

# THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

#### AUGUST 2018 VOLUME 92, ISSUE 08

# THE BULLETIN



The Cocoon Nebula (IC5146) in the Constellation Cygnus. A nice example of a reflection/emission nebula and stellar nursery. This is a composite of 6 hours or RGB data along with 13 hours of H-alpha data. The RGB data was taken at Lockwood this weekend and the H-alpha data taken from my heavily light polluted backyard in Tujunga, CA. (Celestron 1100 Edge HD, 0.7x focal reducer, CGEMDX, ZWO ASI 1600mm-cool)

#### Photo Credit: Brian Paczkowski/LAAS

Want to share your photos with the membership? If you are a current member of the LAAS and a Facebook user, you are invited to join the "LAAS Members Group." on Facebook. All photos posted in this group may be used in the Bulletin, on the club's official Facebook page, and on our Instagram page, too.

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Save The Date!

The New Member Potluck

OPEN HOUSE - SWAP MEET- STAR

PARTY & MORE!!!

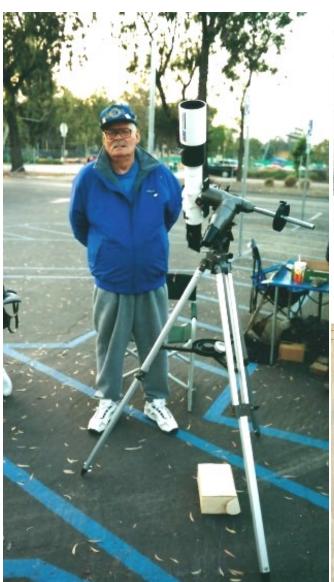
Sunday, Aug. 19th - 3PM-9PM

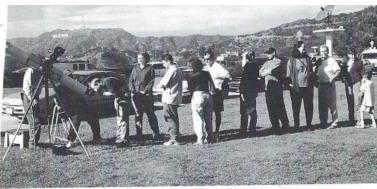
Garvey Ranch Observatory

# Joe Addison- In Memoriam

Joe Addison became a member of LAAS in the late 1970's. He was a regular at the public star parties at Griffith Observatory for many years and received several service awards in the 1990's. He printed the LAAS bulletin and attended many of the awards banquets. Joe set up his telescopes for many notable astronomical events including the Hale Bop comet's return in 1997 and the Mercury transit across the sun November of 1999. In 2005 he donated an 8-inch refractor mounted in the Garvey Ranch Park Observatory in Monterey Park. He is pictured here in June 2003 at the Satellite Museum at Griffith Park in June 2003.

#### Ericka Addison Carter





Mercury's 15 November 1999 public transit received a generous subsidy from the Los Angele Astronomical Society, which relieved transit congestion by parking astronomical rolling stock of the front lawn for everybody. (photograph Nancy Mazzie)





Joe's daughter Ericka will be donating two of Joe's telescopes and several other items to the LAAS. Joe passed away in March, 2010.

# Lockwood Valley Update

After the unfortunate loss of the 31" mirror and following much discussion since then, it has been decided by the Board of Directors to move the 26" Newtonian from Griffith Observatory to Lockwood Valley/SKAS. We realize the 26" has a tremendous draw with the public at GO, but countering that with the effort it takes to set up and tear down, its operation, working against light-pollution and therefore limited objects to show, it is felt by those closest that the instrument is not being put to best use. When I first took the chair-ship of the Lockwood Valley Committee I had hoped that we could have a program for the Clyde-O-Scope which would include a video camera and image projection for Family Nights. I see this change giving an opportunity once again to work towards that goal, as well as providing a venue where many more LAAS members will have access beyond the occasional fleeting seconds at the eyepiece. I feel rather bad at scrapping the remains of the 31", but that scope was built around an incredibly heavy mirror, and the prospect of finding a replacement is nil and affording a new mirror specified to the existing structure is beyond the ability of the club. If anyone would wish to take possession, possibly by making a donation or other offer, please contact me. We expect to move the 26" later this year where it will take up residence in the former 31" shed.

The Loaner Telescope Program is being moved to Lockwood. What better place for those new to the club and to the hobby than to get your scope and learn how to use it than under our excellent skies. Once we have storage space cleaned and available, we will announce the loaner program up and running again. The Board is reworking the sign-up process (online!) and we will be using PayPal for collecting the rental.

Kevin Gilchrist

LAAS VP, Lockwood Valley Committee Chair 2018 kevingilchrist59@yahoo.com



"A group huddle with SKAS chairman Kevin Gilchrist as quarterback. (He's wearing the red T-shirt.) LAAS secretary Dr. Spencer Soohoo is ready for the hand-off. (He's in the blue LAAS T-shirt.) But where's the football? "Photo credit: Lew Chilton - Family Night, July 7, 2018

Date: Saturday, August 4, 2018 Time: 5:00 PM - TBD by group

**Location: Lockwood Valley** 

Sunset: 8:11 PM



Family Nights are scheduled at our Lockwood

Dark Sky site best known as the Steve Kufeld

Astronomical Site (SKAS). Visit our website to learn more about this special club facility:

#### http://laas.org/joomlasite/index.php/dark-sky-observing

Family Nights were created in 2011 for all club members and families to enjoy a night of dark sky observation far from the city lights of Los Angeles. You may bring camping equipment or campers and stay for the entire evening. It's a star party and gives our members an opportunity to view celestial objects normally not visible in the sky over the city. Due to extreme weather conditions, we only offer these nights to our members during warmer months.

Gates open at 4 PM and the departure times will be discussed with the group. Please arrive early before sunset to become familiar with the grounds and set up equipment. Some of our members enjoy setting up a potluck-style meal which you may find discussed on our Yahoo group.



8 min exposure of last nights Milky Way from Lockwood /Photo Credit: Jeremy Rhabari



All members of the LAAS, their families and friends are invited to attend our annual New Member Potluck, Open House, Telescope & Astronomy-gear Swap Meet! We schedule this event each year for our new members and old. Attending is a great opportunity to meet other members, explore our club hangout and observatory and of course, learn more about the LAAS.

We will have a potluck meal together and enjoy grilled hotdogs and burgers starting around 4 PM. We will have a star party on the lawn for those of you who wish to stay later. The park closes at 11 PM.

Go through your hoard of astronomy gear at home and bring along any telescopes, tripods, and accessories to sell or swap with other members. All sellers and buyers are responsible for all transactions.

If you would like to volunteer for the event, please contact Kevin Gilchrist at kevingilchrist59@yahoo.com or Andee at coordinator.com.

# Session Nights

# Mt. Wilson Observatory

## 2018 Session Schedule:

- August 4th (Sat)
- September 7th (Fri)
- October 5th (Fri)
- November 3rd (Sat)
- December 1st (Sat)

The price 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 2800 E. Observatory Road Los Angeles, CA. 90027 ATTN: Treasurer/Mt. Wilson

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



60 Inch group photo from April, 2017

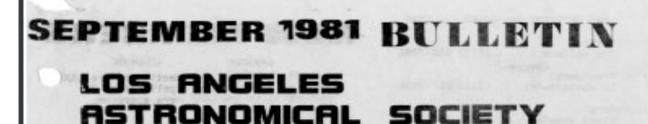
Note: If you pay by check, your check may be held by our Treasurer for several weeks, before clearing your bank.

# LAAS Bulletin Index, 1972-1984

Below, is a copy of the front page of the LAAS Bulletin from September, 1981. If you click your mouse on the photo, you will open up the publication for your viewing pleasure. If you would like to look at other editions, click on this link:

http://alaskaweatherwatch.com/LAAS/

You may recognize a name or two listed in this edition.



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#### EDITOR'S COLUMN

Here is yet another fine mess issue of the L.A.A.S. BULLETIN.

We've cut down on pagination this time, but fear not; as soon as we start accepting paid advertising (subject to Board Approval) and can afford it, I will see to it that the content is increased.

In the meantime, don't hesitate to send me your articles for future publication. I can't do this alone.

And speaking of help, I could use some help with folding and labeling, as well as mailing the BULLETINS. Interested? See me!!

If you have any ideas for streamlining or otherwise improving the BULLETIN, don't keep them to yourself--TELL ME!!!!

Until next month,

Editor Hard.

# MEETING MONDAY

SEPTEMBER

7:45 pm

. L GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY

Our speaker for September is Howard Lanning of Mt. Wilson Observatory. Howard has worked as a night assistant operating the 100 inch telescope for the last four years. His topic will be "The pleasures and Fitfalls of Working at Mt. Wilson". This will be a general, non-technical talk, with plenty of slides, about how a big observatory operates, and what can go wrong. Plan to attend as this promises to be a very entertaining talk.

Attend or be quadrangular!! (Be there or be!)

The first August Star Party at Lockwood Valley was sparsely attended (Where WERE you??); but those in attendance saw a two-day old crescent moon, as well as several meteors (Delta Aquarids). Derek Reynolds operated the 16-inch Ernst Telescope.

....

# Meet The New Members



Ronald McKnight Sonia and Chris Chiquet Lori LaMont and Monte Weiss

Shana White The Xu Family Tyler McMahon

Cesar Osorio Oliver McIrwin Robert Rhinehart

Martin Mohan Roman Stefantsov Ronald Sutherland

Alex Danielian Scott and Kali Glosser

## **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.

NEW: You may listen to recorded meetings by logging in to our website at LAAS.org and clicking on the "Members Only" tab.

Before you try to access the "Members Only" information, you need to request login credentials from our Webmaster. On the left hand side of the page, scroll down and find "Login." Click "Login" for further information.

# **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.

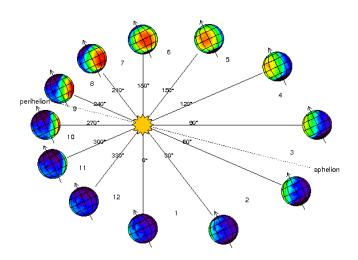
## Time To Renew Your Membership?

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: <a href="https://fs30.formsite.com/LAAS/MemberRenewal/index.html">https://fs30.formsite.com/LAAS/MemberRenewal/index.html</a>

Please send any new contact information to the club secretary at <a href="mailto:secretary@LAAS.org">secretary@LAAS.org</a>.



# A Guide To The Night Sky By Tre Gibbs



Summer is in full swing - and the days continue to shorten as the sun's path across the sky gradually drifts southward. As of now, a month and a half after The Summer Solstice, the northern hemisphere still has more daylight than darkness, but that will change September 22nd, as we experience this year's Autumn Equinox. More on that next month.

As Earth speeds around our nearest star at roughly 67,000 mph, we will be treated to at least three, possibly four planets, depending on whether you have an unobstructed view of the western horizon or not. This is not an annual occurrence, it's simply due to the way these particular planets are lined up relative to Earth, as each one, including us, has it's own path and rate of speed around the sun.

Early in August, during evening twilight, four planets appear (planets are brighter than stars, so they always appear first as the sky darkens). Venus, the brightest planet in the sky, is getting increasingly lower as she continues her journey around the sun. She appears low on the western horizon as the sky begins to darken. She won't be there for very long though - as Earth continues it's spin, Venus will set pretty quickly. Shifting our gaze eastward, the mighty Jupiter (in the constellation Libra, The Scales) shines like a beacon high in the southwest. Continuing our gaze eastward, the next visible planet is Saturn. Saturn (in the constellation Sagittarius, The Archer) is a little tricky to spot - it's so far way from us that it appears more like an average to bright, non twinkling star. Continuing eastward, look for Mars just above the southeastern horizon. Mars has a distinct orange-ish hue and is very bright, actually slightly brighter than Jupiter. As Earth continues to spin on her axis, all of these planets will appear to slowly and gradually drift across the sky all night long, eventually setting in the west prior to sunrise.

By month's end, Earth will have traveled over 48 million miles in her orbit around the sun since August 1st. Because of this, Venus will appear so low on the western horizon, only people with an unobstructed view of the western horizon will be able to see it. Jupiter will have shifted further west - as will Saturn (now in the south at sunset) and Mars, higher in the southeast sky during late twilight. Remember that you can always use the Moon as a tool to find the planets, since they all travel the same path in the sky together. As the moon moves eastward in it's monthly, or *moonthly*, orbit around Earth, it will travel the sky at some point with each planet...

Tues, 8/14 - the moon will be just above (and slightly to the left) of Venus.

Sat, 8/18 - look for the half moon slightly above and to the left of Jupiter.

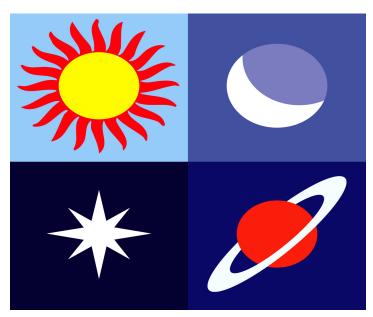
Tues, 8/21 - the moon, now more than half full, is to the right of Saturn.

Thurs, 8/23 - the planet Mars travels the sky below the moon.

This month's full moon is on August 26th, when "The Full Sturgeon Moon" rises in the east as the sun is setting in the west. The name comes from some Native American tribes realizing that the sturgeon of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain were prime for catching during this particular full moon. Remember that the moon is in constant motion around our planet, rising almost an hour later every day/night. While only technically full for a moment (4:56 am on 8/26), the moon will appear full the night before as well as the night after.

Enjoy all the night sky has to offer - and, as always, keep looking up!

# Almanac



**August 11 - New Moon.** The Moon will located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 09:58 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.

August 11 - Partial Solar Eclipse. A partial solar eclipse occurs when the Moon covers only a part of the Sun, sometimes resembling a bite taken out of a cookie. A partial solar eclipse can only be safely observed with a special solar filter or by looking at the Sun's reflection. The partial eclipse will be visible in parts of northeast Canada, Greenland, extreme northern Europe, and northern and eastern Asia. It will be best seen in northern Russia with 68% coverage.

August 12, 13 - Perseids Meteor Shower. The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. The Perseids are famous for producing a large number of bright meteors. The shower runs annually from July 17 to August 24. It peaks this year on the night of August 12 and the morning of August 13. The thin crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Perseus, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

August 17 - Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation of 45.9 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Venus since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the bright planet in the western sky after sunset.

August 26 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 11:57 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Sturgeon Moon because the large sturgeon fish of the Great Lakes and other major lakes were more easily caught at this time of year. This moon has also been known as the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon.

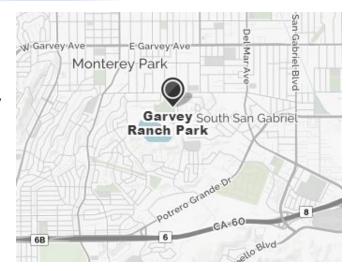
August 26 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 18.3 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

Source: http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2018.html

#### 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.

**Learn more: The Garvey Ranch Park Observatory** 



# The Best Meteor Shower of the Year By Jane Houston Jones and Jessica Stoller-Conrad

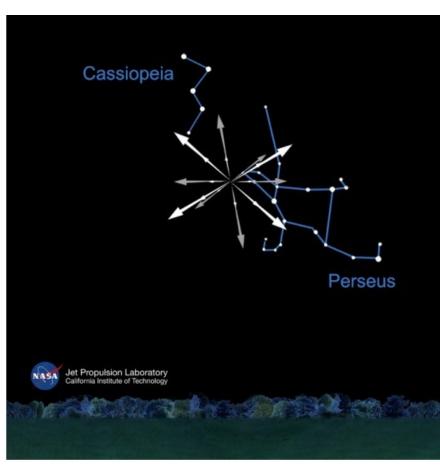
If you're a fan of meteor showers, August is going to be an exciting month! The Perseid meteor shower is the best of the year, and in 2018, the peak viewing time for the shower is on a dark, moonless night—perfect for spotting meteors.

The best time to look for meteors during this year's Perseid shower is at the peak, from 4 p.m. EDT on Aug. 12 until 4 a.m. EDT on the Aug. 13. Because the new Moon falls on the peak night, the days before and after the peak will also provide very dark skies for viewing meteors. On the days surrounding the peak, the best time to view the showers is from a few hours after twilight until dawn.



Meteors come from leftover comet particles and bits from broken asteroids. When comets come around the Sun, they leave a dusty trail behind them. Every year Earth passes through these debris trails, which allows the bits to collide with our atmosphere and disintegrate to create fiery and colorful streaks in the sky—called meteors.

The comet that creates the Perseid meteor shower—a comet called Swift-Tuttle—has a very wide trail of cometary dust. It's so wide that it takes Earth more than three weeks to plow all the way through. Because of this wide trail, the Perseids have a longer peak viewing window than many other meteor showers throughout the year.



Caption: The Perseid meteor showers appear to radiate from the constellation Perseus. Perseus is visible in the northern sky soon after sunset this time of year. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

In fact, this year you should be able to see some meteors from July 17 to Aug. 24. The rates of meteors will increase during the weeks before Aug. 12 and decrease after Aug. 13. Observers should be able to see between 60 and 70 meteors per hour at the shower's peak. The Perseids appear to radiate from the constellation Perseus, which is where we get the name for this shower. Perseus is visible in the northern sky soon after sunset this time of year. Observers in mid-northern latitudes will have the best view

However, you don't have to look directly at the constellation Perseus to see meteors. You can look anywhere you want to; 90 degrees left or right of Perseus, or even directly overhead, are all good choices.

While you're watching the sky for meteors this month, you'll also see a parade of the planets Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn—and the Milky Way also continues to grace the evening sky. In next month's article, we'll take a late summer stroll through the Milky Way. No telescope or binoculars required!

This article is distributed by NASA Space Place. With articles, activities and games NASA Space Place encourages everyone to get excited about science and technology. Visit spaceplace.nasa.gov to explore space and Earth science!

# August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Garvey Night			Family Night
						60 Inch Night
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			Garvey Night			Dark Sky Night
			Board Meeting			Outreach/ Chilao VS
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	General		Garvey Night			Public Star
	Meeting					Party
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
New Member	_		Garvey Night			
Potluck/Swap						
Meet/Open House						
	<b>Z</b>					
26		28	29	30	31	
			Garvey Night			

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: <a href="https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/">https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/</a>

# The 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 beauties and wonders of our universe.





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?







# **Outreach Handouts!**

Do you enjoy astronomy outreach? Do you enjoy working with the pubic and sharing your passion for amateur astronomy?

Below, are some great links to files and written material you might like to print out and share at the next public star party or outreach event. Check out these links available on the Night Sky Network:

#### **Presentations**

http://bit.ly/nsnpresentations

Premade PowerPoint presentations for cloudy nights and other club events

### http://bit.ly/nsnhandouts

Handy handouts you can print and give out to visitors, including moon maps, meteor shower observing tips, and star party treasure hunts

#### **Outreach Resources Search Page**

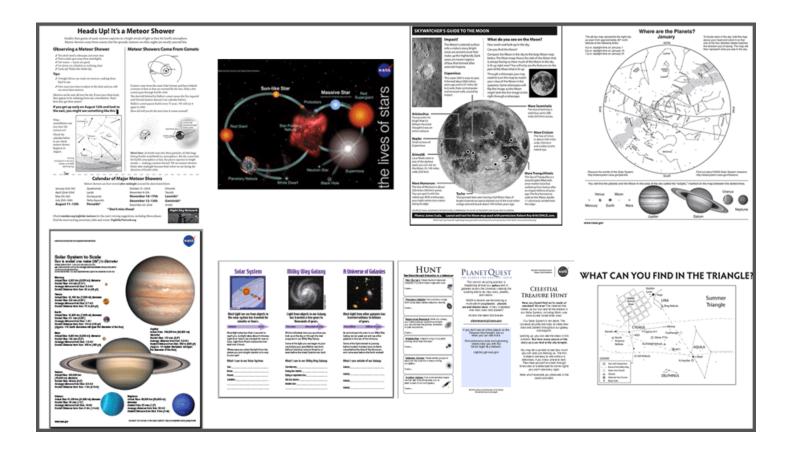
https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-search.cfm

You can find every Night Sky Network activity here

#### **NSN Outreach Toolkits**

#### http://bit.ly/nsntoolkits

A brief list of the kits available to NSN clubs.





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 Raise Funds For the LAAS



Join me in supporting Los Angeles Astronomical Society Inc at smile.amazon.com

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates to the charity of your choice.

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

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./Treasurer



Thank you for your donation!

# Astronomy Magazine

# Subscriptions

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.

Below, are some subscription links and suggestions for your convenience, from our friends at NASA's Night Sky Network:



### **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.





If your current subscription was obtained through your club, <u>click here for online renewal of your Sky & Telescope magazine subscription</u> at the club discount rate. You will be asked to enter your mailing label information. This information allows S&T to know that you originally subscribed through your club and can continue your subscription at the club discount rate.

If this is a new subscription or if you did not previously subscribe through your club or through the Night Sky Network, <u>click here for a NEW Sky & Telescope</u> subscription at the club discount rate.



**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.



#### StarDate Magazine

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: <a href="http://stardate.org/store/subscribe">http://stardate.org/store/subscribe</a>

Then, on the Checkout form, enter "network" in the Coupon Code box.

## **Club Contact Information**

**President: Timothy Thompson** 

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**Bulletin Editor: Andee Sherwood** 

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# **Club Contacts**

## **Club Phone Numbers**

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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!

















www.LAAS.org

outreach program.

Visit our web site at

Call us for more information about our organization and

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

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From: