

THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER, 2018 VOLUME 92, ISSUE 09

THE BULLETIN



August, 2018

The Wizard Nebula (NGC 7380) in the constellation Cepheus. This is an active star forming region and a developing open cluster. This is a false color narrowband composite made from 10 hours of H-alpha, 16 hours of OIII and 13 hours of SII data. Taken over a period of several weeks from my heavily light polluted backyard in Tujunga, CA. The false color composite was made using this formula: Red=70% Ha+30% SII, Green=70% OIII+30% SII, and Blue=100% OIII (Celestron 1100 Edge HD, 0.7x focal reducer, CGEMDX, ZWO ASI 1600mm-cool)

Photo Credit: Brian Paczkowski/LAAS

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- News Bits -

The last Family Night of the season is on Sept. 1, 2018 in Lockwood.

The end time for the September Public Star Party is 9:45 PM

New Member Potluck, Swap Meet, and Open House

August 19, 2018

About 40 members of the LAAS attended this classic club event at the Garvey Ranch Observatory. Although a larger crowd was anticipated, big thanks go out to those of you who attended and contributed to this annual event for our newest members.

It was a hot and humid day at the park and the day after our public star party at Griffith Observatory. Many of our usual movers and shakers were nowhere to be found. Joe Phipps, board member and Grill-Master extraordinaire, grilled burgers and hot dogs for the attendees while others brought food of different kinds including Zoly, who treated all to his homemade Hungarian Chicken Paprikash. Friends, food, and club fellowship made this casual day at the Garvey Ranch Observatory a good day.

Here are some photos from the event captured by Sheri B. and Andee. You can enlarge your screen for better viewing.





























New Members, the Garvey Ranch Observatory is open **every** Wednesday night from 7PM to 10PM. Its our clubhouse, an observatory, a workshop, and a place to get a great cup of coffee, too!

If you didn't make it out for the potluck, please attend our annual "**Science Night**, " soon to be scheduled in the Fall. We have this event around Halloween geared for LAAS families and our

youth membership, along with the Monterey Park community

One never knows what spook'tacular things you'll find waiting for you at Garvey on Science Night!

OCTOBER, 2018

GET READY FOR

SCIENCE NIGHT!!!



Perseid Meteor Shower Member Photos



Here is one frame that has what seems to be the brightest Perseid meteor that I was able to capture on Sunday morning, Aug. 12, 2:04am. The trail persisted into the next frame.

Info:

ZWO ASI 178 monochrome camera with 150-degree "all-sky" lens

30-second exposures, gain pushed hard in SharpCap 3.1

50 copies of one frame, stacked in Deep Sky Stacker 4.1

Wavelet sharpening, Gamma, Histogram adjustments in RegiStax 6.1

Cropped, flipped, converted to JPG in VuePrint Pro 8.0

Photo Credit: Kevin Gilchrist



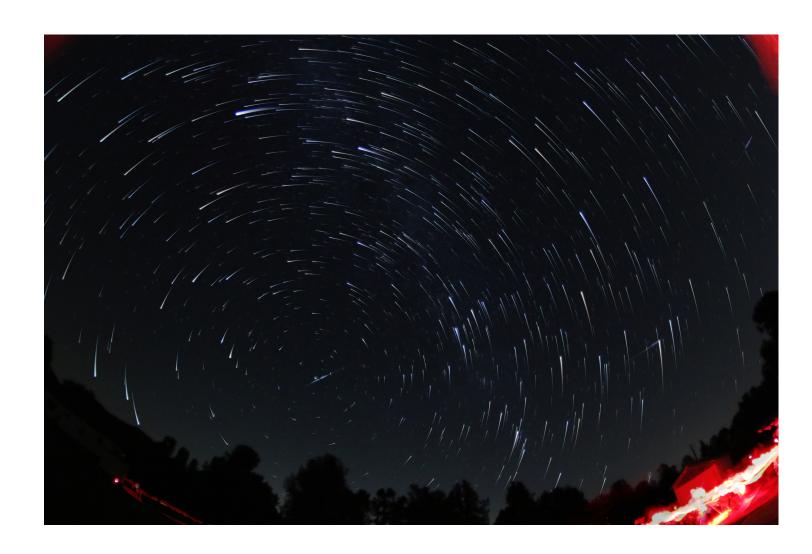
The photo was taken around 4:10am Monday morning (8/13). On the left side is the Andromeda Galaxy and on the right the Pleiades.

Photo credit: Mike Hayford



Perseid meteor watching from our LAAS Steve Kufeld Astronomical Site in Lockwood Valley last night, Sunday-Monday, August 12-13, 2018. I've seen better Perseid meteor showers, but the evening was very pleasant and the sky reasonably dark. Carla and I left about 1:30 a.m.

Photo Credit: Lew Chilton/LAAS Historian



This was all at LAAS's dark sky site near Mt. Pinos, my 1st time there as a LAAS member. Great crowd and great night!

About 1,000 15-second exposures, processed into star trails and a time lapse video. Good meteors after 1am on Aug 12-13. A lot of faint ones and about a dozen bright ones in 6 hours of observation. The Milky Way was a bit faint, probably due to the smoke and lights from nearby fires.

Photo credit: Maxim Senin/LAAS

Perseid meteor shower 2018-08-12 - Video

Max also created a video which you can view by clicking on the following link:

https://vimeo.com/285338492

Approximately 6 hours of observation (1000 15-second exposures) processed into a time lapse. From dark sky sight of Los Angeles
Astronomic Society in Los Padres National Forest near Frazier Park, CA

Date: Saturday, September 1, 2018

Time: 5:00 PM - TBD by group

Location: Lockwood Valley

Sunset: 8:11 PM

~ The last Family Night of the season! ~

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:



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

Honorary Life Membership Awarded to Ron McKnight

-by Lew Chilton, LAAS Historian

At its general meeting in Griffith Observatory's Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theatre this past July 2018, the LAAS membership unanimously voted to make Ron McKnight an honorary life member.

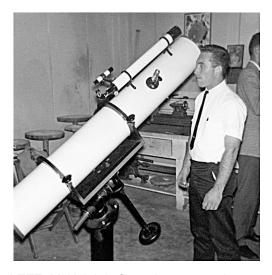
He joins other past and present honorary life members Dr. Clarence H. Cleminshaw, Dr. Robert S. Richardson, Dr. Edwin C. Krupp, George W. Bunton, Paul E. Roques, Ronald A. Oriti, Thomas A. Cragg, Avery Hildom, Philip M. Casady, Thomas R. Cave III, Edwin C. Mack, George W. Shuster, Leslie F. Mawhinney, Lawrence A. Bernstein, Ephraim Merritt, Msgr. Ronald R. Royer, and Kevin Kawai.

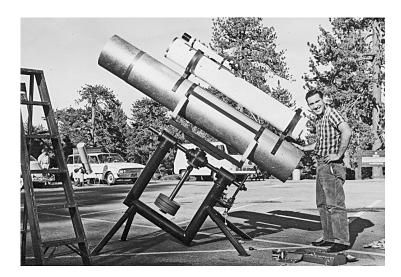
Ron's long journey to honorary life memberhood began at age twelve. As he was paging through the family encyclopaediae, a foldout picture of the solar system caught his eye, and the seeds of a lifelong hobby were sown. A few years later a friend's hand-held telescope revealed craters on the moon, and his own telescope followed in 1955: a small mail order refractor. In 1956, a 3-inch reflector followed and within a year an Edmund Scientific 4¼-inch Palomar Jr.

In 1957, Ron formed the South Gate Astronomy Club and a year later I co-founded the Lakewood Astronomy Club. We were both junior high school students. During these years we often visited Coast Instrument, a telescope retailer in nearby Long Beach, but our paths never crossed. During one visit, a salesman scribbled Ron's name and address on a scrap of paper and encouraged me to contact him.

But that piece of paper languished in my wallet until Ron paid his first visit to the LAAS basement shops of Griffith Observatory in 1961. Introducing himself, I recognized his name and took out the scrap of paper and showed it to him. After shared looks of amazement we immediately became fast friends and remain so to this day!

Ron became a telescope builder with ambitious goals. He never settled for small. His first telescope project was an 8-inch Newtonian and his second was a dual 8- and 12½-inch on a heavy cross-axis equatorial mount for which he received a Telescope of the Year award at the 2nd annual LAAS awards banquet in 1964.





LEFT: McKnight's first telescope project: an 8-inch reflector completed in 1962. RIGHT: Second telescope project: dual 8- and $12\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Newtonians on a massive cross-axis mount completed in 1963.

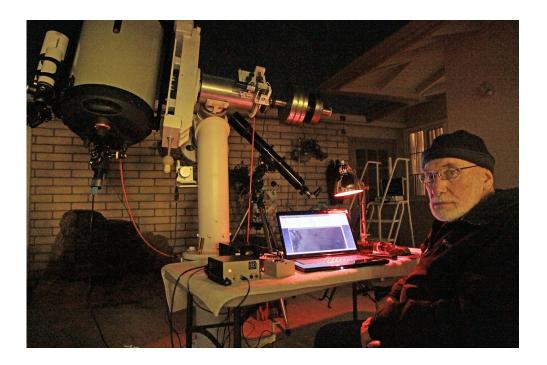
Five years later, during his 1969 tenure as LAAS vice-president, Ron increasingly gave thought to the Society's long-time ambition of acquiring its own observing site. He knew of several plots of land for sale in Lockwood Valley at the base of Mt. Piños where the LAAS had been intermittently having star parties since 1963. Ron had explored Lockwood Valley and knew that it had open vistas and dark skies.

Towards the end of 1969, while negotiating his own 2½-acre parcel of land in Lockwood Valley, Ron ; earned from the seller, Mr. Adamowicz, that he had another 2½-acre parcel for sale less than a mile east. Its selling price was \$5,400. Ron negotiated a sales contract for it and presented the unsigned document to the LAAS board of directors* for approval and then to the general membership for its approval shortly after he was elected president in 1970. He had even devised a plan to pay off the mortgage at a rate of \$54 per month.

The club would create a new class of membership called "Star." Star membership would entitle the member to unrestricted access to the observing site and a concrete observing pad. Each star member would pay yearly star dues in addition to regular member dues. For those who signed up for star membership that first year, they would only be charged \$30 annually as long as they remained regular members in good standing. For those who waited until after the first year, annual star member dues would be \$50 for as long as they remained LAAS members in good standing. When presented for a vote, the Board gave its unanimous approval and at the following general meeting only one member dissented.

That first year, 1970, twenty-five members signed up to become Charter Star members and in the following years even more members signed on, but at the higher annual rate. Ron's plan to finance the property was so successful that the mortgage was paid off a couple of years early. Ron returned as president in 1974.

By 1981, Ron had drifted away from the LAAS because of his moves to Pinion Pines in Cuddy Valley and to Pine Mountain Club, both near Mt. Piños. In 2008, he moved to Port Hueneme and joined the Ventura County Astronomical Society. Nearly all of his observing and imaging have been either at Mt. Piños or in his backyard observatories. He is now semi-retired and still an active amateur astronomer concentrating mostly on lunar and planetary imaging with his Celestron 9.25-inch, which he takes to Mt. Piños, and with his 14-inch Celestron which he uses solely at home (see image below).



Now that Ron has returned to the LAAS as an honorary life member, we hope to see him at meetings and star parties, at least occasionally. Welcome Back, Ron!

The Board of Directors for 1970 was composed of Ron McKnight, President; Ed Johnston, Vice-President; Mrs.
Mary Cragg, Secretary; Mrs. Marilyn Schaal, Recording Secretary; and Ted Sobelman, Treasurer. Board Members
were Gordon Mitchell, Art Johnson, Lew Chilton, Cynthia Schnitzer, Lou Arana, Weyman Reams and Norm
James. Pat Lowry, Jack Gregg, Dave Gilmore and Craig Halverson were alternates to the board.

Session Nights

Mt. Wilson Observatory

2018 Session Schedule:

- 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.





Bo Chen

Jose Norton

Deke and Tiffani Waters

Mohit Kallianpur and Family

Kurt Rademaekers and John

Oliver

Bill Silverman

Kevin Cotton

Steven and Arturo

Hencken

Ed Rhodes

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

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



A Guide To The Night Sky By Tre Gibbs



This month, we welcome the return of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere!

The seasons are caused by a combination of 1) Earth being tilted on it's axis and 2) Earth orbiting the sun. As the tilted Earth orbits the sun, there are times when the top half (northern hemisphere) is leaning toward the sun and receiving more daylight than night (summer) and times when it's leaning away from the sun and receiving more night than daylight (winter). In between these two extremes, there are times when neither hemisphere is leaning toward nor away from the sun, and both hemispheres receive equal amounts of day and night. On September 22nd at 6:40 pm, Earth will be in this position and Fall will officially begin as we experience what's known as the Autumnal Equinox. Equinox is a Latin word, roughly translated to mean "Equal Night" meaning, equal amounts of night. Since we can't travel out into space to view this event, we can experience it down here on Earth by watching where the sun rises and sets on this day. Going from summer to winter, the sun's path in the sky has been gradually moving

south. On June 21st, the longest day of the year, and the beginning of summer, the sun sets in the northwest. On December 21st, the shortest day of the year, and the beginning of winter, the sun sets in the southwest. On the Equinoxes, the sun sets right in the middle, perfectly west. Same with sunrise - but on the eastern horizon of course. After this day, the sun will rise and set just slightly south of due west, and it will keep heading south every day until early to mid December, when it will appear to slow down, stop, turn around and head north again, continuing it's annual cycle.

Back in early August, you may have notice four planets in the sky at once, but only if you are one of the fortunate ones to have an unobstructed view of both the eastern and western horizon - in order from west to east; Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. This month, Venus, in Virgo, continues her decent towards the glare of the sun, while Mars, in Capricornus the Sea Goat, rises earlier and earlier with each passing day. By the end of this month, Venus will be almost completely lost in the glare of the setting sun, with Jupiter, in Libra The Scales, close behind her. Saturn, much more dim than the other visible planets and still in Sagittarius the Archer, shifts from the south east to the south this month. The reason Saturn is so much more faint than the other planets is because it's so far away from us - almost twice the distance of Jupiter - and there are even two more beyond Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, which are SO far away, you need a telescope to see them!

As always, the moon, in it's monthly (*or moonthly*) orbit, pairs up with each planet over the course of it's 28 day trek around Earth. Planet or "*planeta*", is Latin for the word "wander", since these bright lights mysteriously wandered through the same narrow path in the sky, as if they were deliberately being moved by The Gods...

On the 13th, look for the young crescent moon just to the right of bright **Jupiter**.

Four days later, on the 17th, look for the half moon to the right of **Saturn**.

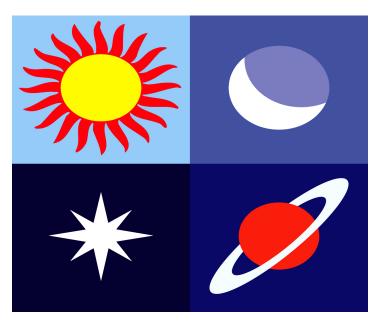
Two days after that, on the 19th, look for the waxing (growing) gibbous moon almost right above bright and orange-ish **Mars**!

And speaking of the moon, on the 24th, we are treated to this month's full moon, The Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon is the full moon closest to the Autumnal Equinox and can occur in either September or October. This particular full moon allowed all the chores of harvest to get done - even after dark!

That's it for this month, so enjoy the ever changing cycle of the seasons and always remember to KEEP LOOKING UP! Contact me to get info on viewing the International Space Station as it flies overhead - tregibbs@gmail.com - or go directly to Chris Peat's amazing website, www.heavens-above.com, put in your location and click on ISS.

Tre Gibbs/LAAS

Almanac



September 7 - Neptune at Opposition. The blue giant 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 Neptune. Due to its extreme distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

September 9 - 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 18:01 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.

September 23 - September Equinox. The equinox occurs at 01:54 UTC. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

September 25 - 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 02:53 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Corn Moon because the corn is harvested around this time of year. This moon is also known as the Harvest Moon. The Harvest Moon is the full moon that occurs closest to the September equinox each year.

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

Universe Discovery Guide



ARE WE ALONE? » SKY FEATURE: KEP-LER MISSION FIELD » TRY THIS! » AC-TIVITY: WHAT'S THE "HABITABLE ZONE" AROUND A STAR? » CONNECT TO NASA SCIENCE

Click on the following link to access the guide:

ttps://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/docs/08UDGKepler.pdf

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



September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						Family Night
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Garvey Nights		60 Inch Night	Dark Sky Night
			Board Meeting			Outreach-
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	General		Garvey Nights			Boeing SSFL
	Meeting					Mt Wilson Star
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Garvey Nights			Public Star Party
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Garvey Nights			
30						

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

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

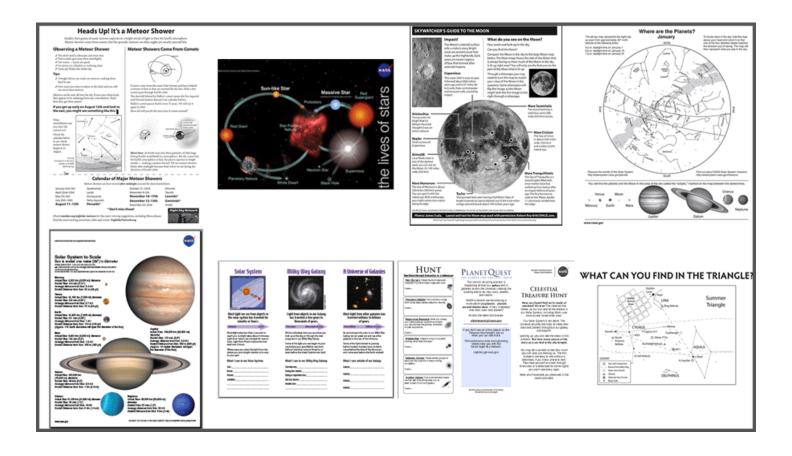
https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/download-search.cfm

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.





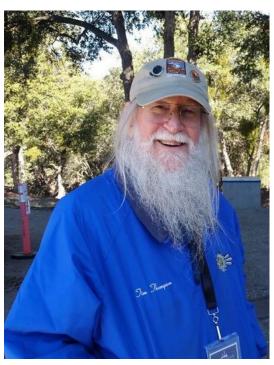
Share your club spirit with the public and wear your club colors to help identify you as a member of the LAAS today by ordering a new jacket, t-shirt or cap.

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: http://stardate.org/store/subscribe

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

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Youth Coordinator: James Rochford

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Webmaster: Steve Dashiell

Webmaster@laas.org

Club Communications: Andee Sherwood

Communications@laas.org

Mt. Wilson Coordinator: Darrell Dooley

mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Bulletin Editor: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org

Club Contacts

Club Phone Numbers

LAAS Message Phone:

213-673-7355 Checked daily

Griffith Observatory:

213-473-0800

Sky Report:

213-473-0880

Lockwood Site:

661-245-2106

Not answered, arrange

time with caller.

Outgoing calls – Collect or calling card only.

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

















www.LAAS.org

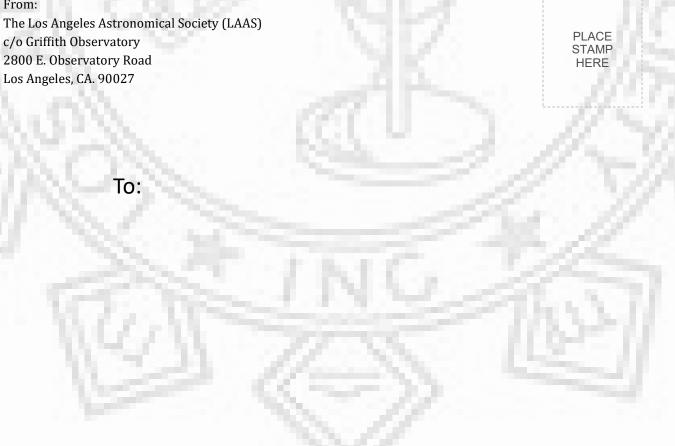
213-673-7355 outreach program.

Visit our web site at

about our organization and Call us for more information

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

sələgnA soJ ədT



From:

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