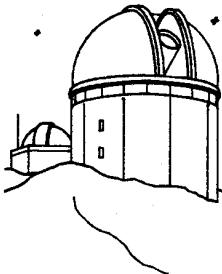


# EPHEMERIS

OF THE SAN JOSE ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION



## APRIL 1985

\*\*\*\*\* APRIL 27TH \*\*\*\*\*  
SJAA ASTRONOMY DAY WILL BE HELD IN THE  
CUPERTINO, VALLCO PARK SHOPPING MALL.  
EXPERT ADVICE, TELESCOPE FAIR,  
ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY -- SEE YOU THERE!  
\*\*\*\*\*

APRIL 6 Los Gatos Red Cross building Indoor Star Party. Doors open at 8 p.m. Bob Hewett and Dick Humphries will give a short talk titled "Lunar Silhouettes". (see "Field of View" for more info).

APRIL 12 Board Meeting at Chris Pratt's house. 7 p.m. (Pot Luck)

APRIL 13 Field Expedition for Astronomical Observation at Fremont Peak State Park. Dusk till Dawn.

APRIL 20 Second Annual Star Party at Henry Coe State Park. Dusk till Dawn.

APRIL 27 ASTRONOMY DAY! at the Vallco shopping Mall in Cupertino. (see Field of View for more information).

MAY 4 Pre-auction planning meeting at Bob Fingerhut's home. All auction coordinators should attend this important meeting.

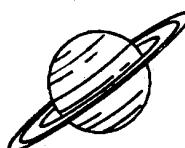
MAY 11 6TH ANNUAL ASTRONOMICAL AUCTION at the Los Gatos Red Cross building. Doors open at 2 p.m. Auction will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

MAY 18 Field Expedition for Astronomical Observation at Fremont Peak State Park. Dusk till Dawn.

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

BY: BOB FINGERHUT

As the new president of the SJAA, I would like to thank Dave Ambrose for the great job which he has done during the last two years. We all appreciate the many hours Dave has spent in efforts to secure the Non Profit tax status for the SJAA as well as working to achieve our goal of a permanent site and observatory. I appreciate his offer to continue to pursue this effort.



In the following year I hope to see the club continue to grow. I would like to see the club put on more public programs and see more young people become active in the club.

I want to encourage all of you to let the board and I know what you would like to see the club doing. We also need more members to participate in activities. The members setting up public programs need volunteers. You can have a lot of fun showing the sky to people that have never looked through a telescope before.

I am looking forward to working with the board and you this year so that the club will provide enjoyment to you as well as advance public knowledge of astronomy. If you would like to help with club activities or have something you would like to see the club doing, please call me in the evenings at; (408) 263-4455.

### 1985 A.S.P. MEETING IN FLAGSTAFF

The 97th Annual Meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific will be held June 22-28, 1985 on the beautiful campus of Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. The meeting will feature a variety of programs for armchair, amateur, and professional astronomers.

Among the planned activities are a symposium on comets and asteroids, a full day of non-technical lectures on new developments in astronomy, a workshop on teaching astronomy in high school and college, and an evening lecture on the return of Halley's Comet. In addition, special tours are planned to Meteor Crater (including a rare descent to the crater floor with an expert on its geology), the Lowell and U.S. Naval Observatories, an Indian archeo-astronomy site (where we hope to see a solstice light demonstration), and the Grand Canyon.

The meeting is open to everyone but pre-registration is required. For a registration packet, please write to: Summer Meeting, A.S.P., 1290 24th Ave., San Francisco, CA. 94122

### ASTRO ADS

New, never used Celestron 5.5" f/1.65 Schmidt Camera. With standard and filter film holders. Adapters for mounting to C8, C11, C14. 6 deg. by 9 deg. field coverage. Great for Halley's comet! List \$1065 Selling for \$700 Save \$305!!!! Contact: John Gleason (415) 790-9250

Excellent condition Celestron 11X80 Giant Binoculars. New modes with extra front hinge for strength and rigidity. Great for comet Halley! Celestron list price: \$364 Selling for \$200 Save \$164!!!! Contact: John Gleason (415) 790-9250

FREE TO GOOD HOME: 22" Burck tube, at least 80" long, will fit 17 1/2" or 20" mirror. Contact P. Rose, 408-293-6611

### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What ever happened to the clubs \$1000 CID camera? Bruce DeGraaf, where are you?

## FIELD OF VIEW BY: JOHN GLEASON

Field of View will replace "FROM THE EDITORS DESK" and will contain important information for members about past and current events.



### OBSERVATIONS

Since I have received no star party reports from members, I will include a few observations from my own observing and astrophotography sessions at Fremont Peak. Last February's new moon period was excellent and rather unusual for this time of year. Very warm days, cool, windless, clear evenings prevailed all week. I came away with 4 very fine galaxy photos taken at the 154" focus of the C14. It was also a good time to do some pre-Halley planning to see just how low the comet will be from the peak. How low will it be? Well, during the last week in March, first week in April '86', the comet will just skim the southeastern ridge where the TV towers are. You can check the comet's southerly declination against the nice chart in the March issue of "ASTRONOMY" magazine. It is probably a good time to be thinking about going to more southerly latitudes. Several SJAA members are going to Australia. Your editor has reserved time on the 150" telescope on Mauna Kea during the last week in March. (wishful thinking). Others are talking about southern Texas or Arizona. I had also taken some time out to do a serious Halley search. "SKY AND TELESCOPE" has been predicting 17th magnitude for the comet. No comet was found. Steve Edberg of the International Halley Watch reports that the comet coma is more like 21st magnitude, not the published 17th. I did not make any attempts at photography.

NGC 5128 in Centaurus, also known as Centaurus-A, was easily visible on the morning of Feb. 24th. In fact this was the first time I had ever seen the galaxy in any telescope. Fremont Peak was suffering from very steady air that low to the horizon. (-43 DEC.). The Star images were small and round in the C14 with the galaxy appearing as a large faint hazy ball cut in half by a huge dark lane. It would have made a great photo, but the galaxy was going to set behind the peak in 30 min. I'll give it a try this month if the seeing prevails.

The good weather last month also gave me an opportunity to try a new E6 "HOBBIEST" kit that Kodak is marketing. It is a 3 step E6 process similar to the Unicolor Rapid E6 kit. Both sell for around \$12. The standard Kodak 7 step process kit is \$24. The Kodak processed slides appear to be about 1/2 to 1 full f-stop faster than when processed in Unicolor. This is historically true for everything that I have done in the past when comparing Unicolor and Kodak development. I'll try and remember to bring by my latest astrophotos for the next general meeting.

### LUNAR SILHOUETTES

There will be a short presentation for the Red Cross meeting of April 6.

Two of our (eventual) members, Bob Hewett and Dick Humphries, have been attempting to photograph the dome of the Lick 36 inch telescope, silhouetted by the rising full moon. They have used the road to our upper site as well as the stations along Mount Hamilton Road, in order to obtain the necessary azimuth. This turns out to be a rather difficult project, worse than just a lot of calculation.

Bob and Dick's talk, titled "Lunar Silhouettes", should run 15-20 minutes plus questions.

### GENERAL MEETING BLUE'S

Attendance at the last General Meeting was at an all time low. 15 people showed up to here Antonio Nafarrate speak on optical fabrication techniques for Schmidt corrector plates. The low attendance is not anything new. We have been averaging about 10% out of a total membership of 230. Addressing this issue, the SJAA board has decided, starting in June, that all future General Meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month at the Los Gatos Red Cross Building at 8 P.M. The Red Cross building has several advantages in that it is easy to get to, is readily accessible to the SJAA, has full kitchen facilities, large enough to handle big events (ANNUAL AUCTION). Also, designating the first Saturday of the month should be easier for members to remember General Meeting dates. We have had many outstanding speakers in the past covering a vast range of subjects. It is unfortunate that a majority of the membership missed these excellent presentations.

### ASTRONOMY DAY

Astronomy Day is coming up on April 27th. The SJAA is planning to have a display inside the Vallco shopping mall. I plan to have an Astrophotography exhibit along with the C14. Bob Fingerhut plans to run his famous slide show. We still would like to have a variety of telescopes set up in the mall covering the various types: REFRACTORS (KEVIN?), DOBSONS, EQUATORIAL NEWTONIONS, CATS.(ORANGE, BLACK, BLUE). With comet Halley just around the corner, this may be one of the most important publicity events for the SJAA in years. Come and join us and share your astronomical expertise. CONTACT: Paul Mancuso 408-946-0738 if you would like to participate.

### ASTRONOMICAL AUCTION DATE CHANGE

Of course the biggest event for the SJAA is the May 11TH ASTRONOMICAL AUCTION. May 11th?, you say. Yes, the SJAA ASTRONOMICAL AUCTION has been moved from the May 4th date to the 11th. You have been getting the pre-registration forms in your EPHemeris and I encourage you to pre-register at the earliest possible date to avoid delays on the day of the auction. Last years auction went well, with a majority of the items registered ahead of time.

### EQUIPMENT

On the equipment front there is a new item that Jack Marling of Lumicon is developing. If you have seen his recent ads in Sky and Telescope and Astronomy, you may have seen an item called "SKY LOCK". This is a dual axis, solid state, automatic tracking device for astrophotographers. My sources at Lumicon tell me that production versions are due out some time in the early summer. Presently the unit is tracking on 8th magnitude blue/white stars and 10th magnitude red stars. The unit will be designed to interface with most drive correctors, so presumably you will not have to buy an additional box of electronics to operate the telescope. Of course seeing is believing. Auto-trackers in the past have largely been unsuccessful due to their inability to track on faint stars and inability to cope with gross periodic error in most telescope drives. If the "SKY LOCK" is successful however, this device could open up a new era of celestial photography for the amateur astronomer.

New member Aloysius Long reports that Dew Guns are no longer available from any astronomical supplier. Hair dryers that can be plugged into your car's cigarette lighter are available from recreational vehicle suppliers. See "Recreational Vehicles, Parts, Equipment and Supplies" in the Yellow Pages. They also carry extension cords. Check with them by phone first; merchandise may have to be ordered.

## ASTROPHOTO VI

Gene Cisneros, Bob Fingerhut, Jack Peterson, Mike Obrine, Steve Mandel, Harry Leitner and your editor attended the 6th astrophoto seminar in Southern California. Over 200 outstanding amateur astrophotos were on display along with 6 outstanding presentations on the current state of the art in amateur astrophotography. Of particular interest was the overall excellent quality of photography that is being done with 16" and smaller telescopes. The quality of the astrophotography was so good, it made judging very difficult for the Orange County Astronomers who sponsored the day long event.

Jean Dragesco of South Africa had a dramatic display of lunar and planetary photos taken with a C14. None of us had seen any better. Jim Riffle (ASTROWORKS) had many fine wide field astrographs taken with his 12" "ASTROMAC". He will sell one to you for \$18,000. I brought back several of his reject prints and will share them with you at the next general meeting.

Jack Marling (LUMICON) gave a talk on Advances in Color Astrophotography which described special processing for Fujichrome 400 film. You may have been fortunate to have attended a similar talk that Jack gave last summer for the SJAA.

Famous amateurs Brad Wallis and Robert Provin gave us new insights into the world of optical ray tracing. They tested several 8" F/5.6 optical systems to determine the best off-axis imaging. Their conclusion: The Concentric Schmidt Cassegrain is the best, with the classic Newtonian coming in second for off-axis image quality. The Concentric Schmidt is not to be confused with the popular orange, black or blue cats that many of us own.

1985 R.T.M.C.

The 1985 Riverside Telescope Makers Conference is coming up on the weekend of May 24, 25 and 26th. More information is available from Cliff Holmes, 8642 Wells Ave., Riverside, CA. 92505, (714) 689-6893.

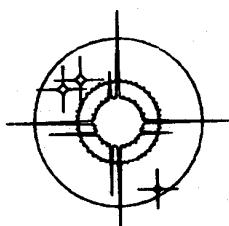
## NEW ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

The SJAA Board of Directors have elected Bob Fingerhut to the position of President with Dave Ambrose as Vice President. Bob will continue to act as the associations Treasurer, and Jim Van Nuland continues as our Secretary. And.....as for our Board of Directors, they all remain the same as a result of the February elections. Congrats to all.

## COMET COMMENTS

BY: DON MACHHOLZ

We are well into the year with no new comets discovered nor returning comets recovered. One comet is visible, though: Comet Shoemaker (1984f) discovered nearly a year ago, is brightening in the morning sky. Mags. are ests. as this comet moves through Lupus and Centaurus. Far south, it moves into the evening sky this month.



DATE R. A. (1950) DEC. ELONG. MAG.

Comet Shoemaker (1984f)

03-26	15h 38.8m	-30° 50'	124°	11.0
04-05	15h 18.2m	-33° 18'	137°	10.8
04-15	14h 50.9m	-35° 34'	148°	10.6
04-25	14h 18.0m	-37° 17'	156°	10.4
05-05	13h 40.8m	-38° 07'	155°	10.3

## WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND - HALLEY'S COMET

Halley's Comet is slowly brightening in the evening sky as it continues to move towards the sun while the earth moves away from it. As seen from the earth it will disappear into the solar glare by month's end. The comet is now roughly magnitude 18. In July it will emerge from the sun's glare into the morning sky at mag. 13. Listed below are its positions, distances in millions of miles.

DATE R.A. (1950) DEC. DIS. TO SUN AND EARTH

03-26	04h 51.1m	+14° 36.6'	416.6	441.5
03-31	04h 51.2m	+14° 49.4'	412.0	444.6
04-05	04h 51.6m	+15° 02.4'	407.3	447.4
04-10	04h 52.4m	+15° 15.4'	402.7	449.8
04-15	04h 53.4m	+15° 28.3'	397.9	451.9
04-20	04h 54.6m	+15° 41.1'	393.2	453.5
04-25	04h 56.2m	+15° 53.9'	388.5	454.5
04-30	04h 57.9m	+16° 06.4'	383.6	455.0
05-05	04h 59.9m	+16° 18.7'	378.9	455.0

Comet Halley is near the border of Orion and Taurus, moving only about 3 degrees all month.

How do you pronounce the comet's name? The popular way is to call it "hay-lee", as in the rock group "Bill Haley and the Comets". However, old Edmond wasn't ever related to Bill and, besides, he usually spelled his name differently-with two L's. The more accurate pronunciation is "hal-lee" rhyming with "Sally", or "alley", this is used by most astronomers and is slowly catching on with the public.

While astronomers (professional and amateur) generally understand what Halley will be doing this year and next, the public still has its misconceptions. Some people don't know it will be visible before the year is out. Others are still assuming it will be a bright naked-eye splendor that can be viewed from their living room windows. Hopefully, the professional astronomers speaking through the press will alleviate some of the ignorance, but it will be up to us, the amateurs, to show this comet to our family, friends and neighbors. Most people will not see Halley unless they are hand-led to a large telescope pointed to the comet. Now would be a good time to begin planning public observing sessions for yourself and your astronomy club.

My wife has already asked me to bring my telescope to her place of employment next winter so that her co-workers will see Halley's Comet. In addition to this, I'm also planning on inviting my neighbors over next December for a "Halley's Party". Other ideas include: Setting up at the far end of parking lots during Christmas shopping season, placing your scope in an open area along evening or morning commute routes, positioning yourself at a public school (and inviting a few classes) or at the city park. Perhaps you can think of some ideas appropriate to your location.

Another series of star parties could be for the club members in particular and take place at remote dark-sky sites. During New Moon the comet will appear at its best and you will be able to see the comet through a variety of telescopes and binoculars. Magnitude estimates and comet appearance can be judged through various instruments, along with drawing and photo sessions.

When should these sessions be held? Below are some suggestions, and while we know exactly where the comet will be, we can now only guess as to its brightness and appearance.

Aug. 13, 1985 (Tuesday morn.); Dark-sky site: Why not combine the Perseid meteor shower with Comet Halley? The shower peaks that morning. The comet, at mag. 13 and 50 deg. from the sun, rises at about 2 AM, one hour before the 11% lit crescent moon. This will be the first chance for many amateurs to observe the comet.

Sept. 14-15, 1985 (Sat/Sun); Dark-sky site: The comet should rise about midnight and be mag. 12 and 77 deg. from the sun. The moon is new this weekend, a good time to get the club out for some Jupiter, deep sky and comet observing, as Comet Giacobini-Zinner will be mag. 8 and two degrees from Halley's.

Oct. 9-10, 1985 (Sat. even.); Public Session: The comet now rises about 10 PM and is 104 deg from the sun, at mag. 10.5. The reason we pick a weeknight is that the Draconids meteors peak this evening; this shower is derived from comet Giacobini-Zinner. The comet passes our location 29 days earlier, meaning this could be a very strong shower. The moon won't interfere either, rising about 3 AM.

Nov. 16 (Sat. Even.); Public Session: The 30% lit moon will set about 9 PM, and Halley's will be up all night at mag. 7-8, and three degrees south of the Pleiades. It should display a short tail. The Planet Jupiter (setting), the moon, Pleiades and halley's Comet should all be impressive to the general public.

Dec. 7-14, 1985 (Sat-Sun); Public and/or deep-sky sites: Take your telescope or binoculars to Christmas Parties or shopping centers as people will be out and about while Halley's Comet will be mag. 6 and high in the evening sky. Clubs may also wish to travel to dark skies for possible naked eye observations and simple tripod photography shots. The weather may be a problem during these months, though.

Jan. 11, 1986 (Sat even.); Public and/or dark-sky sites: Nearing our last chance for pre-perihelion observations, as the comet, now mag. 5, is 40 deg. from the sun in the evening sky. The moon would have been new on Jan. 10, meaning it's been out of the evening sky since Dec. 30.

March 8, 1986 (Sat. morn.); Public and/or dark-sky site: The comet is now in the southern morning sky, mag. 5 with a tail about 10 degrees. Its 44 deg from the sun and will hug the SE horizon for the next full month. The moon is new on Mar. 10, meaning the comet will be in moonless sky until March 21. For a March 8-9 Messier Marathon the comet will be a fine finish. March may just present the best views for observers of the Northern Hemisphere, the comet goes far south from late March through mid-April.

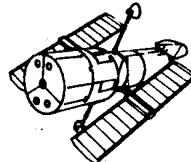
April 24, 1986 (Thurs. morn.); Public and/or dark-sky site: A total eclipse near 3 AM will present a wonderful view with the comet, now mag. 5.5 and displaying a short tail. The comet will be about 50 deg. from the moon, however, and you may need binoculars to see it.

May 10, 1986 (Sat. even.); Public and/or dark-sky site: Since the comet has already reached its brightest, and most people who have wanted to see it have had their chance, public interest will wane during this time. The comet will be mag. 7 in the evening sky, 115 deg. from the sun.

June 7, 1986 (Sat. even.); Public and/or dark-sky site: With a new moon and the comet at mag. 9 and 85 deg. from the sun in the evening sky, this would be a good time to hold a summer's night star party.

During the next few months of 1986, Halley's comet will continue to dim as it sinks into the western sky. These have been some suggestions for public showings and astronomy club comet parties for Halley's Comet. Now it's up to you to work out those minor details.

## SPACE PROGRAM UPDATE BY: BOB FINGERHUT



### SHUTTLE LAUNCH SCHEDULE CHANGED

Mission 51-E has been cancelled due to design flaws in the Tracking Day Relay Satellite, its primary payload. The other payload, Canada's ANIK C-1 communication satellite, will be flown on mission 51-D. Other payloads on 51-D will be the Navy/Hughes Syncrom 4 satellite and an electrophoresis machine. Retrieval of the Long Duration Exposure Facility and French payload specialist Patric Baudry have been bumped from the flight. The 51-D mission is now scheduled for launch on the Discovery no earlier than April 19. This is due to an accident in which a work bucket fell, damaging one of the payload bay doors.

### VANDENBERG LAUNCH COMPLEX CHECKED OUT

A space shuttle vehicle, including the orbiter Enterprise, was assembled on the launch pad at Vandenberg to verify facilities. The first launch is scheduled for no earlier than Jan 29, 1986 with the orbiter Discovery.

### CRYSTAL GROWTH EXPERIMENTS TO FLY ON SHUTTLE

Several U.S. drug companies and universities have signed with NASA to fly hundreds of protein crystal growth experiments. The project is being rushed into the flight stage because of its potential for key medical and commercial benefits.

### WILD-2 TARGETED FOR COMET RENDEZVOUS

NASA will drop a penetrator on the surface of comet Wild-2 if a fiscal year 1987 new start is approved. The launch would be in March 1991.

### PRESIDENT ISSUES DIRECTIVE ON SPACE LAUNCHERS

A presidential directive has mandated increased utilization of the space shuttle by the U.S. Air Force and initiation of an effort that could lead to the development of a second generation space shuttle. In a related move, the U.S. Air Force has recommended selection of the Titan 34D-7 over the SRB-X space shuttle derivative to be its alternate military booster for 1988 through 1993. Ten of these boosters will be produced.

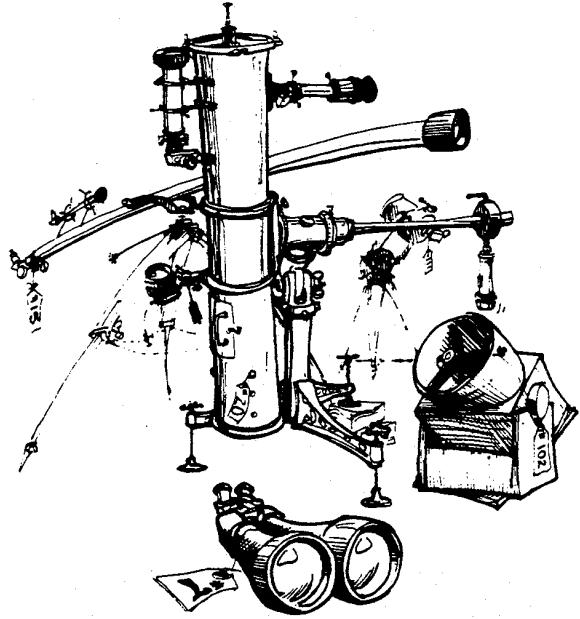
### FY 1986 NASA BUDGET

Highlights of the proposed 1986 NASA budget include:

1. A 6-9 month stretchout in space station development
2. A new start of an orbital maneuvering vehicle (OMV). This is the reusable upper stage capable of maneuvering 25,000 - 30,000 lb. payloads as far as 1500 miles from the space shuttle. It is planned for first flight in 1990.
3. No new start for a fifth shuttle orbiter. Competition from the Ariane and commercialization of U.S. expendable boosters has made it unclear whether demand over the next decade will justify construction of a fifth orbiter. The U.S. Air Force also wants to refurbish about 50 of its deactivated Titan 2 missiles and offer them for launches by government agencies.
4. National Air and Space Museum expansion put on hold. There were plans for a facility to display large aircraft adjacent to the Dulles International Airport. The proposed facility would house a space shuttle, a Concorde SST, the Boeing 367-80 prototype for the 707, and a flyable B-17.

THE  
SAN JOSE ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION'S

5<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL



# ASTRONOMICAL AUCTION

SATURDAY MAY 4 11TH

6:00 PM

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 2:00 PM

THE LOS GATOS RED CROSS BUILDING

16011 Los Gatos Saratoga Road

TELESCOPES, EYEPIECES, MOUNTINGS, MIRRORS, LENSES, CLOCK DRIVES, BOOKS, CAMERA EQUIPMENT, STAR CHARTS, FINDERS, TUBES, DIAGONALS, PHOTOGRAPHS, SPACE ART - everything you need to make your hobby more enjoyable. You name it - it's likely to be there. Check your garage and closets for anything astronomical you would like to sell. Complete the pre-registration information form on back and save time and trouble. Anyone can buy and sell! It's fun and it's easy!

SEE YOU AT ONE OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST FUN ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS IN THE BAY AREA!

PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The 5th Annual Bay Area Astronomical Auction is approaching so now is the time to start looking around for those items not earning their space, or brought back from Riverside, or whatever is astronomical or telescope-making related that you would like to earn some \$\$ from.

Pre-registration by mail makes it easy. Fill out the form or a copy of it. List each different item you have. If you have several identical items, use a single line and put in the quantity. Give a minimum price, even if you are willing to let it go really cheap. Indicate the percentage of the selling price to go to the SJAA (minimum 10%). If you didn't pay much for it anyway you may wish to make it an outright donation. Thank you. All proceeds from the auction go to further public education in astronomy.

Next, and MOST important, mail the form, with a SASE, to Jim van Nuland, 3509 Calico Ave, San Jose, CA. 95124. You might keep a copy of it, too. Jim will assign your bidder/seller and item numbers, and will get the form back to you quickly. That's a promise.

You will then have the numbers to label everything before the day of the auction. Use stickers given to indicate the item number, at least. If you have large stickers sent back, include the minimum bid, too. It helps the auctioneer work smoother.

If you find another box of things, just send in another form. Include the bidder number from the first one. If you find more of something you'd already registered, give the number of the first, indicate the number to be added, and give the same description.

If you don't include the SASE, Jim will assign the numbers and hold the form. You can pick it up when you arrive at the auction and then get busy labeling your goodies then.

In any case, Jim will have all the stuff hammered into the computer before auction day, so there will be no backlog and, for those who pre-register, no delays. Priority on auction day will be given to assigning bidder numbers, ---item registration will be done as time permits. So get the forms to Jim.

#### Directions to the auction:

Take Hwy 17 south towards Santa Cruz. Take the Highway 9 (Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd) exit and continue onto Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd. Travel about a mile to Rose Avenue and turn right. Turn right immediately into the Red Cross buildings parking lot. (16011 Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd). Plenty of parking and easy loading and unloading access!

Doors open at 2 PM for registration of items and bidders. There will be no item registration past 5:45 PM. Auction starts promptly at 6 PM. Items may be paid by cash or check. There will be a \$1 bidder/seller registration fee at the door. Refreshments will be available!

# FREMONT PEAK OBSERVATORY ASSOCIATION

The *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* was founded in September, 1984, by a small group of active San Francisco Bay Area amateur astronomers and telescope makers. Our goal is to build, equip, and operate an observatory at Fremont Peak State Park, located east of Salinas, California, in the Gavilan Mountain Range.

Fremont Peak State Park has long been a favorite dark sky observing site of Bay Area amateur astronomers. Situated little more than one hour's drive south of San Jose, the park offers easy access to camping and observing sites at approximately 3000 feet elevation. Daytime activities include short hikes to the top of Fremont Peak for spectacular views, family picnicing, and for those willing to drive the ten miles into San Juan Bautista a chance to explore one of California's historical mission towns. San Juan Bautista also offers overnight lodging, shops, and several excellent restaurants.

The *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* is a non-profit group dedicated to promoting the astronomical interests the park has to offer. Currently we are working with the California State Park Department to formulate an acceptable plan for the construction of the observatory facilities. Our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws have been filed with the State of California and we are currently waiting final approval of our tax-exempt status. The California Park System has been very enthusiastic and supportive of our ideas and goals and is doing everything it can to expedite the documentation involved.

The observatory we are planning will house a 30 inch and a 22 inch telescope. Both telescopes are currently under construction with expected completion dates of September 1985 and October 1985 respectively. These instruments will be among the largest available to the public and amateur astronomers on a regular basis. Public programs will be offered during the good weather months of May through October, with private use of the instruments scheduled around the public programs on a year-long basis.

The association is now open for membership. We need to raise roughly \$8,000.00 to build the structure to house the telescopes. Approximately \$1,000.00 has already been collected. Halley's Comet is coming, and we can't think of a better way to learn about and view this once-in-a-lifetime event. We need your ideas, suggestions, and contributions to make Fremont Peak Observatory a reality. Full membership descriptions and an application are located on the back. Thank you.

All classes of membership are entitled to the following privileges:

- Full use of the telescopes and facilities (after initial instrument orientation session)
- Quarterly newsletter informing you of astronomical events happening at the observatory and around Northern California
- Membership Card
- Voting at general meetings (if non-Corporate) after one year of membership
- Opportunities to assist during the open public viewing evenings

All memberships are non-voting the first year. Corporate membership is non-voting. Up through December, 1985, all Sustaining, Life, and Corporate members will receive a parchment declaring them Charter Members in the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association*. All General, Family, and Contributing memberships will have "Charter Member" noted on their membership cards.

All memberships except Life and Corporate are subject to a one-time \$10.00 initiation fee, payable at the time of application for membership. All initiation fees, membership dues, and donations made to the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* are tax-deductible.

Please send your check or money order, made payable to the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association*, to:

Frank Dibbell  
Membership Chairperson, FPOA  
710 Georgia Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

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#### Application For Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter me as a member in the *Fremont Peak Observatory Association* under the following category:

General	_____ \$10.00/yr*
Family (two or more at same address)	_____ \$10.00/yr*
Contributing	_____ \$30.00/yr*
Sustaining	_____ \$50.00/yr*
Life	_____ \$200.00
Corporate	_____ \$50.00/yr

\* Plus one-time initiation fee of \$10.00

Please find enclosed a check or money order for: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE SAN JOSE ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

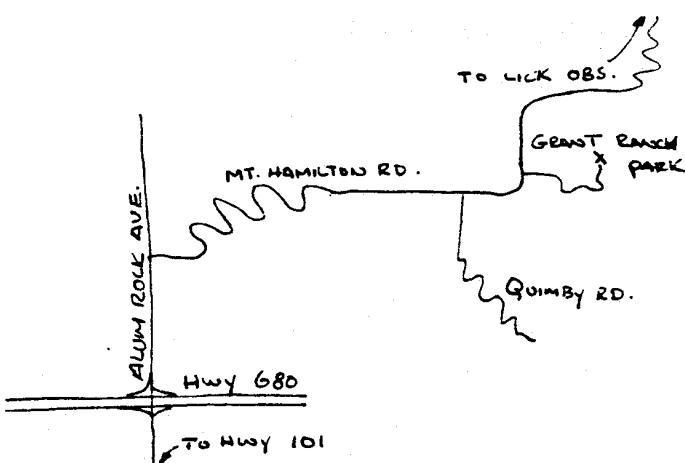
## GENERAL MEETINGS:

General Meetings are held once a month at the Los Gatos Red Cross building, Los Gatos California. This is also the location for the SJAA's "indoor star parties". The building is located at 18011 Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd., Los Gatos. From Hwy 17 south take the Hwy 9 (Saratoga) exit and continue up Los Gatos-Saratoga road for about 1.5 miles. Turn right at Rose Ave. and turn right immediately into the parking lot of the Red Cross Building. MEETINGS BEGIN AT 8 PM.



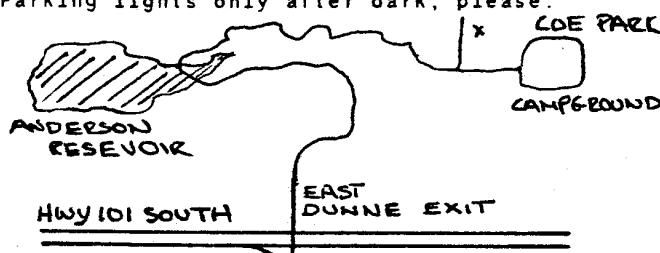
## GRANT RANCH COUNTY PARK:

This site is a new one for the SJAA so come and try it out. Located on Mt. Hamilton Road, halfway between San Jose and Lick Observatory. To get to Mt. Hamilton Road, take Hwy 101 (either direction) to Alum Rock Rd. Go east up Alum Rock Road to Mt. Hamilton Road and follow it. Grant ranch is just past the Quimby road intersection. After sunset the park front gate will be locked with the SJAA's combination lock. Use the sequence 4565 to open, but be sure to lock the gate behind you, coming or going. There are two gates, the lock may be on the exit gate, if so enter the park from this gate.



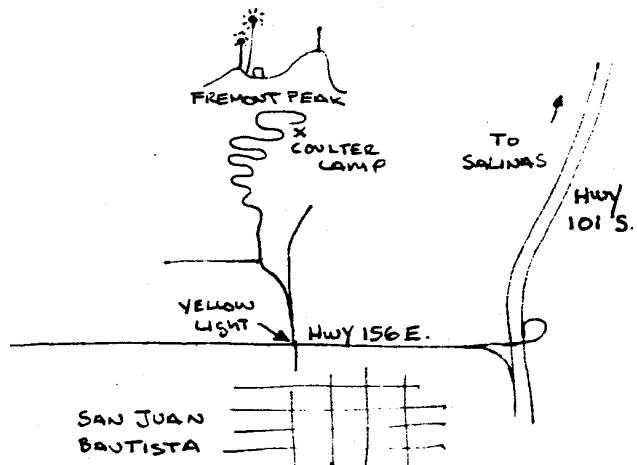
## HENRY COE STATE PARK:

Take Hwy 101 south towards Gilroy and take the East Dunne exit. Continue east towards the hills (past Anderson Reservoir) for about 12 miles to the park. Past the park entrance you will see old ranch buildings on the right and a horse trough. The gate is locked but the club combination is 4565. Always lock the gate after yourself. If arriving after dark, please park outside the gate and hike in first to find an observing site before driving in. Parking lights only after dark, please.



## FREMONT PEAK STATE PARK:

Take Hwy 101 south towards Salinas. Take Hwy 156 east (San Juan Bautista) for two miles to a yellow flashing light. Turn right and go about .25 miles to where road curves slightly to the left and splits. Stay left for about 50 yards and then bear right when road splits again. Follow road for about 11 miles up into the park. SJAA sets up at Coulter Camp overflow area, it's visible as you drive up into main area of camp. Parking lights only after dark, please.



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## OFFICERS:

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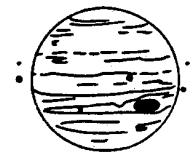
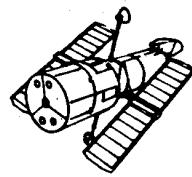
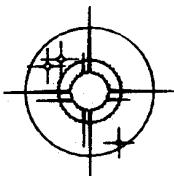
## EPHEMERIS EDITOR:

John P. Gleason, 5361 Port Sailwood Dr., Newark, CA. 94560 (415) 790-9250

## CLUB TELESCOPES

The SJAA maintains three telescopes for the use by its members. Loan periods are two months, and all arrangements must be made between the person wanting to borrow the scope and the person having it. If your two months are up and no one indicated an interest in borrowing the telescope at that time it's yours until someone does. All that is asked is that a board member or bulletin editor is notified when a telescope changes hands.

CONCERNING WANT ADS: All SJAA members and friends may place astronomical related ads in the ephemeris free of charge. All ads will run for two months unless the editor is notified otherwise. Please submit by sending to Ephemeris, 5361 Port Sailwood Dr., Newark, CA. 94560



### SAN JOSE ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP ONLY: \$8.00

MEMBERSHIP/S&T: \$21.00

JUNIOR (UNDER 18): \$15.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Questionnaire (optional)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

What are your astronomical interests (e.g. astrophotography, deep-sky observation, telescope making, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this form to any SJAA meeting, or send to:

Robert Fingerhut, Treas.  
San Jose Astronomical Association  
340 Rio Verde Pl. #4, Milpitas, CA 95035

[Phone: (408) 263-4455]

Do you own a telescope? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what kind? \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Adult \_\_\_\_\_ Junior (under 18) \_\_\_\_\_  
Bulletin Subscription only: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any specific area of astronomy that you feel qualified to help others with? \_\_\_\_\_

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