

THE NIGHT WATCH

POMONA VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

JANUARY 1983

Issue #38

SATURDAY, JAN. 15, STAR PARTY -- Cow Canyon Saddle will be the site for the star party. Participants should arrive at 7:30 pm. See the Information Sheet for a map. John Bascom's table is included to find minor solar system bodies by means of comparison stars on the date of the star party.

FRIDAY, JAN. 21, GENERAL MEETING-- Dr. Douglas Duncan of the Mt. Wilson and Las Campanas Observatories will present a talk to the PVAA. He is directing a program to monitor the periodic sunspot-like activity on several sunlike stars.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On January 25, NASA plans to launch its Infra-Red Astronomy Satellite (IRAS) from Vandenberg AFB. Only members who made arrangements to go to Vandenberg at the last meeting will be eligible to do so, and they should expect to get letters from NASA soon, informing them whether or not any on site viewing is available. Even from the Pomona Valley, the launch could be spectacular, and an updated launch thme will be announced at the meeting.

Our next starparty, on Saturday , Feb. 12, will be held with Western Observatorium at the Victorville site.

OBJECTS FOR JAN 15, 1983

JB 12-1976

OBJECT	REF	MAG.	1950 CO-ORD.		1983.0 CO-ORD.		2000 CO-ORD.	
			R.A.	DEC.	R.A.	DEC.	RA	DEC
218 BELLONA		11.4	5h 15m 49s	+11° 34' 42"	17m 39s	36° 52'	18m 26s	37° 54'
	18 ORION	5.5	5h 13m 17s	+11° 17' 12"				
50 URSULA		11.7	4h 10m 21s	+23° 16' 24"	12m 19s	21° 26'	13m 20s	24° 0''
	37 TAURUS	4.5	4h 01m 44s	+21° 56' 49"				
31 DENEBOWKA		11.4	4h 01m 53s	+29° 10' 12"	03m 56s	15° 35'	04m 59s	18° 20'
	3 PERSEUS	2.9	3h 50m 59s	+21° 44' 12"				
11 FAICHOPE		11.4	4h 56m 53s	+18° 37' 24"	58m 49s	40° 21'	59m 48s	41° 50'
	97 TAURUS	5.1	4h 48m 27s	+18° 45' 23"				
14 IRENE		11.6	3h 22m 48s	+15° 23' 42"	24m 39s	30° 39'	25m 36s	34° 12'
	5 ARIES	4.5	3h 08m 46s	+19° 32' 20"				
COMET CHURYUMEV-GERASIMEN		11.4	7h 08m 43s	+39° 56' 06"	11m 00s	52° 48'	12m 11s	51° 03'
	63 AURIGA	5.1	7h 08m 13s	+39° 24' 15"				
PLUTO		14	14h 11m 40s	+4° 46' 53"	13m 19s	37° 39'	14m 11s	32° 55'
	SAO 120265	6.3	14h 01m 25s	+5° 08' 26"				
VESTA		8.1	23h 07m 25s	-11° 49' 50"	09m 08s	39° 05'	10m 02s	33° 33'
	83 AQUARIUS	5.6	23h 02m 33s	-07° 57' 50"				

Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomers

JAN 83

PVAA Information Sheet

1982-83 Club Officers (elections held at September meeting)

David Chandler	714-626-0604	Terry Pyzer	714-593-5425
Byron Melland	714-985-7943	Anthony Cook	213-254-0414
Robert Chambers	714-985-2049		

Meetings

Regular monthly meetings are scheduled for the third Friday of each month in Room 134, Millikan Hall at Pomona College (Northeast corner of 6th St. and College Ave. in Claremont). The general meeting begins at 7:30 and usually runs until about 9:00 p.m. (See map on back)

The meetings include announcements, general information, opportunities to share individual projects and interests, and usually conclude with a featured speaker - either an invited guest or someone from within the club.

Star Parties

Along with meetings, the other focus of the club is the monthly star parties. These are scheduled once a month, normally on the Friday or Saturday nearest to the New Moon, to get the darkest possible skies. We meet at the site unless advance arrangements are made for car pooling or traveling in a caravan. If there is any question as to whether a star party will meet (due to uncertain weather, etc.) check in with a club officer on the day of the event.

The PVAA and Webb school jointly own a PVAA built 24 inch Newtonian reflecting telescope named Mira. Mira is clock driven and is mounted on a trailer for easy transport. It is often available for use during star parties.

For star parties bring your own telescope if you have one (or come anyway if you don't). Remember to bring:

Warm clothes	Telescope accessories
Warm covering for feet, hands, and head	Binoculars
Refreshments	Flashlight (red filtered)
Sleeping Bag (?)	Star Charts/other references
	Emergency Money

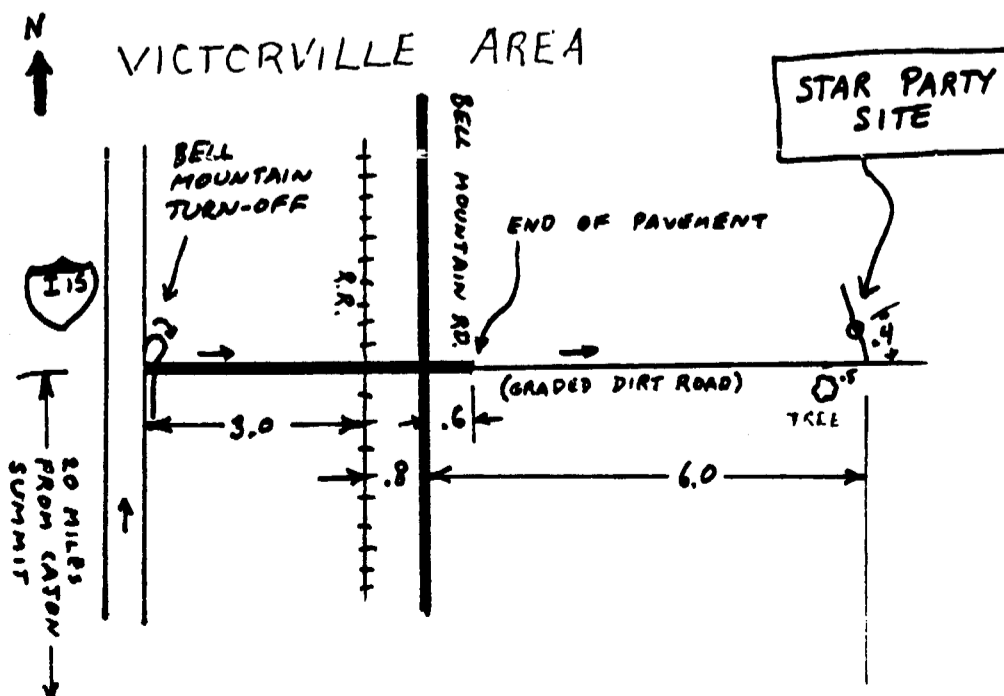
On more distant trips most of us spend the night. Locally we generally come home when done observing (often 2:00 to 5:00 a.m.). Thought should be given to sleep for safety on the return trip.

Membership

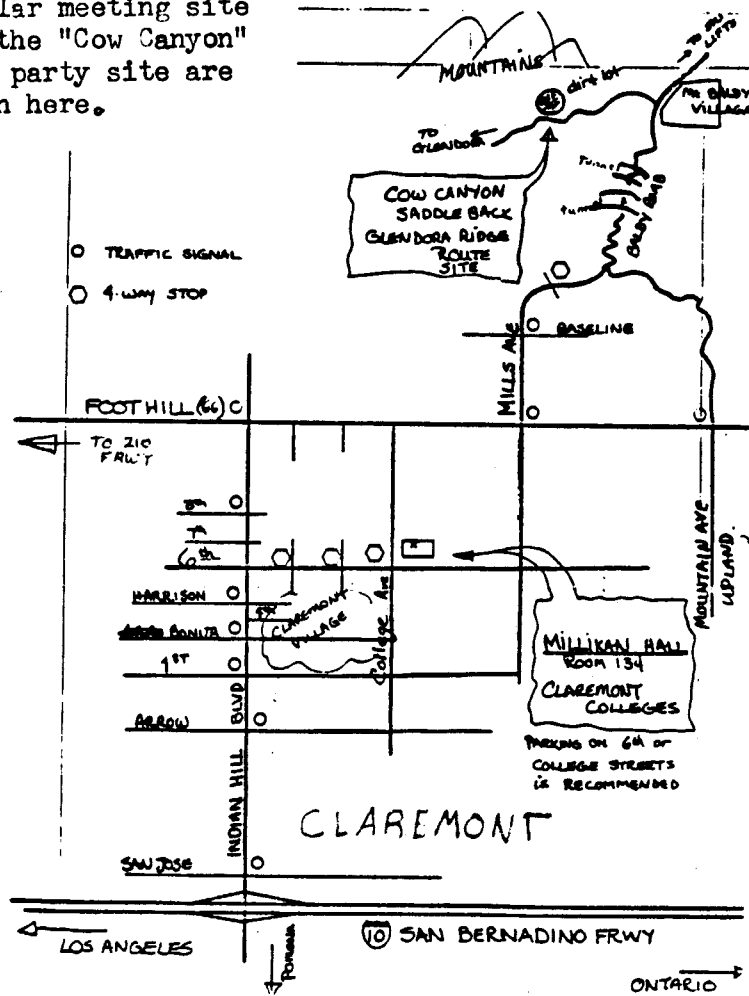
A regular membership costs \$23 per year, a family membership is \$26 yearly. With membership comes a subscription to Sky and Telescope magazine and our newsletter The Night Watch. Only members may vote or hold office in the PVAA. Members who pass a check-out procedure following training may schedule taking out Mira for their own use.

PVAA members can also get special discounts on Astronomy, Telescope Making, and Odyssey magazines, and on items carried by Sky Publishing Corporation.

This map shows one of our regular star-party sites near Victorville.



The location of our regular meeting site and the "Cow Canyon" star party site are shown here.



These photographs from Sky and Telescope show the PVAA's entry at the 1982 Riverside Telescope Makers' Conference in Big Bear.

Right and below: The second largest telescope at the meeting was this trailer-mounted 24-inch f/5 reflector built by David Chandler (with hat) and Byron Melland of the Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomers. Its thin mirror, made by Paul Jones, is supported laterally only at its central perforation. A chain drive runs on a disk machined circular *after* it was attached to the polar shaft. The scope won an award for the best use of materials.

