



THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

THE BULLETIN

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© Brian Paczkowski

The Crescent Nebula (NGC6888) in the Constellation Cygnus. I found some data acquired in 2018 that I never processed - a nice surprise. This is a narrowband composite made from a combined 16 hours of Ha, OIII, and SII filter data taken from my heavily light polluted backyard in Tujunga, CA, located. The false color composite was made using this formula: Red=75% Ha+25% SII, Green=75% OIII+25% SII, and Blue=100% OIII. Stacked in Nebulosity and processed in Pix-Insight. (Celestron 1100 EdgeHD, 0.7x focal reducer, CGEMDX ZWO ASI 1600mm-cool)

Photo Credit: Brian Paczkowski /LAAS

Interested in joining the Los Angeles Astronomical Society?
To find our membership application and further information,
please visit our website at LAAS.org.

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Dave Nakamoto has volunteered to write a monthly star report for “The Bulletin” and for “The Cascades,” a local newspaper for the residents of Monterey Park and the San Gabriel Valley.

Thank you, Dave!

New Contact Info?

If you have recently moved, changed your email address or phone number, please contact our club secretary by sending an email to secretary@laas.org with your new contact information.

Mars the Wanderer

By David Prosper

April's skies find Mars traveling between star clusters after sunset, and a great gathering of planets just before sunrise.

Mars shows stargazers exactly what the term "planet" originally meant with its rapid movement across the evening sky this month. The ancient Greeks used the term *planete*, meaning wanderer, to label the bright star-like objects that travelled between the constellations of the zodiac year after year.

You can watch Mars as it wanders through the sky throughout April, visible in the west for several hours after sunset. Mars travels past two of the most famous star clusters in our night sky: the Pleiades and Hyades. Look for the red planet next to the tiny but bright Pleiades on April 1st. By the second week in April, it has moved eastward in Taurus towards the larger V-shaped Hyades. Red Mars appears to the right of the slightly brighter red-orange star Aldebaran on April 11th. We see only the brightest stars in these clusters with our unaided eyes; how many additional stars can you observe through binoculars?

Open clusters are made up of young stars born from the same "star nursery" of gas and dust. These two open clusters are roughly similar in size. The Pleiades appears much smaller as they are 444 light years

away, roughly 3 times the distance of the Hyades, at 151

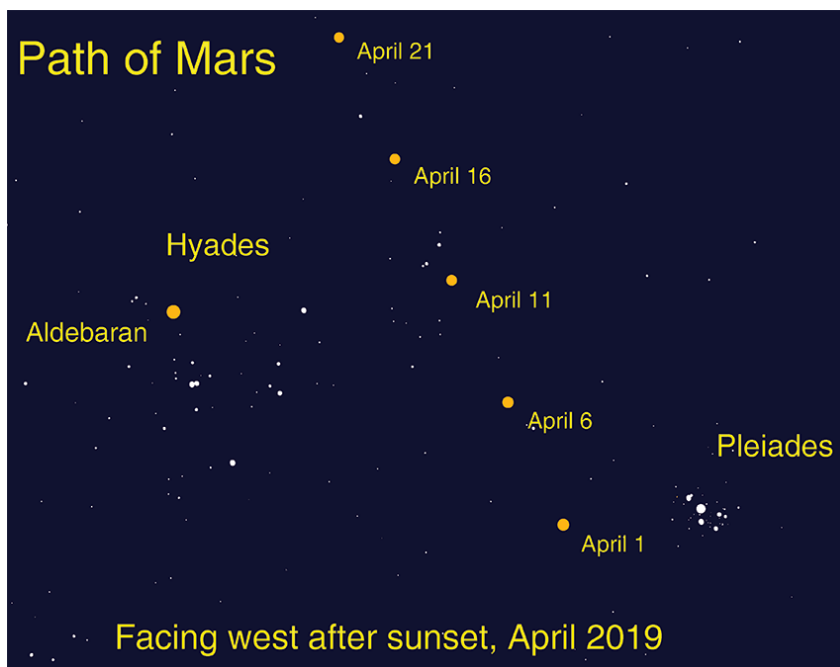
light years distant. Aldebaran is in the same line of sight as

the Hyades, but is actually not a member of the cluster; it actually shines just 65 light years away! By comparison, Mars is practically next door to us, this month just a mere 18 light minutes from Earth - that's about almost 200 million miles. Think of the difference between how long it takes the light to travel from these bodies: 18 minutes vs. 65 years!

The rest of the bright planets rise before dawn, in a loose lineup starting from just above the eastern horizon to high above the south: Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter. Watch this month as the apparent gap widens considerably between the gas giants and terrestrial planets. Mercury hugs the horizon all month, with Venus racing down morning after morning to join its dimmer inner solar system companion right before sunrise. In contrast, the giants Jupiter and Saturn move away from the horizon and rise earlier all month long, with Jupiter rising before midnight by the end of April.

The Lyrids meteor shower peaks on April 22nd, but sadly all but the brightest meteors will be washed out by the light of a bright gibbous Moon.

You can catch up on all of NASA's current and future missions at nasa.gov



The path of Mars between the Pleiades and Hyades in April.

Image created with assistance from Stellarium.

This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

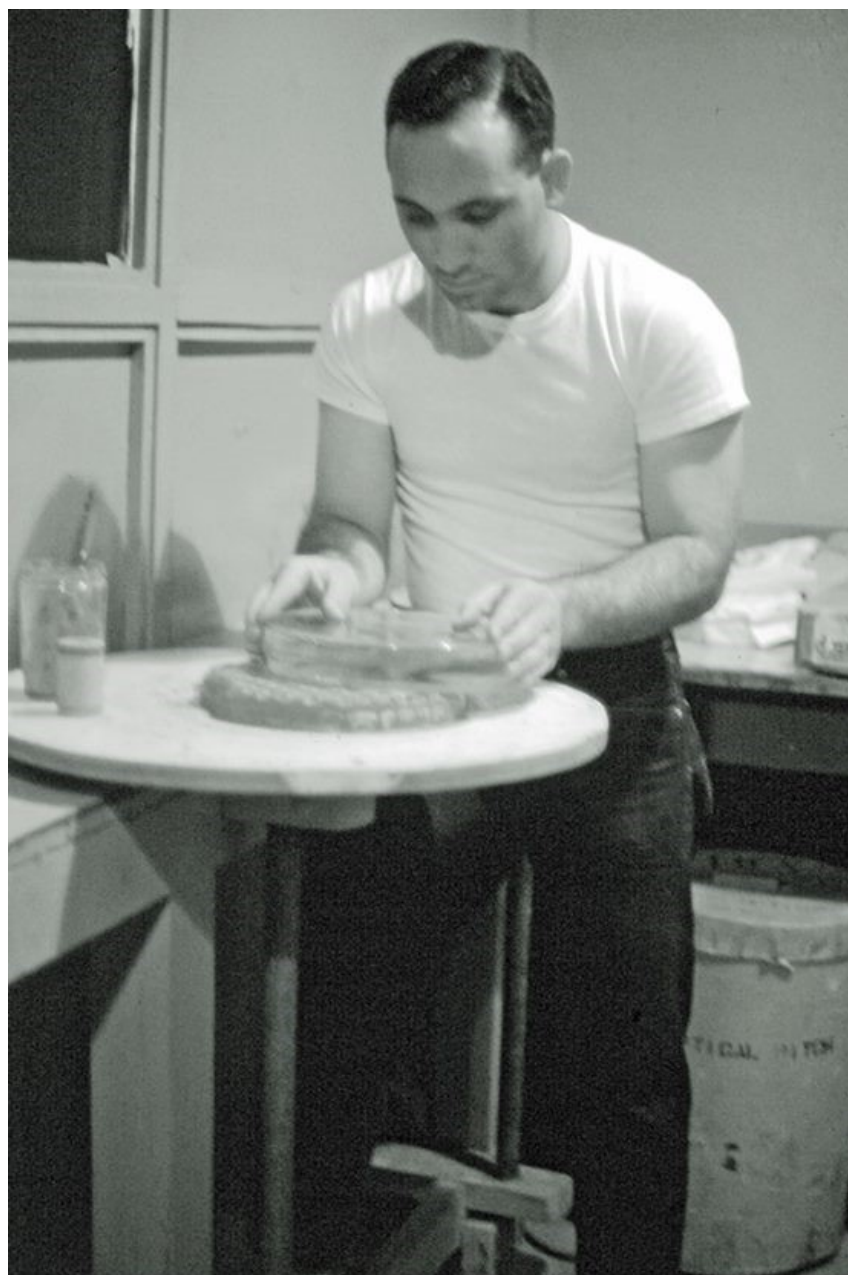
The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.org to find local clubs, events, and more!



From The LAAS Archives

Lew Chilton, Club Historian

Think of all the pitch laps you could make from that one barrel of pitch under the table! In those days we purchased all our telescope-making supplies from Telescopic in Hollywood. Telescopic was owned by Carl Langevin, a long-time member and one-time secretary-treasurer of our organization.



Ron McKnight is polishing a 10-inch mirror in the LAAS optical shops, which were located in the basement of Griffith Observatory from 1947 to 1971. This picture was taken in 1968 by friend and fellow member Lew Chilton.
(Scanned from a 35mm Kodachrome slide.)

LAAS ARCHIVE

More from the LAAS Archives...



“Explore JPL” Tickets Available Online

April 6, 2019



A visitor admires a rover wheel at the 2018 "Explore JPL." Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

WHAT: "Explore JPL" will be held at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, May 18-19 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will be available to the public online at 8 a.m. PDT on Saturday, April 6, 2019.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see, among other things, full-sized models of Mars rovers and to view the Mars 2020 rover that is being constructed in the Spacecraft Assembly Facility. Attendees can also see mission control and the machine shop, where precise parts are made for spacecraft.

Tickets are free but very limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum of five tickets per requestor. Orders for more than five tickets may be subject to cancellation. Tickets will be provided for specific time slots and must be reserved for specific names.

To attend, visitors must have their tickets in hand - nobody will be admitted without a ticket - and anyone age 18 or over must show a matching legal ID. Tickets are not transferable and cannot be sold.

Although children under two do not require a ticket, experiences at the event are not intended for very young guests.

Follow @NASAJPL on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and join the conversation by using the hashtag #ExploreJPL.

WHEN: Online ticket registration begins promptly on Saturday, **April 6, 2019 at 8 a.m. PDT**

WHERE: For more information, visit: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/events/special-events.php>

All of the information above can be found at: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/>

15 Years Later, Still Looking Up

NASA's Night Sky Network

In 2004, NASA took another shot in the dark. At that time, they had no idea how dedicated, knowledgeable, and prolific amateur astronomy clubs could be. The [Jet Propulsion Laboratory](#) in Pasadena, CA along with the [Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#) in San Francisco launched a new venture into the unknown. Amateur astronomy clubs partnering with NASA to share the wonders of space with their communities.



Rosalie and Charlie above are great examples of how an astronomy club can have an effect on children. The picture came from one of the first articles ever featured on this website - Rosalie won a telescope at a school science fair. She and her brother Charles, with help from their local astronomy club took an image through that small telescope that was featured in Night Sky Magazine!

Now, some 15 years later, Charles is the president of his local astronomy club and Rosalie received numerous honors as she graduated with an engineering degree in 2018. This is just one of many stories and two of the many young people that amateur astronomy clubs have inspired. Fifteen years later, here's what we have accomplished together.

Starting with just 140 clubs, now there are more than [430 clubs](#) across the country. Night Sky Network astronomy clubs have reported more than [36,000 events](#) nationwide.

Dedicated club members have engaged an incredible **4 million+ people** with the wonders of the sky and [NASA outreach resources](#).

We congratulate Charles and Rosalie on their great accomplishments and know that they will carry on the tradition of reaching back to help others who are just beginning their journey to the stars. To the thousands of members of astronomy clubs across the country, thank you for all of your dedicated outreach in your communities. Your influence, big and small is not on the news every day, but we think it should be. Keep looking up! We look forward to supporting your efforts for the next 15 years too.

Night Sky Network members bring astronomy to the public! Find clubs and events near you on the [NSN locator page](#).

Mt. Wilson Nights

2019 Session Schedule

Session Schedule:

60 Inch Nights

Saturday, April 6
 Saturday, May 4
 Sunday, June 30
 Friday, August 23
 Friday, Sept. 27
 Saturday, Oct. 26
 Saturday, Nov. 23

100 Inch Night

Saturday, June 1

The prices for these nights are as follows:

\$50 - 60 Inch Nights

\$170 - 100 Inch Night

All of the dates above have been posted on the club calendar. These are private events exclusive to current LAAS members, families, and their guests only.

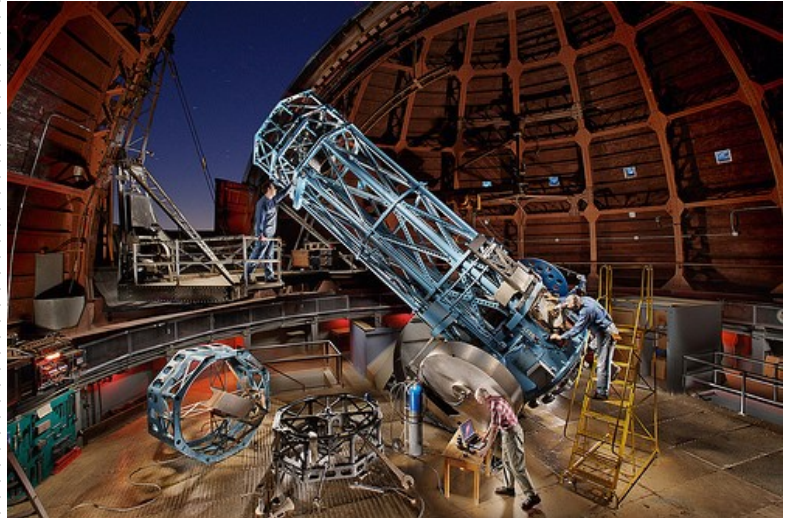
Please click on the following link to contact Darrell Dooley, our Mt. Wilson Coordinator before submitting payment.

mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org.

To pay using PayPal or by credit card, please use the following link:

<https://fs30.formsite.com/LAAS/MtWilson/index.html>

To pay by check, please mail your check to:
 LAAS c/o Griffith Observatory



*Please write "60 Inch" on your check. Make your check payable to: LAAS

Note: If you pay by check, your check may be held by our Treasurer for several weeks, before clearing your bank.

Meet The New Members

Welcome to the LAAS!



Matthew Willmore and Megan Hall

Joel Frohlich

William Allen

LAAS Board Meetings

Our LAAS Board Meetings take place once a month at the Garvey Ranch Park Observatory. You can find the dates for these meetings on our event calendar. All members are welcome to attend all Board meetings. These meetings begin at 8 PM.

All current members may listen to recorded meetings by logging on to our website at LAAS.org and clicking on the "Members Only" tab to find the files. Contact: webmaster@laas.org for your login credentials.

Volunteer Opportunities

Every LAAS member is a volunteer at some point. Some members volunteer to share telescopes with the public, while others tackle administrative duties, help out at our community and public events, or join a club committee. Taking photos at our events and writing articles about events for our club newsletter are great ways to volunteer.

Participating at one of our outreach events is another fine and fulfilling opportunity. This is YOUR club. Don't sit back and let other members do the work and have all the fun! Speak with a club officer and find out how you can volunteer and get more involved in the LAAS as a member.

Time To Renew Your Membership?

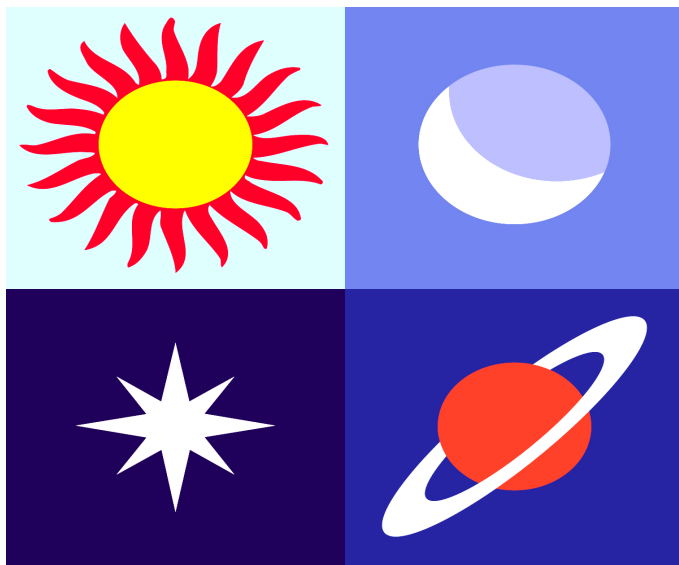
Please remember to renew your membership once you receive notice from the Club Secretary in your email inbox. Use this link to learn how to renew your membership:

<https://fs30.formsite.com/LAAS/MemberRenewal/index.html>

Please send any new contact information to the club secretary at secretary@LAAS.org.



Almanac



April 5 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 08:51 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

April 11 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 27.7 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

Need Help With A New Telescope?

Visit the Garvey Ranch Observatory on any Wednesday night 7 PM to 10 PM for tips and assistance from your fellow LAAS members. **This is a free event for the public.**

Learn more: [The Garvey Ranch Park Observatory](#)

April 19 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 11:12 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Pink Moon because it marked the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the first spring flowers. This moon has also been known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Growing Moon, and the Egg Moon. Many coastal tribes called it the Full Fish Moon because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.

April 22, 23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower. The Lyrids is an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which was discovered in 1861. The shower runs annually from April 16-25. It peaks this year on the night of the night of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd. These meteors

Looking for more astronomy events? Check out Griffith Observatory's calendar by visiting their website:

<http://www.griffithobservatory.org/programs/calendar.html>



April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Garvey Night Board Meeting	4	5	6 Dark Sky Nite 60 Inch Night
7	8 General Meeting	9	10 Garvey Night Committee Mtng	11	12 Outreach- East L.A.	13 Public Star Party
14	15	16	17 Garvey Night	18	19	20 Outreach- Chilao
21	22	23	24 Garvey Night	25	26 Outrach East L.A.	27
28	29	30				

Additional events with updated information may be posted on the calendar. Please log on to your account on the Night Sky Network (NSN) to view the complete schedule of club events. Link: <https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/>

LAAS Outreach Program

The mission of LAAS is to promote interest in and advance the knowledge of astronomy, optics, telescope making and related subjects. In furtherance of its mission, LAAS conducts public star parties and other outreach events that are intended to enhance the public's understanding of astronomy and its enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty and wonders of our universe.



We provide outreach events at local schools, Griffith Observatory, Mt. Wilson Observatory, various state and county parks, and community events.

Join our Outreach team of volunteers today.

Contact Heven Renteria, our Outreach Coordinator at Outreach@LAAS.org



Want to include astronomy outreach at your school's science night or open house? Follow the link below to access the request form:

https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-eventrequest.cfm?Club_ID=1344

LAAS Club Swag

LAAS JACKETS, T-SHIRTS, AND CAPS

Share your club spirit with the public and wear your club colors to help identify you as a member of the LAAS today by ordering a new jacket, t-shirt or cap.

If you would like to purchase club jackets, T-shirts, or caps featuring our club logo, please look for Richard Roosman at the public star party and at our general meeting. Richard will have the club merchandise on sale from 2 PM to 6 PM at the star party.

For further information, feel free to contact Richard at Richardinwalnutpark@msn.com.

You can also use the link on Paypal, if you would like to place an order for club merchandise by using the following link:

<http://laas.org/joomlasite/index.php/laas-merchandise>



Amazon Smiles

The LAAS is now listed on Amazon Smiles. When you purchase any goods on Amazon.com, Amazon will donate a small percentage of the funds they receive from you, back to the LAAS. Here's some information to help bring in funds for our club projects:

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization., such as the LAAS!

Learn more by following this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/>



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John O'Bryan, Jr.

Astronomy Magazine Discounts

Discounts for astronomy magazines can be found on the internet. Look for the best deals possible. Send a copy of your LAAS membership card with your check or payment to receive a club member discount.

Astronomy
magazine

As a member of the Night Sky Network, you may use the above link to renew your Astronomy Magazine subscription (or enter a new subscription) at the club discount rate. If this is a renewal, Astronomy Magazine will match your entered name and address and extend your subscription. For inquiries, please contact Astronomy Magazine customer service & sales at 1-800-533-6644.

[Click here for a NEW Sky & Telescope subscription at the club discount rate.](#)

[Click here for online renewal of your Sky & Telescope magazine subscription](#)



Join the Astronomical Society of the Pacific and help support the cause of advancing science literacy through engagement in astronomy. Member benefits include a **subscription to the online Mercury Magazine**, published quarterly, and **Astronomy Beat**, a monthly on-line column written by "insiders" from the worlds of astronomy research and outreach.

Subscribe or renew to the McDonald Observatory's StarDate Magazine and receive a special discount. Go to this page and press "Add to Cart" under the kind of subscription you want: <http://stardate.org/store/subscribe> Then, on the Checkout form, enter "network" in the Coupon Code box.



Club Contact Information

President: Timothy Thompson

timthompson3@verizon.net

Vice President: Curtis Byrom

cbyrom484@yahoo.com

Treasurer: John O'Bryan, Jr.

treasurer@laas.org

Secretary: Spencer Soohoo

secretary@laas.org

Outreach Coordinator: Heven Renteria

outreach@laas.org

Youth Coordinator: James Rochford

jcrochford@gmail.com

Webmaster: Steve Dashiell

webmaster@laas.org

Club Communications: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org

Mt. Wilson Coordinator: Darrell Dooley

mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Bulletin Editor: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org



Club Contacts

Club Phone Numbers

LAAS Message Phone:

213- 673-7355 (Checked daily)

Griffith Observatory:

213-473-0800

Sky Report:

213-473-0880

Lockwood Site:

661-245-2106

Not answered, arrange
time with caller.

Outgoing calls – Collect or calling card only.



Click on any of the images below to discover links to astronomy information, videos, photos, and at times, old sci-fi movies, too!



**The Los Angeles
Astronomical Society**
2800 E. Observatory Road
Los Angeles, CA 90027

Call us for more information and
about our organization and
outreach program.
213-673-7355

Visit our web site at
www.LAAS.org

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To: