

San Diego Astronomy Association

Celebrating 40 Years of Astronomical Outreach



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<http://www.sdaa.org>
 A Non-Profit Educational Association
 P.O. Box 23215, San Diego, CA 92193-3215

News and Notes

April 2004

SDAA Business Meeting

Will be held at:

SKF Condition Monitoring
 5271 Viewridge Court
 San Diego, CA 92123
 April 13th at 7:00pm

Program Meeting "Border Lights"

**Joint Meeting with
 International Dark-Sky Assoc.
 April 21st at 7:00PM**

Mission Trails Regional Park
 Visitor & Interpretive Center
 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail
 San Diego, CA 92119

**Snacks * Prizes * Info * Fun
 Doors open at 6:30PM
 See page 3 for details**

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 San Diego Astronomy Association
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Presidential Notes by Brian V. Staples

A few months have passed since I last wrote, and there have been a lot of changes in the SDAA. Being in position of president of the SDAA (or just about any similar organization) has its pluses and minuses. On the plus side, there is the SDAA, now one of the largest, strongest, most vital amateur astronomy organizations in existence today. With a membership of over six hundred, facilities and equipment that rival what many colleges and universities have, and a presence in our community and world that touches many tens of thousands of people each year, we can all be proud of what we've accomplished. On the minus side, there's dealing with the everyday problems of running an organization of this size, making sure that our membership, facilities, and outreach programs stay viable, and handling the occasional odd problems that crop up from time to time. And sometimes, the pluses and minuses can get blurred, and what seems like a plus is a minus, and vice versa. So when you read the news below, please remember that what may seem like a minus is in reality a positive.

The site is in good shape. We are almost ready to put water tanks in. These tanks will hold ten thousand gallons for fire suppression, which will help if our site is ever jeopardized by fire. But it will also bring us up to code, which will allow us to further develop Tierra del Sol. Near future plans include the development of the AISIG pad site area, upgrading of the electrical grid, making sure the septic and well water infrastructure can handle the increased load due to membership level rises, and the addition of pads near the

observatory for members' use when working with one of the newer telescopes we will have available over the next year.

But as wondrous as our site is, it is in jeopardy of being rendered completely useless by plans to illuminate the border in and around Tierra del Sol. About two months ago, I was contacted by Congressman Bob Filner's office. They wanted to know if we would be willing to participate in a meeting on the proposed lighting of the border along TDS by the Department of Homeland Security (who now manages the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Border Patrol). This was the first we heard of this, and of course, we were willing. What we were all led to believe was that the SDAA, International Dark-Sky Association, Mount Laguna Observatory, local residents and other interested parties would gather to talk about the merits of such a plan, and whether it should be implemented or not. What we got at the meeting on March 20 was basically "it's a done deal, learn to live with it!" Seems the border patrol has plans to place fifty 4,000-watt portable lighting systems strategically along an approximate twenty-five mile corridor between Tecate and Jacumba. But almost half of the lights (24) will be concentrated along a short (one to one and a half mile) corridor right in front of our TDS site. That means we're looking at having 96,000 watts of light blazing in and around us a less than half a mile distance from the site. And even though there were assurances of the light being directed strictly downward and southward, the description of the lights are the same as the portable systems now used at the

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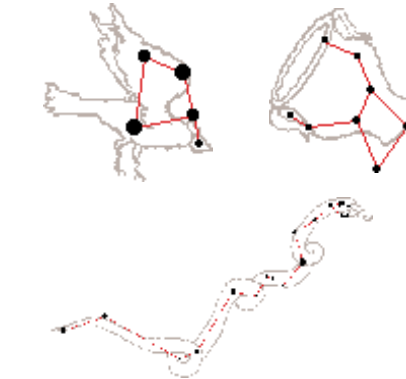
Astronomy 101

by Scott Baker

*Inexcusably Late - or - a Poor Liar
Doesn't Prosper*

Our constellations and myths this month, are Corvus, Crater and Hydra. There are two tales of Hydra, one I told partially in an earlier article about Cancer the crab -- how Hercules did battle with the great multi-headed Hydra and slew it by cutting off its heads. But that tale, having already been told, is not as good as this next one, which refers to three constellations, not just one. It starts with a thirsty god...

One day, the god Apollo, sitting in heaven, grew thirsty, and he knew the perfect thing to slake his thirst, a cup of spring water from Earth. He called over his pet raven, gave it his favorite cup and instructed it to fly to Earth and bring back a cup of cool, fresh, spring water. The raven obeyed and flew down to Earth. When he landed in a tree next to the spring, he spied a fig tree nearby, with fruit that was almost ripe. He thought that the figs would be a very tasty treat and decided to wait a few days for



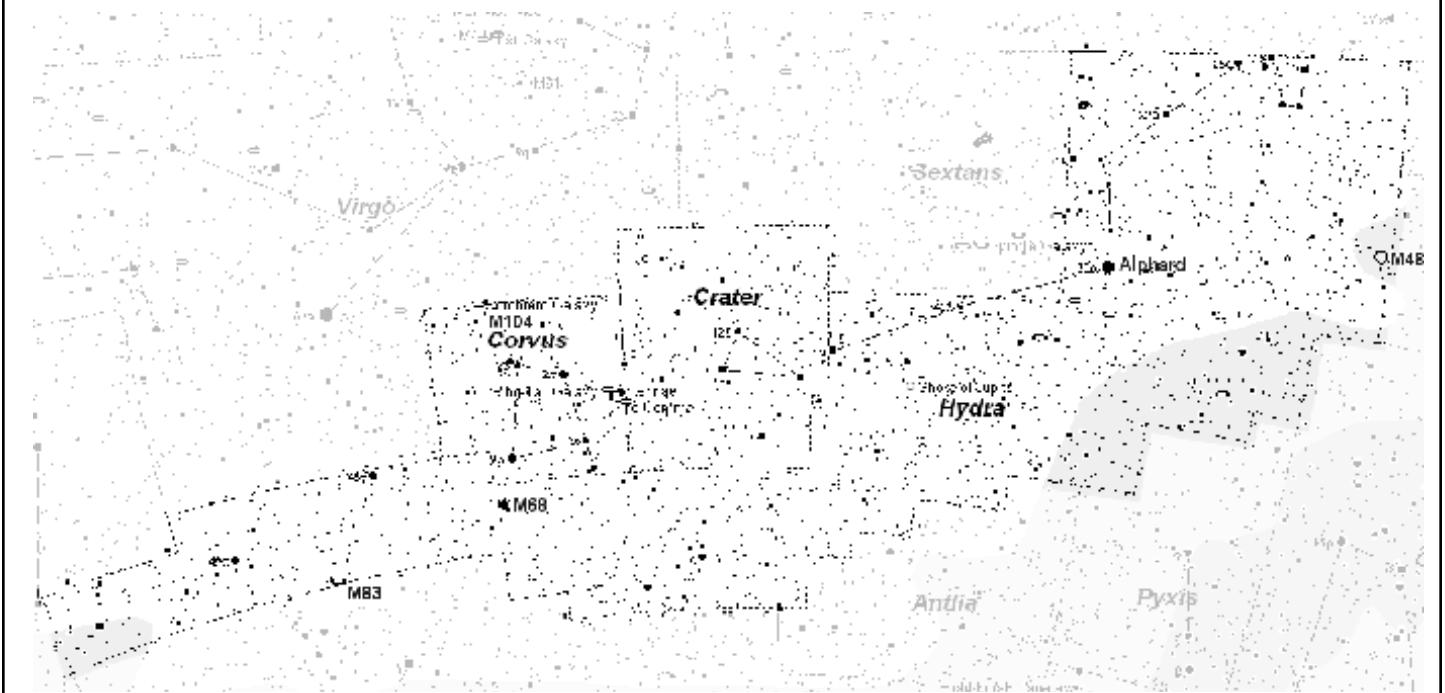
them to ripen. Two days later, the fruit ripe and plump, the bird hopped over and started feasting. Two more days passed while he ate every fig on the tree. Remembering that Apollo was still waiting for his water, he knew he'd better have a very good excuse for his tardiness. Looking around, he spied a water snake in the spring and got an idea. Swooping down, he seized the water snake in his beak, and with the cup of water in his claws, he flew back to Apollo. Apollo, now livid with anger, listened to the raven explain how the snake had attacked him and after a four-day battle, he had overcame it and returned with the water. Apollo didn't buy the story, and in his rage, he threw the snake, cup and raven

into the heavens, to become the constellations of Corvus the raven, Crater the cup and Hydra the water serpent.

For the amateur astronomer, there are many wonders to behold in these three constellations, so let's get started!

In Hydra, the largest constellation in the heavens, spanning almost 90 degrees of sky, we find three of Monsieur Messier's objects, M48, M68 and M83. M48, an open cluster of some 80 stars, is a conspicuous object, even to the naked eye under dark skies. At a distance of some 1,500 light years and spanning about 23 light years in size, the cluster is an easy and pretty target for smaller telescopes. M63, a 7.8 magnitude globular cluster some 33,000 light years distant, has a diameter of 106 light years. It also has the distinction of having over 42 known variables with 27 of them being the so-called RR Lyra stars. A faint smudge in binoculars, it takes a four-inch scope to resolve the brighter stars, while a six-inch or larger instrument will begin to resolve the rich core and fainter outer stars. M68 is traveling towards us at the rate of 112 km/sec; be sure to duck when it passes. M83, a

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Astronomy 101 (continued from page 2)

barred spiral galaxy some 10 million light years distant and 30,000 light years in diameter shines at magnitude 7.6. It is part of a small group of galaxies (Centaurus Group) containing Centaurus A (NGC5128) and NGC 5253. M83, sometimes called the "Summer Pinwheel" is one of the showier objects for the Southern sky observer. A faint smudge in binoculars, a four-inch scope will start to reveal its spiral nature, and larger instruments will begin to reveal the dark lanes inherent in this type of spiral galaxy.

For the deep sky hunter, be sure to check out NGC 3242, the "Ghost of Jupiter." This very distinct and round planetary nebula, rivaling Jupiter in size, is a classic planetary with a smooth round glow. Also seek out the "Antenna," "Comma" or the "Ring-tale" galaxy. This galactic collision of two galaxies has all three names and is an interesting target. Through small scopes one will see it as a misshapen oval, while in larger scopes (12" and up) one can start to make out some of the detail in the tilted face on spirals. These galaxies (NGC4038 & NGC4039) are in Corvus, located along a line about half way between Epsilon Corvii and Eta Crater, and were best shown in images from the Hubble Space Telescope. After seeing the Hubble shots, it's easy to imagine the galactic collision-taking place here when viewing this pair. You can almost see, in your imagination, the long tendrils of stars being thrown off by the tidal forces of the two galaxies. Poor Corvus is pretty much devoid of bright objects, but a quick look at an atlas will reveal a plethora of faint galaxies to explore.

For the double star observer, be sure to check out Epsilon Hydra, a beautiful multi-star system (five stars) of contrasting colors. Another nice double is 54 Hydra, an easy target for small scopes, consisting of a yellow, 5.2 primary and a purplish 7.1 secondary.

I hope you enjoyed this winged flight through the heavens, clear skies!

Program Meetings by Scott Baker

The March Program meeting saw about 40 members enjoy the images captured by other members at our Annual "Slide Show." One of the highlights of the evening was Dr. Art Young's collection of images from Cal-Tech of our newly discovered, outer most, "planet-thingy" (my apologies to the IAU) Sedna. Our monthly raffle raised \$152, 20% of which (\$30) goes to the club, and the rest to next month's raffle prizes. We gave away the following items: Dr. Clay's Cleaning Kit, Night Sky Explorer software, Eyes on Mars DVD, Celestron X-Cel 10mm Eyepiece, The Year Round Messier Marathon Field Guide and The Cambridge Star Atlas. All purchased with the help of Oceanside Photo and Telescope at their cost, thank you OPT. One other prize, a copy of Sky Tools 2 software, was generously donated by Capellasoft for our raffle.

Next month's Program Meeting will be a lecture and Powerpoint presentation on comets by Ken VanLew. Ken, a college astronomy professor and a fairly new member of the SDAA, has graciously volunteered several of his college lectures for our program meetings. This month's lecture on comets is timely, with the approach this summer of several new, naked eye (we hope), comets. So make sure to catch this great talk and be ready for the upcoming comets by attending our program meeting. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center Theater. Doors open at 6:30PM and the program starts promptly at 7:00PM. Directions to the visitor center can be found at the MTRP web page at <http://www.mtrp.org>.

Board Meeting Minutes by Diana Baker

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm on March 9, 2004. In attendance were Brian Staples, Jim Traweek, Christopher Watson, Jerry Hilburn, Jennifer Pesqueira, Peter DeBaan, Scott and Diana Baker, Michael Finch, Michael Dietz, Bill Griffith, Brian McFarland, Jim Tello and Peter Magro.

Last meeting's minutes were read online. A motion was made to approve the minutes; it was seconded and approved.

Michael Finch gave the Treasurer's Report: There are now 609 members. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded and approved.

Bill Griffith gave the Site Maintenance Report: An overall assessment needs to be done; a cheaper price was found for the water tanks; we might have a volunteer work party with a white board listing tasks to be done; need an assessment of the state of the septic tank.

Jim Traweek gave the Observatory Report: Need a focuser, motor, tel-rads; the mount is pretty much done; need to work on rotating rings; the loaner scopes are good; will purchase three loaner binoculars. The owner of the 30" telescope will send a letter to the board.

Brian McFarland gave the Private Pad Report: There are two new people on the waiting list for a private pad.

Michael Dietz gave the Star Party Report: There were eight star parties last month, twenty are planned for this month, and four were cancelled last month due to the weather.

Jerry Hilburn gave the Library/Education Report: Jerry has the entire library with him and has begun data entry. A list will be posted on the website and will be published annually in the newsletter. The old Sky and Telescope magazines will be recycled.

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Sciencecraft

by Patrick L. Barry and Tony Phillips

Probes that can distinguish between "interesting" things and "boring" things are vital for deep space exploration, say JPL scientists.

Along with his colleagues in NASA's Space Technology 6 Project (ST6), JPL's Steven Chien is working to develop an artificial intelligence technology that does just that. They call it the Autonomous Sciencecraft Experiment, and it's one of many next-generation satellite technologies emerging from NASA's New Millennium Program.

As humanity expands its exploration of the outer solar system-or even neighboring solar systems!-the probes we send suffer from two unavoidable handicaps. First, commands radioed by mission scientists on Earth take a long

time to reach the probe: six hours for the planned New Horizons mission to Pluto, for example.

Second, the great distance also means that data beamed back by the probe trickles to Earth at a lower bandwidth-often much less than an old 28.8 kbps modem. Waiting for hundreds or thousands of multi-megabyte scientific images to download could take weeks. And often many of those images will be "boring," that is, they won't contain anything new or important for scientists to puzzle over. That's certainly not the most efficient way of using a multi-million dollar probe.

Even worse, what if one of those images showed something extremely "interesting"-a rare event like a volcanic eruption or an unexpected feature like glaciers of methane ice? By the time scientists see the images, hours or days would have passed, and it may be too late to tell the probe to take a closer look.

But how can a probe's computer brain possibly decide what's "interesting" to scientists and what's not?

"What you really want is a probe that can identify changes or unique features and focus on those things on its own, rather than just taking images indiscriminately," says Arthur Chmielewski, one of Chien's colleagues at JPL.

Indeed, that's what Chien's

software does. It looks for things that change. A mission to Jupiter's icy moon Europa, for instance, might zero in on newly-formed cracks in the ice. Using artificial intelligence to set priorities, the probe could capture a complete movie of growing fractures rather than a single haphazard snapshot.

Until scientists can actually travel to deep space and explore distant worlds in person, they'll need spacecraft "out there" that can do some of the thinking for them. Sciencecraft is leading the way.

Learn more about Sciencecraft at nmp.nasa.gov/st6. Kids can make a "Star Finder" for this month and learn about another of the ST6 technologies at spaceplace.nasa.gov/st6starfinder/st6starfinder.htm.

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

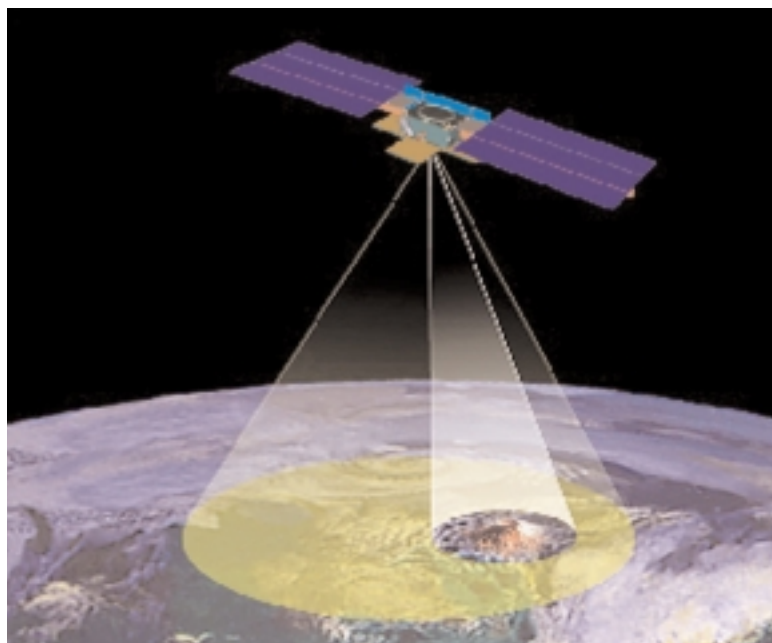
Treasurer's Report by Michael Finch

With the addition of the following members we now have a total of 610 SDAA members. We have gained a lot of new members over the last couple of months. Please welcome Anne Carroll, Melissa D'Asaro, David Gentry, Karen Gibson, Scott Kelman, Irene Maule, David McGough, Markus Pietrzak, Jenna Ryon, Larry Seagle, Lynn Smith, and Mark Vorenkamp. Welcome to SDAA and may you enjoy clear dark skies!

Don't miss **Astronomy Day!**
Two chances to celebrate:

April 17 at Reuben H. Fleet

April 24 at MTRP



The Autonomous Sciencecraft technology that will be tested as part of NASA's Space Technology 6 mission will use artificial intelligence to select and transmit only the scientifically significant images.



San Diego Astronomy Association

SkyWatch for April, 2004 John Mood



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

Sun., 4 April ---- PDT (Pacific Daylight Time begins, 2:00 a.m.; lose an hour!)

Mon., 5 April ---- FULL MOON, 4:03 a.m.

Sat., 10 April ---- PUBLIC STAR PARTY, Tierra del Sol.

Sat., 17 April ---- MEMBERS' STAR PARTY, Tierra del Sol.

Mon., 19 April ---- NEW MOON, 6:21 a.m.

Sat., 24 April ---- PUBLIC STAR PARTY, Tierra del Sol.

NOTICE!!! ---- For the 1st few days of April, ALL 5 NAKED-EYE PLANETS ARE VISIBLE AFTER SUNDOWN, & in almost the same order as they are from the sun. Only Saturn is out of place! Then there will be 4, as Mercury quickly disappears into the twilight haze.

EVENING PLANETS:

MERCURY [* 1/2] is visible in Aries the Ram for a few days early in the month. VENUS [*] is in Taurus the Bull & skims the Pleiades at the beginning of the month (use binocs); it has begun its drop toward transiting the SUN for the 1st time in 122 years (on 8 June; visible in Europe & Asia). Dim MARS [*] is also in Taurus. SATURN [*] is at the feet of Gemini the Twins. JUPITER [*] is in Leo the Lion.

MORNING PLANETS:

NEPTUNE [**] is in Capricornus the Goat & rises early enough that telescopes can catch it before dawn.

{ N.B. Because of the recent discovery of 2 relatively large trans-Neptunian objects, many professional astronomers no long consider Pluto a planet. I'll go along w/ 'em! }

FOR ALL OBSERVERS, BEGINNING & EXPERIENCED

This is the 4th installment of my review of what I consider to be the best astronomy book ever written, BURNHAM'S CELESTIAL HANDBOOK:

An Observer's Guide to the Universe Beyond the Solar System by Robert Burnham, Jr., pub. in 3 vols. (2138 pp, 750 photos, 450 diagrams & charts) in '78. Last month I explained how its arrangement of tables of double & multiple stars, of variable stars, & deep sky objects (globular & open clusters, nebulae & galaxies) was the best possible, even for computerized telescopes. [BTW, I myself experienced this once again since last I wrote when I used Burnham's star map of the central portion of the Virgo Galaxy Cluster (p. 2075) & in a half hour swept up 21 galaxies, including 5 for my 1st time.]

But last month, I promised to describe how Burnham's is also good for those cloudy evenings. It's his vast knowledge of myths & stories, architecture & art, history & lore of all kinds, plus his charming writing, that make the book an excellent reading companion. Let me take his discussion of Polaris (Alpha Ursa Minoris), the Pole Star, as an example. Its 18 pages include a finder chart, 2 astrophotos, pix of 6 Asian temples & 3 ancient coins, & better than 12 pages of text. He quotes the Bible (Psalms & Isaiah), playwrights Aeschylus, Marlowe & Shakespeare, poets Bryant, Rossetti, Dante, Wordsworth, Keats & T. S. Eliot, thinkers Thales, Confucius & Sir James Frazer, & includes a lengthy discussion of Eastern religion, architecture & numismatics - all in a non-technical pleasant accessible writing style.

You see why I said in my 1st installment in January that Burnham's is the "total book of astronomy"!

Next month, the final installment of this series, on the strange life & tragic death, here in San Diego, of Robert Burnham, Jr.

TIERRA DEL SOL

LAT = 32° 36' 48" 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.

¡HAPPY VIEWING!

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Scott Baker
Patrick L. Barry
Michael Finch
John Mood
Tony Phillips
Brian V. Staples



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Presidential Notes (continued page from 1)

Border Patrol checkpoint on I-8, and the same as those proposed, and defeated, seven years back. These are basically poles about twenty feet tall, with four 1,000-watt halide lights under an umbrella shaped head, powered by portable generators. Bright, loud, obnoxious machines designed to thoroughly penetrate the night.

As soon as we have a definitive word on when the lights will go in, the impact to the site, and the SDAA's plans to deal with them, we'll publish them here in the newsletter and on the chat group.

Despite the fact that we may not have a site that is viable for our needs, we still need to go forward with the running of the club, and that may include securing and developing another site, one more immune to the ravishes of light blight and other uncontrollable intrusions. In the meantime, we need to continue working on our site in the small hope that we will be able to continue to use TDS. Because of this, and other costs associated with running the club, I need to announce that a dues increase is necessary to keep on operating the club. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter, along with the accompanying budget, for details.

I know a dues increase is news to some of you, but to others this comes as no surprise. We as board members have been informally polling the membership about an increase and estimating the amounts needed to successfully run the club. To most, a dues increase is not only imminent, but almost expected. Dues will go up to \$50.00/year for contributing members, \$30.00/year for basic members, and \$5.00/year for family membership. While we (the Board) would prefer not to do this, holding the dues at the current rates would cause deficits in our budget that would quickly erode our reserves.

A basic look at the costs of everything should easily justify why we need to raise dues. Everything from printing and mailing the newsletter, insurance and taxes, member benefits and public outreach, has risen at a faster pace than our dues increases over the

last ten years. And a big cost item we have to deal with is site expansion and maintenance. With the membership having more than doubled in the last ten years, utilizing a site originally developed for a quarter of the current number of members puts a strain on the resources at TDS, and we have to make sure that our infrastructure remains stable and usable.

I know some of you will look at our budget and say, "Well, the SDAA has X amount of money. Why don't we use some of that for some of these items?" While this may seem like a simple solution, please keep in mind that when our well failed on us last, it cost us \$10,000.00 to repair. A few years after that we needed to spend a lot of money on repair of the site after a very harsh winter and massive erosion problems over the entire site. Fortunately we had monies in reserve for the situations, and we were able to rectify them quickly. Over the years we have built the monies in our reserves for these types of situations, and for us to spend it to reduce any deficits or keep our dues down is not wise management.

In the budget article, I'll explain on a line item basis why we need to raise dues. And, hopefully you all will feel that even at \$50.00/year, being part of one of the largest, strongest, most vital amateur astronomy organizations in existence today is still quite a deal!

Dues To Increase by Brian V. Staples

In the newsletter, you will find a copy of the approved budget for 2004. Based on this budget, dues will be raised, effective

Dues effective May 1, 2004

Contributing Membership -- \$50.00 per year

Basic membership -- \$30.00 per year

Family Membership -- \$5.00 per year

with all memberships due on or after May 1, 2004 to the following dues structure:

The budget is based on the current membership roles at the above rates. As you can see on the bottom line, we are still \$400.00 below needed budget, but the Board has determined we can absorb this from reserves.

To review the budget, the first section outlines our income. It is based on membership dues as outlined in the previous paragraph, plus averaged interest income, and income from pad leases.

Next is what we consider our fixed expenses. To illustrate some of the rising costs, when I first served as president in 1994, our insurance cost us \$1200.00. This year it's \$3200.00, an increase of 267%. Likewise, our newsletter cost us \$1400.00. This year it's \$3000.00, an increase of 215%. In that same time, our dues have now doubled, or risen only 100%. You can see where our expenses have outpaced our income.

Next are variable expenses. We classify them as variable because we don't necessarily have to spend these monies. In this area we have a little cushion. While we don't have to spend this we feel we should budget and spend for these costs centers for the benefit of the membership.

Lastly, there are improvement expenses. This is an area we have not put a lot into over the last ten years, but with the increase in membership to over six hundred, and that number's impact on our site, we need to put much more into the budget in these areas, especially in those areas dealing with the site proper (such as the water tanks, septic, and electrical system. And this does not take into account anything needed to possibly develop another site, whether just for overflow use, or because our good ol' Uncle Sam forces us off TDS.

Bottom line is a budget spending that is \$400.00 over budget income. This will be made up from reserves.

The Board of Directors approved this budget on March 16, 2004 and approved a dues increase based on this budget.



San Diego Astronomy Association

San Diego Astronomy Association Budget - 2004			
<small>Adopted: March 17, 2004</small>			
BUDGETED REVENUE			
Membership Dues		\$	25,815
Interest Income			50
Private Pad Fees			1,050
Total Budgeted Revenue		\$	26,915
BUDGETED EXPENDITURES			
Fixed Expenses			
Astronomy Day		\$	300
Banquet Door Prizes			250
Insurance			3,200
Newsletter	Mailing Supplies	\$ 180	
	Postage	840	
	Printing	1,980	3,000
Office Expenses	Postage	\$ 215	
	Postal & Online Fees	185	
	Printing (3 years)	400	
	Supplies & Other	200	1,000
Taxes	Property Taxes	\$ 1,485	
	Observatory Owners	(765)	
	CA Registration Fees	45	765
Science Fair Awards			250
Site Maintenance			2,500
Telescope Maintenance			100
Utilities	Electricity	\$ 1,316	
	Site Telephone	234	
	Office Telephone	250	1,800
Total Fixed Expenses			\$ 13,165
Variable Expenses			
Education Fund		\$	500
Library Fund			300
Picnic and Special Events	Annual Picnic at TDS	\$ 750	
	Volunteer Picnic & Other	250	1,000
Speaker Fund			750
New Member Program			350
Total Variable Expenses			\$ 2,900
Improvements			
Site Improvement	Gravel Roads, Entry, Public	\$ 350	
	Electrical Upgrage	1,200	
	New Pads Elec. & Gravel	1,200	
	Cool Wall	1,000	
	Water Tanks	5,500	
	Septic Inspection	500	
	Pumphouse Repair	250	10,000
Telescope Improvement			1,000
ASIG Improvements			250
Total Improvements			\$ 11,250
Total Budgeted Expenditures			\$ 27,315
BALANCE (positive indicates contingency money)			
		\$	(400)



San Diego Astronomy Association

Board Meeting Minutes (continued from page 3)

Scott Baker gave the Membership Report: A checkbox will be added online or in the newsletter or on paper for new member handbooks; approximately 25 people showed up for last month's program meeting; will sign up to get NASA Outreach kits for Clairemont and Eastlake High Schools.

Christopher Watson gave the Newsletter Report: There is nothing new to report.

Christopher Watson gave the Website Report: There are 368 users registered on the site, the Mac Safari users notice has been posted; the phone message is outdated; the merchandise page is under construction.

Jerry Hilburn gave the AISIG Report: there were meetings on Saturday and Tuesday and they both went well.

Under Old business: The final banquet status netted the club approximately \$1572; the budget is being prepared and discussed thoroughly. A special meeting will be held one week from today to finalize the budget.

Under New Business: The border lights meeting is on March 20th at 3:00 at the Community Center; Astronomy Day will be held with the Fleet on the 17th and with Mission Trails on the 24th.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:23 pm.

Desert Sunset Star Party May 13-16, 2004

The 2004 Desert Sunset Star Party will be held at the Caballo Loco Ranch, about 11.5 miles south of Three Points, AZ, on Rt. 286, and then east for 8 miles. This RV ranch is in a secluded area of Arizona with dark skies. The telescopes of Kitt Peak are in clear view to the west. The DSSP begins on Thursday night and runs through Saturday night. We will have a speaker on both Friday and Saturday evenings along with door prize giveaways. Registration information will be posted on the Desert Sunset Star Party website - <http://chart-marker.tripod.com/sunset.htm>



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2004 Board of Directors and Chairpersons

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SDAA Calendar of Events

April 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Star Party at Holmes Elem. 7:00pm	2 Star Party at Our Lady of Grace, 7:00pm	3
4	5 ○	6	7 Stars in the Park Balboa Park	8	9 Stars in the Park MTRP	10 Star Party at TDS Camp w/ the Stars Lake Jennings
11	12 ●	13 SDAA Board Meeting SKF 7pm	14	15	16	17 Astronomy Day at the Fleet
18	19 ●	20	21 Program Meeting "Border Lights" MTRP 7pm	22 Star Party at Jewish Academy 12:00pm	23 Star Party at Pacific Beach Elem., 12:00pm	24 Star Party at TDS Astronomy Day at MTRP
25	26	27 ● Star Party at Sunset Hills Elem., 8:00pm	28	29	30 Star Party at Highland Ranch Elem., 8:00pm	

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For Sale

Meade 12" LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. field tripod, giant wheely bars, 9 mm. Nagler-Televue, 26 mm Super Plossl, 7.5 mm Plossl. All accessories. Original transportation boxes. Bought 5 years ago but barely used at all. \$2700.00.
Art (619) 206 0552

Don't miss **Astronomy Day!**

Two chances to celebrate:

April 17 at Reuben H. Fleet

April 24 at MTRP

For Sale

Televue NP-101, only 2-months old!
Almost new Televue 4" refractor NP-101. Includes: Ivory NP-101 Ivory OTA, fl-540, aperature 101mm, f5.4, 2" focuser. Also includes Televue items: 2" everbright diagonal, hard shell case, quick point finder, 32mm plossl, 8-24mm click stop zoom, 5x powermate and ash gibraltar mount and tripod. Yes it looks brand new because its only 2-months old. Sale due to purchase of anohter telescope. Price includes local delivery \$4,000 for everything or \$3,000 for just ota.
Michael Kent (760) 497-7348

For Sale

10" Meade LX 200 GPS UHTC, HD tripod, custom iag, case, Televue 2" diag, Kendrick heaters, counterbalance, 1.25 mead Diag, wide and narrow band filters, Dew shield, Televue eyepieces 9mm nagler, 10mm radian, 21mm nagler, 26mm mead, TV8-24mm zoom, 40mm university 2", barlows, var ploarizer, and a ton of extras as a package for \$3500 (worth \$5500 and only 2 yrs old). Must sell due to transfer.
Dan Smith (760) 603-9833.

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 \$32.95, 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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