

# THE NIGHT WATCH

May 1984

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*May 18 Meeting:* You may notice that you are receiving your newsletter after the date of the May meeting. I appologize for this. The end of school is a hectic time to remember newsletters and drum up the energy to get them out. Ernie Williams took the meeting. One bit of news that should make everyone salivate is that he has been given the opportunity to spend the night at the Palomar Observatory with one of the astronomers. We will expect to hear more about this experience at an upcoming meeting.--D.C.

*May Star Parties:* The main reason this newsletter is going out even though the meeting has come and gone is the upcoming Riverside Telescope Makers' Conference near Big Bear. It will be this weekend (5/25 to 5/28). It is the biggest amateur astronomical event in the Western U.S. and definitely worth the effort. There will be hundreds of telescopes, many of them home made, a swap meet, and lots of speakers. If you have not made reservations you have to bring your own food. Most of the activity will be Saturday and Sunday. If you go for a day the fee is \$5 per person. If you camp the fee is \$10, \$12, or \$14 per person for one, two, or three nights, respectively. The conference falls on a new moon weekend this year, and the sky can be beautiful from 8000 ft.

A second star party will be staged the following weekend for the benefit of the Sycamore School students at Cow Canyon Saddle. The moon will be just past new, so it should be a good night for observing. --(FRI. JUN 1)

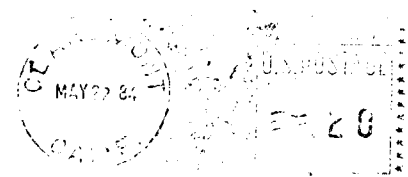
Directions for getting to the Riverside Conference: Take Interstate 10 to Redlands. At the first exit inside the city limits get off the freeway, turn left to cross to the north side of the freeway, and turn right on the first major road. You should now be paralleling the freeway heading east. This road is, or at least becomes, highway 38. Follow it all the way through and out of town toward Forest Falls. Follow the signs toward Big Bear. The highest pass you cross is Onyx Summit. Go 5 miles past Onyx Summit, turn right at Lake Williams Estates Rd., and follow the signs to Camp Oakes.

*The Solar Eclipse:* New moon comes during the daylight hours on May 30 in the form of a partial eclipse in this area. Mid eclipse is near 8:45 a.m. PDT. Since the eclipse will not be total you should not look directly at the sun. Anyone who would like a piece of heavily aluminized mylar, a safe solar filter, contact David Chandler. This material can be used over the front end of telescopes, binoculars, cameras, or for direct visual observing.

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IF YOU ARE NOT ON THIS LIST CONTACT TONY COOK ABOUT YOUR DUES.



Ray Magdziarz

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