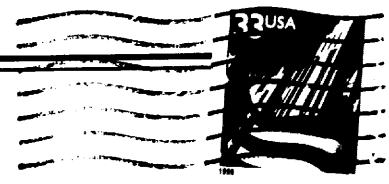


P.O. Box 169
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 Address change requests
 must be accompanied by a return

Newsletter of the Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomers

Amateur
 astronomers
 just get better
 looking ...



Janis Seaton

If you haven't payed your \$27 dues then you are overdue.

Volume 19 Number 11 *nightwatch* November 1999

Sudden Changes

In the lifetime of any one you care to think of, bad things happen. To varying degrees we can cope with what - ever Mother Nature can send us. Well,..... maybe not everything.

This morning I was rudely awakened by the propagating disturbance generated by a small crustal motion somewhere to the north east of my home. This small motion on a small fault caused some damage to property and minor injuries to a few people but little else. Just think if the earthquake had occurred during rush hour and along one of the more notorious faults running under our feet. The picture we would see after the cessation of the Earth's movements would be like a walk into Dante's inferno, complete with the fires of the underworld. It's where you are in relation to the unleashing of the elemental force that determines the experience you will have.

This leads into thinking about some of the more spectacular events we can see in the sky. Without a doubt, a super nova would be an exciting thing to see as it brightened to rival Venus and Jupiter and slowly faded into oblivion many months later. Super nova 1987A caused a stir that got the attention of the world even though it was over 160,000 light years away. The amount of energy released in its death throes was astounding. Many of us would dearly love to see this spectacular stellar demise personally. But be careful what you wish for You may get it. The amount of energy per unit area falling on the Earth from Super Nova 1987A would increase 330,000,000 times if it were moved as close as the star Sirius. I remember reading some time ago that a super nova occurring within 40 light years of our fair world would be fatal to most all forms of life.

An event we are all hoping against hope will materialize in

full splendor is the Leonid meteor shower. I really would like to see tens of thousands of meteors streaking across the nighttime sky. Now, if all goes very well, the evening of the 16th and the morning of the 17th of November will provide a memory to last a lifetime. But..... could you imagine the meteors of the Leonid shower making it to the ground? A spectacular sight in the heavens could bring tears to your eyes when your faithful automobile takes a couple of solid hits. This would be double plus ungood ! Where could you hide from this celestial onslaught? A chunk of metal or rock clipping along at 30 kilometers per second would definitely affect the resale value of any car it impinged on.

Our lives are intertwined with the events of far, far away, in a more direct way we usually think of. From super novas, meteors, comets, earthquakes, and a vast number of meteorological conditions come changes in our lives that range from subtle to catastrophic. I look to the night sky as a friend even knowing that in the reaches of space could hide the end of life on Earth. Through our telescopes we can see the end of the lives of the stars, with our eyes we can see the final fate of pieces of rock and metal that have be around for billions of years. With all these acts of finality being played

PVAA Events Calendar

Month	Star Party	General Meeting	Board Meeting
November	6	19	12
December	4	17	10
January	8	21	28
February	5	18	25

out for us in the sky, we can join together in our interest in the heavens not as an end, but a new beginning. All mush aside, I hope to see you at the general meeting this month. In October, we have Todd Hansen of the Riverside Astronomical Club presenting, " Worlds in Comparison". Don't miss this informative and entertaining presentation on the scale of things in the sky. We will give the low down on all sorts of celestial events in the sky and activities of the club in the general meeting. Please attend.

Roy Schmidt

**PVAA General Meeting
24 September, 1999**

Announcements

October Star Party. The star party will be held on Oct 9 at Yesterday Ranch.

Next General Meeting. The October meeting will be on October 22.

November General Meeting. The featured speaker will be Randy Fear from the Big Bear Solar Observatory.

Public Lecture at Mt. Wilson Observatory. A lecture will be given at 1:30 PM on September 25 — sorry about the short notice. It will outline the Galileo mission.

October 31 Halloween Star Party. The location of our Halloween Star Party has not been confirmed.

Christmas Dinner. Our annual outing will occur on December 17th at a location yet to be decided.

An Evening with the 60 inch Mt. Wilson Telescope. A vote by hand of the members present affirmed an interest in scheduling an evening to use the 60 inch Newtonian telescope on Mt. Wilson. The cost will be \$900, so we need participation by enough members to keep the individual cost down. Further details will be presented at the next meeting.

2000 Sky Tell Calendars. Will be on sale for about \$10 — see Jack Gardner.

What's Up?

Roy schmidt reminded members to view the Leonids in November. They will be visible on the evening of the 16th and the morning of the 17th. In October the Draconid, Epsilon Gemenid, and Orionid Meteor Showers will be visible.

The Draconid Meteors will be visible 10/6 thru10/10. They

will be visible at 50 or less per hour and originate from the comet Giacobini- Zinner.

Epsilon Geminid Meteors will be visible 10/14 thru 10/27 and their radiant will drift from day to day.

Orionid Meteors can be seen from 10/2 thru 10/7. A sighting could be made every 1— 2 minutes. They are associated with the comet 1P/Halley.

Other Objects to See.

Within Gemini you can find a small open cluster of 50 — 60 bright stars in a triangular shape. Also can be found Castor, one of the sky's finest doubles for telescopes.

Near Draco you can find NGC6543 — otherwise known as the Cat's Eye Nebula. Another focus is the galaxy NGC6503.

..PVAA 24 HR. Hotline.

Get the latest news on the star party, club meetings, special events and astronomy happenings.call 909/985-1684

Visit or website at:

<http://www.cyberg8t.com/patrick/PVAA.htm>

PVAA Officers and Board

Officers

President.....Roy Schmidt.....909/980-1867
Vice President.....Joe Hillberg.....909/985-5617
Secretary..... Claire Stover.....909/988-9747
Treasurer.....Jack Gardner.....909/626-2665
VP Facilities.....Dave Gardner.....909/980-2994

Board

Ron Hoekwater..... 909/391-1943
Ray Magdziarz.....909/626-8303
JoeVlietstra.....909/982-4584
Bob Branch..... 909/982-8015

Directors

Nightwatch.....Ray Magdziarz.....909/626-8303
Membership.....Jack Gardner.....909/626-2665
Publicity.....Dorene Hopkins.....909/983-5584
Programs.....Bob Branch.....909/982-8015

Book Reviews.

Two books were reviewed by Ron Hoekwater - *Home Is Where the Wind Blows* by Fred Hoyle and *Edwin Hubble* by Gale E. Christianson. Both Hoyle and Hubble had a tendency to exaggerate their personal histories, both made significant contributions to astronomy. Hoyle theorized the genesis of elements within a star. Hubble proved that nebula were galaxies and developed a scheme for classifying galaxies that is still used today. Hubble also theorized an expanding universe.

Member Alper Ates gave a slide and video presentation detailing his trip to Turkey and viewing the total solar eclipse on August 11, 1999. He chose Kastamonu to observe from because it was in the path of totality, which passed thru Germany, Romania, Pakistan, and India. He used a 3-inch refractor and a white board to view the phenomenon. He was most aware of the dramatic change in temperature. A very large corona was observed because of how close we are to the solar max in the year 2000.

The longest possible totality is calculated at 7 min 31 sec. The longest observed to date was in 1955 in the Philipines at 7 min 8 sec. Alper experienced 2 min 12 sec of totality.

From the internet we also saw animated clips and images captured by Bob Yen.

Alper also shared his pictures of the 1997 solar eclipse on Jupiter. Views from the Hubble telescope were provided in addition.

The next total solar eclipse on earth will be in 2006.

Claire Stover

Astronomy and the Public

At a recent meeting of the Riverside Astronomical Society, the following story was told.

A regular feature on Jay Leno's show is a question for the person on the street. One night's question

was, "why does the sun rise and set?" The first person didn't know. Another thought the sun circled the earth. A third knew the Earth revolved around the Sun but, when asked if the Earth orbited the Sun once a day, he didn't know.

The story teller said, "the average person knows everything they are going to learn about astronomy by the time they finish the sixth grade." "We are the experts and it is our duty to educate the public."

PVAA members will have an opportunity to educate some of the public on November 10th. On that evening, starting at dusk there will be a star party for 3rd graders at Condit elementary school in Claremont. The school is located on Mountain Avenue north of Foothill Blvd. and south of Scripps Street. Anyone interested in participating and needing more information should contact Ron Hoekwater.

Also remember PVAA's Halloween star party at the First Baptist Church of Upland on 8th street October 31st.
Ron Hoekwater

October Star Party

It was calm and clear October 9/10 at Yesterday Ranch for the PVAA star party. The dirt road going in was free of puddles which had not been the case the last few times we were there. However, once inside one had to be careful where one drove in order to avoid the mud.

When I arrived Joe Hillberg, Dennis Lumbert, Claire Stover and family were already there. Later Joe went out and helped some others find the way in. It is always best to arrive at Yesterday Ranch before dark. I have been there many times and still have some trouble finding it at night.

We set about observing. Dennis checked out the planets Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus, while Bob

Marvos showed some guests, whose names I didn't get, the night sky through his SCT. Joe didn't bring a telescope, but helped others find things in theirs. Joe found the edge on galaxy with a dark dust lane NGC891 in my telescope. Claire and her daughter took in the sights through the various instruments.

For me, the highlight of the night was seeing two faint planetaries, PK166-10.1 (IC2149) and PK173-5.1, both in Auriga. IC2149 is a small bright (mag. 10.7) planetary nebula near the star TT. It's size made it difficult to spot at first. The central star is plainly visible at mag. 11.6. PK173-5.1 is larger but much fainter. I could not find a magnitude listed in either Uranometra or the Night Sky Observers Guide. The central star is listed as mag. 18.2. It is located between the stars Beta and Lambda.

Sunday morning we made the traditional trip to Quigley's in Barstow, for breakfast. This is always

an enjoyable part of the outing.

The next star party is November 6th at Yesterday Ranch. I hope you can make it.

Ron Hoekwater

On October 4, 1999, Betty Jacobs, the beloved wife of member John Jacobs died of a heart attack. She frequently made cookies for our General Meetings, and for the Halloween Star Parties. We will miss those treats.

ANNUAL PVAA CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY

The third annual Christmas Party will be held on December 17, 1999 at JOUNI'S restaurant, located at 922 N Central Ave in Upland. The club will subsidize part of the dinner cost for each member and one guest. You may bring more guests but you will need to pay to pay the full price. The unsubsidized part of the dinner will be \$8.00 per person. Full price is \$15.00. We need to have you sign up by December 1, 1999. Jack Gardner is in charge of the list. This is by reservation only, there will be no unexpected guests admitted at the door. There will be no refunds since the restaurant will prepare the scheduled meals.

Dinner begins at 7:00 PM. Mark your choice of the menu shown below, and mail to P.V.A.A., Attention Treasurer, P.O. Box 162, Upland, Ca 91785, or give it to Jack Gardner.

Member Guest

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1) Chicken Cordon Bleu. Chicken breast stuffed with ham and cheese. | _____ | _____ |
| 2) Top sirloin _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3) Vegetarian dinner _____ | _____ | _____ |

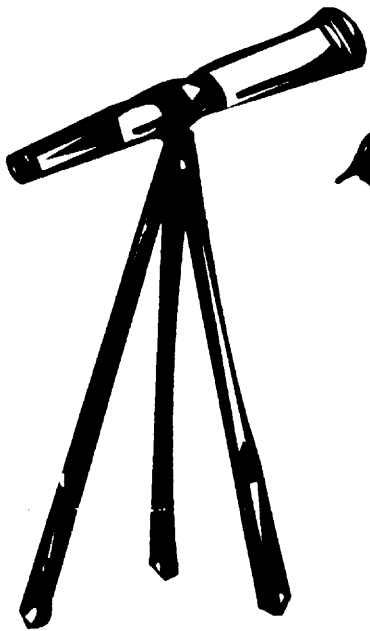
The price includes tax, desert and tip.

HALLOWEEN



P V A A
Astronomy
STAR Party

First Baptist Church
531 West 8th Street
Upland Ca. 91786
909-985-9624
Food Games & Rides
4 PM- 9 PM Oct 31



**TRICK
OR
TREAT!**

