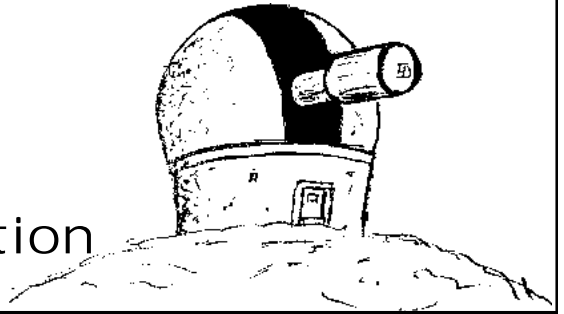


SDAA

San Diego Astronomy Association

Promising the Sun, the Moon and the Stars... and Delivering!



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A Non-Profit Educational Association

WWW – <http://www.sdaa.org>

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**SDAA BUSINESS MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT
SKF CONDITION MONITORING
4141 RUFFIN ROAD
SAN DIEGO CA 92123-1841**

News and Notes

February 2002

South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO)



<http://www.sao.ac.za/us>



This month the SAAO was kind enough to have us run a feature story on their beautiful Astronomical Observatory. I hope you enjoy reading about what they have to offer and about this organization.

The South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) is the national optical observatory of South Africa and a National Facility administered by the National Research Foundation (NRF).



SAAO History

SAAO's history begins with the founding of the Royal Observatory at the Cape of Good Hope in 1820 — the first scientific institute in sub-Saharan Africa. In the 1970s, the Republic Observatory in Johannesburg and the Radcliffe Observatory in Pretoria were merged with the much older Royal Observatory to form the South African Astronomical Observatory as it is today. Headquarters are located on the grounds of the old Royal Observatory, and the main building (completed in 1828) houses offices, the national library for astronomy, and computer facilities. Historic telescopes can be found in a number of domes on the grounds, and a small museum displays historic scientific instruments.

Education at SAAO

SAAO offers Science Education workshops and resources for educators and

learners, and participates in developing curriculum standards nationally. Technikon students learn the practical side of scientific support through six-month in-service training programs in SAAO's mechanical and electronics engineering workshops. SAAO's annual summer school gives university science and mathematics undergraduates from around the country a four-week taste of real scientific research, and postgraduate students working at SAAO (bursaries available) can complete advanced degrees under joint supervision by an SAAO scientist and a faculty member at the student's home university.



Southern African Large Telescope WHAT IS SALT?

Between 2000 and 2005, South Africa and its German, Polish, American, New Zealand and UK partners will build the largest single telescope in the southern hemisphere, with a hexagonal mirror array 11 metres across. The Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) will be able to record distant stars, galaxies and quasars a billion times too faint to be seen with the unaided eye — as faint as a candle flame on the moon.

SALT is a flagship project, intended to demonstrate that the frontiers of science are

(cont'd on pg 3.)

SAAO Observatory



*Read all
about this
interesting
place in
South
Africa*



Pages 1,3-5

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Incorporated in California in 1963

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Promising you the Sun the Moon and the Stars and delivering...

Getting Out Of The Way by D. Johnson

Ted Turner is often quoted as saying, "Lead, follow, or get out of the way!" (Actually, I believe there was an explicative between 'get' and 'out', but you get the drift). After two very enjoyable years as editor of the SDAA newsletter, it is time for me to get out of the way, and let a couple of enthusiastic guys jump into the saddle. Kathy and I will be meeting with them this next couple of weeks, turning over the reins, and letting them take care of 'leading.' No doubt, one of their first tasks will be to write an editorial to introduce themselves (and as my parting shot, I'm gonna keep you in suspense as to the identity of the soon-to-be-unmasked men!!). My son's soccer is becoming more demanding, as well as my work, and the newsletter deserves more than I have hours to give it, but I have enjoyed it, and those to whom it serves.

First of all, please let me convey my heartfelt thanks to all those who submitted their articles and materials on time and which made the newsletter worth reading. Out of the many, the ones which will stick in my memory always are Jim Potter, Alberto Levy, Mike Dietz, and John Mood. To these, and all the many, *many* others – **THANK YOU!**

Secondly, the team that takes it from print to your mailbox and the web, Craig, Michelle, and Dennis: a special thanks for the hard work, coordination, and tenacity it takes to really make it happen. I received VERY FEW emails from members who did not receive their newsletters – that is NO small feat! Congratulations!

From the heart, a very special thanks to Kathy Laborde, who was my mentor, the creative artist behind the newsletter, and sometimes the sanity anchor between the writing, the deadlines, and trying to make the two meet. (Also much thanks to her husband, John, for the hours when I was on your computer instead of mine while Kathy and I worked on newsletter projects!) Kathy, yours is a tough act to follow!

A special thanks to my wife, Vivian, for all of the times she proofread rough text and argued with me over writing style and being sure I was saying what I meant to say – for someone who is "not that interested," you have been a wonderful ally, and always my best friend.

And finally, to the two guys (folks, I'm still gonna make you wait!) who are going to pick up the ball and make the newsletter even better – your timing is great, and your enthusiasm is appreciated more than you will know. Time for me to throw my ETX in the back of the van, along with Bill's soccer gear, and become an opportunist!

So this is it ... out with the old (me)(I will let Kathy speak for herself ... she has told me she will *never* get old!) and in with the new (ya *still* gotta wait!!). May each and every one of you have the clearest of skies, and never lose power to your dew zappers!!

Last Newsletter (So Long) by K. Laborde

The SDAA newsletter, as you all know, is published monthly, and keeping members interested in a feature story is not as easy as it may seem. I have been designing the newsletter for over 3 years, and with that comes volunteering a lot of time searching for that special, interesting topic to publish in the newsletter... it was fun, and a challenge. The February 2002 issue will be the last newsletter that I will publish. I would like to thank my partner, Doug Johnson, for his extreme editing skills, valuable support and witty sense of HUMOR. We had a good time and made a great team.

We have two new guys taking over ("New Sherrifs In Town ..."), and you can be sure they will do a great job. I hope all of you have enjoyed some of the features and stories gathered over the years. I really enjoyed publishing the SDAA newsletter, and now it is time to go. GOODBYE, TOOTLES, SO LONG, TAKE CARE, and **see ya!**

Camp With The Stars by M. Dietz



This month our Camp With The Stars program will be in the desert on February 16th, at Vallecito Stage Station Campground. If you have a telescope that you can share with the campers, you are welcome to join us and camp for free. If you like, you can come up on Friday and enjoy the campground an extra day/night. Don't forget to bring a towel and swimsuit so you can take a dip in the pool at Agua Caliente Hot Springs for free.

To reach Vallecito Stage Station take I-8 East to Ocotillo, and then take Hwy. S-2

North about 30 miles to the campground which is about 4½ miles north of Agua Caliente Hot Springs. Those of you that are coming from the North County area can take Hwy. 78 through Julian, to Scissors crossing. Turn right and head south on Hwy S-2 to the campground.

Be sure to watch the monthly newsletter to note any changes or additions to this schedule. Some dates to make note of this year include April 20th for Astronomy day, May 24th - 26th for RTMC, and August 10th for the SDAA annual summer BBQ.

To reach Borrego Palm Canyon campground take I-8 East to Hwy 67 north. Continue on Hwy 67 North through Ramona to Hwy. 78. Take Hwy. 78 East to Santa Ysabel and turn left on Hwy. 79. Head North on Hwy. 79 for about 20 miles to Hwy. S-2. Turn right on Hwy. S-2 and head East for about 4 1/2

miles to S-22. Veer left on Hwy. S-22 (Montezuma Valley Road) and head east for 18 miles to Borrego Springs. At the outskirts of Borrego Springs, Montezuma Valley Road becomes Hoberg Road at the intersection with Palm Canyon Drive. Turn left at Palm Canyon Drive, and go west about one mile (if you turn right you will go into the town of Borrego Springs). The first road on the right leads to the campground.

To reach William Heise take Hwy. 67 North through Ramona which then turns into Hwy 78. Continue East on Hwy. 78 through Santa Ysabel heading towards Julian. A couple of miles before Julian, turn right on Pine Hills Road and head South. Continue about 2 miles to Frisius Drive and turn left. Head East on Frisius Drive about 1 ½ miles to the park entrance. Let the rangers know you are with the SDAA and they will show where we will be camping. We will be set up at the picnic area East of the caravan area.

To reach Stelzer Park / Oak Oasis Open Space Preserve take I-8 East to Hwy. 67 North. Exit at Mapleview Street and head East to Ashwood St. Turn left on Ashwood St. and head North. Ashwood St. turns into Wildcat Canyon Rd. Continue North on Wildcat Canyon Rd. You will pass the Stelzer Park on the right near the bottom of the hill. Continue on Wildcat Canyon Road past the park entrance about 2.4 miles and up the hill. At the top of the hill on

(cont'd on pg. 3.)



Promising you the Sun the Moon and the Stars *and delivering...*

(cont'd from on pg 1 feature story.)

not entirely reserved for the developed world. It will provide a first-class facility for fundamental research in Africa in a field where South Africa has a long history of excellence. It will strengthen ties with researchers around the world, and provide opportunities for young scientists and engineers in a stimulating high-technology environment. With a giant mirror gathering more than 20 times as much light as the largest existing African telescopes, SALT will have the power to tackle fundamental unsolved questions:

- **What was the Universe like when the first stars were forming, and quasars were common?**
- **What kinds of worlds orbit other suns?**
- **How are the stars in nearby galaxies different from stars near the Sun?**
- **What can these stars tell us about the scale and age of the Universe?**
- **How do quasars and gamma ray bursts outshine trillions of stars like the Sun**

SAAO and SALT

SALT will be built near Sutherland on the South African Astronomical Observatory's site in South Africa's Northern Cape Province. On this desert hilltop, far from city lights and pollution, SAAO has operated telescopes since the early 1970s. SAAO will also operate SALT, under contract with the SALT Board, and the SALT design and engineering team is based at SAAO in Cape Town.

SAAO Research

Astronomers from South Africa and abroad use the research facilities at SAAO to conduct a wide range of research in optical/infrared astronomy. They look for answers to unsolved questions about stars, extrasolar planets, the dust and gas of "empty space", galaxies containing hundreds of billions of stars, and the structure and scale of the universe. Beyond our own spiral of stars, 100000-light-year-wide, lie billions of other galaxies. Recent extragalactic work has explored the structure of the universe by mapping obscured galaxies behind the Milky Way. Dim galaxies whose matter is primarily in interstellar gas rather than stars have been searched for. Information has been gathered about active galaxies where giant black holes turn matter into energy on a scale such that



An image of the Southern African Large Telescope currently under construction at Sutherland.

some may be seen billions of light years away. Investigations centering on our nearest neighbour galaxies, the Magellanic Clouds, have yielded new information about the late stages of the lives of stars like the Sun, as have investigations of similar stars in the central regions of our own Milky Way galaxy. Studies of massive "Cepheid variable stars" have helped establish the distance scale of the universe more firmly, and other projects have investigated the life cycles and behaviour of "Be" and other hot, mass-losing stars, surveyed the halo of our galaxy for hot stars of various kinds, probed the nature of cool stars shrouded by dust (sometimes clouds of soot), and established the properties of a new class of red giant stars which pulsate at far shorter periods than were thought possible. Spectroscopy ("dissecting" starlight in detail) and photometry (precise measurements of the brightnesses of stars through filters) are the most common techniques applied by researchers, aided by the clear, dark skies of the desert hills of the Karoo.

SAAO is also an active contributor to the PLANET collaboration, monitoring the brightening of background stars as the gravity of a foreground star (passing in front) acts as a "lens", giving rise to a phenomenon called "microlensing". These microlensing events should provide useful constraints on the number and distribution of planets around other stars. PLANET also works with the University of Amsterdam/Huntsville collaboration on gamma ray bursts, the most powerful explosions in the Universe. A burst

first imaged by PLANET observers at SAAO had a peak luminosity of 5 billion billion suns.

(cont'd on pg 2 Future Star Parties.)

the left will be the entrance to the Oak Oasis Open Space Preserve (12620 Wildcat Canyon Road).

Acknowledgments by Michael Dietz

The club would like to thank Roy Ang, Dean Belcher, Rich Bentley, Carolyn Corless, Mike Dietz, Stu Hall, Jose Magsaysay, Nick Marilao, Joe McGerald, Bob Nanz, Bob Oxley, Jennifer Pesqueira, Cindy and Terry Stewart, Richard Strobel, and Bob Wetzel, for helping with the school star parties, Camp With The Stars, and Stars In The Park programs. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the students, parents and teachers.

Future Star Parties by Big Dog

2002 has already been a very busy star party year and may even prove to be another record-breaking year for us.

The Stars In The Park program will be held on February 6th at Balboa Park just west of the fountain. We generally set up around 7 p.m. or near sunset.

There will be two Public viewing opportunities at the Observatory Site in Tierra Del Sol in February; our first will be Saturday February 9th.

On Tuesday, February 12, we will be at Dehesa School in El Cajon. The school is located at 4612 Dehesa Road. From Interstate 8, take the CA-54/2nd Street Exit. North 2ND ST/CA-54 becomes CA-54. Continue and CA-54 becomes CA-54/Jamacha Rd. Veer left onto East Washington Ave and East Washington Ave becomes Dehesa Rd. The school will be about another 4.5 miles. The star party is scheduled to start at 7 pm.

On Thursday, February 14 (why is that a familiar date?? ... Feb 14 ... hmmm... seems I'm supposed to remember to do something or to buy something for someone ... oh well, I hope I can remember...), we will be at Hickman Elementary in Mira Mesa for a star party at 6:30pm. The school is located at

(cont'd on pg 4.)



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(cont'd from pg 3.)

10850 Montongo Street. From Interstate 15 North take the Mira Mesa exit and turn left. Turn right to Montongo Street.

On Saturday, February 16, you can enjoy the second Stars at the Site in Tierra Del Sol or Camp with the Stars at Vallecito Stage Station.

On Tuesday, February 19, we will be at Santa Fe Christian at 7pm.

Finally, on Wednesday February 27, we will be at DePortola Middle School for a star party beginning at 6:45 pm. The school is located at 11010 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

For those who would like to help the club and volunteer for star parties, contact one of our Star party Directors:

- North Region Party Director ... Bob Nanz
cathynanz@nctimes.net (760) 747-0717
- South Region Party Director ... Rich Bentley
rbentley@captivasoftware.com
(619)231-8791
- East Region Party Director ... Joe McGerold
joemcg@home.com (619) 840-8736 (cell).

They will be thrilled to put you on the list of regular volunteers contacted as star parties are scheduled or canceled after the newsletter is published, and if they know you are interested, they can keep you updated.

If you are interested in scheduling a star party for a school or group you are affiliated with, please call any of the above contacts at least 6 to 8 weeks in advance to make sure you get the date you want. Party On Stargazers!



Past Board Meeting Minutes by Melinda Baker

President Jim Traweek called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

In attendance were board members President Jim Traweek, Vice President John Restivo, Treasurers Jim Potter and Jennifer Pesqueira, Recording Secretaries Cindy Stewart and Melinda Baker, Star Parties Chair Micheal Dietz, Private Pads Chair Sean Houghton, Maintenance Chair Terry Stewart and Education and Library Chair Bob Wetzel. Also in attendance were New Member Aid Scott Baker, and guests Kathy Laborde and Brian Staples.

Agenda Overview

Last month's meeting minutes were read by Melinda Baker and accepted by the Board as read. Jim Traweek proposed the

(cont'd on pg 6.)

Moon's Occultation of Saturn

(by Alberto Levy)

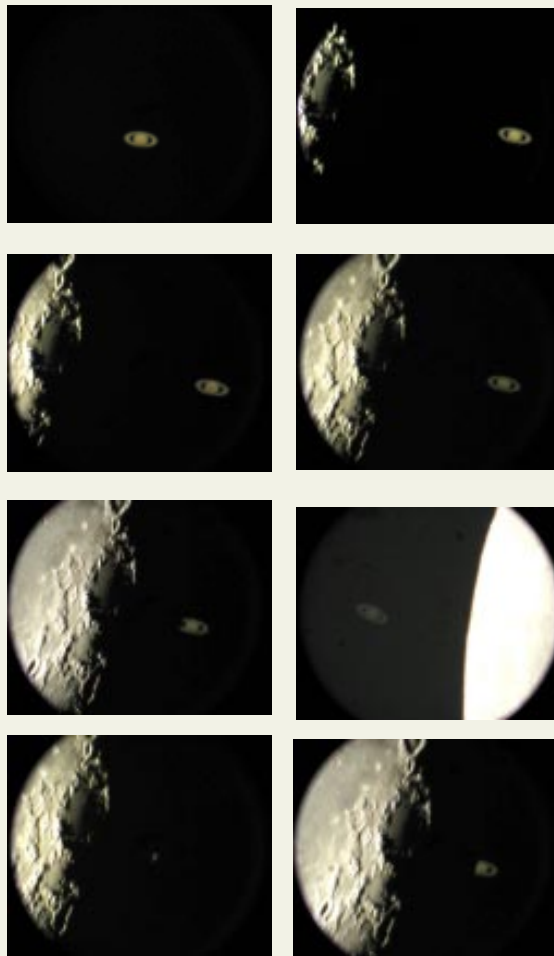
(Editor's note: Since this is my last newsletter, Alberto has provided a special gift of this beautiful article – thank you!)

A Series of the Moon's Occultation of Saturn

Sorry to answer so late, after receiving a wonderful surprise on the centerfold of the SDAA newsletter with my photos and report from the Leonids. I appreciate this very much and I feel honored.

Here, of course, I want to include a set of the last occultation of Saturn by the Moon on Dec 28. The seeing was not good in the city, with some cloud cover and even fog at moments. So fighting dew was a constant problem. For the astrophotographers, the setup was as follows: An 8" SCT OTA f/10, on a Super Polaris mount with a 2x Barlow and a 12mm. eyepiece and focused by eye. Then I adapted a Digital Olympus Camedia 3.3 megapixel camera over the eyepiece (afocal photography). My exposures were of 1/4 second from 1 to 8, and 1 second on the exiting Saturn from behind the bright Lunar limb.

Keep well and regards,
Your amigo, Alberto.



CAMP WITH THE STARS 2002 SCHEDULE

January 12th	Vallecito Stage Station	July 13th	William Heise
February 16th	Vallecito Stage Station	Campground	
March 9th	Vallecito Stage Station	August 3rd	William Heise
March 16th	Borrego Palm Canyon Campground	Campground	
April 12th	Stelzer Park / Oak Oasis Open Space Preserve	September 7th	William Heise
April 13th	Borrego Palm Canyon Campground	Campground	
May 11th	William Heise Campground	October 5th	Vallecito Stage Station
June 8th	William Heise Campground	November 9th	Vallecito Stage Station



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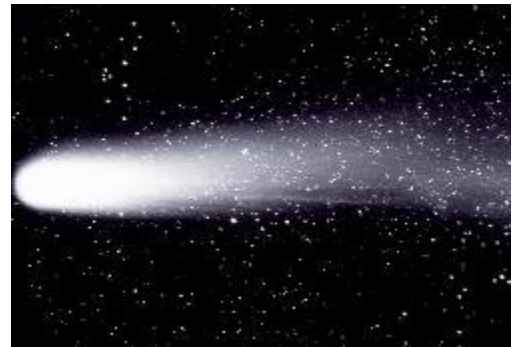
Picture Gallery

Our picture gallery showcases images of celestial objects obtained at SAAO, and our public outreach pages also include info about upcoming eclipses and other events, notices about public lectures on astronomy, predictions for the visibility of the young crescent Moon, what's visible in the night sky, phases of the Moon, rising and setting times for the Sun and Moon, and advice on what might be fun to look at with binoculars or a telescope.



Great Comet of 1882 November 14

Pioneering efforts to record the appearance of the Great Comet of 1882 were made in Cape Town by David Gill (Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape 1879-1907) with the aid of a local photographer and his portrait lens. They obtained some of the first astronomical photos ever taken. The number of stars visible on the negatives led directly to the idea of carrying out an international all-sky photographic survey of the sky, the Carte du Ciel programme, which lasted almost 100 years.



Comet Halley from Sutherland by Brian Carter 14 March 1986



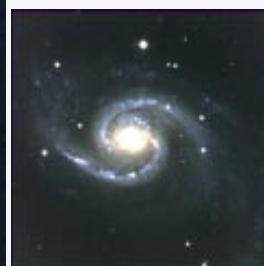
Total lunar eclipse, September 16, 1997.

The 1.0-m Universe: Deep-sky objects captured by electronic CCD cameras on the SAAO 1.0-m telescope



Going Out With a Bang (SN 1990k in NGC 150) [

In this image of the barred spiral galaxy NGC 150, Supernova 1990k rivals the entire galaxy in brightness. In Type II supernovae, shock waves from a collapsing core cause the bulk of the star to explode so violently that the outer layers expand at a substantial fraction of the speed of light.



And let there be no moaning at the bar . . . (NGC 1566)

NGC 1566 shows a much better defined spiral pattern than NGC 7793, and the elongated, "barlike" appearance of the central regions may not be too different from our own galaxy



Comet Hale-Bopp from Sutherland by Case Rijdsdijk 1 May 1997



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SkyWatch for February 2002 (by John Mood)

Mon., 28 Jan. — FULL MOON, 2:50 a.m.
Sat., 9 Feb. — SDAA BANQUET, Hanalei Hotel, 6:30 p.m. to midnight; don't miss it!
Mon., 11 Feb. — NEW MOON, 11:41 p.m.
Sat., 16 Feb. — STAR PARTY @ Tierra del Sol.
Wed., 20 Feb. — MOON OCCULTS SATURN which disappears approx 3:20 p.m. & reappears approx 3:55

p.m.; tho' a daylight event, it will still be a thrill in the telescope as the Moon gradually covers Saturn & then uncovers it; the Moon is slightly more than half full so it will be easy to find in daylight. DON'T MISS IT! Wed., 27 Feb. — FULL MOON, 1:17 a.m.

Ist, I want to thank Doug Johnson & Kathy Laborde for the great job they've done with "SDAA News & Notes" the past few years. They shd be warmly congratulated & thanked by everyone! I can remember when Wilbur Will put it out as a 1-sheet-of-paper mimeographed mail-out. Then Brian Staples took it over & did wonders w/ it. Now Doug & Kathy have done even more. With, be it added, great help from Dennis Ritz on the online version in his remarkable SDAA web-site.

But, as anyone who's done similar volunteer work knows, you get burned out, you want to resume your daily routine, you miss life @ home, hanging out, whatever. So you have to give it up. Don't blame 'em. Just thank 'em. & (SOMEONE OUT THERE) volunteer to take their place! Please.....

EVENING PLANETS: Slim pickings this month in number of planets visible. But with spectacular SATURN [*] near the Hyades in Taurus & giant JUPITER [*] at Gemini's feet, who's complaining?! MARS [*] is also visible in Pisces but shows little in scopes these nights.

MORNING PLANETS: None.

BEGINNING OBSERVERS (binocs & small scopes): Eridanus, the river winding south from Rigel in Orion, is an oft overlooked constellation. But from our latitude, we can view more than half of its enormous length. & it contains the easiest white dwarf easily available for viewing, OMICRON ERIDANI (40 Eridani) [*½]. It's a triple star system, tho' small scopes may not be able to split the 2 dimmer ones. The white dwarf is dimmer than the primary & brighter than the 3rd star, which is also an odd red dwarf. Stretch yrself out & try for this stellar oddity, the 8th closest naked eye star system to the earth. By the way, EPSILON ERIDANI [*½] is the 3rd closest naked eye star.

EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS (large scopes): Eridanus offers a rich variety of deep sky objects for larger instruments. There's the bright planetary nebula NGC-1535 [*½], the little known dim extended reflection nebula (apparently illuminated by nearby Rigel) IC-2118 [**½], & numerous galaxies. Try for the pair NGC-1531 & NGC-1532 [**], the peculiar (colliding?) NGC-1487 [**], & dim NGC-1625 w/ even dimmer edge-ons NGC-1622 & NGC-1618 nearby [***]. There are tons more available for you early in the evening before Eridanus sets.

TIERRA DEL SOL LAT = 32° 36' 46" N (± 0.1"), LONG = 116° 19' 55" W (± 0.1"), ELEV = 3710' (± 5'), at the bathroom, as determined from USGS 7.5 min 1/24000 map.

Send comments & questions to me by phone (619/225-9639), USPS (4538 Long Branch Av., San Diego, CA 92107) or my newe-mail address (lhappyalien@cox.net)_HAPPY VIEWING!

(cont'd from pg 5.)

delay of the long range planning for next meeting in order to focus on the upcoming banquet. This was accepted by the Board.

Treasurer's Report

Jim Potter reported that the SDAA currently has \$7,031 in checking, \$8,313 in money market, \$5,399 in CD #1, and \$5,155 in CD #2. Mr. Potter also reported a \$540 balance contingency, or surplus. Thirteen new members have enrolled since the last meeting, with a total for the year at 96. In total the SDAA has 579 members, which is an increase of 20% since last year. The Board approved Kathy Laborde's requested reimbursement for the banquet invitations, and accepted David Simon Fajardo as a new Associate Member. The Board heartily thanked and expressed their appreciation to Jim Potter for his service as SDAA Treasurer, and all welcome new Treasurer Jennifer Pesqueira.

Star Party Report

Micheal Dietz passed out to the Board the finalized copy of the Camp with the Stars 2002 Schedule, and informed the Board the

changes may occur, and to refer to the monthly newsletter for updates. Only one scope was present at the last Balboa Park "Stars in the Park" and members are encouraged to bring their telescopes, see the newsletter for dates and times. Mr. Dietz reported that among the guests at the "Stars in the Park" is the Mars Society, who promote space exploration. Though events are slow at the moment, they are expected to pick up in the upcoming months.

Vice President's Report

John Restivo reported complications with the Reuben H. Space Theatre: their new operational hours and requirements for the SDAA Presidential meetings, including a headcount of all attendees. Suggestions were made by the Board to move the meetings to another location, including Mission Trails or the Aerospace Museum, which Mr. Restivo will look into. The possible upcoming lecturers and guest speakers were also discussed.

Education & Library Report

City lighting concerns were raised and

discussed by the Board, and Bob Wetzel reports that all is going well with the library.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Unfortunately Dennis Ritz was unable to make the meeting due to heavy snowfall, and will be unable to attend the next two meetings as well.

Observatory Report

President Jim Traweek reported that he purchased a new 20mm Neggler eyepiece for \$638.28, and that the observations with it are amazing. Next year, Mr. Traweek hopes to purchase additional filters, and a 27mm. He reports that everything is working well, however new curtains will need to be made soon. The new Star Party schedule will be posted at the upcoming banquet. Concerns were raised about dropping eyepieces on the cement floor of the observatory, and Scott Baker volunteered to bring rubber floor mats to surround the telescope.

Private Pad Report

Sean Houghton informed the Board that he now has a new address and phone number, which will appear updated in the newsletter. Mr. Houghton reported that there is still electrical work required for the new pads, but the gravel for the roadway is not needed immediately as the recent rain has compacted and hardened the dirt. Three private pads are to be reprocessed after disuse. Scott Baker asked to tighten regulations on pad use, and the Board decided to encourage the sharing of private pads. An article on this topic will appear in the upcoming newsletter. Also proposed was a rent-a-pad, in which members can deposit two dollars for the nightly use of a private pad. No motion was made to approve or reject this proposal. Mr. Houghton reports that there are currently twenty-five members on the waiting list, with sixteen new pads and the three revoked pads coming up.

Site Maintenance Report

Terry Stewart reported that possible suppliers of cement will be researched with the hope of extending the walkway by the end of January. Paper towels and coffee will be restocked, and there have been reports of a leaky toilet. A short article will be written for the newsletter informing members to bring their trash home with them, rather than using the site trash cans.

New Member Report

Scott Baker informed the board that he



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averages two emails a week from new members or people inquiring about the club. Currently there are 172 members on the Yahoo site, and the new member pamphlets are mailed out approximately two days after his notification.

New Business

Melinda Baker informed the Board that Oceanside and Photo Telescope's owner J. Craig Weatherwax wishes to advertise in the SDAA newsletter, and is offering free shipping to all SDAA members. The Board concluded that as the SDAA is a non-profit organization, no advertisements will appear in the newsletter, though a link on the website may be set up.

A motion was made by Vice President John Restivo to give Professional Memberships to Mike and Ty of Scope City for their constant aid and support of the SDAA. The Board approved the motion.

A welcome was given to Jennifer Pesqueira and Melinda Baker, the new Treasurer and Recording Secretary. The updated Board Member Directory will appear in the newsletter.

Old Business

The invitations to the banquet are out, and already the money for ticket sales is arriving. Thus far the SDAA has received over \$1,300 worth of gifts, and \$250 will be spent on raffle and door prizes. Auction items will be donated by members.

The banquet will be on February 9th from 6:30pm to midnight, with dinner from 7:30pm



SDAA Business Meeting Agenda FOR FEBRUARY 2002

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Agenda Overview | b. Private Pad Report | g. Library Report |
| a. Reading of prior meeting minutes | c. Observatory Report | h. Star Parties Report |
| b. Priority Issues | d. Site Maintenance Report. | |
| 2. Standard Reports | e. Field Trip Report | 3. Old Business |
| a. Treasurer's Report | f. Education Report | 4. New Business |
| | | 5. Adjournment |

to 9:30pm. Thus far, no topic or time limit has been set for guest speaker Terrence Dickinson. All Board members are requested to arrive at 5:30 to aid in set-up.

Between 120 and 150 people may attend the banquet, and there are no problems expected in selling 120 tickets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

New Members

by J. Potter

NOTE: My New Members article did not appear in the January newsletter. The New Members article below includes those new members as well as this month's new members.

With the addition of the following new members we now have 589 SDAA members: **Lester Anderson, Therese Appleberg-Martinez, Burt Burley, Jim Brown, William Clarke, Chris DeMars, William Decker, Richard Devine, Lloyd Duhon, Chuck Falcone, Gary Giddings, Gilberto Harper, Eric Hedegaard, Michael Joseph, Steve McLaughlin, David Page, Syamasundar Pakala, Bob Roberts, Jenna Ryon, Saru Salvi, Gregory Santos, David Simón-Fajardo, Mike Smartt, Joseph South, Tracy,**

Emily and Will Stearns, Harry Sutton, Kekki Taylor, Eric Vossbrink, Brian Wagnon, Jeffery and Debby Weiner.

Welcome and may you always have clear skies.

Membership List

by J. Potter

The annual SDAA membership list will be published soon. If your telephone number or e-mail address has changed please let the Treasurer know so the list will be up to date. Also, let me know if you wish to change your preference for including your telephone number in the published list.

If your mailing address has changed you need to inform your Sky & Telescope or Astronomy Magazine publisher directly. Sending a new address to SDAA is not sufficient since we only report new addresses when a subscription is renewed.



Donations

by Jim Potter

Thanks to **Harry Doering** and to **John and Kathy Laborde** for their donations to SDAA. Your extra support is appreciated.

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SCHOOL STAR PARTIES

February 12	Dehesa School
February 14	Hickman Elementary
February 15	Murdoch Elementary
February 16	Vallecito Stage Station
February 19	Hilltop Middle School
February 27	Deportola Middle School

Southern African Large Telescope

Read all about INSIDE!!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STARS IN THE PARK BALBOA PARK
 February 6th First Wednesday of each month
 March 6th

STARS IN THE SITE
 February 16th

BOARD MEETING LOCATION

BUSINESS MEETING
SKF Condition Monitoring
 4141 Ruffin Road
 San Diego CA 92123-1841
 Second Tuesday of each month
February 12th 2002

PROGRAM MEETING:
 Third Friday of each month
February 15th

FOR SALE:

Meade 8" LX200, complete with standard tripod, eyepieces (10mm Tele Vue, 26mm Meade Super Plössl, 35mm Parks GS 5), Meade Series 4000 barlow, 8x50 finderscope, diagonal, ALP filter, T-adaptor, soft sided carry case, dew shield, 120v adapter, car lighter adapter, instruction manual. Excellent condition. Purchased new July 2000. \$1,795. Call Jim at 619.263.1121.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Send dues and renewals to P.O. Box 23215, San Diego, CA 92193. Include any renewal cards from *Sky & Telescope*, *Astronomy*, or *Odyssey* magazine in which you wish to continue your subscription. The expiration date shown on your newsletter mailing label is the only notice that your membership in SDAA will expire. Dues are \$35 for Contributing Memberships; \$25 for Senior (Basic) Membership; \$3 for each Family membership. In addition to the club dues the annual rates for magazines available at the club discount are: *Sky & Telescope* \$29.95, *Astronomy* \$29, and *Odyssey* \$25.46. Make checks payable to S.D. Astronomy Assn. **PLEASE DO NOT send renewals directly to Sky Publishing.** They return them to us for processing.

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