

BULLETIN

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OUR 82nd YEAR OF
ASTRONOMY IN LOS
ANGELES

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Editor's Corner

*a*s this issue goes to press, we're still a week or so away from the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference. I hope to get some first hand reports from people for the July bulletin.

Speaking of which, the Recycled Telescope should make an appearance at this year's RTMC. For more on our society's newest telescope, see pages 4 through 8.

Spaces for all three Mt Wilson nights are still available. **PLEASE DON'T WAIT TO SIGN UP!** As I wrote in last month's issue, these nights are very memorable and a great social outing also. See page 3 for details !

My many thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the bulletin. Please consider writing or submit images. Articles need to be 1,500 words or less. Submit only a few images at one time, each with its own caption. The deadline for submitting bulletin material is the 10th of each month. If possible, please submit electronically to:
BulletinEditor@laas.org

Material may be sent to the LAAS address listed at the top of the column at left, but timely reception and publication cannot be guaranteed. ✧

Mt Wilson 60" Nights



LAAS has arranged for two half-nights and one full-night at the Mount Wilson 60-inch telescope this year. All three are New Moon nights. Half-nights are until 1:00 am.

Aug 21st Fri (half night)
Sept 18th Fri (half night)
Oct 16th , Friday (full night)

Only LAAS members are allowed to sign up. If there is still room two (2) weeks prior to the date, paying guests will be permitted. Everyone who shows up, whether family member, friend, or guest, will have to pay in order to be allowed in the 60-inch telescope observatory. The cost is \$80 per person for the full night (no half night reservations on a full-night outing), and \$45 per person for the half night. We are allowed to accommodate only a limited number of participants at each session, and your reservations are being accepted on a first come, first serve, basis.

To secure your reservation, send in your request AND A CHECK payable to LAAS to our Treasurer at:

P.O. Box 56084
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

Any LAAS member who has not been to a 60-inch night at Mount Wilson should consider it as an opportunity to visit astronomy history. To see the location and equipment used by giants such as Shapley and Hubble will add to your appreciation of their contributions. And you'll never get a better visual view !

The scope will belong to LAAS for the time indicated. We mutually agree upon which objects to view. Often, a member is the operator, so it is a very comfortable environment. (Do bring a coat, however). The viewing is without a doubt the best you are likely to see in your lifetime.

If you need any further information about attending these nights on Mount Wilson, contact our Treasurer at treasurer@laas.org or by mail at P.O. Box 56084, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413. ✧

The 26-inch / 25-inch / 23.5-inch / Big Bear / Recycled Telescope

By David Nakamoto

At this year's RTMC, the LAAS is hoping to display a unique telescope. The interesting history of that telescope, at least for the LAAS, began on December 2nd, 2007, when Bob Deubler, Peter DeHoff, Minghua Nie, Norman Vargas, and Ken and Virginia Ward went up to the Big Bear Lake area to acquire a large reflector with a unique history. The telescope was originally going to go out into space for infrared work, but as with many NASA projects, funding mysteriously ran out. It was then used by the Solar Astronomy guys up at Big Bear for their work. And now, thanks to their generosity, and need to get rid of the beast, it was "acquired" by the LAAS for a mobile telescope project. The goal was to fit it to a heavy duty, all metal, motor driven Dobsonian mount that would allow it to track objects in the sky.

Well, the work is nearly completed. It is planned that the scope make an appearance at this year's Riverside Telescope Makers Conference (RTMC). I should have a report next month as to whether it actually made it. But here, I'd like to present a photolog of the journey it made to get from Big Bear to the Garvey Ranch facility. Hopefully next month I'll be able to reverse the process and report the journey it made from GRP to RTMC !

By the way, the title of this article stems from the fact that there is some discussion as to what to call The Beast. The various "inches" are due to a debate as to what the real aperture of The Beast is. "Big Bear" obviously points towards its origins, while "Recycled" points out that its parts came from many sources. The tube and optics are recycled from the Big Bear solar observatory, while the mount metal came from Boeing surplus courtesy of Mark Briggs through his brother, and various small parts came from a multitude of sources. Bob Deubler reports that very little new material was used on this scope, but it took a lot of work to get it to where it is now. More on that next month (I hope). ✧

(continued on next pages)



This is the reflector at Big Bear prior to The Move. You can't get a real sense of its size. All that tubing is steel, not aluminum. Despite this, the telescope is much lighter than one would expect. Note all that wiring; the scope even had remote controlled focusing ! This image and all others courtesy of Minghua Nie.



Here is a shot of the mirror box. You can see it in the top image to the right of the telescope.



Here, that's Norm Vargas to the left, Bob Deubler in the middle, and Peter DeHoff on the right, loading The Beast onto a rented trailer. Note the size of The Beast, as well as how much it's tilting the trailer !



Bob, Norm, and camera shy Ken Ward are loading the carrying box for the primary mirror (!!!) onto the back of Ken's truck. A member of the solar group that donated the telescope is watching the proceedings.



The primary mirror, still inside its carrying box.



Here are some of the intrepid telescope movers caught in their own reflections in the primary mirror! I believe Minghua Nie is at the bottom holding the camera in front of her. Clockwise from her are Peter DeHoff, Bob Deubler, Norm Vargas, Ken Ward, and Virginia Ward.



The Ward's truck provided the means to move The Beast from its former home near Big Bear to the comfortable confines of Garvey Ranch Park. That's Ken behind the wheel.



Ken Ward shows how he proposed to move the telescope into the Garvey Ranch Park work shop. ☺

The New Member Potluck

By Richard Roosman

Lots of new and "old" members attended the New Member Potluck Saturday, April 17. 52 people signed the sign-in sheet, but more people attended. The "greeter" left the sign-in table when people started eating and some people didn't sign in without someone to encourage them. The potluck was supposed to start at 5:30, but most of the food was on the table early, and most people started eating early. Why wait?

The program featured Tim Thompson as the main speaker. He presented a summary of the history of astronomy, beginning with a description of some of the earlier telescopes. Dave Sovereign talked about basic telescopes. Mike White talked about the jackets. For many people the best part of the evening was the door prizes. Only new members could win a door prize (darn). Mike Roy won a year's membership, so he won't have to pay for his second year. David Knittle won a night for two at the 60 inch telescope at Mt. Wilson. Anita and Tom Schmid won the Bushnell telescope.

The final part of the evening was the star party. The Los Angeles Astronomical Society had the lawn without any Tai Chi practitioners, and lots of people set up telescopes.

Several people played a major part in the New Member Potluck. Andee Sherwood, New Member Chairman, planned it, booked the room, and worked from 3:30 to 10:00. Her good friend, Rick Silvera, assisted. Mary Brown helped with set up, food, door prizes, and clean up. Lots of people helped in various, mainly in bringing food and/or beverages.



This image was from last year's New Member Potluck. That's Reggie Flores' large Meade with Reggie in the middle, while Norm Vargas is munching away at some of the goodies from the Potluck. However, the young man at the telescope seems to be confused as to which end to look into !



These two images were taken by David Pinsky.

For the star trails above, a Canon EOS Rebel was used with an exposure of 18 minutes and an ISO rating of 400.

For the sunset image below, a Powershot A710 was used at 1/40 sec and f/2.8. I believe the vantage point was Griffith Observatory.



Griffith Observatory

Public Star Party Procedure

PJ Goldfinger handles our Griffith Observatory Public Star Party List. As patrons may drive up freely and reservations are no longer needed, we will continue to keep a sign up list for this event. Please note changes may occur in future PSP events and to read the policy below each month.

LAAS Members must still sign up on time - Deadline is no later than the Tuesday night prior to the Saturday GO Public Star Party each month. The list information required is:

- Your name, any LAAS Members and Non members in your car.
- Bring Telescope y/n.

NOTE: Those attending without a telescope as a favor will be required to be of some assistance if asked, needed and able.

It is primarily the main focus of any LAAS member who attends this event to be of Public Service with their telescopes in showing the patrons of Griffith Observatory the delights of the nighttime sky. New Members are not expected to adhere to this policy. Please feel free to come up and enjoy the event given you are signed up.

Parking will be on the east side of the Griffith Observatory Hill designated for GO employees. A guard will be stationed with the LAAS GO PSP list. It is always wise to have one's LAAS name badge and/or club ID on them just in case. Unloading telescope and equipment will remain the same procedure as well, with a drive up, drop off and park down hill routine.

The list currently has been updated to 30 spots for LAAS members. First come, first serve.

Please check the LAAS website and Yahoo list for changes and updates in any LAAS event, as there are many communication mediums and some are missed.

To sign up for the Griffith Observatory Star Party the email address is: laas.starparty@gmail.com. Attendance is only granted once a confirmation email has been received. Most important though is to have fun and enjoy! ✧

PJ Goldfinger

Outreach Program

Come on out to the school and show all the enthusiastic kids, parents, and teachers the night sky. They always appreciate it. And if you get WOW's when they look through you scope, you'll feel good. If no scope, come out anyway and help up set up or answer questions from the kids. So, Outreach volunteers, let's pitch in. I'm sure the kids and adults will appreciate our effort.

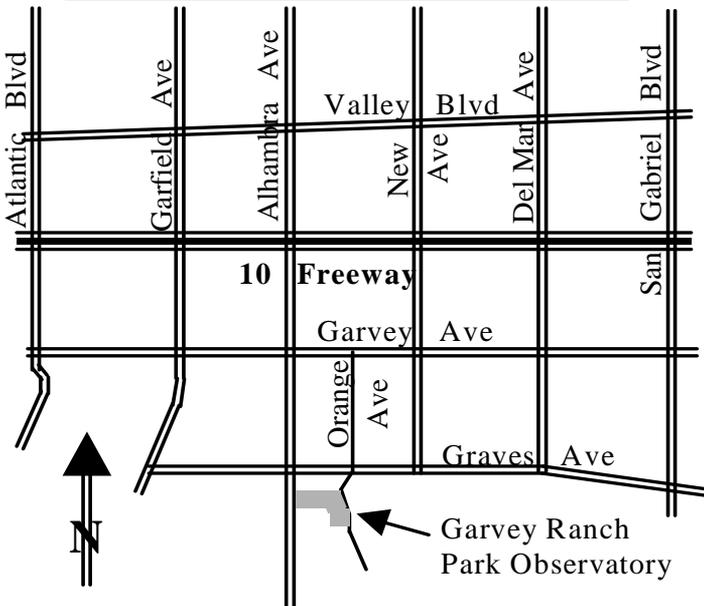
Thanks ! Outreach@laas.org (818) 891-3087 ✧

(Editors Note: Be aware that often these requests come with very little advanced notice. Therefore, we won't post any events in the bulletin unless it is more than a month away. The best way to get news of these events is to use the Internet and either join the LAAS Yahoo group or access the LAAS website. To join the LAAS Yahoo group, see page)

Don DeGregori

Map to Monterey Park Observatory

(The place to build your telescope)



LOANER CORNER



It might not look like it, but the spring and summer star parties are just around the corner. Now is the time for new members and existing members that would like to try out something new to check out one of the LAAS loaner telescopes. At the present time there are several available. All are fully equipped with a set of eyepieces. A simple collimating tool is included with all reflectors and a star diagonal is included with refractors.

LAAS-1: 4.5" f/8 Celestron reflector on a Polaris mount.



LAAS-2: 4.5" f/8 Tasco reflector on an Edmund equatorial mount with a clock drive. This telescope has been upgraded with a 1.25" focuser and 6x30 finder.

LAAS-4: 6" f/5 Telescopic reflector on a Dobsonian mount.

LAAS-6: 10" f/4.5 Discovery reflector on a Dobsonian mount. This fast telescope is also equipped with a Tele View Paracorr to correct off axis coma common with fast paraboloids.

LAAS-7: 80mm f/15 Meade refractor on an Orion Sky View Deluxe equatorial mount. This is an excellent instrument for the Moon and planets.

LAAS-8: 80mm f/11.4 Selsi refractor on an equatorial mount.

LAAS-9: 80mm f/6.25 refractor with University Optics objective on an equatorial mount. This fine Rich Field Telescope is good for going through the Messier Catalog.

For more information call: David Sovereign at (626) 794—0646. ✧

David Sovereign

LAAS-4

LAAS-2



EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event	Location and Information
Jun 3rd (Wed)	Board Meeting	Garvey Ranch Park Class Room. 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm
June 8th (Mon)	General Meeting	Griffith Observatory Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater Thomas Gautier will speak on the Kepler mission, which launched in March to search for Earth like planets. 7:45 pm to 9:45 pm
Jun 20th (Sat)	Dark Sky Night	Lockwood Valley
Jun 27th (Sat)	Public Star Party	Griffith Observatory 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm See pg 12 for details on how to attend.
July 8th (Wed)	Board Meeting	Garvey Ranch Park Class Room. 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm
July 13th (Mon)	General Meeting	Griffith Observatory Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater Slave Turyshev, JPL Research Scientist in the Astrophysics and Gravitation Group, will talk about lunar laser ranging. 7:45 pm to 9:45 pm
July 18th (Sat)	Dark Sky Night	Lockwood Valley
July 25th (Sat)	Public Star Party	Griffith Observatory 2:00 pm to 10:00 pm See pg 12 for details on how to attend.

LAAS Yahoo Group—how to join

The group is private, and therefore does not come up in a search. To join, send email to: LAAS-subscribe@yahoo.com. Include your full name so the moderator can verify your LAAS membership. Your full name is necessary so we can check our records to see if you really are a LAAS member. If approved, you will receive further instructions via email. ✧

Sky and Telescope Subscriptions

Sky and Telescope subscriptions renewals should be sent directly to Sky Publishing. To start a Sky and Telescope subscription, contact the LAAS Treasurer (see the contact information on page 2) directly to get the club rates, then thereafter send the renewal bills directly to Sky Publishing. ✧

Astronomy Magazine Subscriptions

For those that subscribe to Astronomy Magazine through the LAAS, the rate has gone up to \$34 a year, \$60 for two years. ✧



LAAS Home Page: <http://www.laas.org>

LAAS Bulletin Online: http://www.laas.org/Resources_Newsletter.htm

Membership Annual Dues:

Youth	\$ 20.00
Regular (18-65)	\$ 45.00
Senior Citizen (65 and up)	\$ 30.00
Senior Family	\$ 40.00
Family	\$ 60.00
Life	\$ 500.00
<i>Additional fees:</i>	
Charter Star member	\$ 30.00
Star member, with pad	\$ 70.00
Star member, no pad	\$ 60.00
Printed Bulletin	\$ 15.00

(Membership due date is indicated on the mailing label)

HANDY PHONE LIST



LAAS Answering Machine (213) 673-7355
Griffith Observatory
Program..... (213) 473-0800
Sky Report.....unavailable for now
Lockwood Site (661) 245-2106
(not answered, arrange time with caller.
Outgoing calls – collect or calling card)
Mt. Wilson Institute..... (626) 793-3100