



THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

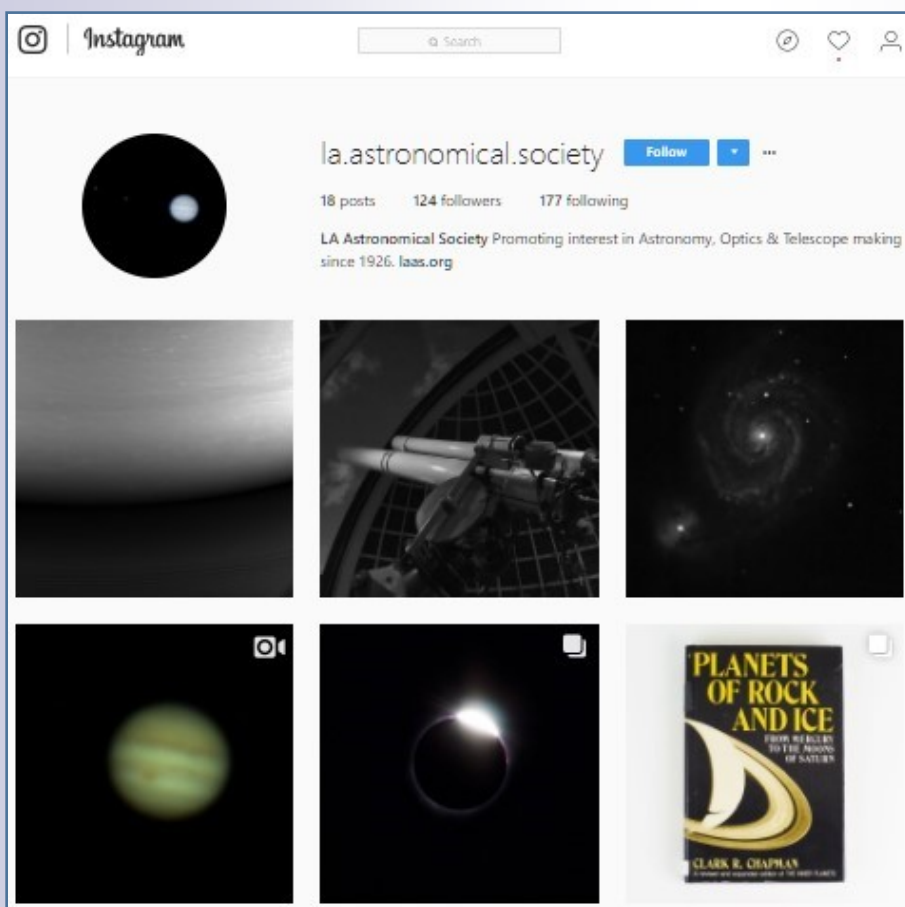
800 MEMBERS LOOKING UP!

THE BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 2017

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 10

The LAAS On Instagram



Attention Club Social Media Devotees!

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of club members Mary Smudde and Ed Dempsey, the LAAS is officially on Instagram. The LAAS has over 100 followers so far and the numbers are growing daily. If you are an Instagram fan, look for the LAAS by searching for LA.Astronomical Society on Instagram.com.

In This Issue

- LAAS Eclipse Trip Photos.....Pages 2-3
- Ford Observatory Report.....Pages 4-5
- Carnegie Institute Open House.....Page 6
- NightFall 2017 General Info.....Page 7
- Science Night Flyer.....Page 8
- 60 Inch Nights at Mt. Wilson Obs.....Page 9
- Meet Our Newest Members!Page 10
- Magazine Subscriptions.....Page 10
- A Guide To the Night SkyPage 11
- September Almanac.....Page 12
- Calendar of Events.....Page 13
- NSN Discovery Guide..... Page 14
- LAAS Fundraising on Amazon Smiles.....Page 15
- General Club Information.....Page 16
- Galaxy Word Search Puzzle.....Page 17
- Club Contact Information.....Page 18
- Mailer.....Page 19



Nominations for club officers and Board members will be heard at the general meeting in November.

Club elections are held at our general meeting in December. More info coming soon.

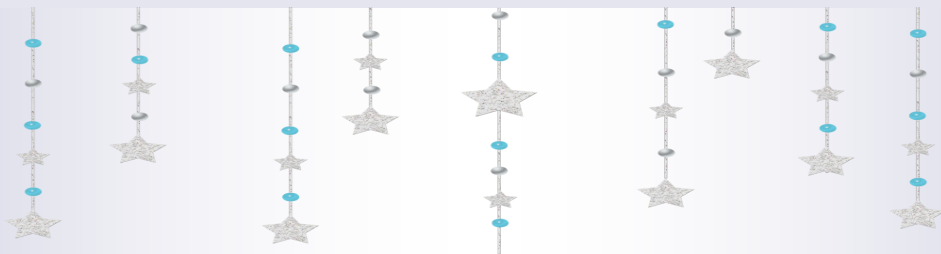
ECLIPSE TRIP, 2017
REXBURG, IDAHO
PHOTOS SHARED BY SPENCER SOOHOO





“2 eclipse photos and one of the Milky Way (southern end) from just outside Zion National Park about 4 days later. The skies in S. Utah were really dark. “

Spencer SooHoo



Want to see your photos and articles posted in the next newsletter?

Send all photos in jpg format and any articles in either Word or pdf format along with written consent and any special instructions to communications@laas.org, before the 18th of each month.

Ideas and suggestions for upcoming editions are always greatly appreciated.

FORD OBSERVATORY REPORT BY ELIZABETH WONG

A formidably locked gate at County Road 4N21 and sucker holes in wispy evening skies above did not dampen enthusiasm or deter LAAS members from enjoying a dark sky night in Wrightwood.



Photo above: Curtis Byrom and Joe Phipps

On Saturday, September 16, four LAAS members (Javier, Penny, Joe and myself) joined Curtis Byrom, acting as the session director, at the turnout on Table Mountain Road.



Photo above: The Gate. Beyond this road...about 2 miles in...the Ford Observatory!

We eagerly waited for the opening of the white gate, heavily fortified by a multiple locks. About 2 miles down the road -- the mysterious Ford Observatory, a property maintained by the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, and housing the Society's 18-inch reflector telescope. We were all looking forward to this rare opportunity. So Curtis and Joe worked all the locks, even

I took a turn, until...

... until it was realized that the lock dedicated to the Ford Observatory and LAAS had inexplicably gone missing!!!



Photo: The multiple locks on the gate.

But undeterred, Curtis cheerfully proposed PLAN B!!! An impromptu Star Party!!!!

Yay for Plan B!!! We all caravan'd back to Carol and Curtis' hideaway to retrieve his 12-inch home-made truss Dobsonian. We hastily distributed and packed all the components into three cars, and headed to the Pacific Crest Trail Blue Ridge Parking lot.

By flashlight and by headlamp, the telescope was assembled in the dark. Wispy clouds cleared overhead and/or lowered to cover the glow of Los Angeles by 9 p.m., revealing the Milky Way!!! And so, our evening of observation began in earnest.

We started with Saturn, since Curtis had worked on Cassini-Huygens, seemed fitting! We saw NGC7006, a globular Cluster in Delphinus, and a double in the snout of Delphinus; there was the galaxy NGC7331 in Pegasus; galaxy NGC7331 in Pegasus; Andromeda in Javier's binoculars, and in the scope; also the edge-on galaxy NGC891; the Triangulum Galaxy M33; the double cluster NGC869 and 884 in Perseus; the M22 Globular Cluster in Sagittarius and the NGC6530 open cluster also in Sagittarius; the Lagoon Nebula, the Ring Nebula, the Dumbbell Nebula, the Little Dumbbell Nebula, M13 and M92 globular clusters in Hercules; the double double of Epsilon Lyrae.

Between Curtis' Dobsonian and Javier's binoculars, it was a fun and successful night of observation NEAR the Ford Observatory. We all still look forward to being IN the Ford Observatory, some of us for the first time, perhaps next month!

Elizabeth Wong



Photo above: Elizabeth Wong on her first visit to the Ford.

Photo credit: Elizabeth Wong



Sunday, October 15, 2017

2:00 - 5:00pm

Join us for an afternoon of discovery as we explore the past, present and future of astronomy at the Carnegie Observatories. This year we connect Carnegie Observatories then and now, celebrating the upcoming 100th anniversary of first light on the 100-inch Hooker telescope at Mt. Wilson.

We are expecting large numbers this year and parking is limited. Please consider taking public transit. The Observatories is a 10 minute walk from the Lake [Metro Goldline](#) station. There is ample free parking at the Sierra Madre Villa station. Lyft/Uber might also be a good option.

- Meet our astronomers and learn about their discoveries at the frontiers of science today
- See amazing photos from Las Campanas, Carnegie's state-of-the-art observatory in Chile
- Visit the Machine Shop to see how instruments are made for our telescopes in Chile
- Bring your questions about the Universe to the "Ask the Astronomer" table
- View the sun through a solar telescope
- Tour the historic Hale Library and learn about more than a century of pioneering achievements by Carnegie scientists
- From our archive: see a display of historical astronomical images on glass plates including a 15" sunspot spectrum taken in 1919
- Get the latest update on the Giant Magellan Telescope —one of the most powerful next-generation telescopes.
- Enjoy ice cream, drinks and music in the beautiful outdoor courtyard.
- Make your own constellation and other fun children's astro activities.

All are welcome, NO RSVP NECESSARY!



Nightfall Star Party & Imaging Conference 2017

When & Where

October 19 – 22

Palm Canyon Hotel & RV Resort

221 Palm Canyon Dr.

Borrego Springs, CA 92004

(760) 767-5341

(800) 242-0044

[See it on Google Maps](#)

Star Party Admission

Nightfall is a different kind of star party. To attend, simply contact the Palm Canyon Hotel & RV Resort (contact info is above), tell them you want to attend the Nightfall Star Party, and complete your reservation with them. We add a nominal charge for each night of your stay, which helps us offset our expenses. Other than that, there is no separate fee to attend the star party. Once the hotel confirms your reservation, you are confirmed to attend Nightfall (assuming your hotel reservation dates coincide with the Nightfall dates, of course).

If you want to attend just for the day to look around, no problem—show up and do just that! Stay into the night* to get spectacular views of the planets, nebulae, star clusters and galaxies—all for free! Please keep in mind that this is a hotel and RV resort. You are not permitted to stay *over night* unless you have made a reservation with the hotel and paid for a room or RV space.

The only fees associated with Nightfall are for lodging (hotel room or RV space) and the [premium workshops](#).

Learn more about NightFall 2017 by visiting their official website: <http://nightfallstarparty.com/general-information/>



Halloween Science Night

Sunday, October 29, 2017



Los Angeles Astronomical Society
Garvey Ranch Park & Observatory
Sunday, October 29, 2017 4pm

Come in costume and enjoy an evening of trick-or-treating, science demonstrations, astronomy, food, and door prizes! All ages are welcome and volunteers are needed!

James Rochford
(626) 221-9045/jcrochford@gmail.com

**BOOK NOW! ONLY TWO SESSIONS
LEFT FOR THE SEASON!**

MT. WILSON NIGHTS ARE BACK!

Make Your Reservations Soon!

60 Inch Nights:

~~Friday 4/21 (Half)~~

~~Saturday 5/20 (Full night)~~

~~Saturday 6/24 Imaging Session - 4 Spots Open!~~

~~Friday 7/21 (Half)~~

~~Saturday 9/16 (Half)~~

Saturday 10/28 (Half) (Moon night!)

Saturday 11/11 (Half)

100 inch nights:

~~Friday 6/23 (Half)~~

**Email Darrell before using the PayPal
link to guarantee space available.**

**Contact Darrell Dooley at Mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org
for further information**

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS



Max Senin and Family

Andrew Marzullo

Daniel Irvin and Family

James Richardson

James Campbell

Donald Farra

Denis Kholodenko

Ray Martin and Family



Please 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 MAGAZINES

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.

A GUIDE TO THE NIGHT SKY

FOR OCTOBER, 2017

BY TRE GIBBS



SATURN is preparing to engage in a temporary farewell as the ringed giant continues its gradual and apparent slip westward into the sun's glare. Though Saturn won't actually slip behind the sun until mid December, it will get more difficult to view as the weeks and months continue. Look for Saturn directly to the left of the thin waxing crescent moon on the night of the 23rd. The next time the moon pairs up with Saturn (November 20th), both will be so low on the horizon that you might not be able to see them.

Saturn is currently the only visible planet in our evening sky, so if you want to see more planets, you're going to have to get up rather early and look to the east prior to sunrise. Early in the month - on the 4th, around 6:00 am - Mars sits right under brilliant Venus due east, just above the horizon.

Mid month - on the 15th - look again due east around 6:00 am and you'll not only see that the waning crescent moon has joined both Mars and Venus, but Venus now sits below Mars, continuing her descent towards the sun, eventually making a return to our evening skies, visible to the unaided eye by early Spring. Jupiter and Mercury are currently lost in the sun's glare, but they will wander back into our visible skies soon enough.

October's full moon appears early this month. Look for the "Full Hunter's Moon" rising in the east just after sunset on the 5th. The name originates from when our ancestors knew that this was the time of year when leaves fall and wild game is fattened, signaling them to begin laying a store of provisions for the long cold winter ahead.

FUN FACTS:

Polaris - The North Star - is NOT the brightest star in the sky, not by a long shot. The only reason the North Star is "special" is because it stays in the same spot in the sky. Polaris is directly over Earth's North Pole, so as Earth turns on its axis, all of the stars appear to spin around it, making Polaris a very useful tool for navigating - like having a giant compass in the sky.

Our word "month" comes from "moon", since the Moon orbits our planet about every 28 days. Moving eastward, the Moon rises about 50 minutes later each night (or day), until it's right back where it was in the sky almost a month later.

The word "planet" is derived from "*planeta*", a Latin based term meaning "wander". Ancient astronomers noticed seven visible lights that "wander" through the sky; the Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn - which is why we have seven days of the week. If you know some of the Latin based languages, you can easily figure out which planet represents which day...

Saturn's glorious ring system is made up almost entirely of water ice....the same stuff that's in your freezer. This one is my favorite: Venus, The Goddess Of Love and Beauty, spins on its axis so incredibly slowly that it actually completes one orbit around the sun *before* it completes one rotation on its axis, which means that Venus' day is *LONGER* than its year!

Enjoy this Autumn season and remember, keep looking up !

Tre Gibbs

ALMANAC



- October 8 - Draconids Meteor Shower.** The Draconids is a minor meteor shower producing only about 10 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet 21P Giacobini-Zinner, which was first discovered in 1900. The Draconids is an unusual shower in that the best viewing is in the early evening instead of early morning like most other showers. The shower runs annually from October 6-10 and peaks this year on the the night of the 8th. Unfortunately, the nearly full moon will block all but the brightest meteors this year. If you are extremely patient, you may be able to catch a few good ones. Best viewing will be in the early evening from a dark location far away from city lights. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Draco, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

- October 19 - 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 19:12 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.

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.

Learn more:

[The Garvey Ranch Park Observatory](#)

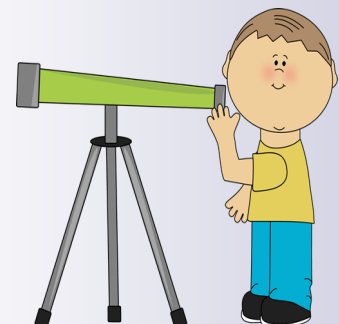
- October 19 - Uranus at Opposition.** The blue-green planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view Uranus. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue-green dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

- October 21, 22 - Orionids Meteor Shower.** The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Halley, which has been known and observed since ancient times. The shower runs annually from October 2 to November 7. It peaks this year on the night of October 21 and the morning of October 22. The crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be a good show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Orion, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Source: <http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2017.html>

Be a part of something great! Join our Outreach team of volunteers today.

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





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 01 6:39 PM Sunset | 02 | 03 | 04 7:00 PM Garvey 8:00 PM Board Meeting | 05 6:00 PM Outreach - Highland Park | 06 | 07 | |
| 08 6:29 PM Sunset | 09 | 10 | 11 7:00 PM Garvey | 12 | 13 | 14 | |
| 15 2:00 PM Carnegie Open House 6:20 PM Sunset | 16 7:30 PM General Meeting | 17 | 18 7:00 PM Garvey 7:30 PM Lockwood Committee Meeting at Garvey | 19 NightFall 2017 | 20 | 21 2:00 PM Star Party 5:00 PM Dark Sky Night | |
| 22 9:00 AM Outreach - Agoura Hills 6:12 PM Sunset | | | 24 | 25 7:00 PM Garvey | 26 5:00 PM Outreach - Vernon | 27 6:00 PM Outreach - Arcadia | 28 6:00 PM 60 Inch Night |
| 29 4:00 PM Science Night 6:04 PM Sunset | 30 | 31 | 01 7:00 PM Garvey | 02 | 03 5:00 PM Outreach - Silver Lake | 04 | |

LAAS Members: Please log on to the Night Sky Network (NSN) to view all private and outreach events on the calendar.

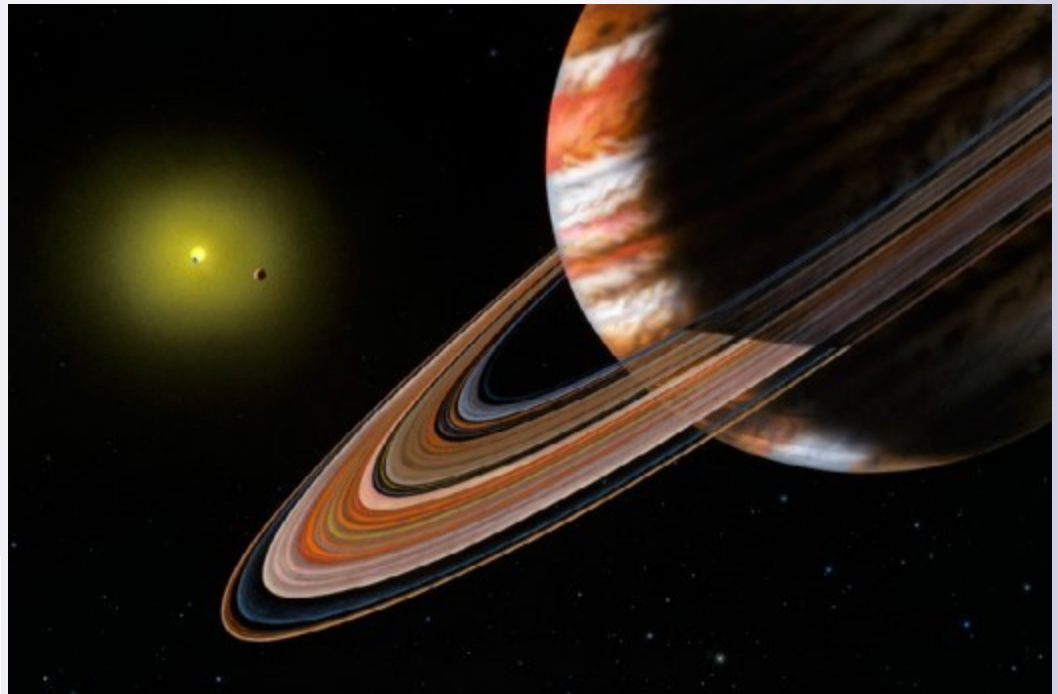
Be advised all scheduled events may not be visible on the calendar above.

If you have not registered on the network, please follow this link and register today:

https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-apply.cfm?Club_ID=1344&ApplicantType=Member

Are All Planet
Families
Like Ours?

Universe
Discovery Guide
For October



Upsilon Andromedae's Family of Planets: Artist's concept. © 1999 Lynette Cook, all rights reserved. Art may not be used elsewhere without permission of the artist.

Discover the universe with your family and friends!

IN THIS GUIDE:

ARE ALL FAMILIES JUST LIKE YOURS? » SKY FEATURE: UPSILON ANDROMEDAE » TRY THIS! » ACTIVITY: PLANET FAMILIES — BUILD A SOLAR SYSTEM » CONNECT TO NASA SCIENCE

Download the guide by following this link:

<https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/docs/10UDGUpsAndromedae.pdf>

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

NASA'S NIGHT SKY NETWORK - FREE WEBINARS

Each month, the NSN hosts a free online webinar for all registered members of the Night Sky Network.

Log on to your NSN account to learn more.

9:00 PM Eastern/ 6:00 PM Pacific

Topic and Speaker TBD

Check the NSN newsletter for further information.

[YouTube Playlist : All NSN Astronomy Webinars](#)

[All Past Webinars and Resources on NSN](#)



FUNDRAISING FOR THE LAAS



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/>

Disclaimer: The Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc. is a public charity, as defined by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and all contributions to the Society are deductible for Federal and State Income tax purposes. **The Society does not endorse Amazon.com or any of its business practices**, but we are registered with Amazon Smile and will accept contributions from that program. If you are an Amazon customer and would like to have part of the proceeds from your purchase returned to the Society as a contribution, please go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> when you are shopping on Amazon and select Los Angeles Astronomical Society under the caption: "Or pick your own charitable organization." A percentage of you purchases will be donated to the Society to fund its educational and outreach programs.

John O'Bryan, Jr./Treasurer



Thank you for your donation!

General Club Information

1. Renewing Membership Dues: Our club secretary sends out two or three renewal notices to each club member one year after your annual dues were paid. Learn how to renew on our website using the following link:

<http://laas.org/joomlasite/index.php/how-to-renew-your-membership>

Many clubs immediately remove members' info when dues are not paid on time. The LAAS gives all members additional and ample time to renew. If you do not renew and leave the club, you will no longer be able to access your account on the NSN and both Yahoo groups.

2. Update Your Club Contact Info: It is each member's responsibility to provide current contact information in order to receive club announcements and general club information. If you have changed your home address, email, or phone number recently, please send an email with your full name and new contact information to: secretary@laas.org. If you are a registered member of the Night Sky Network (NSN), log on to your account and edit your own profile. Look for "My Profile" under the name of our club. When your screen opens to the new page, click on the grey tab, "Edit My Profile." Your profile will appear on the next screen. You will be able to make enter changes on this page. Please remember to go to the bottom of the page and click "Submit" after adding your updated information.

3. The LAAS Bulletin: This is our club's newsletter and contains information for many of our more public events. If you joined the ANC-Yahoo group, you will receive the newsletter before the end of each month. If you would like to submit an article and photos, please send it to communications@LAAS.org before the 18th of each month. If you know of a great astronomy event taking place in Southern CA which the other members might like to attend, please also share this information to the same email address.

4. Outreach: All members are encouraged to participate at our many outreach events. Join our outreach team by contacting Heven Renteria at outreach@LAAS.org. Look at the club calendar to find outreach events in your area and find an event close to home. Our outreach team should grow along with the membership. Volunteers are always welcome to participate.

5. Have special skills you wish to share with the club? Our club members come from different backgrounds with different skills and work experience. Put your experience to work in the club and make a difference. Please contact our club president, Geo Somoza at Geovanni_somoza@hotmail.com to get more involved with the club.

6. Have questions but don't know who to contact? There is a list of club contacts at the end of each newsletter.

The LAAS also has a message phone which is checked two times daily. If you prefer to speak with a club member instead of sending email, please call 213-673-7355. Leave a clear message and your phone number. If you leave your cell phone number, make sure your voice mail is not full so you can receive messages left for you.

You may also send your questions to communications@LAAS.org. Send me a note requesting an invitation to join the LAAS-ANC group if you didn't sign up for this group when you first joined the club. Only current members are permitted access to this group.

The LAAS is staffed by volunteers only. All volunteers do their best to respond to your membership needs when they can. Review the club calendar often so you will know about upcoming events weeks before they take place and have time to submit questions and receive responses. If you don't read the monthly newsletter and delete club communication announcements, you may miss some of our great club and community events. This service is provided to you as part of your membership and all members are encouraged to take full advantage of reviewing all club information when received.

Andee Sherwood

Communications Chairperson

Galaxy Word Search Puzzle

How Many Galaxies Can You Find?

C A R T W H E E L O P D A T Z
S L B O L T W S H D Y C F L R
W O O E J R J D M M O I N Y E
Q U M O L A B W N K H O S L I
Y M D B P L M E T S X J U O S
S A W K R L Y S D C Y G N U S
Z L D C R E R E I H R F F S E
C I H E K T R I A N G U L U M
Y N O C M S Y O H U A E O N I
K B A I O O W M J W E C W I L
L L G M C G R C Y H R W E C K
B Q S U Z R N D W D I N R R Y
U O A X N I W N N N F F K I W
C Q B J U V I W I A W V T C A
C Q L E E P R X H R T A K G Y

ABELL
ANDROMEDA
BLACKEYE
CANISMAJOR
CARTWHEEL
CIRCINUS
COSMOSREDSHIFT
CYGNUS
HOAGS
MALIN
MESSIER
MICE
MILKYWAY
PINWHEEL
SOMBRERO
SUNFLOWER
TADPOLE
TRIANGULUM
VIRGOSTELLAR
WHIRLPOOL



Club Contact Information

President: Geovanni Somoza

geovanni_somoza@hotmail.com

Vice President: Tim Thompson

timthompson3@verizon.net

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

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:

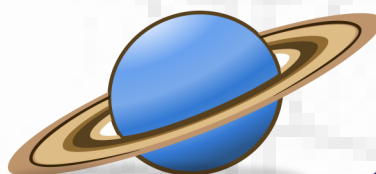
661-245-2106

Not answered, arrange
time with caller.

Outgoing calls – Collect or calling card only.



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



Visit our web site at
www.LAAS.org

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

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

From:
The Los Angeles Astronomical Society (LAAS)
c/o Griffith Observatory
2800 E. Observatory Road
Los Angeles, CA. 90027

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

To: