

San Diego Astronomy Association

Celebrating Over 50 Years of Astronomical Outreach



June 2026

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

Next SDAA Business Meeting
 June 9th at 7:00pm

 Via Zoom

Next Program Meeting
 June 17th 2026

 Via Zoom

June Program Meeting

Join us for the next SDAA Program Meeting on Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 PM.

We'll hear from the remaining Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair winners, followed by a presentation from a professor at SDSU. The presentation topic is still being finalized.

CONTENTS

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| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Program Meeting..... | 1 |
| Night Sky Charts..... | 2 |
| TDS Spring Clean Up..... | 5 |
| Pad 70 Observatory..... | 6 |
| SDAA Contacts..... | 8 |
| May Minutes..... | 9 |
| 2026 TDS Star Party Schedule. | 13 |

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82984333694?tk=2NuKDGKSRkZhVOxcU9k5HdLfNqXOMi28I1rqpMKaRvo.DQkAAAATUkBxfhZiTEQ3U1dxMVFabVUxWklrSEN TdFd3AA&pwd=i6bnlhDS6BaMvswWd1m-cFzTe2vbwrz.1>

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>



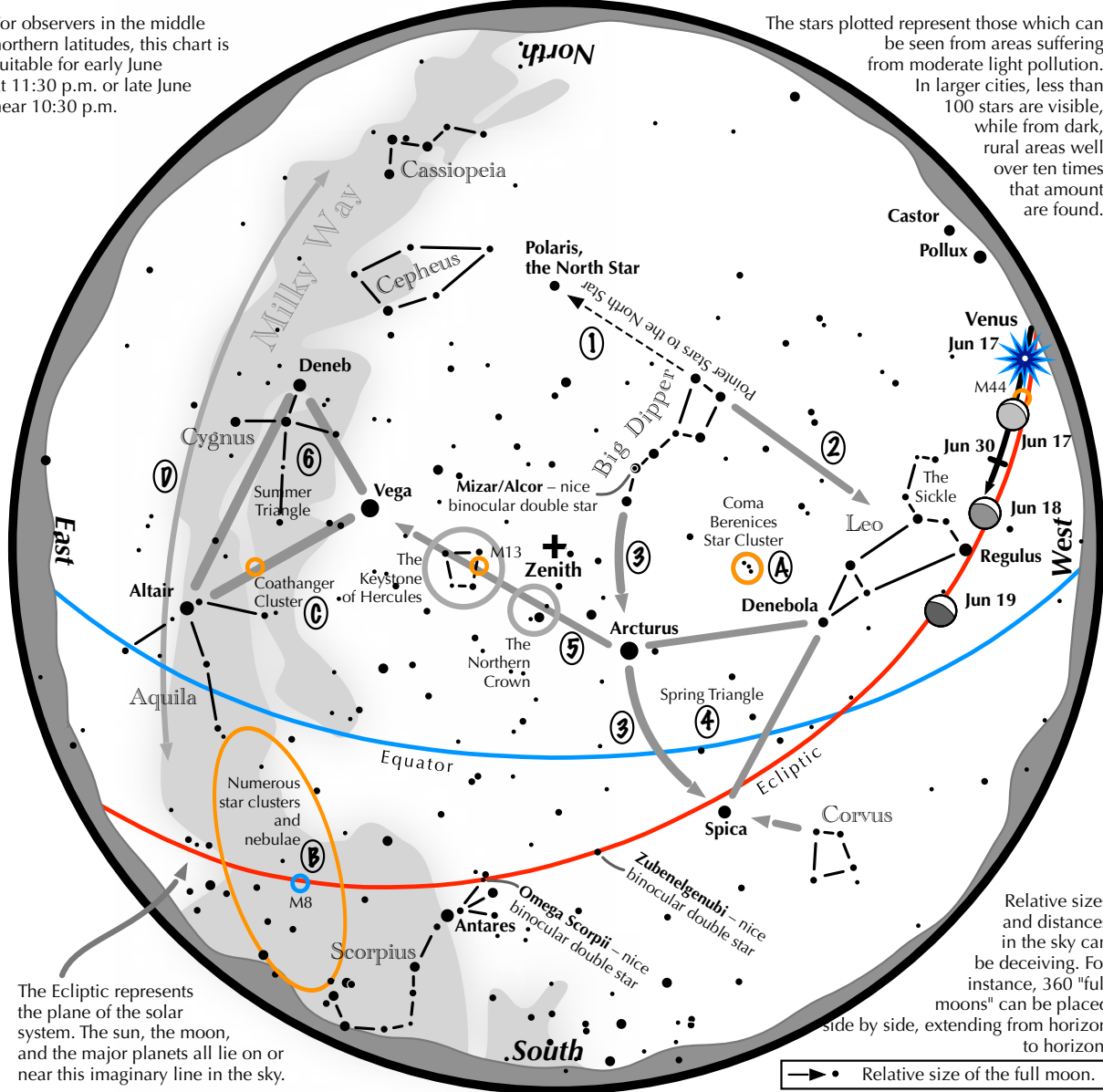
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Navigating the June Night Sky

2026

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for early June at 11:30 p.m. or late June near 10:30 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 June night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Extend a line north from the two stars at the tip of the Big Dipper's bowl. It passes by Polaris, the North Star.
- 2 Draw another line in the opposite direction. It strikes the constellation Leo high in the west.
- 3 Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It first intersects Arcturus, the brightest star in the June evening sky, then Spica.
- 4 Arcturus, Spica, and Denebola form the Spring Triangle, a large equilateral triangle.
- 5 To the northeast of Arcturus shines another star of the same brightness, Vega. Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. It first meets "The Northern Crown," then the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.
- 6 High in the east are the three bright stars of the Summer Triangle: Vega, Altair, and Deneb.

Binocular Highlights

- A: Between Denebola and the tip of the Big Dipper's handle, lie the stars of the Coma Berenices Star Cluster.
- B: Between the bright stars of Antares and Altair, hides an area containing many star clusters and nebulae.
- C: 40% of the way between Altair and Vega, twinkles the "Coathanger," a group of stars outlining a coathanger.
- D: Sweep along the Milky Way for an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays.



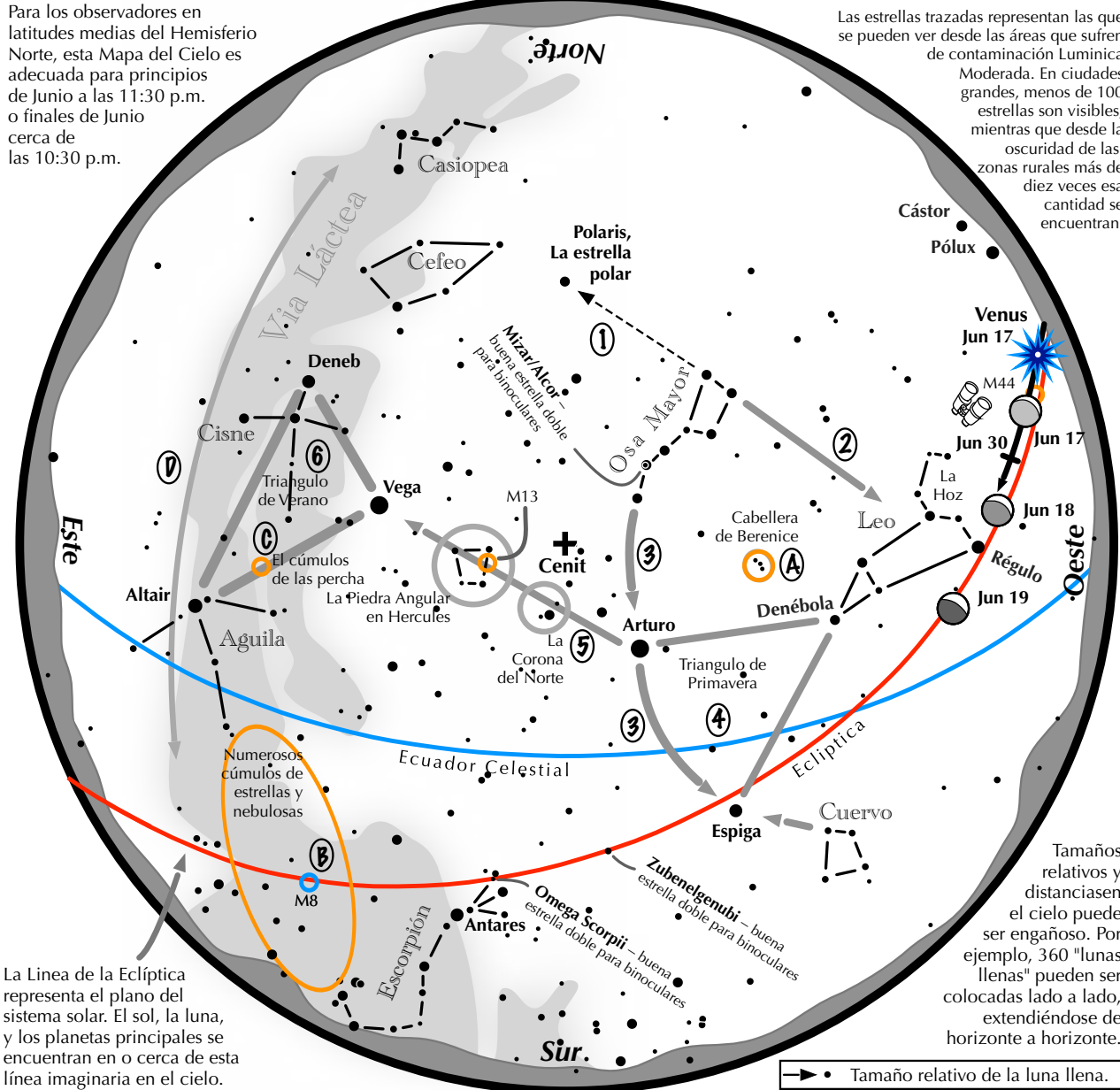


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Navegando por el cielo nocturno de Junio 2026

Para los observadores en latitudes medias del Hemisferio Norte, esta Mapa del Cielo es adecuada para principios de Junio a las 11:30 p.m. o finales de Junio cerca de las 10:30 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 pueden ser engañosos. Por ejemplo, 360 "lunas llenas" pueden ser colocadas lado a lado, extendiéndose de horizonte a horizonte.

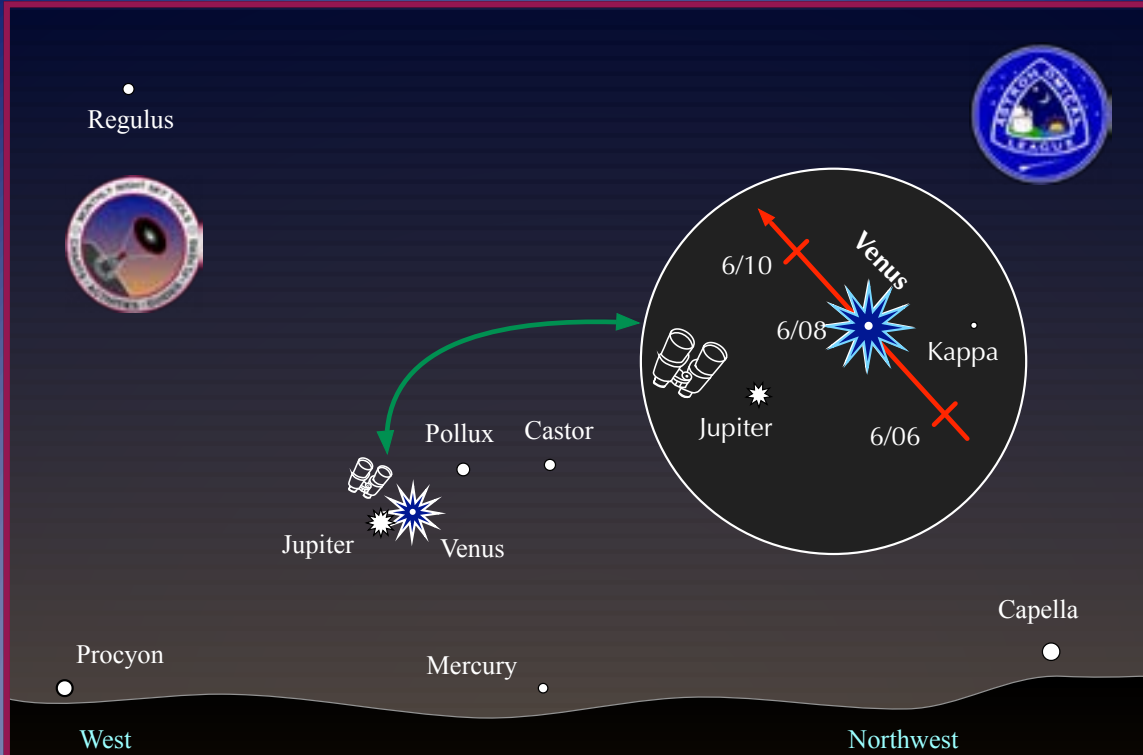
→ • Tamaño relativo de la luna llena.

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

- 1 Haz una línea hacia el norte desde las dos estrellas en la punta de la Osa Mayor. Pasa por Polaris, la estrella polar.
- 2 Directamente debajo del tazón de la Osa Mayor se encuentra Leo con su estrella principal, Régulo.
- 3 Siga el arco del mango del tazón de la Osa Mayor. Primero cruza Arturo, luego continúa hacia Espiga, luego Cuervo.
- 4 Arturo, Espiga y Denébola forman el triángulo de primavera, un gran triángulo equilátero.
- 5 Dibuja una línea desde Arturo a Vega. Un tercio del camino se encuentra "La Corona del Norte". Dos tercios de esa distancia llevan a la "piedra angular de Hércules." Se necesita un cielo oscuro para ver estas dos configuraciones estelares tenues.
- 6 En lo alto del este se encuentran las tres estrellas brillantes del Triángulo de verano: Vega, Altair y Deneb.

Puntos destacados con binoculares

A: Mira alto en el este para ver el cúmulo de estrellas perdidas de Cabellera de Berenice. **B:** Entre las brillantes estrellas de Antares y Altair, se esconde un área que contiene muchos cúmulos de estrellas y nebulosas. **C:** El 40% del camino entre Altair y Vega, centellea el "Colgador", un grupo de estrellas que describe un perchero. **D:** Barrer a lo largo de la Vía Láctea para obtener una cantidad asombrosa de brillos tenues y bahías oscuras.



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

Brilliant Venus passes bright Jupiter

Look to the west-northwest 60 minutes after sunset in early June as the Venus/Jupiter gap narrows.

- On June 8, brilliant, unmistakable Venus lies slightly below and right of the lesser Jupiter.
- The next evening finds Venus having moved slightly above Jupiter.
- Then on succeeding evenings, Venus pulls above Jupiter, while the mighty planet drops toward the horizon.
- Enhance the view by using binoculars.
- All the while, the much dimmer Mercury lies close to the horizon in the bright twilight.

End your day with this enchanting meet-up!

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San Diego Astronomy Association

Spring Clean-Up at TDS

Just a heads up that our annual SDAA Spring clean-up will be held on June 6th from 10AM to 4PM. In addition to TDS, we will also be working at the new property, so come and check it out and help get it ready! We have also scheduled a public star party for that night, so bring your gear and stay for the fun! This is also an excellent opportunity for new members to meet others, to get a tour of the site, and to learn how to open it for use.

While this is a little later than usual, it's an important time for us to get TDS and TDS-W ready for another busy summer! As always, we'll have a picnic with burgers, dogs, and more!

For the private pad holders, this is a good time to clear any decomposing tarps and carpeting, as well as dried brush and other trash. Remember that attending this event counts towards satisfying your use requirements, so don't forget to sign in!

Due to the power being off on some parts of the site, attendees are encouraged to bring battery or gas weed trimmers to help with clearing spring growth. Also recommended are yard tools (saws, clip-pers...), sun protection, and to wear protective clothing as desert brush and cactus can be irritating. A pair of work gloves is strongly suggested. The more tools we have the faster we can get done!

If you plan to attend the spring cleanup, please send an email to Jim Love (VicePresident@sdaa.org) so that we can plan accordingly for the BBQ. We will be sure to have lots of water and sodas available.

See you there!



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Pad 70 Observatory Open to Contributing Members for Remote Imaging

About nine months ago, the SDAA board approved a proof of concept to explore whether an imaging system at the club-owned Pad70 Observatory at TDS could be made available for occasional remote use by club astro-imagers.

Although the project got off to a slow start, it has worked well over the past two months for four members using the existing software and hardware. In fact, it has been so successful that the original schedule, which runs through the end of September, is now fully booked.

The system we are using is a 6" refractor, focal length 1100mm, coupled to a OSC camera. The imaging software is NINA (3.2). Most nights it just takes a few clicks to get images all night long. The sequences even pause and restart when the weather (clouds, humidity, etc.) requires a shut down.

We also reserve a week every now and then to give informal lessons about how to use NINA and whatever planetarium suits to get reliable nightly data.

If you are interested in reserving a slot (we do get cancellations), or just learning more about the project, you can email me at ross.salinger@sdaa.org.



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

SDAA Contacts

Club Officers and Directors

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| President | President@sdaa.org |
| Vice President | VicePresident@sdaa.org |
| Recording Secretary | Recording@sdaa.org |
| Treasurer | Treasurer@sdaa.org |
| Corresponding Secretary | Corresponding@sdaa.org |
| Director Alpha | DirectorAlpha@sdaa.org |
| Director Beta | DirectorBeta@sdaa.org |
| Director Delta | DirectorDelta@sdaa.org |
| Director Gamma | DirectorGamma@sdaa.org |

Committees

| | |
|---|--|
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| Observatory Director | Observatory@sdaa.org |
| Private Pads | Pads@sdaa.org |
| Outreach | Outreach@sdaa.org |
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| S. County Star Parties | SouthStarParty@sdaa.org |
| E. County Star Parties | EastStarParty@sdaa.org |
| Central County Star Parties | CentralStarParty@sdaa.org |
| Camp with the Stars | CampWiththeStars@sdaa.org |
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| New Member Mentor | Mentor@sdaa.org |
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| AISIG | AISIG@sdaa.org |
| Site Acquisition | SecondSite@sdaa.org |
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| ALCOR (Astronomical League Correspondent) | ALCOR@sdaa.org |

For more info:

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

SDAA Editorial Staff

Editor - Andrea Kuhl
since April 2011

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

San Diego Astronomy Association Board of Directors Meeting

May 12, 2026 - Unapproved and subject to revision

1. Call to Order

The meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 7:04pm with following BOD members in attendance: Dave Decker, President; Jim Love, Vice President; Mike Chasin, Treasurer; Kin Searcy, Recording Secretary; Ross Salinger, Corresponding Secretary; Damon Blackman, Director; Francisco Contreras, Director; Tom Kennedy, Director; Drew Koning, Director.

2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

The April meeting minutes V1.0 were approved by unanimous resolution. (Motion: M. Chasin/Second: R. Salinger)

3. Members Present

Prascilla Morquecho, Bee Pagarigan, Woody Schlom, Mark Smith, and David Wood were present.

4. Treasurer's Report

Membership is 754. M. Chasin noted that budget execution is trending better than forecast.

The Treasurer's report was approved by unanimous resolution. (Motion: K. Searcy/Second: F. Contreras).

5. Standard Reports

As of the April meeting, the standard reports will be archived in an on-line directory and not documented in the minutes. BOD discussion and action on specific committee reports will continue to be included in the minutes. Members can contact the BOD for access to the repository.

6. Pending/Urgent Business

a) Organizational Chart

With new committees being formed, the BOD decided to allow the organization to evolve and defer development of a formal organization chart. It was agreed that the present need is for a representation of the opportunities for member participation.



San Diego Astronomy Association

b) Responsibility for Loaner Damages

The BOD unanimously approved a motion to revoke the membership of a member who had damaged loaner scope equipment and has not responded to requests for reimbursement. (Motion: K. Searcy/Second: D. Koning). R. Salinger will inform the member as a responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary.

c) MPC Charter Update

The BOD unanimously approved a motion to approve changes to the MPC charter to allow the MPC to allow projects within certain guidelines without presenting them for BOD approval and to spend budgeted SDAA funds. (Motion: R. Salinger/Second: K. Searcy).

d) Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030

The draft strategic plan was approved by the BOD at the April meeting with corrections. An additional correction recommended by D. Blackman was to invite comments both to the President and Corresponding Secretary. The BOD unanimously approved a motion to approve the plan as amended and to send the plan to the membership with a statement drafted by the SPC. (Motion: K. Searcy/Second: J. Love).

e) Communication of Approved Charters

The BOD discussed the best method of transmitting the separately approved charters for the Events, Membership, and Facilities Committees to the membership and decided to send them in a single package. **Action Item: BOD 05-01: D. Blackman will send the new committee charters to the membership together with an appropriate notice asking for volunteers.**

f) Security Deposit for Developed Pads

The private pad committee asked for BOD direction on an approach to dealing with potential damage on private pad leases. Under consideration were a general lease increase or a security deposit. California law would require interest on the deposits as well as extensive accounting, and the BOD agreed that a lease fee increase would be reasonable if justified to the membership and implemented only after power was restored to the private pads. Options to be considered are: requiring a standard security deposit; increasing the annual lease cost; or developing a differential approach based on individual pad value. **Action Item: BOD 05-02: M. Smith will report specific costed options, with supporting rationale, to the BOD at the June meeting.**



San Diego Astronomy Association

g) Digital Infrastructure RFP and Audit

SDAA is in the process of assessing its digital infrastructure assets and needs and developing an RFP for a contractor to develop an improved capability. T. Kennedy presented an approach (contained in the meeting documents) for surveying the public, membership, and committees to validate requirements, identify friction points with the existing infrastructure, and improve involvement. The BOD strongly supported this approach and authorized sending the survey and proceeding with interviews.

h) Program Meeting Coordinator

D. Decker has appointed Krista Hibert as program meeting coordinator following a very positive Zoom with her and interested BOD members. The BOD thanked F. Contreras for stepping in for three months as program meeting coordinator. Krista Hilbert will begin coordination with the July program meeting.

7. New Business

a) TDS/TDS-W Network

The MPC submitted a proposal to improve existing WIFI at TDS-W and create a single, unified WIFI network for TDS and TDS-W that includes WIFI at the house and surrounding areas, WIFI at TDS at the public pads and warming rooms, and security cameras. The BOD unanimously approved a motion to approve the MPC proposal at an initial cost of \$12, 516, approximately \$30 additional monthly electrical cost, and possible bandwidth increase costs. (Motion: R. Salinger/Second: D. Koning).

M. Smith advocated for extending the new TDS WIFI coverage to the private pads, and the BOD unanimously approved a motion to allocate \$5,000 for additional hardware to extend the coverage to the private pad area along with the MPC project. (Motion: J. Love/Second: F. Contreras).

b) Facility Management Committee

The Facilities Management Charter is in final form and could be approved rapidly. **Action Item: BOD 05-03: J. Love post will the final version of the Facilities Management Charter for an on-line vote IAW the by-laws.**

c) Property Access Management and Policy

The power gate and garage door access systems are fully functional at TDS-W. Access to the property has been tested and verified. New gates and controllers have been installed at TDS and will be activated when the new grid is energized. Accordingly, the TDS gate presently uses the standard combination lock.



San Diego Astronomy Association

Access and management policies are being developed. The BOD stipulated that no remote gate opening (members opening the gate from home) would be allowed.

d) 2027 Banquet

D. Wood recommended holding the 2027 SDAA banquet at the SD Air and Space Museum on January 24, 2027, at 3pm after favorable feedback on the 2026 banquet. The BOD voted 8 - 1 (R. Salinger opposed) to approve a motion to hold the banquet as recommended. (Motion: J. Love/Second: K. Searcy).

e) Pad 70 Upgrade

The BOD concurred that R. Salinger can spend \$1500 of the \$5,000 Downing Pad 70 Fund for additional equipment.

f) Spending Policy

The BOD unanimously approved a draft Spending Policy prepared by M. Chasin. The policy ensures that SDAA's assets are managed with the highest level of fiduciary responsibility and transparency and establishes organizational expenditure approval authorization levels so that all requests do not have to go through the BOD. (Motion: D. Blackman/Second: J. Love).

8 Action Items and Pending Requests

MPC access to Wild Apricot to implement the proposal to reward outreach members is in progress.

Action Item: BOD 05-01: D. Blackman will send the new committee charters to the membership together with an appropriate notice asking for volunteers.

Action Item: BOD 05-02: M. Smith will report specific costed options, with supporting rationale, to the BOD at the June meeting.

Action Item: BOD 05-03: J. Love will post the final version of the Facilities Management Charter for an on-line vote.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm by unanimous resolution. (Motion: K. Searcy/Second: D. Decker)



San Diego Astronomy Association

2026 TDS Star Party Schedule

| Date | Type | Sunset | Astro. Twi. | Moonrise(set) | Closing | Illumination | Hosts |
|-----------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|----------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Jan-10-26 | Public | 4:58 PM | 6:25 PM | 12:42 AM | 9:30 PM | 51.1% | Ed Rumsey |
| Jan-17-26 | Member | 5:04 PM | 6:30 PM | 6:56 AM | 9:30 PM | 1.2% | Ed Rumsey |
| Feb-07-26 | Public | 5:23 PM | 6:47 PM | 11:28 PM | 10:00 PM | 69.1% | Jim Traweek & Jannet |
| Feb-14-26 | Member | 5:30 PM | 6:53 PM | 5:31 AM | 10:00 PM | 8.0% | Ed Rumsey |
| Mar-14-26 | Member | 6:52 PM | 8:14 PM | 5:03 AM | 11:00 PM | 20.3% | Igor von Nyssen |
| Mar-21-26 | Public | 6:57 PM | 8:20 PM | (10:19 PM) | 11:30 PM | 10.8% | Ed Rumsey & Dave Wood |
| Apr-11-26 | Public | 7:12 PM | 8:37 PM | 3:32 AM | 11:30 PM | 36.3% | Ed Rumsey & Kin Searcy |
| Apr-18-26 | Member | 7:17 PM | 8:44 PM | (9:13 PM) | 12:00 AM | 2.9% | Jim Traweek & Craig Ewing |
| May-09-26 | Public | 7:32 PM | 9:05 PM | 2:01 AM | 12:00 AM | 53.2% | Jim Traweek |
| May-16-26 | Member | 7:37 PM | 9:12 PM | (8:03 PM) | 12:00 AM | 0.2% | Ed Rumsey & Kin Searcy |
| Jun-06-26 | Public | 7:50 PM | 9:31 PM | 12:31 AM | 12:30 AM | 69.0% | Ed Rumsey & Kin Searcy |
| Jun-13-26 | Member | 7:53 PM | 9:35 PM | 4:47 AM | 12:30 AM | 3.1% | Steven Myers |
| Jul-11-26 | Member | 7:55 PM | 9:34 PM | 3:30 AM | 12:30 AM | 10.8% | Ed & Kate Rumsey |
| Jul-18-26 | Public | 7:52 PM | 9:29 PM | (10:47 PM) | 12:30 AM | 25.7% | Bob Roth |
| Aug-08-26 | Public | 7:37 PM | 9:07 PM | 2:19 AM | 12:00 AM | 22.1% | |
| Aug-15-26 | Member | 7:29 PM | 8:58 PM | (9:14 PM) | 12:00 AM | 12.6% | |
| Sep-05-26 | Public | 7:04 PM | 8:28 PM | 1:15 AM | 11:30 PM | 35.5% | Bob Roth |
| Sep-12-26 | Member | 6:55 PM | 8:18 PM | (7:41 PM) | 11:30 PM | 3.6% | Paul Krizak |
| Oct-03-26 | Public | 6:27 PM | 7:48 PM | 12:17 AM | 11:00 PM | 50.0% | |
| Oct-10-26 | Member | 6:18 PM | 7:39 PM | 7:50 AM | 10:30 PM | 0.1% | Paul Krizak |
| Nov-07-26 | Member | 4:49 PM | 6:13 PM | 5:40 AM | 9:30 PM | 2.5% | Bob Roth |
| Nov-14-26 | Public | 4:44 PM | 6:09 PM | (9:06 PM) | 9:00 PM | 27.2% | |
| Dec-05-26 | Member | 4:39 PM | 6:06 PM | 4:33 AM | 9:00 PM | 10.3% | |
| Dec-12-26 | Public | 4:40 PM | 6:08 PM | (7:57 PM) | 9:00 PM | 13.1% | |

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.