



# THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## THE BULLETIN

JANUARY, 2017

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 1



Dave Pinsky captured this incredible photograph of Venus and the moon at Griffith Observatory on December 2, 2016.

The statue is the Astronomers Monument, found on the lawn in front of the observatory. Hipparchus, Nicolas Copernicus, Galileo Galilei, Johannes Kepler, Isaac Newton, and William Herschel rise high above the city lights.

**Secretary's Report:**  
**Membership Total: 710**

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## LAAS Election Results

Meet our club officials and board members for 2017

### *President*

**Geovanni Somoza**

### *Vice President*

**Joe Phipps**

### *Treasurer*

**John O'Bryan, Jr.**

### *Secretary*

**Spencer L SooHoo**

### *LAAS Board of Directors (8)*

**David Attias**

**Mary Brown**

**Curtis Byrom**

**Al Germaine**

**Kevin Gilchrist**

**Penny Kunitani**

**James Rochford**

**Dave Sovereign**

### *Board of Directors - Alternate*

**Richard Roosman**



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY'S

*Annual Awards*

*Banquet*

January 15, 2017 - Sunday  
 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM  
 The Quiet Cannon Restaurant  
 901 Via San Clemente  
 Montebello, CA 90640



~ BUFFET ~ COCKTAILS ~ GUEST SPEAKER ~ AWARDS  
 CEREMONY ~ RAFFLE PRIZES ~

Our Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony is the club's most elegant event of the year. Please join us at the Quiet Cannon Restaurant in Montebello for an incredible buffet dinner, cocktails, an amazing presentation from our guest speaker, and more. Awards will be presented to our outstanding club volunteers and we'll have great raffle prizes to win throughout the night.

If you would like to attend the banquet, please make your reservations as soon as possible. The prices per person will increase for those who pay at the door. As we need to pay the restaurant in advance and have enough tables, chairs, and food, please don't wait until January to reserve your seats. The prices are as follows:

Adults: \$47.00 per person

Children 12 and under: \$25.00

Pay at the door adults: \$50.00 per person

Children 12 and under: \$30

Friends and family members are welcome to attend.

Please check your club email or log on to your account on the Night Sky Network for further information and the link needed in order to make your reservations.

# The Casady Ranch Star Parties: Who was Casady and Where was his Ranch?

by Lewis Chilton, the LAAS History Detective

December 2016

Before the Los Angeles Astronomical Society purchased land in 1970 for its own observing site in Lockwood Valley, star parties were held at a number of public and private places in the surrounding mountains and deserts. These included Charlton Flats, Chialo, Bandido Campground, Mill Creek Summit, Mint Canyon, Pearblossom, Mount Piños, Menifee Valley, Idyllwild, Mount Wilson, and Palomar Mountain.

In the early to mid-1950s, a favored place for star parties was Casady Ranch. Its exact location is not recorded but is believed to have been in the Saugus-Newhall area. It was one of the nearer dark-sky observing sites. Based on notices published in the *Griffith Observer* magazine, the LAAS held star parties at Casady Ranch during June, July and August 1953 and June, July and October 1956. Other star parties may have been held there, but the *Observer* did not announce them.

Little is known today about the Casady Ranch star parties because so few members are left who attended them, with the exception of longtime members Russ Schnitzer and Jack Eastman. Let's ask them what they remember.

Russ Schnitzer: "I did attend some star parties at the Casady Ranch. My best guess [was] sometime between 1952 [and] 1955. I was in high school... and did not have a car or drivers license. I had to get rides from LAAS members [like] Ray Madden, who I believe was a member...[and] a student of Physics-Astronomy at Whittier College. You are correct that the Casady Ranch was in the Saugus-Newhall area. I vaguely remember that it was a fairly long car trip (couple of hours), and if I remember correctly, San Fernando Road was the route out of Los Angeles to the Saugus-Newhall area. This was before freeways were built or completed. I don't remember much about the actual star parties except that this was the era of home built telescopes and instruments larger than 8" were considered large and [a rarity]. Homemade telescope mounts constructed of pipe fittings were the norm. My recollection is that the night sky was excellent for observing at the Casady Ranch because the Saugus-Newhall area was not populated... and there were few lights. We typically drove home after observing, i.e., we did not sleep over."

Jack Eastman: "Geez! I fondly remember the Cassidy [sic] Ranch parties but almost none of the details. I think they were some of my very first. Not sure I recall even how I got there. I don't think my Dad took me, although maybe [he did]. Maybe it was later in the '50s after I had a driver's license. I do seem to recall taking my 6-inch Newt. Yea, verily, near Newhall, but I don't recall the exact location any more. O.K., Soledad Canyon...that sounds familiar... I think Cassidy's (sic) was in that vicinity. Looks like it's all city now. Oh well...I recall Dr. King, who brought out a truly giant telescope, a 10-inch F/8 on a massive equatorial. Stunning views of deep sky stuff! There was a group that also brought out a 10-inch, may have been F/8 or so on a monster 200-inch-like mount. Not sure who all were involved in that one, maybe Joe Miller? Fred Aldrich?? (These were, along with Clarke Harris, instructors in our mirror making operation at Griffith.) The memorable thing about that was, after most of us had given up for the night, there was a whole lot of hooping and hollering from that bunch. Seems they laid their sleeping bags over a large red ant nest, and the ants were making their displeasure...known! Just hit me, George Carroll's 6-inch refractor. What a beauty. I do remember mentioning to him that there weren't any screws on the objective cell for collimation. He looked down at me and said "If ya make 'em right, ya don't need adjustments!" There was a 4-inch refractor, don't recall who made it. Last time I saw that one, it was in the custody of Ashley McDermot, formerly of the College of the Desert. I think he still has it. Dunno if I still have anything useful in the way of photos, I think this was before I became a dyed-in-the-wool photo nut. I'll root around...and see."

We still haven't learned anything yet about the Casady Ranch itself, or its owner, but two articles published in *Sky & Telescope* magazine may offer a few clues about the ranch's namesake and location.

Continued on next page...

In March and August 1949, two articles ran in *Sky & Telescope* magazine's 'Gleanings for ATMs' column. P. M. Casady wrote both articles. The first one was about mirror testing and lap making, the second about ball spherometers and their accuracy. It's apparent from these articles that each author was accomplished in practical optics and had a background in mathematics, but it's not clear that the same or different Casadys wrote the articles. The confusion stems from the differing mailing addresses at the conclusion of each article.

In the March 1949 article, P. M. Casady's address is given as 804 East Villa St., Pasadena 4, California. But in the August 1949 article, the address is Box 278, Route 1, Saugus, California. Did these two addresses belong to the same Casady, or to two different authors with the same name?

A search for P. M. Casady on a popular genealogy website took me to a Philip M. Casady in the 1943 Pasadena city directory. He resided at 804 E. Villa in Pasadena. He was an optician and worked for Howell Sherburne & Company. Because his address was a match to the one in the March 1949 *Sky & Telescope* article, we can conclude that its author is the same fellow in the 1943 Pasadena city directory. We now know his full name and that a very prominent optical company employed him in 1943. LAAS member directories for 1948 and after list a Philip M. Casady but at different addresses than those cited above.

An online search of Howell Sherburne & Co. reveals that a Howell & Sherburne Co., 88 N. Delacy Ave., Pasadena, Calif., issued a 3-page illustrated pamphlet (Bulletin #2) titled "The New Hale Spectroheliometer, Built and Sold by Howell & Sherburne Co., Pasadena, California." One of the illustrations, dated 1929, is by Russell W. Porter. The reader of the undated pamphlet is referred to George E. Hale's articles in the April and May 1929 *Scientific American* magazine and in the October 1928 *Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific* for a more detailed description of the instrument.

This seems to cinch the connection with the P. M. Casady in the March 1949 *Sky & Telescope* article, but what about the Casady who authored the second article for the August 1949 issue, who resided in Saugus? Is he the same person?

As yet, we don't have sufficient information to unequivocally state that only one P. M. Casady wrote both articles, but it wouldn't be much of a stretch to say that, yes, they were one and the same.

Nor can we say with certainty that the Casady who authored each of the two *Sky & Telescope* articles was the same Casady who owned the Casady Ranch in Saugus. We know from records that Philip M. Casady was a longtime LAAS member, but did he write the articles and own Casady Ranch? Again, most likely, yes.

The next challenge is to find the actual site of the old Casady Ranch. If one were so disposed, old county property and tax records could be searched using the owner's name and date range, or one could research the location from old maps or postal records using the address provided in the August 1949 article: Box 278, Route 1, Saugus, California.

If the reader should ask, "Why bother to go to all the trouble?" the answer is simple: because that's what history detectives do!

LAAS ARCHIVE

## Photos From the Past ~ From the LAAS Archives



Mint Canyon star party, July 1, 1951 - the morning after. The 8" f/10 Newtonian telescope was built entirely by Ronald Royer who snapped the shutter. The boys pictured here are his Santa Monica friends, except Tommy Cragg, far right, who was from Inglewood and the oldest of the group. An army veteran, he is seen wearing his bloused army trousers and combat boots.

**LAAS ARCHIVE**

[Dec. 2016]



Mint Canyon star party, June 30, 1951. Tommy Cragg's "plumber's nightmare" is the homemade telescope in foreground. Cragg, from Inglewood, used this telescope the rest of his life. The other attendees were Ronald Royer's Santa Monica friends. Royer snapped the shutter.

**LAAS ARCHIVE**

[Dec. 2016]



2606 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles, California, home of LAAS president Archie Newton. Newton's home was used as LAAS headquarters for about 15 years, from the 1930s to 1947. The Society also used Newton's home for its meetings, clubhouse and telescope-making workshop. Many of the great astronomers of the 20th century spoke to the Society here, including Edwin Hubble, Alfred Joy, John Anderson, Edison Pettit, Seth B. Nicholson, Robert S. Richardson, and many more. (Image: Google Earth-Street View, taken July 2015)

## **LAAS ARCHIVE**

[scanned Dec. 15, 2016]

## Holiday Party and Potluck Photos - Garvey Ranch Observatory

December 15, 2016

*Report and Photo Credit: Geo Somoza*

Our annual LAAS Holiday party and potluck at Garvey Ranch Park Observatory was a great event that brought our members together to spend time enjoying each other's company. We met several new members and ate till we could eat no more as we featured a 22 pound slow baked Ham marinated in a peach glaze, tamales, turkey chili, meatballs, salads, pizza, teriyaki chicken, several types of soda pop, bottled water, coffee and various dessert including a tres leches cake and banana cream pie.



Joe Phipps, VP for 2017 and Heven Renteria, VP 2016 deck the halls with boughs of ...colorful tablecloths!

*Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la!*





Above: James Rochford and Madelyn Wray.

Below: Jethro Navejas and Dave Attias

Below: Dale D. and Dave Sovereign, our Telescope Master



From left to right: Curtis Byrom. Carole Karcher, Larry Steenhoek, Al Germaine, Phil Taylor, and Dave Nakamoto.



Left to right: Shirley Sunada, Tim Thompson, Bob Nolan, Vance Tyree, and Richard Roosman.

Happy Holidays!

## Dahlia Heights Elementary School (Eagle Rock)

Date: Thursday, December 01, 2016

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Reported by Van Webster

The days are getting shorter and the nights are crisper as a small band of Los Angeles Astronomical Society Outreachers brought their telescopes and their knowledge to Dahlia Heights Elementary School in the Eagle Rock area of Northeast Los Angeles for an early evening of stargazing. It was getting dark while three Dobsonians, one Schmidt-Cassegrain and Heven's giant binoculars were set up on the school play yard.

Dahlia Heights is a rather small campus wedged in between vintage houses, the formidable Colorado Boulevard and the parking lot of the local Trader Joes' store. The students, predominantly young girls, raced about and were eagerly asking to take a look through the eyepieces. Lines formed at the telescopes as soon as the operators were ready.

There was a hot food truck parked in front of the campus with vivid purple and pink lighting. The school staff offered a hot dinner for any of the astronomers who wanted one. I had the taco combo plate featuring four heavenly concoctions seasoned with the aroma of of caramelized onions and fresh cilantro. It was a challenge holding a taco in one hand and aiming the telescope with the other. Fortunately a parent volunteer stationed herself at my telescope to help organize the lines of kids and their parents.



Early targets includ-

ed the crescent Moon and the planet Venus. The sky was clear of clouds but there as a lot of moisture in the air and more than enough city light pollution. Only a handful of stars were visible to the naked eye. To the west the Summer Triangle was setting. In the east Aldebaran, Capella and Pollux could be seen through the clouds.

The PA system played a list of celestially themed songs from David Bowie, The Byrds and other vintage pop artists.

After Venus set, M45, the Pleiades could be found by star hopping, if not seen directly with the naked eye. Computer operated telescopes found Uranus and Penny was able to find a faint M15 at the close of the evening.

The PA system announced that a raffle was soon to be called and then the event came to a close. Packing up our gear we found a patina of condensation on exposed metal parts as we wrapped things up and headed out into the city.

Van Webster/LAAS



## Cub Scout Pack 490 at Hope Lutheran School (Glendora)

Date: Friday, December 16, 2016

Time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Reported by Van Webster

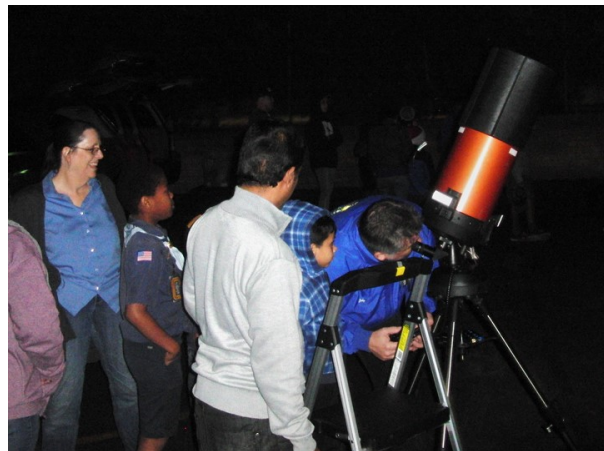
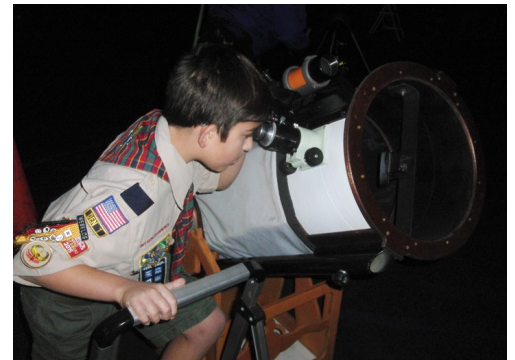


From Thursday night into Saturday morning Southern California received a continuous stream of much needed rain. The heavy overcast continued into mid Saturday afternoon until the clouds began to break up and clear skies could be seen in much of the Los Angeles Basin. It was into this dynamic weather that members of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society ventured east to the "Pride of the Foothills" Glendora CA for an evening of Stargazing for Cub Scout Pack 490 based at the Hope Lutheran School.

Heven and I arrived early as we didn't know how heavy the traffic would be. A quick search of the campus brought us in contact with the scout leader who explained that the scouts would arrive at 6:15

PM, have an opening ceremony at 6:30 PM, some brief activities and then out to the telescopes. We picked the darkest part of the parking lot to set up. As is typical with

most of the school venues, there are yard lights that make nighttime seeing difficult and that no one at the school knows how to turn off.



As the clouds that had mostly cleared the low lying areas were packed up against the San Gabriel Mountains played pee-a-boo with Venus, we waited a bit to see if the weather would clear before erecting our equipment. And so it turned out to be for the evening. Planets and a few stars came into view and then disappeared behind a veil of atmospheric moisture. Easy targets were Venus and Mars. Those with computer scopes found Uranus and Neptune. Views to the east were blocked by trees.

On schedule the scouts arrived. The Pack was divided into teams of five or six with at least one adult leader and they made their way among the telescopes. When the clouds came in the biggest hits were the laser pointers and the tablet computers with astronomical software and images. After about half an hour, the event was over and the scouts returned to their meeting place with shouted thank you's from the leaders.

As is typical of such weather conditions, as soon as the kids left, the weather cleared enough to get the first few of some stars and the Orion Nebula before we packed up and said our goodbyes. Just in time as it turns out. Fifteen minutes down the road toward home and the skies opened up with more rain.

Van Webster/LAAS



## Lockwood Master Plan Committee



Our Steve Kufeld Astronomical Site (aka Lockwood) is our precious and only asset in terms of real estate. All LAAS members and their guests are welcome to use it on monthly Dark Sky Nights and on the summer-time Family Nights. Note that members are limited to two guests, who may be a visitor one time. Star Members may use Lockwood 365 nights a year, and may host other LAAS members while on-site. We are happy to boast that we reportedly have the darkest club viewing site in Southern California!

The Lockwood Master Plan Committee (LMPC) is working hard to catch up on years of deferred maintenance and to create a premier dark sky site that we can take pride and pleasure in using. Towards these two goals, the LMPC has been meeting about once a month and is working in Sub-Committees on each project.

Two projects recently completed were tree trimming on all four sides of the property, and replacing the roof of the trailer. Future plans include replacing or improving the restroom, continuing Eric's excellent trailer upgrades (including perhaps bunk-beds and connecting plumbing), building an observatory for our LAAS imaging equipment and maybe other observatories, road dust reduction, our annual spring work party, expansion and replacement of our array of viewing pads, fund raising, and more.

Our pads have held up well for their forty year-old age, but are now quickly deteriorating in the harsh Lockwood Valley conditions. Thus, we are looking to replace our current pads, enlarge and improve their configuration, and expand capacity for our growing membership - all while continuing full usage. This is truly a design, planning, and financial challenge!

We welcome all LAAS members to join us on the LMPC! We also have a leadership opportunity, as we have been seeking for several months to find a new chair. Come to our next meeting or contact us!

[Wednesday, January 18, 2017](#)

- 7:30 p.m.
- Garvey Ranch Park

See you there!

Penny Kunitani, Chair

Meet  
Our  
New  
Members



Julie Arkenstone

Brad Michaelson

Elissa Sussman

John Peteja

Charlotte Goor

Neil Reynolds

James Cottle

Rita and Donnie McMillin

Joyce Mc Cosco



Remember to renew your membership once you receive notice from the Club Secretary. Use this link to learn how to renew your membership: <https://fs30.formsite.com/LAAS/MemberRenewal/index.html>

# SUBSCRIBE

## Astronomy Magazine Subscriptions

Sky and Telescope renewals should be sent directly to Sky Publishing.

To start a subscription at club rates, send a check payable to "Sky & Telescope" in the amount of \$32.95 for a one year subscription to:

**Los Angeles Astronomical Society**

**C/O Griffith Observatory**

**2800 East Observatory. Road**

**Los Angeles, 90027**

**ATTN: Treasurer**

Be sure to include the exact name and mailing address for your subscription. Then, thereafter, send the renewal bills directly to Sky Publishing. **For a club rate subscription to Astronomy**, send a check payable to Kalmbach Publishing Co. in the amount of \$34 for one year or \$60 for two years to the above address.

Be sure to include the exact name and mailing address for your subscription. That magazine also requires later subscription renewals to be handled through the LAAS Treasurer.



Source: Lutfar Rahman Nirjhar, Wikimedia Common,  
CC BY-SA 3.0

## Eclipse Trip, 2017 Update and News

### Alert All Eclipse Chasers!

LAAS is now in Phase III of sign ups for our 2017 Total Solar Eclipse Tour! Changes include the following:

- Package A, with reservations at the Fairbridge Inn and Suites Hotel is no longer available unless someone cancels. The hotel required that at this time, we release all rooms that we will not use.
- Package B, with the Rodeway Inn, will continue to be available for purchase until March 24, 2017 or until sold out.
- Package D (viewing site use, rehearsal & lunch, t-shirt, and solar viewing glasses) is now available at \$75/person. The registration and payment can be done on our LAAS website, [laas.org](http://laas.org). Note that all participants must be LAAS members and if not registered, cannot be present on the viewing field. This is required for insurance purposes.

For those already registered, a lengthy information sheet was emailed on our Yahoo Chat Group on 10/24/16 at 1:19 am, and on our Yahoo Announcement Group on 10/24/16 at 3:27 pm. If you need a copy, please email your request to Penny at [kunitani@ucla.edu](mailto:kunitani@ucla.edu). There was an important but short questionnaire at the end. If you have not yet emailed your responses to Penny, please do so now.

## A Guide To the Night Sky for January, 2017

By Tre Gibbs



### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The night sky promises to be full of cosmic distractions as we put the holidays behind us and begin our long, impatient wait for Spring. So here's some good news; the days are slowly getting longer. They have been since the Winter Solstice last month on

December 21st. Although not noticeable at the beginning of the month, it should become apparent at month's end.

Another interesting happening is that the planet Venus - the third brightest object in the sky, after the Sun and Moon - will be inching eastward closer to Mars until January 12th, then Venus will slowly begin to head in the opposite direction, westward, away from Mars until she disappears into the glare of the sun by the end of March. Speaking of Venus, here are a couple "fun facts" about Earth's sister planet. First, some basic info about Earth. As you probably know, Earth takes about 24 hours to make one rotation on it's axis, which is our day. It also takes roughly 365 of those days to complete one full orbit around our nearest star, The Sun - which is our year. Now, Venus rotates slowly on it's axis - *VERY* slowly. But Venus rotates so slowly, that it actually completes one orbit around the sun *BEFORE* it completes one rotation on it's axis, which means, Venus' day is *longer* than it's year. Mind blown. Oh, Venus also rotates in the opposite direction that Earth rotates, so on Venus the sun rises in the *west* and sets in the *east*.

On the last day of the month, January 31st, look to the west southwest just after sunset for a very thin crescent moon. As the sky begins to darken, you will see what's called a *conjunction*, which is when two or more objects appear together in the sky. The moon, the planet Mars (above the moon and to the right) and the brilliantly shining planet Venus.

Earlier in the month, on the 12th, we will be treated to January's full moon, The Full Wolf Moon. The folklore behind this particular name is that tribal and colonial people would often hear wolves howl at the mid-winter's full moon in hunger outside their villages...yikes!



Jupiter is beginning to make it's way into our evening skies as well. Early in January, Jupiter rises low in the east around 1:30 am, but late in the month, it rises almost two hours earlier, around 11:30pm. This will continue until Jupiter appears in our early evening, eastern skies by late March, just about the same time Venus is saying her westward farewell, heading into our eastern, pre-dawn skies once again.

Have a great start to 2017 and keep looking up !





# January, 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Garvey Nights <b>Board Meeting</b>	5	6	7 <b>Public Star Party</b> 
8	9	10	11 Garvey Nights	12 Outreach	13	14
15 <b>Banquet</b> 	16	17	18 Garvey Nights	19 Outreach	20	21
22	23	24	25 Garvey Nights	26	27 Outreach	28
29	30	31				

# Almanac



- January 3, 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower.** The Quadrantids is an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003 EH1, which was discovered in 2003. The shower runs annually from January 1-5. It peaks this year on the night of the 3rd and morning of the 4th. The first quarter moon will set shortly after midnight leaving fairly dark skies for what could be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes, but can appear anywhere in the sky.
- January 12 - 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 11:34 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps. This moon has also been known as the Old Moon and the Moon After Yule.
- January 12 - Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation.** The planet Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation of 47.1 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.
- January 19 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation.** The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 24.1 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: [Sea and Sky - Astronomy Celestial Events for 2016](#)

**New to Outreach? Want to learn how to teach astronomy concepts to kids? Want to do more than stand guard over your telescope at one of our outreach events?**

If you said yes to any of those questions, here are some things you can do to learn more about outreach education.

1. Watch this video! There are 80 excellent videos from NASA's Night Sky Network thanks to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. The videos are informative and encourage beginners to learn simple steps which will teach you how to work with youngsters and adults. Click on the link below to watch the video.

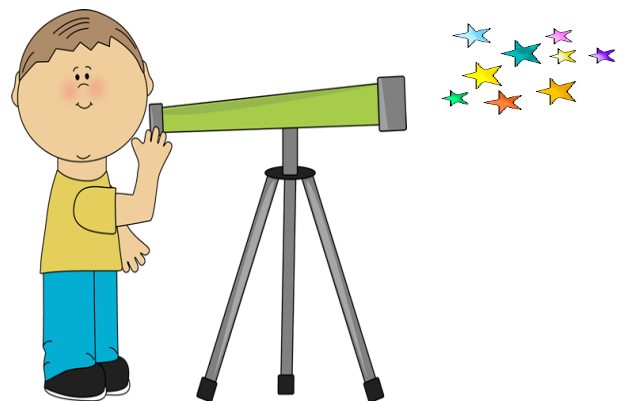
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PlcpaDGohkw>

2. Join the LAAS Outreach Team! Heven Renteria is our Outreach Coordinator. He handles all public requests for our club and schedules events on our calendar. You can contact Heven by sending him an email to Outreach@LAAS.org.

3. Night Sky Network Toolkits are available at the Garvey Ranch Observatory. To learn more about these kits, log on to your NSN account, click on Outreach Resources at the top and type in the word, "toolkit" in the search box that opens on the right side of the page. Here, you will find a list of all of the toolkits available from the NSN. Many of these are in boxes, just waiting to be used by our club members. Speak to one of our club officers if you want to look at one of the kits while at Garvey. If you borrow one, please be sure to return it so others may use it too.

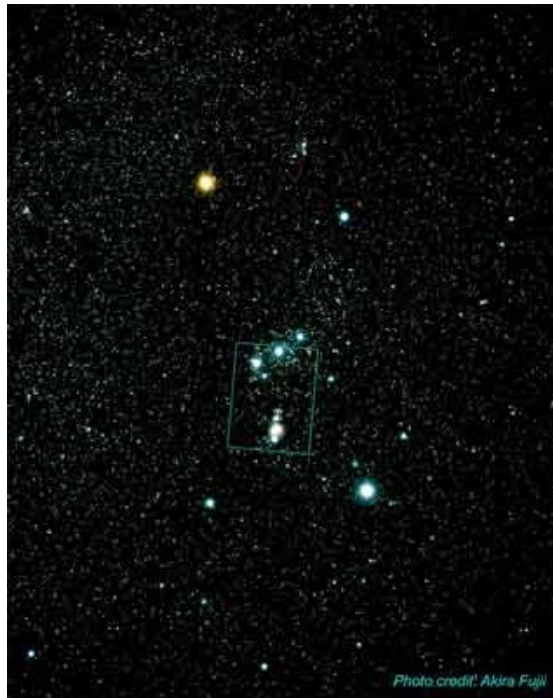
## Need Help With A New Telescope?

**Need help with your new telescopes or other astronomy gear? Visit the Garvey Ranch Observatory on any Wednesday night 7 PM to 10 PM for tips and assistance by your fellow LAAS members.**



# BETELGEUSE

Universe  
Discovery Guide  
For January



*Photo credit: Akira Fujii*

**Discover the universe with your family and friends!**

IN THIS GUIDE:

BETELGEUSE, RED SUPERGIANT WORKAHOLIC » SKY FEATURE: BETELGEUSE » TRY THIS! » ACTIVITY: NUCLEAR FUSION ... WITH MARSHMALLOWS » CONNECT TO NASA SCIENCE

Watch what will happen to Beutelgeuse: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5UEMkvdnAc&feature=youtu.be>

Always use [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view the Guides on a computer.

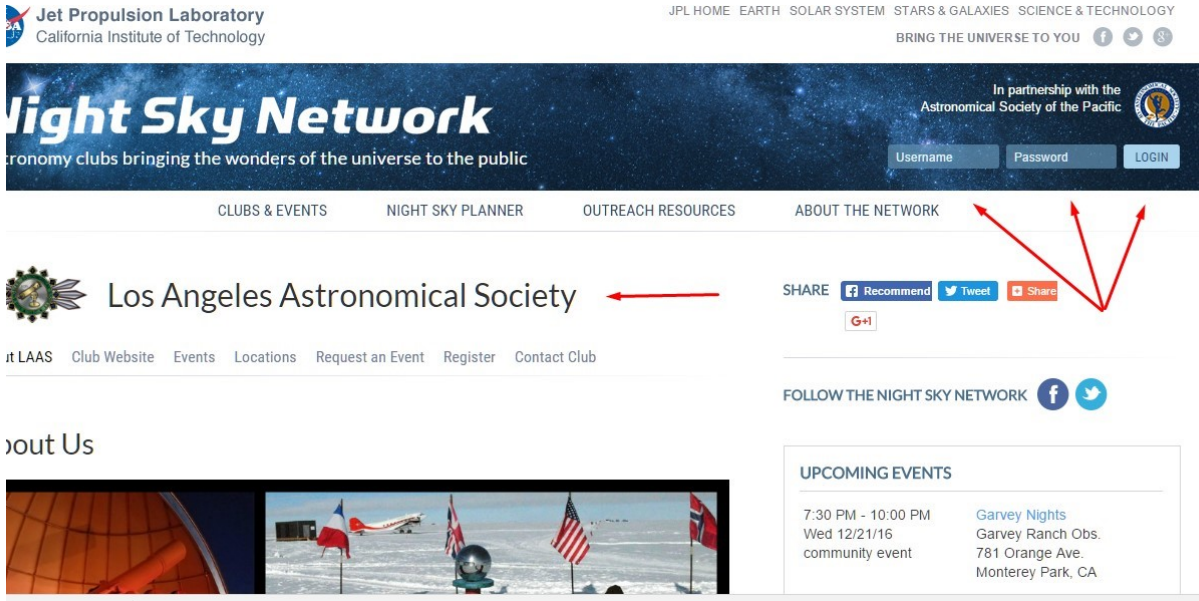
Explore the Universe with your family and friends! Inside the guide for this month, find out how we are all "Children of the Stars" thanks to the amazing explosive power of supernova! Find out how to find the remnants of a supernova in our guide to the famed Crab Nebula. Explore how our Universe would look without the "elemental" power of supernova in the activity, "A Universe without Supernova."

**Download January's Guide here:** <https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/docs/01UDGBetelgeuse.pdf>

# Night Sky Network Tips for LAAS Members

## How to Log on to the NSN ~ Forgot Your Password and Username?

Follow this link to the NSN site for the LAAS: [https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-view.cfm?Club\\_ID=1344](https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-view.cfm?Club_ID=1344)

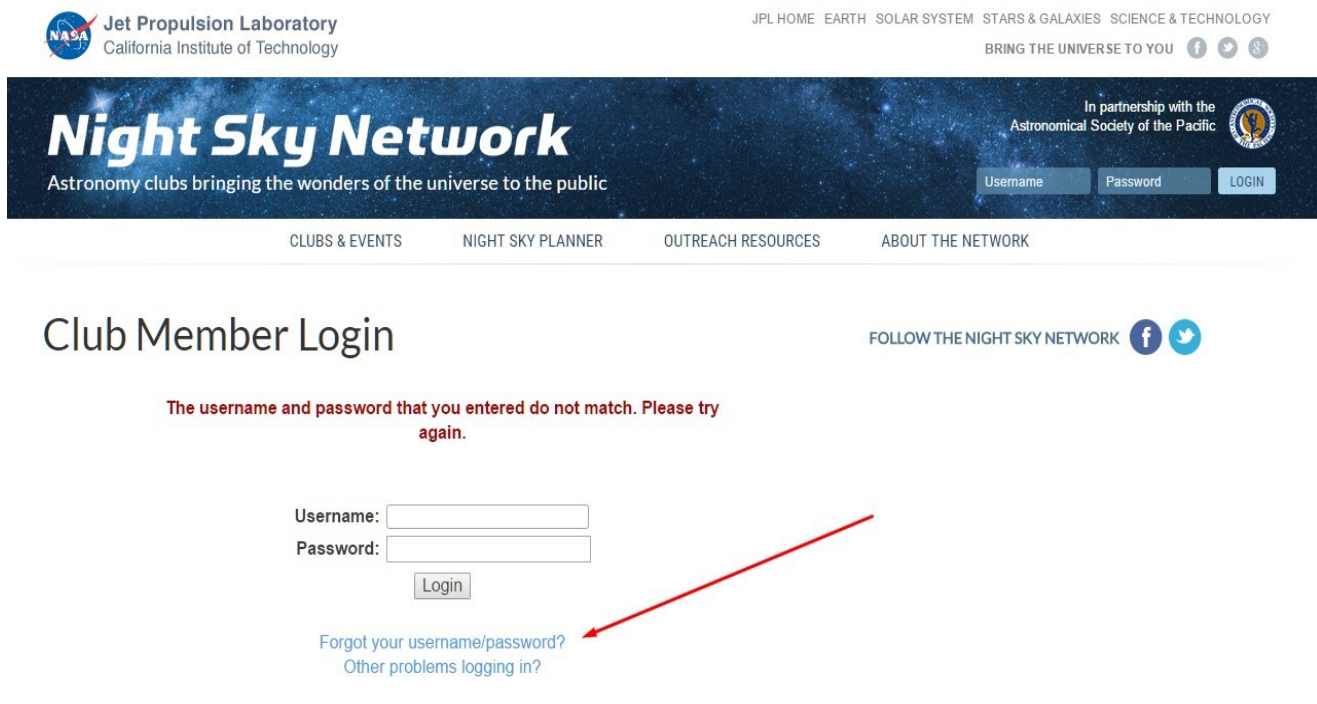


After you click on the link to reach the NSN, you will find the page above on your screen. Follow the red arrows.

Add your username, password and click the blue LOGIN tab. That will take you to the official NSN site for the LAAS.

### **HELP!!! Can't remember your username or password? HELP!!!**


Just type in anything in the login box and click on the blue LOGIN tab. A new page will appear on your screen. Click on "Forgot username and password." See photo below. You may have to move your screen up just a bit to see the option. Its there! Really!





# Night Sky Network

Astronomy clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public

In partnership with the  Astronomical Society of the Pacific

Username Password LOGIN

[CLUBS & EVENTS](#)
[NIGHT SKY PLANNER](#)
[OUTREACH RESOURCES](#)
[ABOUT THE NETWORK](#)

## Login Help

 FOLLOW THE NIGHT SKY NETWORK  

If you have forgotten your username or password, please enter your last name, the Email address that you have on file with us, and select the club that you belong to. You will receive an Email with your username and a newly generated password. You may wish to change this password to something easier to remember when you first log in.

Last Name:

Email:

Club Name: (select a club)



After you click on “Forgot Username/Password” tab, the LOGIN HELP page will open on your screen.

Fill in your information as requested. To find our club, you will need to click on the black triangle at the end of the “box” to find the LAAS listed. In the list which will drop down. Click on the name of the club and then click on the SEND MESSAGE tab.

Within a few minutes, you should receive an email from the NSN with both your username and password.

On the email you receive from the NSN which is an auto-generated email, you will find a link to follow back to the Club Member Login page.

Please log in using the information provided in the email.

Click on the blue LOGIN tab. After doing so, you will be on the Home Page for the LAAS on the NSN.

You need to use the same email to access your account which you originally used to register on the Night Sky Network. If you try using a different email address, the system will NOT send your password or username to you. The system has no way of identifying you other than your email address which protects your information.

Please continue to the next page where you will find instructions on how to change both your username and password to something very easy for you to remember. I would like to remind all of you that only your NSN Coordinators may look at the roster so the information you posted when you registered is safe and secure, just as it is with the general club roster.

## Creating a New Username and Password on the NSN ~ "My Profile" Page

**You have the option to change both your username and password on your NSN account AFTER you log on. Here's how you do this:**

See the photo below and find the words, **MY PROFILE** under the name of our club. CLICK on the words , MY PROFILE. After clicking, you will find the options to change your login information. Click directly on one of the gray tabs to make the changes. Your password and username can be anything you like so think of something EASY to remember. Be sure to click on the gray tabs stating either CHANGE PASSORD or CHANGE USERNAME after you add the new information or the changes won't take effect.

After you make the changes, you will receive an auto-generated email from the NSN confirming the changes .to the email address you have listed as your primary address.

The screenshot shows the Night Sky Network website interface. At the top, there is a header with the NASA logo and the text "Night Sky Network". To the right of the header, it says "Welcome, Test 12\_TestTest" and a "logout" link. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: "MY CLUB", "CLUBS & EVENTS", "NIGHT SKY PLANNER", "OUTREACH RESOURCES", and "ABOUT THE NETWORK".

The main content area features the Los Angeles Astronomical Society logo and name. Below the logo are links: "LAAS Home", "LAAS Website", "Events", "Locations", "Roster", and "My Profile". A "Message Groups" link is also visible. The "My Profile" page is active, showing three buttons: "EDIT PROFILE", "CHANGE USERNAME", and "CHANGE PASSWORD". Red arrows point from the "My Profile" link in the navigation menu to the "CHANGE USERNAME" and "CHANGE PASSWORD" buttons.

On the right side, there is a section titled "NIGHT SKY NETWORK SERVICES" with a list of links: "Request Outreach Handouts", "Magazine Subscriptions and Links", "Sharing the Universe Videos", "Growing Your Astronomy Club Videos", "Find Other NSN Members", "Member FAQs", "View Your Club's ToolKits", "Upcoming NSN Webinars", and "Help".

At the bottom right, there is a section titled "FOLLOW THE NIGHT SKY NETWORK" with Facebook and Twitter social media icons.

At the bottom left, there is a section titled "NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION" with the text "Club: Los Angeles Astronomical Society".

All new things take time to learn how to use. Give it a second chance! This is a great tool given to us by NASA to support all amateur astronomy clubs, including ours. Over 500 clubs in the US are on the network now.

Check out MESSAGE GROUPS under the name of our club. You can click through the empty halls and join a group if you like and maybe start a group of your own. Click on OUTREACH RESOURCES and type in the word, "toolkit" in the SEARCH box to find every NSN Toolkit created in the past. All of the files for each kit are available to download into your own computers.

If you have any questions about the NSN, or need any assistance with your account, please write to me at [Coordinator@laas.org](mailto:Coordinator@laas.org).

Andee Sherwood/Coordinator

## Club Contact Information

President: Geovanni Somoza

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mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Loaner Program: Dave Sovereign

626-794-0646

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



Click on one of the images below to view hyperlinks attached for information about astronomy and for fun.





Contact Us  
**The Los Angeles**  
**Astronomical Society**  
 2800 E. Observatory Road  
 Los Angeles, CA 90027  
 Call us for more information  
 about our organization and  
 outreach program.  
 213-673-7355  
 Visit our web site at  
 www.LAAS.org

From:  
 The Los Angeles Astronomical Society (LAAS)  
 c/o Griffith Observatory  
 2800 E. Observatory Road  
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To: