



# THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

# THE BULLETIN

JUL, 2019  
VOLUME 93, ISSUE 07



FROM THE LAAS ARCHIVE...  
The year was 1925 at the corner of 6th and Broadway in downtown L.A. Looking south, future charter LAAS member Jimmy Herron is charging passersby 5 cents a look at the Moon through his home-built 6-inch refractor. On a good night, he could earn \$5 - \$10, a substantial sum of money in 1925! Artwork by 1969 LAAS president Norman James; imagery courtesy Los Angeles Public Library.  
Shared by Lew Chilton  
LAAS Historian

Interested in joining the Los Angeles Astronomical Society?  
To find our membership application and further information,  
please visit our website at [LAAS.org](http://LAAS.org).

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**Family Night at Lockwood**  
Grab the family and join other members for a night of dark sky observation on July 27th at our Lockwood facility.

**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](mailto:secretary@laas.org) with your new contact information.

# New Member Potluck, Swap Meet and Star Party

## By Joe Phipps and Curtis Byrom

On Sunday, June 9, the LAAS held our annual New Member Potluck at Garvey Ranch Park. This year, we set up outside on the courtyard with the food on the patio in front of the classroom. It was a warm day but we had a nice breeze keeping it fairly good weather for the day. We had a good turn out this year with several new members joining in on the festivities.

Members participated in the swap meet and a few items were sold, including a large 12" mirror, telescope accessories and a couple of telescopes. Some of the new members set up their telescopes and other members offered some assistance.



About 4:00 or so, Joe fired up the grill and a few minutes later, the hamburgers and hot dogs were cooking. Many lined up with buns and all the fixings on their plate. We had all the burger fixings even some avocado supplied by Greg who couldn't make it to the event. With some great assistance from Evan, Joe cooked over 40 burgers and 45 hot dogs.

The potluck was full of a wide variety of items. Mike White and his wife Bobbie brought fried chicken. Zoly and Krista supplied Chicken Paprikash, Evan brought pot sticker dumplings. Rob Komoto brought Spam Musubi. There were several salads, chips, and many great sweets, donuts, brownies, cookies some fruit, and other items. I do not remember them all. Curtis & Carol saved the day and supplied the ice cold drinks and bottled water.

Jeff Schroeder showed up with his car mounted 11 inch home built refactor and shared some great views of the moon. The seeing didn't hold up all night but there were times when it was good. There were not many objects to look at in the evening sky but I think someone shared views at Jupiter before everyone packed up and went home. A couple of members had solar telescopes and looked at the sun during the day, although quite boring because of solar minimum.

Bob Nolan opened the dome for guests to view through the club's 8 inch refactor. Tim Thompson took over for Bob who went down to the telescope workshop to show the telescope making workshop area.

Overall everyone had a grand old time, kinda like an old fashioned picnic in the park, but with a variety of different eyeballs looking toward the sky.



Jeff Schroeder's telescope on his Volvo.

(This photos was not taken at the potluck.)

# The Splinter Galaxy (NGC 5907)

By Brian Paczkowski



The Splinter Galaxy (NGC 5907) in the constellation Draco. This is a collaborative effort with 3 other Star Members, Dominique Jean, Julien Jean, and Bob Brothers, combining data from our 3 different 10" telescopes (2 iDKs, 1 RC) and imaging setups acquired on the same night in May at Lockwood Valley. This LRGB color composite is my version of our combined 18 hours of data, processed in PixInsight. I'm looking forward to seeing Julien's version since he's much more skilled at PixInsight.

This was a fun project.



# Public Star Party Report

## By Dave Nakamoto

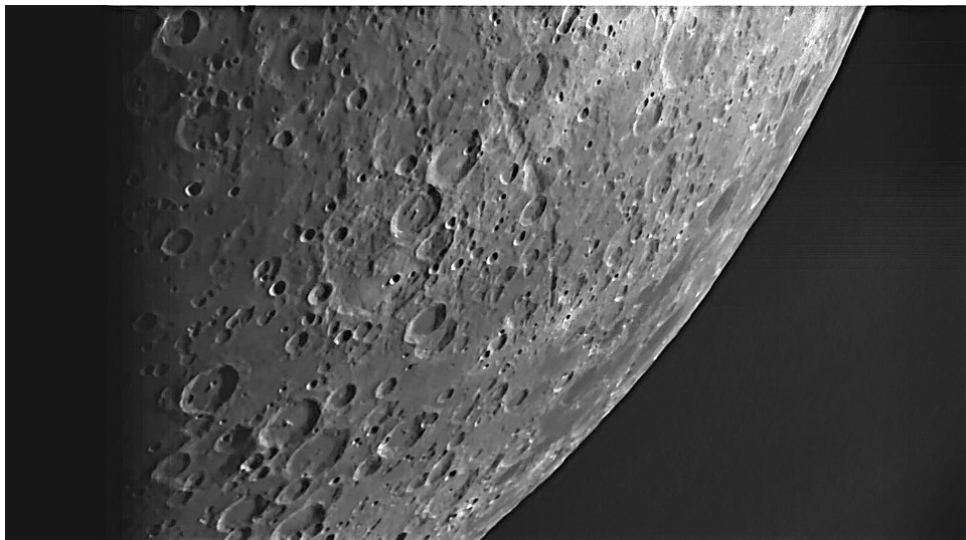
Date: June 8, 2019

Location: Griffith Observatory

My equipment was a 7-inch Orion Mak on a SkyView mount, Celestron NexImage10 at the prime focus.

Moon. 100 frames stacked through Registax6. The large Hexagonal feature is crater Janssen, with Vallis Rheita running to its right. Rheita is the 2nd longest valley visible on this side of the moon.

Jupiter was even worse. 20 frames stacked. Color was visible on the live video but not on the recorded one. Terrible image, but my first look at ol' Jove this year.



# Family Night At Lockwood

## July 27, 2019

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2019

Start Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Lockwood Valley

In 2011, "Family Nights " were scheduled at our Lockwood Dark Sky site best known as the Steve Kufeld Astronomical Site (SKAS).

Here is a link on our website to learn more about this special club facility:

<http://www.laas.org/joomlasite/index.php/dark-sky-observing>.

Family Nights are scheduled 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 5 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 to share with all members. Please use the IO group to discuss more about this wonderful weekend of dark skies and club fellowship.



Family Night, 2017

# Outreach Report

## By Elizabeth Wong

### Cloverly Elementary

Date: May 17, 2019

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Wong

Fifth consecutive year for an LAAS outreach at Cloverly Elementary School in Temple City. A two-school May 17th camp sleepover event, with 181 students, parents, siblings and faculty attending. We spotted the ISS and Hubble flyover. In our telescopes: The Moon in waxing gibbous phase, Polaris, Aldebaran, Castor and Pollux....and Zoly had M81. LAAS volunteers: Van Webster, Rob and Alan Komodo, Don, Jose, Joe Phipps, Javier Colon, Kriszta and Zoly, and myself. Great fun, good group. Come out to the next outreach, ya'll!!!!





# Mt. Wilson Nights

## 2019 Session Schedule

### Session Schedule:

#### 60 Inch Nights

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.

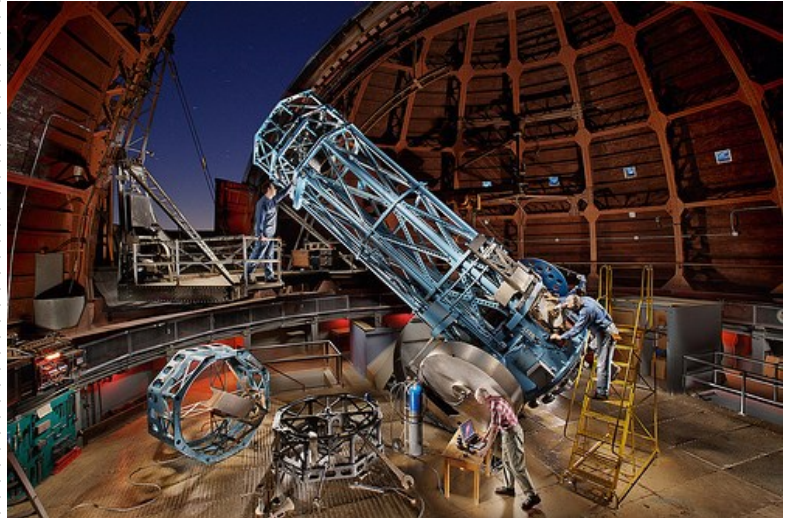
[mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org](mailto:mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org).

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



\*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



Westley Thornton and Elenora Barna

Edgar Villegas

Gary Van Fleet

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@LAAS.org).





# July Star Report

## By Dave Nakamoto



This month the two giants of the Solar System, Jupiter and Saturn, start putting on a show. Unfortunately, Mercury, Venus, and Mars crowd around the Sun and are not readily visible.

On July 15, 9:00 PM. Jupiter is shining bright but low towards the south. At the same time, Saturn is rising in the east. It appears one degree north of the Full Moon on that date.

The markings on Jupiter's disk are fascinating to watch, but you'll need a telescope with magnifications of 100x or more. The four brightest and largest of its moons were first observed by Galileo, and are thus called the Galilean moons. One fascinating thing to observe is a moon crossing in front of Jupiter's disk. Another is watching as a moon's shadow does the same. Because the shadows are much darker than the moons, these events are easier to observe.

Here are the dates and times for the most significant satellite events visible before midnight during July.

Wed July 24<sup>th</sup> – From 9:00 PM to about 10:40 PM, Ganymede, the largest of the four Galilean moons, casts its shadow along the north end of Jupiter. We hope to see this event at Garvey Ranch park observatory using its 8-inch refractor, weather permitting. All four Galilean satellites will be visible on Jupiter's west side. From closest to farthest, they are Ganymede, Io, Europa, and Callisto.

Wed July 31<sup>st</sup> – Ganymede starts crossing the northern part of Jupiter's disk around 8:15 PM, finishing the journey by 10:30 PM. Despite the fact that it appears so bright otherwise, it will appear a dark shade of grey when it crosses Jupiter's disk. Then two hours later, its shadow crosses the disk starting at 12:25 AM. Unfortunately, Jupiter dips below the horizon around 2:00 AM before we can watch the end of this crossing. We hope to see Ganymede's crossing using the Garvey Ranch park observatory telescope, weather permitting.

Saturn is at opposition. That means it is directly opposite the Sun as viewed from earth. Its rings are tilted magnificently for viewers with telescopes. Saturn has its share of cloud features along with up to 4 moons visible through moderately sized (6 inches or wider) telescopes. See how many of them you can spot. Titan can be spotted with scopes as small as 2-inch in diameter, called the scope's aperture, but the others are much fainter and will require scopes of 6-inches or more.

The lunar cycle is:

New Moon : 2<sup>nd</sup>

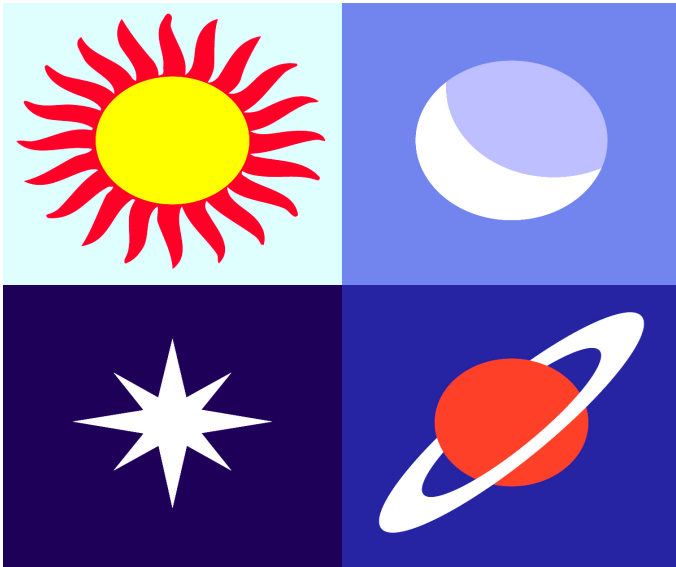
First quarter : 9<sup>th</sup>

Full Moon : 16<sup>th</sup>

Last Quarter : 25<sup>th</sup>

The LAAS operates the Garvey Ranch Park observatory in Monterey Park, located just off the east parking lot. It is open to the public free of charge every Wednesday night from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM. For July, that's the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. The facility houses an 8-inch 9-foot long refracting telescope for visual observations, and a 4-inch telescope for photographing objects, weather permitting. People often set up their own telescopes out on the lawn beside the observatory. There is also a telescope making workshop on the ground floor. LAAS members are there to provide advice and knowledge on all things astronomical. If you have any questions on equipment, observing, or just want a peek through the observatory's scopes, drop on by!

# Almanac



**July 2 - 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 19:16 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.

**July 2 - Total Solar Eclipse.** A total solar eclipse occurs when the moon completely blocks the Sun, revealing the Sun's beautiful outer atmosphere known as the corona. The path of totality will only be visible in parts of the southern Pacific Ocean, central Chile, and central Argentina. A partial eclipse will be visible in most parts of the southern Pacific Ocean and western South America.

([NASA Map and Eclipse Information](#))([NASA Interactive Google Map](#))

**July 9 - Saturn at Opposition.** The ringed planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Saturn and its moons. A medium-sized or larger telescope will allow you to see Saturn's rings and a few of its brightest

## 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.**

**July 16 - Partial Lunar Eclipse.** A partial lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or penumbra, and only a portion of it passes through the darkest shadow, or umbra. During this type of eclipse a part of the Moon will darken as it moves through the Earth's shadow. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of Europe, Africa, central Asia, and the Indian Ocean. ([NASA Map and Eclipse Information](#))

**July 28, 29 - Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower.** The Delta Aquarids is an average shower that can produce up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht. The shower runs annually from July 12 to August 23. It peaks this year on the night of July 28 and morning of July 29. The waning crescent moon will not be too much of a problem this year. The skies should be dark enough for what could be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Source: <http://www.seasky.org/astrometry/astrometry-calendar-2019.html>



# July 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3 Garvey Night Board Meeting	4 	5	6 Dark Sky Night Outreach-Chilao
7	8 General Meeting	9	10 Garvey Night	11	12	13 Public Star Party
14	15	16	17 Garvey Night Merit Badge Class	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Garvey Night	25	26	27 Family Night
28	29	30	31 Garvey Night			



## 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](mailto: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](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](mailto: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.

Treasurer

## 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](#)



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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

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**Youth Coordinator:** James Rochford

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**Webmaster:** Steve Dashiell

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**Club Communications:** Andee Sherwood

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**Mt. Wilson Coordinator:** Darrell Dooley

mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

**Bulletin Editor:** Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org



Find astronomy outreach activities by visiting NASA's Night Sky Network:

<https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/about.cfm>

## 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.



Follow us on social media by clicking on one of the images below



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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](http://www.LAAS.org)

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