



Newsletter of the Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomers

Volume 32 Number 12

nightwatch

December 2012

Don't forget about the Holiday Party on
Friday, December 7th, 7pm
Sizzlin Skilletts, 275 E. Foothill Blvd., Upland

Notice ! Upcoming Change of Bylaws Vote

The PVAA board has proposed that changes be made to the club bylaws. The purpose of these changes is to bring the PVAA year into better alignment with the Astronomical League year. The Astronomical League is the organization through which PVAA is able to buy liability insurance at an affordable rate. Liability insurance is required for PVAA to meet on the campuses of the Claremont Colleges.

At present the PVAA year begins on September 1st when the new board takes office after August's elections. PVAA dues for the year are due September 1st. The Astronomical League dues are based on the number of PVAA members. Astronomical League dues for the new year are due July 1st. Because of this our treasurer has to either guess how many members we will have in September or stall and pay the Astronomical League late. By amending the bylaws the PVAA year will begin June 1st allowing the treasurer to know which members are renewing their membership before paying the Astronomical League.

The proposed changes will be voted on by the membership at the March 1st general meeting.

Ron Hoekwater

Dec. 1, 2012. Changes are *italicized* and underlined.

Article IV - Election of Officers

SECTION 1

1.0 The Board of Officers shall nominate candidates for all offices at the regular March meeting of the Board of Officers. Nominees are to be announced to the membership at the next regular meeting and in the April newsletter. Additional nominations will be accepted from the membership at the next regular meeting of the membership following the March meeting of the Board of Officers. A member may nominate him or herself by declaration.

SECTION 2

2.0 Members in good standing as of May 1 shall be eligible to vote for club officers. Voting shall be by secret ballot and each eligible member shall have one vote. Ballots are to be mailed to all current members with the April newsletter, before April 15, and made available to any member at the May general membership meeting or upon request up until the time declared for counting of the ballots. Instructions are to be included for returning ballots by mail to the

official club mailing address. The outside of the envelope containing the ballot shall be signed by the member, but the ballot itself shall not be signed or identified in anyway. The April newsletter containing the ballots shall be posted on or before April 15. All ballots returned by mail shall be received at the post office box by the day of the May general meeting. The President shall be responsible that all ballots are collected from the post office box and delivered to the Treasurer in person. Folded ballots may also be presented to the Treasurer in person at the end of the May meeting but prior to the time set aside for opening of ballots. Hand delivered ballots presented to the Treasurer at the May meeting shall make any duplicate mailed in ballots invalid.

- 2.1 The Treasurer shall compile and present an alphabetical list of members whose dues are current as of May 1 to be used as an eligibility list to verify the ballots.
- 2.9 Each officer except the Board Members at Large shall serve a term of office of 12 calendar months beginning on June 1. The June general meeting shall be opened by the outgoing president and shall begin with the introduction and installation of the new officers. The new officers shall then preside.

A Short History of the PVAA

Originally begun as an astronomy club at Claremont High School, the original club grew to include adult members and was reformed in 1978 as the Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomers. The founding members were Brad Basler, David Coleman, Tony Cook, Ed Hartuni, Mark Moran, Peter Orland, and Jeff Schroeder. The club grew from fewer than a dozen members to over 40 in a short time.

As the membership grew and developed new interests, the club embarked on a major project in 1981, the construction of a large portable telescope. The Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomer's 24 inch portable telescope is unique in several respects. In addition to being one of the largest equatorial mounted, portable clock-driven telescopes in the world, it incorporates a number of innovations in its optics and unique trailer mount. The design of the telescope was the work of a committee of PVAA members who also carried out the major construction. The major contributors to this project were David Chandler, Gene Fair and Byron Melland. The telescope is notable for its center-supported thin-mirror technology, 18 point floatation mirror mount, chain drive clock drive, diagonal secondary mirror mount and alignment system. It has been featured in Sky & Telescope magazine and won a merit award At the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference, one of the three major national astronomy events for amateurs held in this country. Over the years Mira, as the telescope was christened, has been maintained by the members of the PVAA as an ongoing project. In 1992 and 1993 major improvements were made to the mounting to incorporate the addition of a large, sturdy portable staircase to make Mira easier and safer to use.

In the late 1980's it was necessary to make major decisions regarding the future direction of the Pomona Valley Amateur Astronomers. The club was polarized into two groups, one wishing to take a direction that would result in a small elite club of like minded individuals who would pursue individual projects and goals. The other group preferred not to restrict the assets of the club, but to make them available to the community at large. After a somewhat acrimonious debate, it was decided to continue on the path of community activity and education. Continuing that goal, the PVAA is active in conducting educational projects in the local school systems, conducting monthly star parties at dark sites, astronomy and mirror making workshops for members and sponsoring various local events for the general public. In past years PVAA has publicized meteor showers, eclipses, and comets and has conducted public seminars on these events. Some of the more successful of these public seminars were on Comet Kohoutek and Comet Halley, evenings with John Dobson, inventor of the Dobsonian telescope, and "Citylight" public star parties in the city of Claremont, with the assistance of local businesses.

Club Events Calendar

- December 7 – PVAA Holiday Party**
- December 14 – Evergreen Elementary School Star Party**
- December 27 – Board Meeting, 6:15**

- January 12 - Star Party – Cottonwood Springs, Joshua Tree**
- January 17 - Board Meeting, 6:15**
- January 25 - General Meeting**

- February 9 - Star Party – Mecca Beach, Salton Sea**
- February 21 - Board Meeting, 6:15**
- March 1 - General Meeting**

- March 9 - Star Party**
- March 14 - Board Meeting, 6:15**
- March 22 - General Meeting**

- April 6 - Star Party**
- April 18 - Board Meeting, 6:15**
- April 26 - General Meeting**

- May 9 - Board Meeting, 6:15**
- May 14 – Ontario Library Main Branch 7 – 9 PM**
- May 17 – General Meeting**
- May 22-27 - RTMC**

- June 8 - Star Party**
- June 13 - Board Meeting, 6:15**
- June 21 - General Meeting**

- July 6 - Star Party**
- July 11 - Board Meeting, 6:15**
- July 19 - General Meeting**

PVAA Officers and Board

Officers

PresidentMathew Wedel909-767-9851
 Vice President ..Joe Hillberg.....909/949-3650
 SecretaryBill Connelly.....714/329-4080
 TreasurerGary Thompson.....909/935-5509
 VP FacilitiesJeff Felton.....

Board

Lee Collins (2014).....626/852-9442
 Ron Hoekwater (2014).....909/391-1943
 Jim Bridgewater (2014).....909/599-7123
 Karl Rijkse (2013).....

Directors

Membership ...Gary Thompson.....909/935-5509
 Publicity.....Laura Jaoui.....
 Outreach.....Jeff Schroeder.....818/298-3965
 ProgramsRon Hoekwater.....909/391-1943
 NightwatchJohn Stover.....909/988-9747

**Don't forget about the Holiday Party on
 Friday, December 7 th , 7pm
 Sizzlin Skillets, 275 E. Foothill Blvd., Upland**