 Southwest airlines
- 2 \$100 doordash
- \$100 [Blue Bridge](#) dining at several restaurants in Coronado
- \$100 at the [Cohn Family Restaurant Group](#)



San Diego Astronomy Association

We will continue to post information about our sweepstakes and auction items, so stay tuned!

<https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/1310ef/Campaign/Details>

If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation to help us with our mission, please click here: [Donate Now](#)

More details on how to donate items for the auction will be provided soon.

For those wanting to turn this event into a staycation, discounted room rates are available for \$179.

Free street parking is available. Paid valet or self parking in the resort lot is also an option.

Want to volunteer at the Banquet? Have other questions? Please email Mike Chasin at treasurer@sdaa.org.

We have a lot more to do and your participation and generosity is key to our success! If for some reason you can't attend, please consider making a donation to keep SDAA moving forward! Tickets will not be refundable after January 4, 2025.

Wishing you clear skies,

Your SDAA Board of Directors



San Diego Astronomy Association

San Diego Astronomy Association Board of Directors Meeting December 10, 2024 – Unapproved and subject to revision

1. Call to Order

The meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:03pm with the following board members in attendance: Dave Decker, President; Bee Pagarigan, Vice President; Mike Chasin, Treasurer; Gene Burch, Recording Secretary; David Wood, Corresponding Secretary; Gracie Schutze, Director, Kin Searcy, Director; and members Prascilla Morquecho, Woody Schlom, Jennifer Koles, Paul Krizak, Hiro Hakozaki, Brian McFarland, Sonny Adams, Nowell Helms, Jeff Herman, Kristina Miller, Jim Traweek, Ross Salinger (incoming Director), Jerry Hilburn (incoming Director) and Drew Konig (incoming Director).

Dave Decker welcomed all the guests and thanked them for joining.

2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

The November meeting minutes were approved.

3. Treasurers & Membership Report

The Treasurer's report was approved. Mike reported that we paid out the following:

- Banquet Coordinator Hello California! \$22,410 deposit
- Green Acre \$2,988 for Program meeting
- Reimburse Krizak \$100 loaner scope repairs
- State AG Raffle application paid \$50
- SD County Property Tax paid \$14

He also reported that membership dropped a bit, but mostly due to a more aggressive approach to purging members whose membership is over 60 past due. The budget is generally on track and interest income is up a bit. We are expecting to incur a loss of about \$10,000 on the banquet, but this planned. Since July, the SDAA Foundation has already earned about \$265,000 in interest.

4. Standard Reports

a. Site Maintenance Report:

- Power has been restored to the LIPP/Warming building, bathrooms, and public pads.
- Private Pads to be inspected and identified with respective numbers on a date TBD by Private Pad Committee Members.
- Clarify TDS Rules to prohibit use of power strips and extension cords to extend power from powered receptacles to the private pad area.
- Member feedback survey for grid rebuild in-progress
- West Main Gate post found damaged. Repaired by members to proper operational state.
- Request from Pat and Grady Boyce, pad 1&2 owners, are looking for permission/guidance to install radio astronomy telescopes. It was recommended that they coordinate with Kurt Klinghorn and the new Radio Astronomy Special Interest Group. They will need to look at a way to power the site and are looking at ways to do that.



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b. Observatory:

We continue to have excellent star parties. DSC's and the tablet continue to work flawlessly.

c. Loaner Scope Report:

20 loaner items are currently out. 3 loaner items were returned in November; 3 were checked out.

A large set of donations came in during November. Many of the items will be routed to the banquet auction, but some will stay with the loaner program:

- Lacerta MGEN Autoguider
- Celestron tripod anti-vibration pads
- 40mm Explore Scientific 68 degree (added to SDAA-056)
- 17mm Vixen LVW (added to SDAA-058)
- 8mm Vixen LVW (added to SDAA-058)
- Celestron C8 with Vixen and Losmandy dovetails, dew shield, and 2" dielectric William Optics diagonal
- iOptron MiniTower II with iOptron battery counterweight, Pelican case, etc. Pairs with Celestron C8 above.
- (Parts) Celestron EdgeHD T-adapter (big!!)
- (Parts) Meade SCT T-adapter
- (TDS) 2x folding tables

The MGEN Autoguider will probably be incorporated into SDAA-032 to make that loaner kit entirely self-sufficient (no computer required). It already has the Canon DSLR with an intervalometer (so no computer needed for image capture). Replacing the Lodestar guide camera with the MGEN autoguider will allow autoguiding via the ST-4 port without a computer or needing to learn how to use PHD-2.

The C8 and MiniTower II will be configured similarly to SDAA-036. I will likely request funding to purchase a planetary camera for this setup so that we have two fully equipped planetary imaging setups.

Both LX-90s (SDAA-004 and SDAA-038) have reports of various issues -- most lessees have not been particularly happy with either of these scopes. The LX-90 platform is not particularly user-friendly and seems to be difficult for beginners to complete alignment successfully. One LX-90 is out of rotation for maintenance (the tripod needs some work) and the other will be removed from rotation when returned, due to what seems to be a firmware corruption issue.

SDAA-050 (SBIG ST-10XME) remains unavailable because the filter wheel is not working reliably enough to loan it out. I need to find more time to troubleshoot it.

Paul requested funding for a Hotech collimator to be used in the loaner scope program and suggested it could be loaned out to members who need to collimate their telescopes. He estimated a cost of about \$700 which was approved.



San Diego Astronomy Association

Storage Facility

I still need to procure a flat cart with the remaining budget, as we can't necessarily count on the storage facility's flat carts to be available when needed. Not having a cart nearly ended up biting us at one of November's meetups at the facility.

d. Private Pad Report:

No change. People seem to be waiting for a resolution on the power issues before committing.

SDAA Private Pad Policy Review Committee

Gracie/Mark/Bill/Bee

Tasks to be completed by Committee

- Website private pad photos, visible to public, need to be updated.
- A photo catalog of the inside of private pad structures to be completed to satisfy annual audit of structures per current lease agreement statement 6 and 10 (photos will not be posted publicly).
- Method to track remote pad owner annual usage.
- Clarification of pad transfer process to ensure waiting list is honored.
- Identify all pads with reflective numbers posted on a permanent rebar stake or similar
- Inspection and evaluation report of all pad areas

Ongoing tasks completed and in progress since Friday, September 7, 2024, 7PM meeting

- Begin review/revision of SDAA Private Pad related documents (Lease, Pad Site Development & Regulation, TDS Rules, and Pad Offering Letter.
- Work alongside newly formed Private Observatory Committee to harmonize language where feasible.
- Employ terms and language as advised by legal consultation
- Mark Smith to load all pertinent docs into the BoD Google Workspace and will attempt to make all or most editable by Tuesday, 9/10/24.
- Addressed long term loss of power to private pads and club obligations to provide such per lease agreement.
- Discussed purchasing a fleet of power banks for members to sign-out when at TDS, however obstacles such as proper storage (lease restrictions at current storage unit, need for temp control/security at TDS, to prevent hazards such as thermal run-away, as well as needing to establish admin control for sign-outs and ensuring units are maintained were too much to overcome.
- The agreed upon solution is to refund private pad lessees one full year rate at \$70. Lessees who have been operating their observatories apart from the grid are exempt from this refund. Mark Smith believes the number of exempt pads is five or six but will confirm.
- Once refund is complete, members must supply their own method of powering their equipment which does not include running power strips, or extension cords from any powered receptacle at TDS. This practice, along with all others that pose a fire hazard to TDS, will be prohibited.



San Diego Astronomy Association

- All policies are currently under review and revision via Google Workspace by committee members. Goal is to work alongside Private Observatory to finalize.

Board Action

1. Refund eligible private pad lessees \$70 upon request
- e. Program Meetings Report:

Tasks Completed

- The October program speaker featured Andrew Boden, Topic - Astronomical Interferometry – talk was very well received and attended. Considering having Andy return for the Spring/Summer 2025 in-person meeting. Suggested Venue: SD Natural History Museum
- The 2024 program meeting closes out with the annual member gadget-night which will be held both in-person and virtually. SDAA members are invited to take the floor to share their favorite new toy/tool/idea, etc. on November 20, 2024. The candidates running for open board seats for the 2025 Election are announced at this meeting. An opportunity is provided for candidates to be nominated from the floor.
- The initial quote for reserving the Green Acre Treehouse Foyer/Salon A was 5.9K which was not approved. The Board decided 5K would be acceptable. The quote was negotiated for the final cost of \$4916.63. A deposit was made to secure the venue. Green Acres is conveniently located in the UTC area (off I5 and Genesee) with plenty of parking. Restaurant staff will set up the conference room, provide snack/drink options, and run all the AV and streaming services. All attendees must RSVP one week before the event. Green Acre applied numerous discounts to include SDAA's non-profit status.
- If we choose to establish an ongoing relationship with Green Acre they will also permit smaller SDAA outreach gatherings during happy hour at the regular restaurant and bar such as “Two Astronomers Walk Into a Bar”, and similar. Green Acre/Treehouse Foyer was selected because it sits within renowned Alexandria Real Estate Equities, mega clusters of dense, life science and high-tech businesses, constantly growing, with great outreach potential for SDAA. It also fit in nicely with the heat map of member zip codes produced for our Big Reveal Event to identify a central location to achieve greatest club member participation. Alexandria is currently building a new 427,000 sq ft laboratory science building and adding to the already rich amenities available to include event venues that will accommodate 800 attendees. Project is slated for completion in 2026.
- We also hope to attract curious Green Acre Happy Hour customers dropping by to check out our gadgets and by extension, our club.
- The Green Acre venue was very well-received by members. No negative comments were noted for venue location or parking. Many said they would like to return for future meetings/events.

Board Action

- Move March 2025 in-person meeting to June or later – approved by the Board.
- Discuss forming a *Program Location Vetting Team/Committee* in 2025



San Diego Astronomy Association

Suggestions for Program Meeting Venues by Members

1. SD Natural History Museum – John Downing is the contact (We've done this before)
2. Brian McFarland - Pricing options for a Missions Valley venue, 2.5K to \$3350

f. AISIG Report:

No AISIG meetings are scheduled until February 2025. Still looking for presenters.

g. Newsletter Report:

Nothing new to report this month, but as always Andrea is doing a great job.

h. Website Report:

The new SDAA documents, (Articles of Incorporation, By Laws, and Policy Statements) are now online at <https://sdaa.org/sdaa-documents/>. I changed the file names to be more consistent with the other file names (e.g., "SDAA Conflict of Interest Policy" instead of "Conflict of Interest Policy (SDAA)_FINAL"). The other documents have a short description of each document. These don't, but the names are self-explanatory.

i. Social Media:

SDAA Social Media Committee Charter Members – Morquecho, Pagarigan, Flynn

SDAA Social Media Committee Charter – WIP, overall goal is to increase SDAA club exposure to draw interest and increase membership

Work in Progress (Board Review)

1. Monitored social media groups are Facebook, Instagram, Threads, YouTube, Google io.groups
2. Google.io groups "Group Rules" requirement similar to Facebook Rules agreement
3. Prescreen repeat violators' submissions

Social Media Admins

Facebook: (Pagarigan/Flynn limited Admin)

Instagram/Threads: (TBD)

YouTube: (Unknown)

Google io.groups: (Vander Vorst)

Tasks Completed

- Many new members approved weekly for access to the SDAA Private FB Group
- Added instructions to use SDAA club name when applying for access
- Business plan is work in progress for new podcast/vodcast to be hosted by Pagarigan/Morquecho. Overall goal is to modernize method to inform new and existing members about club assets (TDS, Telescope Loaner Program, Outreach Events, etc.), introduce Astronomy 101 topics



San Diego Astronomy Association

featuring in-house experts, and feature veteran club members in mini-interviews. Content ideas will be dynamic/spontaneous.

- Green Acre Venue secured, free of charge, to attend all weekly Happy Hours for club outreach. A table/chairs for club members will be provided.
- Board Action
- Approve \$200 for (at least two) lapel microphones for recording podcast events. The request was approved.

j. Outreach Report:

November was a very typical month. Two events were cancelled because of weather; Sycamore Canyon West on November 15th and K.Q. Ranch on November 30th. There were only two schools this month, both very successful. Our forces were split between Stars-in-the-Park and Solana Santa Fe Elementary School, both completed with enough SDAA volunteer astronomers. Our annual visit to San Diego Children's Discovery Museum on November 16th was a hit too, with a record-breaking turnout of SDAA astronomers to show the children and their parents the night sky. Saturn was the 'Star' that night with the children amazed at the rings. Perhaps the most successful event was the 'in-person' SDAA program meeting on November 20th which featured the ever popular 'Gadget Night' at Green Acre Restaurant. The social hour prior to the meeting provided quality time to meet and greet old friends and make new ones over the assorted hors d'oeuvres. There were ten people who came forward with their gadgets to share with their SDAA members. What a great event our Vice President, Bee Pagarigan planned for us.

Here are the numbers for November:

	2024	Previous Total	November	YTD
Completed		67	7	74
Canceled		30	3	33
Total Attendance		6012	889	6901

k. TARO Report:

TARO is operational and accepting new imaging requests

- 1) TARO has been operationally stable since Jeff Herman installed the latest software update.
- 2) 4 projects have been completed
- 3) 1 new project has been added
- 4) Total imaging time for the current target list is 140 hours



San Diego Astronomy Association

I. Cruzen Report:

Cruzen was reserved zero times in November. The facility remains in working order as far as I am aware.

The tube rings for the Zerochromat refractor have been moved to the TDS storage container. They are in a cardboard box sitting on top of the Zerochromat OTA case. There are two related, but orthogonal tasks that need to be performed:

- The Zerochromat needs to be mounted on *any* mount and tested on a clear dark night. Does it deliver a **visual** experience on par with the TOA-130? If so, then we should proceed with a plan to replace the TOA-130 in Cruzen with the Zerochromat. The Losmandy G11 should have no problem carrying the Zerochromat, so assuming the new scope is up to snuff, getting it into use should not be a huge ordeal.
- The Celestron CGX (which is intended to replace the Losmandy G11 in Cruzen) needs to be repaired and tested. This isn't directly dependent on the Cruzen director; any experienced/skilled member could assist with this. If a member wants to volunteer to work on getting the CGX mount working, it's sitting in the Conex box on top of the Zerochromat case.

The next round of Cruzen training will probably be early next year. Ross Salinger has accepted the position of Cruzen Observatory Director and Paul will work with him on the transition.

m. Merchandise Report:

Gene reported that he sent out a pre-order form for merchandise and got a fair response. He will be ordering more inventory tomorrow from T-Shirt Mart.

n. Astronomical League Report:

Nothing new at this time.

o. JSF Report:

Nothing new at this time.

p. Grid: Discussion, Options, Mitigation:

1) A Neal Electric "new customer" form has been filled out and returned to Neal Electric for processing.

2) The first contracts supplied by Neal Electric have been reviewed by our Lawyer. He had questions regarding 2 sections (Section E -Permits, Licenses and fees, Section G - Adverse concealed conditions) and suggested a revision of Section J -(Delay damages). Those questions and contract edits were sent back to Neal Electric for comment. Neal's response to those revisions are currently under review.



San Diego Astronomy Association

q. 2024 BoD Election Nomination Committee, November 2024 Pagarigan

Nominating Committee Candidates

- Bee Pagarigan (Chair – appointed by Dave Decker, elected by BoD)
- Mark Smith – elected by membership via Election Buddy
- Dorothy Wood – elected by membership via Election Buddy

Tasks completed

1. Committee recommends instructing membership to send candidacy statements via email to SDAA VP by deadline, 11/17/24.
2. Confirm open positions – Director x4, President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary
3. Candidates solicited from the floor at 11/20/24 program meeting; no one named
4. 13 candidates vetted and push through to election
5. Election held/completed on 11/29/24 (Thanks to Mike Chasin for setting up Election Buddy)
6. Committee thanked and disbanded

The new officers are:

Dave Decker – President

Mike Chasin – Treasurer

Recording Secretary – Kin Searcy

Directors:

Gracie Schutze

Ross Salinger

Jerry Hilburn

Drew Konig

5. Old Business:

- a. Cruzen Director Status – Ross Salinger has taken the position. Many thanks to Paul Krizak for heading up the project for so long. Decker
- b. Election Results – see section Q. Decker
- c. The banquet committee is working on finalizing the menu, and getting donations for the raffle and auction items. Paul presented a list of items he'd like to purchase for the raffle/auction and the Board approved those items with a budget of \$6,500.

6. New Business:

- a. Strategic Planning – Kin presented a second draft proposal for a strategic planning process, under continual development. The draft was well received and will be a work in progress. This project will be a phased approach, to include a member poll. Searcy



San Diego Astronomy Association

- b. Strategic Plan Member Input – Jerry presented a draft membership questionnaire to support our strategic plan development. This document will be sent to all members via Wild Apricot. Hilburn
- The Board also agreed to set up a website for the SDAA Foundation for posting documents and in support of the strategic plan development. Jerry offered to set up such a website for the SDAAF and the Board approved funding for a domain name and hosting, as well as up to \$500 for necessary software.
- c. Telescope Build Member Completion – delayed Krizak
- d. We received a Notice of Defensible Space inspection from Cal-Fire. After some discussion, Gracie agreed to contact the Cal-Fire inspector to find out exactly what they want done. Decker
- e. Radio Astronomy Proposal – Delayed Decker
- f. Zoom account upgrade – Dave W said we currently have only one license for Zoom, which isn't enough as we expand our use of Zoom. We can upgrade to 9 for about \$16 per month. Wood
- g. Where to post Foundation Documents and Policies – Dave said we need to have a place to store and post documents and policies of the SDAA Foundation. It was agreed that the foundation should have its own website and Jerry Hilburn agreed to work on setting up a website for the foundation and the Board authorized funding of up to \$250 for the project. Decker
- f. Other New business – none Decker

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

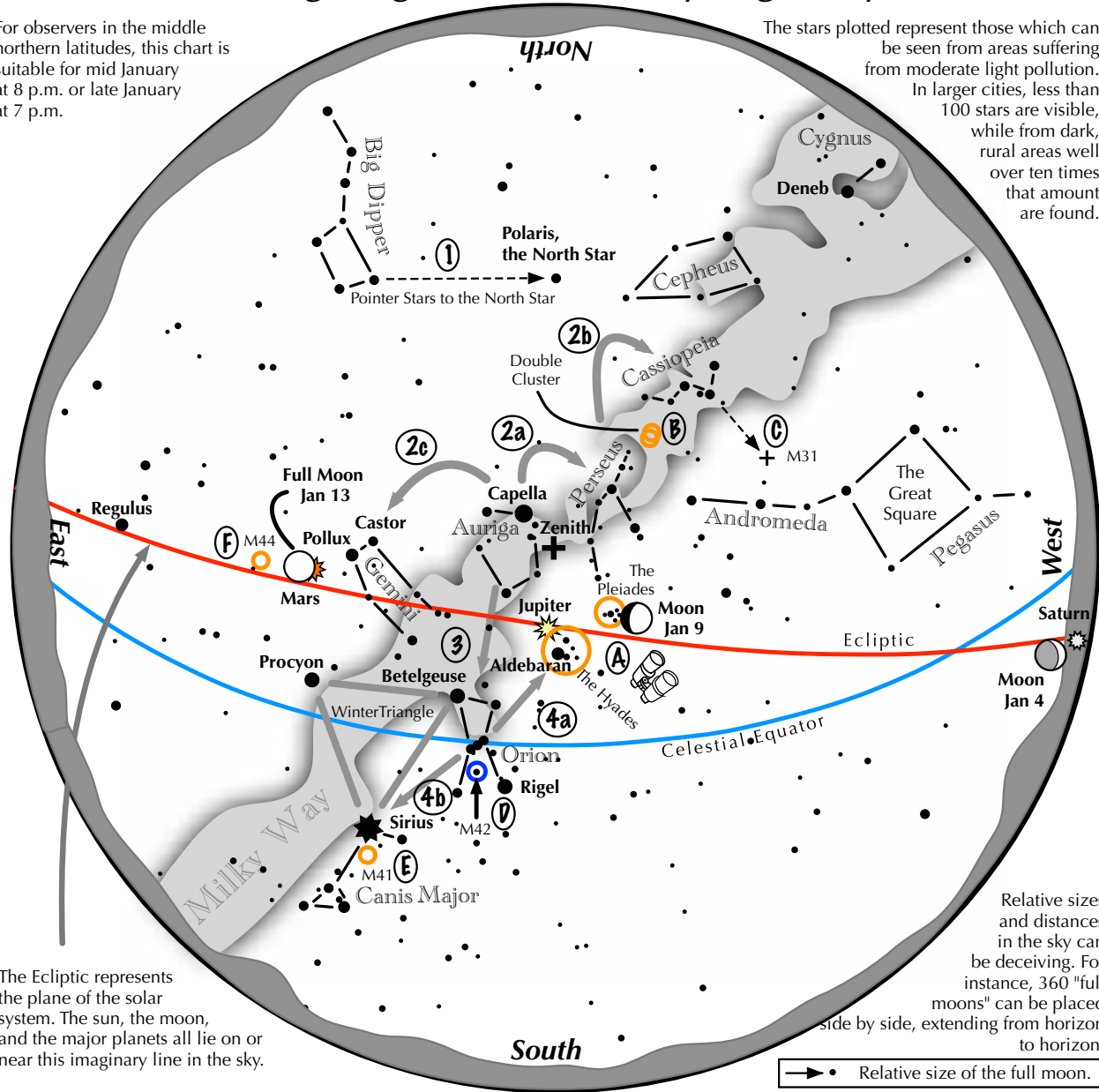


San Diego Astronomy Association

Navigating the mid January Night Sky

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for mid January at 8 p.m. or late January at 7 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the winter night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Above the northeast horizon rises the Big Dipper. Draw a line from its two end bowl stars upwards to the North Star.
- 2 Face south. Overhead twinkles the bright star Capella in Auriga. Jump northwestward along the Milky Way first to Perseus, then to the "W" of Cassiopeia. Next Jump southeastward from Capella to the twin stars Castor and Pollux of Gemini.
- 3 Directly south of Capella stands the constellation of Orion with its three Belt Stars, its bright red star Betelgeuse, and its bright blue-white star, Rigel.
- 4 Use Orion's three Belt stars to point to the red star Aldebaran, then to the Hyades, and the Pleiades star clusters. Travel southeast from the Belt stars to the brightest star in the night sky, Sirius.

Binocular Highlights

A: Examine the stars of the Pleiades and Hyades, two naked eye star clusters. **B:** Between the "W" of Cassiopeia and Perseus lies the Double Cluster. **C:** The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval. **D:** M42 in Orion is a star forming nebula. **E:** Look south of Sirius for the star cluster M41. **F:** M44, a star cluster barely visible to the naked eye, lies to the southeast of Pollux.



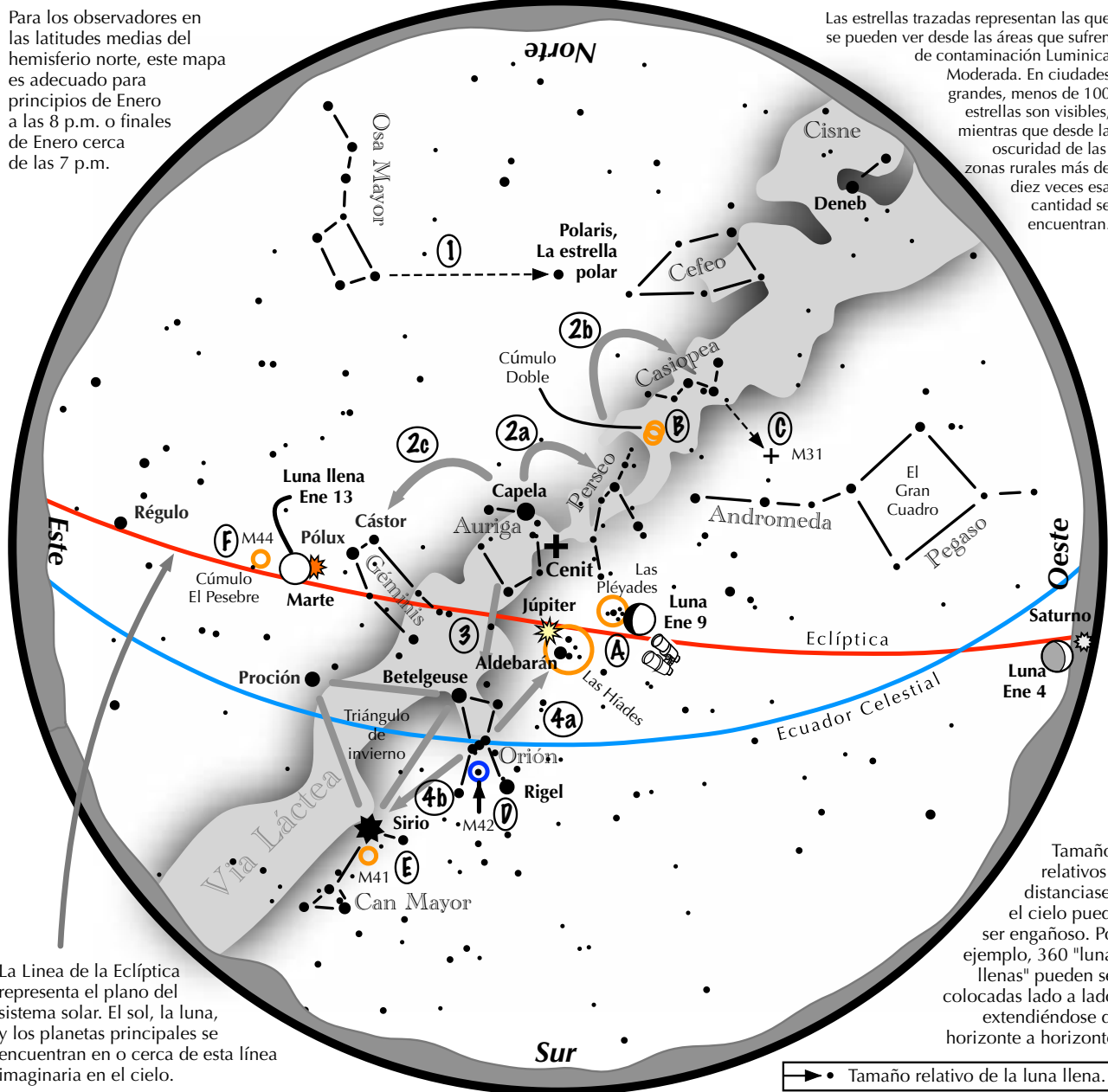


San Diego Astronomy Association

Navegando por el cielo nocturno de Enero

Para los observadores en las latitudes medias del hemisferio norte, este mapa es adecuado para principios de Enero a las 8 p.m. o finales de Enero cerca de las 7 p.m.

Las estrellas trazadas representan las que se pueden ver desde las áreas que sufren de contaminación Luminica Moderada. En ciudades grandes, menos de 100 estrellas son visibles, mientras que desde la oscuridad de las zonas rurales más de diez veces esa cantidad se encuentran.



La línea de la Eclíptica representa el plano del sistema solar. El sol, la luna, y los planetas principales se encuentran en o cerca de esta línea imaginaria en el cielo.

Tamaños relativos y distancias en el cielo puede ser engañoso. Por ejemplo, 360 "lunas llenas" pueden ser colocadas lado a lado, extendiéndose de horizonte a horizonte.

→ • Tamaño relativo de la luna llena.

Navegando por el cielo nocturno: simplemente comience con lo que sabe o con lo que puede encontrar fácilmente.

- 1 Sobre el horizonte noreste se alza la Osa Mayor. Dibuja una línea desde sus dos estrellas finales hasta la estrella polar.
- 2 Desde Capela, salte hacia el noroeste a lo largo de la Vía Láctea hacia Perseo, luego hacia la "W" de Casiopea. Siguiente salto hacia el sureste desde Capela a las estrellas gemelas de Cástor y Pólux en Géminis.
- 3 Directamente al sur de Capela se encuentra la constelación de Orión con sus tres estrellas del Cinturón de Orión, su brillante estrella roja Betelgeuse y su brillante estrella azul-blanca Rigel.
- 4 Usa las tres estrellas del Cinturón de Orión para apuntar al noroeste hacia la estrella roja Aldebarán y el cúmulo estelar Híades, y luego hacia el cúmulo estelar de las Pléyades. Viaja hacia el sudeste desde las estrellas del cinturón hasta la estrella más brillante en el cielo nocturno, Sirio.

Puntos destacados con binoculares

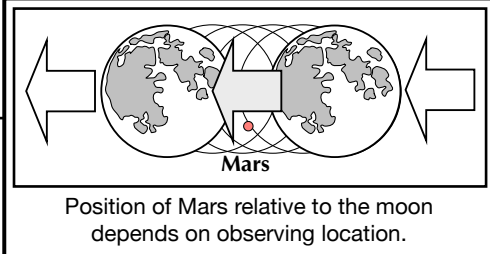
A: Examina las estrellas de las Pléyades y las Híades. **B:** Entre la "W" de Casiopea y Perseo se encuentra el Doble Cúmulo. **C:** Las tres estrellas más occidentales de la "W" de Casiopea apuntan hacia el sur hasta M31, la Galaxia de Andrómeda, un óvalo "borroso." **D:** M42 en Orión es una nebulosa formadora de estrellas. **E:** Mire al sur de Sirio para el cúmulo estelar M41. **F:** M44, un cúmulo de estrellas apenas perceptible a simple vista, se encuentra al sureste de Pollux





San Diego Astronomy Association

If you can see only one celestial event this January, see this one.



Lunar occultation of Mars across the contiguous United States: Jan. 13.
 Extreme southern US sees Mars move behind the southern portion of the moon, and the northern US sees the planet move behind the northern portion of the moon.

Full Moon occults Bright Mars

In the evening hours of **January 13**, the brilliant full moon passes in front of bright Mars, which is near opposition. It may not be easy to spot because of the moon's bright glare!, but give it a try!

Approximate local times of disappearance and reappearance.

Begin viewing ten minutes before your estimated time. Mars' time and position of reappearance is difficult to judge since the planet lies concealed behind the moon beforehand.

City	Disappearance	Reappearance
Albuquerque	6:51 pm	7:52
Augusta	9:29	10:44
Atlanta	9:06	10:13
Boise	7:06	7:49
Boston	9:26	10:42
Chicago	8:08	9:16
Dallas	7:54	8:57
Denver	6:57	7:57
Kansas City	8:00	9:06
Memphis	8:00	9:07
Minneapolis	8:08	9:10
Los Angeles	5:51	6:45
Miami	9:30	9:53
New Orleans	8:00	8:59
New York	9:21	10:37
Phoenix	6:49	7:48
Salt Lake City	6:59	7:52
San Antonio	7:52	8:50
San Diego	5:49	6:45
San Francisco	5:58	6:45
Seattle	6:23	6:39
Washington DC	9:16	10:31

Be sure to use binoculars!

Occultations demonstrate the moon's eastward orbital motion as Earth's rotation causes it to move in a westward arc across the night sky.





San Diego Astronomy Association

Astronomical League Notes

By Mark Smith

The nights are getting cold and the weather will be turning nasty. Not the best nights to be out observing. Or are they? Sure, you probably don't want to set up the telescope, but you may have a remote observatory, have a subscription to iTelescope, or have access to SDAA's TARO system. Heck, you may just want to step outside with a pair of binoculars to take a look around. Fortunately, the Astronomical League has observing programs that cover these topics as well.

I introduced you to the Messier Imaging program a couple of months ago, but the Astronomical League Imaging Programs don't stop there. One of the most in depth is the Foundations of Imaging observing program. This is a challenging program requiring 53 separate images ranging from easy Sun and Moon images to Asteroid, Comet and Dwarf Planet images and 25 Deep Sky images. Even hard core imagers probably don't have work on the shelves that will cover everything required. In addition to the images themselves, you will need to submit information about the images including time and location the image was captured, details about the night sky and equipment, exposure/stacking information, etc. This is definitely not a program for the beginning imager.

If that kind of hard core program isn't what you want to tackle over the winter but you want to do something, consider starting one of the Binocular Observing Programs. There are several, but the Binocular Messier and Binocular Double Star programs can both be largely completed from light polluted back yards. Pick your target, grab your binoculars, and head outside for half an hour to pick up an object or two before heading back inside to a book and some hot chocolate. You won't be able to finish either of the programs over the winter months, but you can make a pretty good dent in both of them.

If you are interested in what you've read, I invite you to explore what the Astronomical League has to offer and use it to help guide or enrich your astronomy. You may even decide to join the next time you renew your SDAA membership. If you have any questions about the Astronomical League, please don't hesitate to contact me at ALCOR@SDAA.org.

Coming next Month – The Private Pads: What's Out There Anyway?

Ever venture out to the private pads and see a lot of brush but not many people? Ever wonder what is out there and if it ever gets used? The club has extensive records both of what is on the pads and how is using them. Next month, I'll take you on a tour of what, where, who, and how much.



Astronomical.League

on Facebook ...

Monthly sky maps,
Observing activities,
AL LIVE sessions,
League news & a whole lot more!



AL YouTube Channel

Observing Program Previews: What a program requires of the Observer.

Our View from Earth: How to find interesting celestial objects in three minutes. Perfect for club viewing.



San Diego Astronomy Association

Private Pad News

by Mark Smith

I've been fielding a lot of questions over the last several months about the status of power on the Private Pads and when it might be back up. Without answers to those questions, people of been reluctant to commit to leasing a Private Pad and current pad holders have been in limbo. The short answer to the questions are that the power is still out on the Private Pads and there is no estimate for when it might be back up. The long answer is more complicated.

The Private Pads as they currently exist weren't planned per se. The pads were built in sections over a period of many years and the electrical grid that supports them grew in sections as well. All you need to do is look at how the pads are numbered in order to get a sense of how the Private Pad section of TDS grew over time. As a new section was developed, a new portion of the electrical grid was grafted onto the existing infrastructure until we got the mess that we have now. When the pads were build, the club provided power to the edge of the pads and the individual pad holder was responsible for wiring each pad. Even though the individual pad wiring was supposed to be approved by the Club before it could be connected do the grid, installation and, more importantly, maintenance quality of the wiring on the individual pads varies greatly. On top of that, when the Private Pads were initially developed, electrical use in astronomy was much more limited that it is today with the proliferation of computers, imaging rigs, trackers, etc. It isn't a surprise that the Private Pad portion of the grid eventually collapsed and had to be shut down for safety reasons.

So where do we stand? Rebuilding the electrical grid for the Private Pads is going to be very expensive so it has been separated from the rebuild of the grid on the rest of the site and will almost certainly happen after the main site upgrade is completed. That means that the Private Pads will certainly be without power for many more months, possibly a year or more. There is also the issue of the design specifications for the Private Pads. How much power is allocated to each pad? Do we assume maximum usage as if every pad were being used at once or some average normal usage rate? Do we allocate power to pads individually or in groups of pads? Given the expense, do we allocate some portion of the private pads to some other use? If so, how do we accommodate the average 350 use nights per year?

This isn't easy and the BOD has been working on the issue for months. In the meantime, annual pad usage requirements have been waived and refunds for the annual pad lease are available on request. We are encouraged to bring portable batteries to our pads if we need power. Please continue to sign in if you are at the site, even if you set up on the Public Pads (they have power) instead of your Private Pad. That way we can tell that pad holders are still using the site in some manner.

I will keep you updated as the project progresses and decisions are made. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at pads@sdaa.org or emarksmi@san.rr.com.



San Diego Astronomy Association

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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.



This article is distributed by NASA's Night Sky Network (NSN).

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

Celebrating 20 Years: Night Sky Network

By Vivian White and Kat Troche

NASA's Night Sky Network is one of the most successful and longstanding grassroots initiatives for public engagement in astronomy education. Started in 2004 with the PlanetQuest program out of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and currently supported by NASA's Science Activation, the Night Sky Network (NSN) is critical in fostering science literacy through astronomy. By connecting NASA science and missions to support amateur astronomy clubs, NSN leverages the expertise and enthusiasm of club members, who bring this knowledge to schools, museums, observatories, and other organizations, bridging the gap between NASA science and the public. Now in its 20th year, NSN supports over 400 astronomy clubs dedicated to bringing the wonder of the night sky to their communities across the U.S. and connecting with 7.4 million people across the United States and its territories since its inception.



International Observe the Moon Night, September 2024. Credit: Oklahoma City Astronomy Club/Dave Huntz



San Diego Astronomy Association

NASA Night Sky Notes

January 2025

Humble Beginnings

It all started with an idea – astronomy clubs already do significant outreach, and club members know a lot about astronomy (shown definitively by founder Marni Berendsen’s research), and they love to talk with the public. How could NASA support these astronomy clubs in sharing current research and ideas through informal activities designed for use in the places where amateur astronomers conduct outreach? Thanks to funding through NASA JPL’s PlanetQuest public engagement program, the Night Sky Network was born in 2004, with more than 100 clubs joining in the first year.



Raynham Public Observing Night, February 2004. Credit: Astronomical Society of Southern New England/Mark Gibson

As quoted from the first NSN news article, "NASA is very excited to be working closely with the amateur astronomy community," said Michael Greene, current Director of Communications and Education and former head of public engagement for JPL's Navigator Program and PlanetQuest initiatives. "Amateurs want more people to look at the sky and understand astronomy, and so do we. Connecting what we do with our missions to the sense of wonder that comes when you look up at the stars and the planets is one of our long-term objectives. We have a strong commitment to inspiring the next generation of explorers. Lending support to the energy that the amateur astronomy community brings to students and the public will allow NASA to reach many more people."



San Diego Astronomy Association

NASA Night Sky Notes

January 2025

Taking off like a rocket, Night Sky Network had over 100 clubs registered on their website within the first year.

The Toolkits

Outreach Toolkits were developed to assist clubs with their endeavors. These kits include educational materials, hands-on activities, and guides for explaining topics in an accessible way. So far, 13 toolkits have been created on topics ranging from the scale of the universe to how telescopes work. To qualify for these free Toolkits, clubs must be active in their communities, hosting two outreach events every three months or five outreach events within a calendar year. Supplemental toolkits were also created based on special events like the solar eclipses and the 50th anniversary of Apollo's Moon landing. A new toolkit is being developed to teach audiences about solar science, and NSN is on track to support clubs well into the future.



Rye Science Day, October 2014. Credit: Southern Colorado Astronomical Society/Malissa Pacheco

NSN also hosts archived video trainings on these toolkits and other topics via its YouTube channel and a [monthly webinar series](#) with scientists from various institutions worldwide. Lastly, a monthly segment called [Night Sky Notes](#) is produced for clubs to share with their audiences via newsletters and mailing lists.



San Diego Astronomy Association

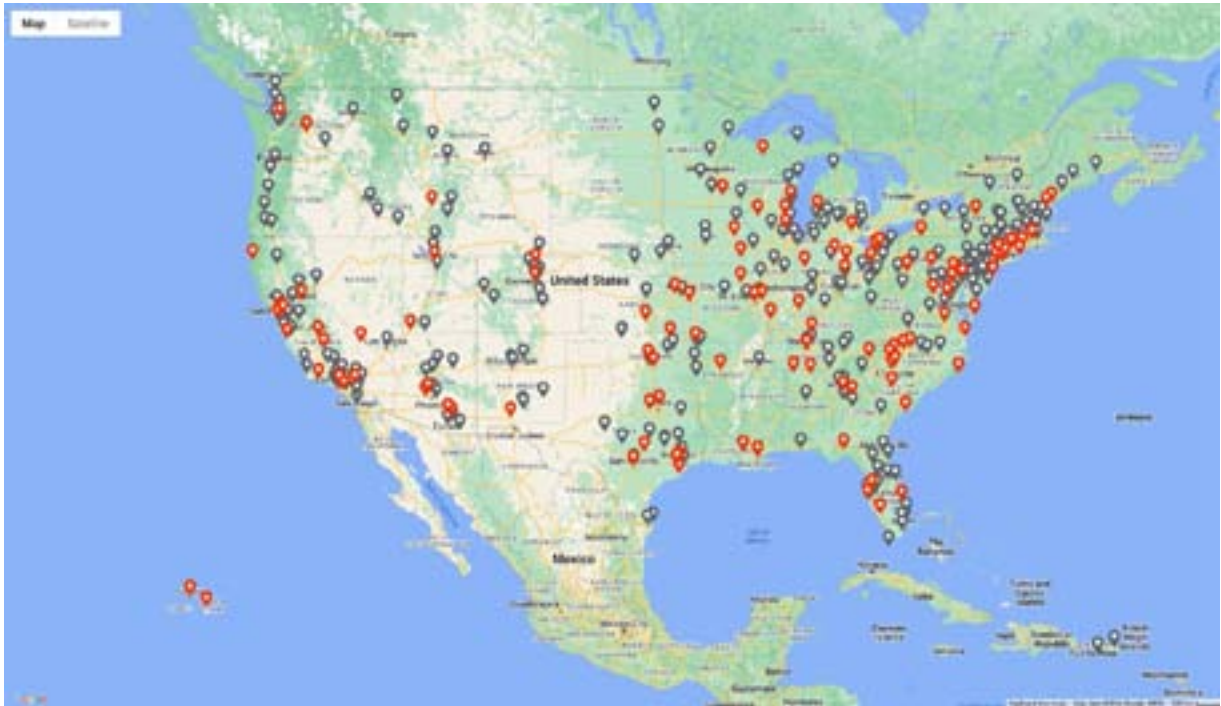
NASA Night Sky Notes

January 2025

Sharing the Universe

In 2007, a National Science Foundation grant funded further research into astronomy club needs. From that came three club resources: the [Growing Your Astronomy Club](#) and Getting Started with Outreach video series, an updated website with a national calendar, and club and event coordination. Now, you can find [hundreds of monthly events](#) nationwide, including virtual events you can join from anywhere.

Night Sky Network: Current and Future



Map of Night Sky Network clubs within the United States as of November 2024

As of November 2024, NSN has over 400 clubs as far north as Washington State, west as Hawaii, and south as far as Puerto Rico. Astronomy clubs worldwide share the wonder of the day and night sky with their communities, and the Night Sky Network is happy to support US clubs with public engagement tools. Through their outreach efforts, member clubs have reached more than 7 million people to date, and the community is still going strong. Find an upcoming star party near you on our [new public website](#).



San Diego Astronomy Association

2025 TDS Star Party Schedule

Date	Type	Sunset	Astro. Twi.	Moonrise(set)	Closing	Illumination
Jan-04-2025	Public	4:56 PM	6:23 PM	(10:11 PM)	9:30 PM	28.3%
Jan-25-2025	Member	5:15 PM	6:40 PM	4:44 AM	9:30 PM	16.3%
Feb-01-2025	Public	5:21 PM	6:46 PM	(9:08 PM)	10:00 PM	14.9%
Feb-22-2025	Member	5:40 PM	7:02 PM	3:26 AM	10:00 PM	31.8%
Mar-01-2025	Public	5:46 PM	7:08 PM	(8:00 PM)	10:00 PM	5.0%
Mar-29-2025	Member	7:06 PM	8:30 PM	(7:47 PM)	11:30 PM	0.2%
Apr-19-2025	Public	7:21 PM	8:49 PM	1:47 AM	11:30 PM	65.5%
Apr-26-2025	Member	7:26 PM	8:56 PM	5:45 AM	12:00 PM	1.7%
May-17-2025	Public	7:42 PM	9:17 PM	12:27 AM	12:00 PM	79.6%
May-24-2025	Member	7:46 PM	9:24 PM	4:16 AM	12:00 PM	8.6%
Jun-21-2025	Member	7:59 PM	9:41 PM	2:50 AM	12:00 PM	19.3%
Jun-28-2025	Public	8:00 PM	9:41 PM	(10:55 PM)	12:00 PM	15.1%
Jul-19-2025	Public	7:55 PM	9:32 PM	1:29 AM	12:00 PM	32.1%
Jul-26-2025	Member	7:51 PM	9:26 PM	(9:22 PM)	12:00 PM	5.2%
Aug-16-2025	Public	7:31 PM	9:00 PM	12:15 AM	12:00 PM	46.0%
Aug-23-2025	Member	7:23 PM	8:50 PM	7:39 AM	12:00 PM	0.4%
Sep-13-2025	Public	6:56 PM	8:19 PM	11:06 PM	11:00 PM	60.5%
Sep-20-2025	Member	6:47 PM	8:09 PM	6:27 AM	11:00 PM	1.1%
Oct-18-2025	Member	6:11 PM	7:33 PM	5:17 AM	10:30 PM	7.1%
Oct-25-2025	Public	6:04 PM	7:26 PM	(8:37 PM)	10:30 PM	16.9%
Nov-15-2025	Public	4:47 PM	6:12 PM	3:07 AM	9:00 PM	18.1%
Nov-22-2025	Member	4:44 PM	6:10 PM	(6:26 PM)	9:00 PM	6.3%
Dec-13-2025	Public	4:43 PM	6:11 PM	1:58 AM	9:00 PM	33.2%
Dec-20-2025	Member	4:46 PM	6:14 PM	(5:17 PM)	9:00 PM	0.7%

SDAA is now registered with the employer fund-matching platform Benevity. If your workplace offers matching charitable donations for non-profits and uses Benevity to distribute funds, you can now designate the San Diego Astronomy Association. Thank you for supporting the SDAA!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Send dues and renewals to P.O. Box 23215, San Diego, CA 92193-3215 or renew on-line. The notice that your membership in SDAA will expire is sent by email. Dues are \$60 for Contributing Memberships; \$40 for Basic Membership; \$70 for Private Pads; \$5 for each Family membership.