

SDAA

San Diego Astronomy Association

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



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A Non-Profit Educational Association
P.O. Box 23215, San Diego, CA 92193-3215

SDAA Business Meeting

Will be held at:

SKF Condition Monitoring
4141 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123-1841
February 11th at 7:00 pm

Program Meeting "Binocular Astronomy"

February 19th at 6:30PM
Mission Trails Regional Park
Visitor & Interpretive Center
1 Father Junipero Serra Trail
San Diego, CA 92119

Snacks * Prizes * Info * Fun
See page 4 for more details

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News and Notes

February 2003

Eyepiece Shootout 9, Fall Back and Punt... by Bret Akers & John Kuhl

We had it all planned out. The planets were high in the sky. No significant clouds over Tierra Del Sol. We were all set to do a comparison of three somewhat high-power eyepieces: The Meade 6.7mm UWA, the 7mm Pentax XL, and the Tele Vue 7mm Nagler Type 6. There was just one slight problem with this equation-wind, wind, and more wind. We were getting blown all over the place. It was hard to keep the scopes pointed for long periods of time, and the seeing was variable-periods of mush and periods of tack-sharp images. Oh well, what to do...

So in honor of Super Bowl weekend, we had to fall back and punt. We looked at what we had in the eyepiece cases and decided to do a 2-eyepiece comparison at half the power. That way, the seeing wouldn't be as much of an issue, and we wouldn't need to spend as much time hanging around in the wind, watching our scopes get blown to who knows where.

The competitors:

There always seems to be a few must-have eyepieces for anyone who hangs around the crowd at Tierra Del Sol long enough. One of them is probably the Meade 14mm UWA. Many of us have looked through it, and most everyone agrees that the views are wonderful-surprisingly sharp with good contrast. Todd Gross referred to it as "quite outstanding" and preferred it to the competing Type 1 & 2 Naglers of similar focal length. So what makes up this eyepiece? It's a 7-layer multicoated, 8 lens element beast (Did I say this eyepiece is big? It's 26oz.) that has a combo

1.25"/2" barrel that is threaded for 1.25" eyepieces. Although this eyepiece works in 1.25" focusers, you may get a bit nervous putting this monster in a 1.25" diagonal or focuser unless the fit is tight, perhaps with a compression ring providing the lock-down tension. In addition, this eyepiece has a huge 84-degree apparent field of view and is rated as having 10mm of eye relief. How much? About \$300.

So what's the competition for this eyepiece? Well, we're going from the big



Meade 14mm UWA

(continued on page 2)



Eyepiece Shootout 9

(continued from page 1)

to the small with the new Tele Vue 13mm Nagler Type 6. So what are the similarities? The focal length is 13mm; the field of view is 82 degrees; it has 7 lens elements; and the rated eye relief is 12mm. Those numbers are all pretty close, but that's about where the similarities end. This eyepiece is surprisingly small and not much bigger around than its 1.25"-only barrel. It's less than half the weight of the Meade at only 10oz, and feels much more secure in 1.25" diagonals and focusers. Unfortunately, small doesn't mean cheap. This eyepiece is still about \$280.

Testers and observing conditions:

The same 12.5" f/5 Dobsonian was used as the test scope in this review. Yes, we did say that it was windy and the seeing was variable, but these eyepieces are only pushing about 120x in the test scope; therefore, we didn't have too much trouble keeping the scope on target or resolving detail at the eyepiece.

On-Axis Sharpness:

At first it looked like this was going to be too close to call. But, as the test progressed and the seeing got better, it became more evident that the Meade was a sharper eyepiece. At first, it looked like the Nagler was easier to get into focus. But as the seeing improved, the Meade definitely focused stars into tighter pinpoints. **Edge: Meade**

Off-Axis Sharpness:

See above. **Edge: Meade**

Contrast:

We pointed the scope at Saturn with the Nagler in the scope and said "wow." Then we put the Meade in the focuser and said the same thing. Saturn was looking really good at this magnification. The banding on the planet was becoming very evident, and Cassini was sharpening and becoming much more distinct. Both eyepieces looked great. We decided to look at a lower contrast object to try to find a difference.

We moved the scope to M33 and did begin to see a difference. In the galactic core, the Meade showed a bit more detail. Not much more, but enough to be noticeable. **Edge: Meade**

Chromatic Aberration:

The Nagler came out on top in this test. The Meade definitely showed more color fringing with bright stars near the edge of the field than the Meade. The Nagler showed some off-axis color, but the Meade displayed more. **Edge: Nagler**

Field Flatness:

Call this one a draw; both of the fields tested out to be pretty flat. There just wasn't much focal shift from the center to the edge of the field with either eyepiece.

Edge: Draw

Light Transmission:

Another draw-and we really tried hard to find a consistent, repeatable difference. We just couldn't. **Edge: Draw**

Coatings:

Score another for the Nagler. No surprise here. The Meade coatings have never appeared very dark when compared to the Tele Vue coatings. Now, how they can be so close in light transmission...It's a mystery. Especially when you consider the Meade has an extra lens element! However, the Nagler wins this one. **Edge: Nagler**

Eye Relief and Comfort:

We had to agree to disagree on this one. One of us liked the Meade better and the other liked the Nagler better. The one who liked the Meade thought the eyecup was much more comfortable and that the eye-relief seemed like much more than the rated 10mm. The one who liked the Nagler thought it was easier to focus and had more forgiving head positioning. Either way, these eyepieces are very easy to use. **Edge: Split Decision**

Conclusions:

We need to say that our initial thoughts going into this test were that the Meade would wipe out the Nagler. It didn't. The

differences just weren't that great. If you look at pure optical performance, you would have to give the nod to the **Meade 14mm UWA**. It was a bit sharper and a bit more contrasty; however, the eyepiece is really huge and may be too big for some scopes. You also really want to use it in its 2" mode unless you've got a really good 1.25" diagonal or focuser. On the other hand, the **13mm Nagler Type 6** is small enough to be used in almost any scope with little to no difficulty. It's also small enough for binoviewing, something that I wouldn't even want to try with the Meade. Value-wise, these are about the same since there's only about \$20 difference between the two. One more thing: as we were finishing up this test, we began to realize that the Meade was scattering light more on really bright objects, i.e., planets. It wasn't a lot more, but we didn't have to look too hard to see it. If you are primarily observing planets, you may want to take this into consideration before making a purchase...

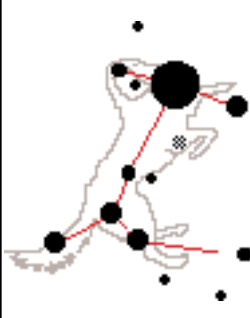
Note: The opinions expressed in this review are solely those of the author(s) and do not constitute an endorsement by the San Diego Astronomy Association.



Astronomy 101

Astronomy 101 by Scott Baker

The Heavens have gone to the dogs



Canis Major and Canis Minor, the Great Dog and Lesser Dog constellations, are prominent in our winter sky, at the feet of Orion. Some ancient civilizations

believe that the two dogs are there to help Orion "the warrior" fight the Great Bull "Taurus." Others feel they are chasing the rabbit "Lepus" for Orion "the hunter." The Arabic title for Canis Major was Al Kalb al Jabbar, or "the Dog of the Giant." Canis Major and Minor are not very noteworthy in mythology, but some interesting little tales about them do exist, most of them centered on the brightest star in the sky, Sirius.



In ancient Egypt, they believed the flooding of the Nile River was caused by the great power of the star Sirius. As early as 3000 BC, the Egyptians marked the rising of Sirius at dawn as the start of a new year. The ancient Egyptians even built temples, some as early as 2700 B.C., that were aligned with the point on the horizon where Sirius would rise. The Athenians also marked their new year with the rising of Sirius. Sirius was seen as a two-headed god, like the roman God Janus, with one head looking back at the past year and one looking forward to the new. Even today, unbeknownst to most of the people of the world, our New Year's Eve celebration is a continuation of a most ancient ritual honoring the return of Sirius to the mid-heaven position at midnight. In antiquity, as Homer and Hesiod were writing their stories, Sirius, the Dog Star, was already associated with the Sun, since

the Sun enters that part of the sky in the hot summer months. The ancients thought that the heat of Sirius was added to that of the Sun. To this day, we call the hottest portion of summer the "dog days." According to the Polynesians, Sirius was not always the brightest star. They believed that the Pleiades were much brighter than Sirius. The Pleiades had a reputation of bragging about their beauty. One day Sirius convinced the god Tane to hurl the star Aldebaran at this brightest star, shattering it into the group of six stars we see now.



From a previous article on the "Winter Hexagon," we know that Sirius is the brightest star in the sky and is nine light years away, while Procyon, the

eighth brightest star, is eleven light years distant. The system of Sirius contains two known stars, the first binary star system discovered. The larger and brighter of the two, Sirius A, is three times the mass of our sun and over ten times as bright. Shining with a brilliant blue-white radiance, Sirius A easily overshadows her darker companion star. Sirius B is a "white dwarf" star, invisible to the naked eye and packing the equivalent mass of our sun into an incredibly dense globe only 4 times the diameter of our Earth.



Procyon is also a two star system, and compared to Sirius, it is a feeble radiator of energy, yet it is still seven times more luminous than our sun. Procyon B, like Sirius B, is a white dwarf, a dying star that has collapsed to the size of our Earth.

The two constellations of Canis Major and Minor hold remarkably few deep-sky objects to view with binoculars or small telescopes, the best being M41. M41 is an open or galactic cluster containing about 100 stars. M41 lies about four degrees due South of Sirius, about the width of

three fingers held at arm's length, and is about the diameter of a full moon. It will appear as a faint fuzzy patch to the naked eye and as a nice grouping of faint stars with binoculars.

Camp With The Stars by Michael Dietz

This month we will be back at Vallecito Stage Station on Feb. 8th for our Camp With The Stars program. 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 4 1/2 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. If you plan on attending please let me know at (619)334-9930 so I can make arrangements to accommodate everyone.





San Diego Astronomy Association

February Program Meeting by Scott Baker

One of the responsibilities of the Vice President of the San Diego Astronomy Association is the planning of the monthly program meetings. As your new VP, I've decided to restructure the meetings a little, as an experiment, to see if we can get a little better membership participation.

Here's what's in store for the February meeting at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center. Coffee and cookies will be served. There will be two raffles, one a 50-50, and one for an astronomy-related item (an eyepiece or other accessory). If you are not familiar with a 50-50 raffle, here's how it works. One ticket will be given to each person, just for attending; additional tickets can be purchased for \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00. Each ticket, either given or purchased, is good for the door prizes with the grand prize being 50% of the proceeds from ticket sales. The remaining 50% of the proceeds goes towards prizes for the next meeting. So you see, the more tickets you buy, the better your chances of winning, and the better the prizes for the next meeting.

I also am going to have the meetings be more "member centered," with fewer guest speakers and more member-oriented activities scheduled. My goal is to have two "Gadget Nights" (always popular), one or two "Member Photos" night, so that members can show off their latest accomplishments, and two or more "Astronomy 101" nights that will get into the basics of amateur astronomy. Topics might range from purchasing and using your telescope to finding your way among the stars. The remaining nights will be for guest speakers.

As always at the meetings, we'll have an open session to discuss the activities in the club and to hear your opinions. So to start this new bold plan, the first meeting will be a "How to" night, with the topic being "Binocular Astronomy". So if you're new to astronomy and want to learn how to evaluate, purchase and use binoculars for astronomy, please plan on attending. Don't

forget to bring that loose change to buy tickets for the raffle! The February Meeting will be at 6:30 PM on the 19th (program meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month), at the MTRP Visitor Center. Directions to the center can be found at the MTRP web site at <http://www.mtrp.org>.

December Board Meeting by Melinda Baker

12/10/02, 7:17pm

In attendance was Jim Traawek, Mike Dietz, Bob Wetzel, Michelle Zandonatti, Sean and Diana Kelly, Scott and Melinda Baker, Brian McFarland, and Christopher Watson.

The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The property taxes have been paid, and the private observatories will be receiving bills shortly.

Vice President's Report: Difficulties with the Reuben H. Fleet continue. A reminder that only four cars are allowed parking during Stars in the Park.

Star Party Report: We are beginning to book star parties for 2003, and we are currently looking for a new East County Star Party coordinator. Volunteers please contact Mike Dietz.

Library Report: We have four new books which will be read and reviewed by the board. We are still looking for a residing place for the library.

Site Maintenance Report: New tiles are needed on the well roof, and general clean up is needed.

Observatory Report: We are currently training new people, and the new focuser is on its way.

Banquet Report: Paul Etzel of SDSU and the Mount Laguna Observatory will be speaking on light pollution, a donation will be made to the Mount Laguna Observatory as thanks.

Old Business: Scott Baker fixed the observatory gate.

New Business: The budget meeting will be on January 14th. Thanks to Michelle for her constant help on the newsletter.

Mars Society's MDRS Observatory Achieves First Light Provided by Gerry Williams

On January 1, 2003 the new Musk Mars Desert Observatory at the MDRS achieved First Light. The initial image taken was the Great Nebula in Orion, a nursery for the birth of young stars. Crew astronomers Pete Detterline and Debi Lee Wilkenson labeled it "New stars for a new year." The following night, the crew was able to take higher resolution photographs, including one of M51, the Whirlpool Galaxy before the clouds rolled in. The color wheel will be hooked in shortly.

The opening of the observatory marks a major new addition to the MDRS. It will be used to support both the operations research program of the station itself, and to provide a means for greater direct public involvement in science and space exploration. Starting in late January, the observatory will be made available to school and other groups to control through interaction with the crew several nights each week. Schools, individuals or groups who wish to participate should send an email to astronomy@marsociety.org.

The observatory is equipped with a Celestron 11 inch GPS telescope generously sponsored to the Mars Society by the Celestron Corporation. Other sponsors include: Le Sueur Manufacturing Inc., which provided the Astro-Pier on which the telescope is mounted, Software Bisque which provided The Sky software, Vince Lanzetta of East Coast Observatories who provided a Sirius Dome at a severely discounted price, Adirondack Video Astronomy which provided the STV Deluxe and ST2000XM CCD Cameras at a discount, High Point Scientific which provided the focal reducer and powermate

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San Diego Astronomy Association

Mars Society

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at a discount, Technical Innovations which provided the Robofocus at a discount, and the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Association, which provided the critical expertise to make the observatory a success.

MDRS is also operating a two-dipole radio antenna designed to pick up shortwave radio signals from the planet Jupiter.

To find out more about the Mars Society, visit our website at www.marssociety.org.

Photos of the observatory can be found online at: <http://www.marssociety.org/MDRS/index.asp>

The San Diego chapter of the Mars Society frequently participates in SDAA's "Stars in the Park" event, and can be found at: <http://chapters.marssociety.org/SanDiego/>

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SkyWatch for February, 2003

John Mood



[Times PST] [* = Easy] [** = Moderate] [*** = Difficult]

Sat., 1 Feb. ---- NEW MOON, 2:48 a.m.

---- STAR PARTY @ Tierra del Sol.

Fri., 14 Feb. ---- ♥

Sun., 16 Feb. ---- FULL MOON, 3:51 p.m.

Sat., 22 Feb. ---- STAR PARTY @ Tierra del Sol.

Sat., 1 March ---- STAR PARTY @ Tierra del Sol.

Sun., 2 March ---- NEW MOON, 6:35 p.m.

EVENING PLANETS:

Now is the time to stretch it out with SATURN [*] in Taurus the Bull 'cause it's at its best ever; go for the Cassini Division [*½], or you more experienced go for the Encke Division [***] & the C-ring [***]. JUPITER (*) in Cancer the Crab is at its biggest & brightest now so again, stretch it out; for you new to the game, check out the 2 main bands (North Equatorial Band, NEB, & South Equatorial Band, SEB) [*] & see what's happening with the Great Red Spot (GRS) [*½] which juts into the latter, & for those with more powerful instruments, try for the several other smaller spots [***].

MORNING PLANETS:

MARS [*½] is in Scorpius near Antares (which means "Rival of Mars") giving viewers a good chance to compare the "redness" (or more like the "orangeness") of the planet & star. VENUS [*] crosses Sagittarius the Archer into Capricorn the Goat this month & is shaped somewhat like a football.

BEGINNING OBSERVERS:

Because of our more southerly latitude, we have the opportunity this month of seeing the 2 brightest-appearing stars in the sky simultaneously: SIRIUS (Alpha Canis Majoris), mag. -1.46 [*], & almost directly below it, peeking above the southern horizon, CANOPUS (Alpha Carinae), mag. -0.72 [*].

EXPERIENCED OBSERVERS:

Try to spot the companion to SIRIUS [***], difficult not because it's so dim but because the primary (the "lucida") is so bright; their separation is currently about 6".

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 e-mail address 1happyalien@cox.net.

¡HAPPY VIEWING!



San Diego Astronomy Association

Star Party Report by Michael Dietz

February just may be our busiest star party month of the year. We currently have 14 star parties scheduled this month, so we need all the help we can get. Stars at the site will be Feb. 1st and 22nd, and March 1st, 22nd, and 29th. Stars at the Park will be on Feb. 5th and March 5th. For the time being, we are only allowed to have 4 cars parked where we set up the telescopes now. You can drive up and unload your equipment, but once there are 4 cars parked you must find alternative parking.

I understand if this turns some of you off from coming out to our Balboa Park star parties. We are trying to remedy the situation. We do have an alternative. Starting this month we will be holding monthly star parties at Mission Trails Regional Park (M.T.R.P.) on the second Friday of the month (Feb. 14th) at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground on the Santee side of M.T.R.P. The skies will be darker than Balboa Park, there will be no parking restrictions, and the Park Rangers actually want us there. We will be set up at the day use parking lot which is just to the right after you enter the campground.

To reach the campground from North County take Hwy 52 East to the Mast Blvd. exit and turn left at the stop sign. Go East a few hundred feet to the light and turn right on West Hills Pkwy. Head South to Mission Gorge Road and turn right. Head West to the next light and turn right on Father Junipero Serra Trail. The campground will be on the right. From South County, take Hwy 125 North to Mission Gorge Road and turn left. Head West to Father Junipero Serra Trail and follow the directions above. To reach the campground from central San Diego, take Mission Gorge Road East past the visitors center and over the hill into Santee. The first light, near the bottom of the hill, will be Father Junipero Serra Trail. Turn left at the light and follow the directions above.

On Monday Feb. 3rd, we will be at Adams Elementary. Call Rich Bentley for details.

We will be in the Carmel Valley / Sorrento

Hills area on Tuesday the 4th for a 6:30 p.m. star party at the Jewish Academy located at 11860 Carmel Creek Road. To reach the school, take Hwy 56 (Ted Williams Pkwy) to the Carmel Creek exit, about a mile East of I-5, and head South on Carmel Creek Road to the school.

On Thursday the 6th, we will be hosting a 6:30 p.m. star party at Alpine Elementary located at 1850 Alpine Blvd. To reach the school, take I-8 East to the Tavern Road exit and head South one block to Alpine Blvd. Turn left and East to the school.

On Monday the 10th we will be in Chula Vista for a 6:30 p.m. star party at Castle Peak Middle School located at 160 Quintard Street. To reach the school, take I-805 South to the Orange Avenue exit. Head West on Orange Avenue to 2nd avenue and turn right. Head North a few blocks to Quintard and turn right.

We will be in the Mira Mesa area on Tuesday the 11th for a 6:30 p.m. star party at Hickman Elementary located at 10850 Montongo Street. To reach the school, take I-15 to Mira Mesa Blvd. and head West to Montongo Street. Turn right and head North to the school.

On Wednesday the 12th we will be in Santee for a 6:30 p.m. star party at Carlton Oaks school located at 93530 Wethersfield Road. To reach the school, take Hwy 52 East to Mast Blvd. Head East on Mast Blvd. to West Hills Pkwy. and turn right. Head South to Carlton Oaks Drive and turn left. Head East to Wethersfield Road and turn left. From South of Hwy. 52, take Mission Gorge Road to West Hills Pkwy. and head North to Carlton Oaks Drive and turn right. Head East to Wethersfield Road and turn left.

We will be in Spring Valley on Tuesday the 25th for a 6:30 p.m. star party at La Presa Elementary located at 519 La Presa Street. The school will be providing dinner for the volunteers at 6 p.m.

On Wednesday the 26th we will be in Kearny Mesa for a 6:30 p.m. star party at Chesterton Elementary located at 7335 Wheatley Street. To reach the school, take Hwy 163 to Genesee Avenue and head

West to Linda Vista Road. Turn right and head north. Enter the school from the Linda Vista Road side just before you reach Wheatley St.

Our last school star party will be at 7 p.m. in the Clairemont area on Thursday the 27th at Holmes Elementary. The school is located at 4902 Mt. Ararat Drive. To reach the school, take Balboa Avenue to Mt. Everest Blvd. and head South on Mt. Everest to Mt. Ararat Drive. Turn right on Mt. Ararat Drive and head West to the school.

As always, please contact one of the star party coordinators (Rich Bentley, Mike Dietz, or Bob Nanz) to let them know that you will be attending. That way they can let you know of any changes or cancellations.

Chart Markers and More Desert Sunset Star Party May 1-4, 2003, Benson, AZ by Pat & Arleen Heimann

Registration is now online for the Desert Sunset Star Party. Please check our website (<http://chartmarker.tripod.com/sunset.htm>) for details about this new star party and to get your registration forms (early registration ends March 15). It will be held at the Kartchner Caverns State Park. We have speakers who will talk on a variety of subjects such as identifying stars, supernovae, Mars and the weather in the Southwest.

We will have vendors present and door prizes, and a contest for the best Simple Astronomy Tool (SAT). We also have lots to do during the day and have scheduled tours to Mt. Hopkins (Whipple Observatory), BioSphere 2, and the Univ of AZ Mirror Lab. Catered meals will also be available (please fill out sign-up form for meals). If you do not have web access, please contact a club member to get the forms. We hope you will be able to join us.



San Diego Astronomy Association

SDAA Banquet January 18, 2003



Outgoing President Jim Traweek straightens his tie (yes, a tie!) before beginning his farewell speech.

Thanks to all of you who attended this worthwhile event. A tremendous thank-you goes out to Diana Kelly for organizing the evening.



New President Brian Staples gets down to business.



Guest speaker Dr. Paul Etzel gave an entertaining and informative talk. The club greatly appreciates his making the time for us.



San Diego Astronomy Association

Banquet Report by Julie Quinn

The SDAA's annual banquet, the only formal fundraiser of the year, was held January 18th at the Hanalei Hotel in Mission Valley. 106 guests attended the event, and \$558 was raised.

Dr. Paul Etzel from San Diego State University and the Mount Laguna Observatory discussed the dark sky situation in the county, detailed developments in mirror-making technology that will result in much lighter (and thus more inexpensive) telescopes, and described collaborative projects that could change the future of astronomy.

A delicious buffet was provided by the Hanalei, and the dining room provided a lovely environment for members to get to know each other better.

Leading astronomy and telescope vendors provided generous donations to the SDAA

for the banquet raffle (see below). Their contributions totalled nearly \$1600. Please consider supporting these vendors when you make your purchasing decisions. Their support has been a tremendous asset to the SDAA.

The SDAA also thanks the members who donated items for the raffle and auction

and offers congratulations to those lucky attendees who went home with such fabulous prizes as an 8" Dobsonian and a 14mm UWA eyepiece. Thanks must also go to Brian Staples for playing auctioneer for the evening and to Diana Kelly for tackling the hard task of making all the banquet arrangements.

Our Generous Banquet Contributors

Discovery Telescopes

8" DHQ Dobsonian Telescope

Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

2 Fleet Center Tickets

Kalmbach Publishing

One-Year Subscription to *Astronomy*

Meade Corporation

14mm UWA Eyepiece

Oceanside Photo & Telescope

William Optics 2" Diagonal & Starry Night Pro

Orion Telescope Center

Deluxe Medium Accessory Case & StarTarget Planisphere

Scope City

3 \$25.00 Gifts Certificates & a 1.25" Parks ALP filter

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SDAA Calendar of Events February 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 ● Star Party at Tierra Del Sol
2	3 Star Party at Adams Elementary	4 Star Party at Jewish Academy 6:30 pm	5 Stars in the Park	6 Star Party at Alpine Elementary 6:30 pm	7	8 Camp with the Stars at Vallecito Stage Station
9 ●	10 Star Party at Castle Park Middle School 6:30 pm	11 Star Party at Hickman Elementary 6:30 pm Board Meeting	12 Star Party at Carlton Oaks School 6:30 pm	13	14 Star Party at Mission Trails	15
16 ○	17	18	19 Program Meeting	20	21	22 Star Party at Tierra Del Sol
23 ●	24	25 Star Party at La Presa Elementary 6:30 pm	26 Star Party at Chesterton Elementary 6:30 pm	27 Star Party at Holmes Elementary 6:30 pm	28	

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Treasurer's Report by Jennifer Pesqueira

With the addition of the following members we now have a total of 534 SDAA members. Please welcome: Kent Eskew, Francis Spreccio, Dwayne White, Eric Hicks, Gerald Paltin, James Peebles Jr., William Schieber, Andrew Zaharevitz. Welcome to SDAA and may you enjoy clear dark skies.

New Board by Julie Quinn

The new SDAA Board took charge January 18th when the gavel was passed (literally and figuratively) to the new administration at the annual banquet. See the list on page 10 of this newsletter or the Contacts page on the SDAA website (www.sdaa.org) for a current listing of officers, directors, and chairpersons. Come to one of the SDAA's many events and meet the hard-working people who keep the SDAA looking up!

Acknowledgments by Michael Dietz

The club would like to thank Don Beaman, Dean Belcher, Rich Bentley, Peter DeBaan, Mike Dietz, S2 Hall, Doug Hansen, Doug Havens, Chris Hoffman, Jim Lawler, Jose Magsaysay, Nick Marilao, Doug McFarland, Bob Nanz, Jennifer Pesqueira, Mary Jo Rushing, Gregory Santos, George Varga, and Bill Whalen 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.

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German equatorial mount with wooden tripod, \$25.

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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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