

JUNE 1984

EPHEMERIS

SJAA

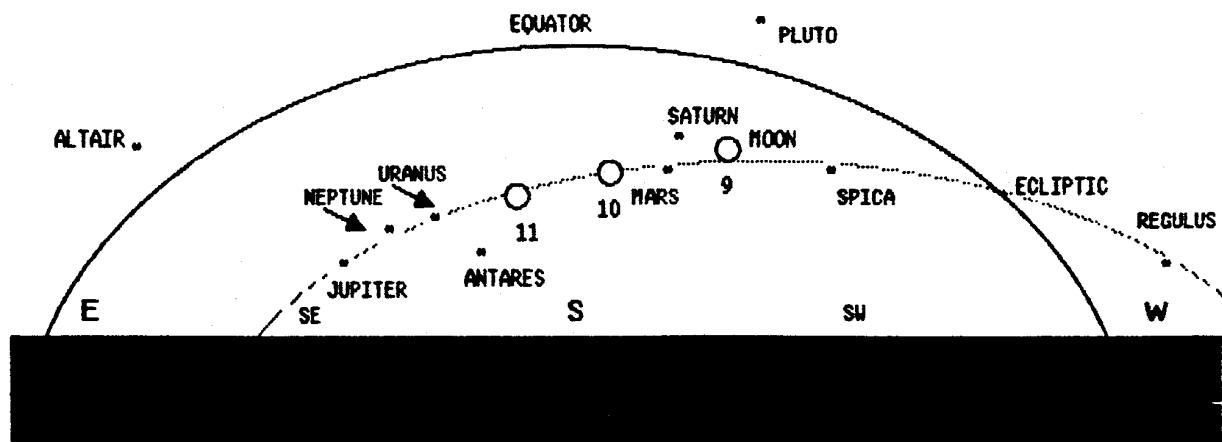
JUNE 10, 10 P.M. D(22:00) LOCAL TIME

SATURN AND MARS HOVER IN THEIR QUASI-CONJUNCTION. THE MOON PLUNGED BETWEEN THEM DURING THE DAY; AS SEEN FROM FURTHER SOUTH, IT FAILED TO CLEAR SATURN. IT WILL DO THE SAME TO URANUS DURING THE NEXT DAY.

THEN IN THE DAY OF JUNE 13 IT WILL AGAIN TOUCH THE EARTH'S SHADOW.--THREE MORE PLANETS REACH OPPPOSITION: SCARCELY-VISIBLE URANUS AND NEPTUNE AT THE BEGINNING AND MIDDLE AND VERY-VISIBLE JUPITER AT THE END OF THE MONTH. THEY RISE LATE BECAUSE THEY ARE ON THE LOW PART OF THE ECLIPTIC.

* ARCTURUS

VEGA



JUNE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
20	21	22	23	24	1	2
				URANUS AT OPPOSITION ON MERIDIAN AT MIDNIGHT	GRANT RANCH STAR PARTY	3 TAU HERCULID METEORS
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALPHA CIRCINID METEORS	SCORPIID METEORS	1st QTR	ARIETID & ZETA PERSEID METEORS MOON AT PERIGEE	LIBRID METEORS	GENERAL MEETING & LECTURE BY JACK MARLING	MOON 0.2°S OF SATURN 4°S OF MARS
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SAGITTARIID METEORS MARS & SATURN 4.3° APART	MOON 0.5°S OF URANUS	THETA OPHIUCHID METEORS MERCURY 5°N OF ALDEBARAN FULL 14:41 UT	ALPHA SCORPIID METEORS MOON 3°S OF NEPTUNE & JUPITER	LYRID METEORS	RED CROSS & BOARD MEETING	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		OPHIUCHID METEORS CORVID METEORS	SUN ENTERS GEMINI SUMMER SOLSTICE 3rd	BETA TAURI & DRACONID METEORS	FREMONT PEAK STAR PARTY GRANT RANCH STAR PARTY	JULY 7 MARIOTTS STAR PARTY JULY 14 SJAA PICNIC JULY 28 FREMONT PEAK
25	26	27	28	29	30	

THE EDITORS LAST STATEMENTS

It's been a short career(both here and elsewhere) but as they say: All good (and some bad) things must come to an end sometime.

Due to circumstances beyond my control it is necessary for me relinquish my job as editor of the SJAA EPHIMERIS. This will be my last production due to lack of computer and printer.

At the moment we do not have a replacement waiting in the wings to take over this highly rewarding job. PLEASE SOMEONE STEP FORWARD!!!

Any articles are to be submitted to either Bob Fingerhut or Jim Van Nuland but we (they really) do not guarantee that they will be printed until a full fledged editor is found. The calander will be printed and mailed on time at least.

I would like to thank all of you who have submitted articles to me over the past couple of months.

Clear Skies and Dry Optics,
Tom Ahl

P.S. Contributions to reacquire my equipment will be greatly accepted. HaHa.

Volunteers are needed for a Public Star Party at Marriotts Great America Park, Saturday, July 7th from 8:30 a.m to 11:00 p.m.

If interested please contact Frank Dibbell at (408) 746-6493 mon. thru fri 8-5.

Last year we had a great turn-out at the park.

May 19th, Saturday, Optron Systems closed its doors for the final time. Further information will be forth coming in the next bulletin.

LEGAL STATUS REPORT

The amendments to our articles of incorporation have been accepted by the state. Our attorney has reviewed the rough draft of the state and federal applications. All that remains is to type them up. I am presently working on this. It should be completed within 3 or 4 weeks at the present rate of progress. At that point, we will send them into the Feds. After that application has been accepted, we will submit the application to the state.

Dave Ambross, SJAA President

The SJAA Annual Picnic

This year's picnic will be held July 14 at Portal Park. Traditionally, the picnic has been a reckless potluck. The club provides hamburgers, hot dogs, and enough charcoal to roast a rhinoceros, you provide your favorite side dish and drinkables. Such a deal!

This is DEFINITELY a family affair so plan on bringing your wife, kids, something edible to share, and your favorite outdoor toys. There is sure to be kite flying, insult trading, survival frisbee and whatever else we can think of. We will also be presenting the Dr. Gregory Award and introducing the new officers and board members. The picnic has always been a fun event for everyone so circle the 14th and be there.

Portal Park is in Cupertino just off of Stevens Creek Blvd. near DeAnza Blvd.

EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE 2 GRANT RANCH STAR PARTY (see map)
 9 GENERAL MEETING & ELECTIONS AT UNIV. SANTA CLARA (Alumni Science
 Bldg. Rm 201 8:00 p.m) guest speaker will be Jack Marling from
 LUMICON
 16 RED CROSS INDOOR STAR PARTY at Los Gatos Red Cross + BOARD MEETING
 (Doors open @ 7:30 p.m.)
 23 FREMONT PEAK STAR PARTY
 30 GRANT RANCH STAR PARTY

JULY 7 MARRIOTT'S GREAT AMERICA STAR PARTY (see article)
 14 SJAA PICNIC, PORTAL PARK (see article)
 21 RED CROSS INDOOR STAR PARTY & BOARD MEETING
 28 FREMONT PEAK STAR PARTY

AUG. 4 GENERAL MEETING (guest speaker to be announced)
 11 RED CROSS INDOOR & PARKING LOT STAR PARTY
 18 RED CROSS INDOOR STAR PARTY & BOARD MEETING
 25 STAR PARTY (to be announced)(possible Yosemite sight)

TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS RIGHT NOW!!! Avoid the rush and the missing issues of Sky & Telescope & Astronomy Magazines.

Just a short little note concerning membership dues for new members just joining the SJAA. The dues are from July 1st to June 30th, and when new members sign up later during the year their dues will be prorated for the remaining months left. If a new member signs up within 4 months of renewal time Sky & Telescope requires that you also pay for next year's subscription. Any questions on this please contact Bob Fingerhut (408) 263-4455.

Calico Observatory

3509 Calico Ave.
 San Jose, Cal. 95124
 (408) 371-1307

1984 May 13

In June, Jupiter reaches the evening sky at last! Note that on three dates, the Spot is visible twice! These pairs are separated by a daylight passage of the Spot.

Great Red Spot on Meridian -- PDT

da	mo	d	h	m	da	mo	d	h	m
Sa	6	2	3	9 am	Tu	6	19	1	60 am
M	6	4	4	42 am	Th	6	21	3	43 am
Tu	6	5	0	37 am	Th	6	21	11	28 pm
Th	6	7	2	8 am	Su	6	24	1	9 am
Sa	6	9	3	44 am	Tu	6	26	2	47 am
Sa	6	9	11	42 pm	Tu	6	26	10	37 pm
Tu	6	12	1	20 am	F	6	29	0	18 am
Th	6	14	2	56 am	Su	7	1	1	51 am
Su	6	17	0	20 am	Tu	7	3	3	27 am

Despite the matching character set, this article was not set on Tom's Macintosh, but rather on my IBM PC. It's just that Apple and I had the good taste to buy the same printer. But watch this space!

Clear Skies, Jim Van Nuland

SPACE (THE FINAL FRONTIER) UPDATE by Bob Fingerhut

DISCOVERY BEING PREPARED FOR JUNE 20 LAUNCH -

The shuttle orbiter, Discovery, was scheduled to be moved from the orbiter processing facility to the vehicle assembly building for stacking on 7 May. It is scheduled to go to the pad on 14 May. A 20 second flight readiness firing is scheduled for 31 May. This is standard procedure for a new shuttle orbiter. Launch is scheduled for 20 June. The mission, 41-D, is planned to last seven days with a crew of six.

SHUTTLE MAIN ENGINE CERTIFIED FOR 20 FLIGHTS -

The engines have completed certification requirements for 20 shuttle flights at 104% of rated thrust and 8 flights at 109%. An engine is certified by accumulating twice as much running time as it would in normal use.

NEW PARACHUTES FOR SHUTTLE SOLID BOOSTERS -

The right-hand booster on the next shuttle flight will have 136 ft.-dia. recovery chutes. The left-hand booster will use 115 ft.-dia. chutes. One main recovery parachute failed to deploy on the last flight on 6 April. The aft skirt was damaged but can be repaired.

CANADIAN ASTRONAUT CHOSEN FOR OCT. LAUNCH -

The National Research Council of Canada has selected Canadian naval Cdr. Marc Garneau to be the first of a number of Canadians who eventually will fly on the shuttle. The shuttle flight scheduled for launch on Oct. 24 will carry the Telsat Anik D spacecraft and 11 other Canadian sponsored investigations. These include a solar photometer to determine the amount of volcanic ash in the Earth's atmosphere, a shuttle glow experiment, an Earth night glow study, five human space adaptation experiments, a change in taste in zero-g experiment, and a getaway special payload involving the manufacture of mirrors in zero-g. Canadian shuttle flights also are expected in 1985 and 1986.

CHINA ORBITS A GEOSYNCHRONOUS SATELLITE -

China launched a development communications spacecraft on 8 April. It reached geosynchronous orbit on 10 April and is now providing television relay services. The satellite weighs about 925 lb and is stationed at 125 deg. E long. Its C2-3 booster used a liquid oxygen/liquid hydrogen high energy upper stage. This is a technology which few countries have developed. The Soviets have not mastered it and it has been one of the biggest deficiencies in their space program.

SALYUT 7 RESUPPLY AND REPAIR -

The Progress 20 tanker/transport was launched toward Salyut 7 on 15 April. It delivered bulk cargo and fuel for the space stations attitude control and orbital maneuvering system. The Progress 21 tanker/transport was launched the week of 7 May. Four space walks have been conducted during the last month to repair the Salyut's propulsion system. It was damaged 9 Sept. by a propellant leak.

VIKING 1 LANDER IN MARS MUSEUM -

NASA has donated the Viking 1 Lander to the National Air and Space Museum. The museum has announced that it will remain on Mars for the foreseeable future.

CONTINGENCY LANDING SITES FOR VANDENBERG SHUTTLE LAUNCHES SOUGHT -

Sites being considered for first orbit aborts include Easter Island, Tahiti, Fairbanks Alaska, and Spokane Washington.

DEEP SKY NOTES-JUNE by Steve Gottlieb

Most observers who are familiar with M13 have observed the 12th magnitude galaxy NGC 6207 which is located just 40' northeast of the globular. I was surprised, though, to read in Walter Scott Houston's column last June that a group of faint galaxies were also located about 50' to the southwest. So, in August last year I went searching for this group with my Odyssey 1 near Fiddletown in Amador County at the observatory of Bob Kestener.

After some careful scrutiny, I spotted five galaxies in this local. In one field, a power of 166x yielded a string of 3 galaxies; slightly further west and northwest lay two more. A check in the RNGC revealed only four objects in the area; NGC 6194, 6196, 6197, and 6199. To make matters worse, the relative positions of the RNGC coordinates did not match up with the sketch I made of the field.

Here is what I found: The brightest object (about 13.5 mag.) was the central galaxy of 3 in an 8' string. It was small (0.5'), round, and with a brighter nucleus. Located 5' south-southeast was an extremely faint object visible with averted only. Similar in brightness was a third galaxy located 3' north-northwest of the brighter central object two faint stars bracketed the ends of this trio. Now, moving west, I came across a very small galaxy 16' west-northwest of the trio. This was the second brightest (about 14th mag.) and held steady with direct vision. Finally, I found a small, faint, (though the third brightest at about 14.5 mag.) elongated object in this field 13' north-northeast.

Because of the confusion with the NGC, I sent a letter to Brian Skiff, an experienced observer who works at Lowell Observatory, to seek help in sorting out the situation. He identified the brightest in the trio as NGC 6196 and its 2 much fainter companions as NGC 6197 and IC 4614. The galaxy 16' west-northwest of this group was NGC 6194 and its neighbor 13' north-northeast was UGC 10473 (from the Uppsala General Catalog).

To further pin down the identities (NGC 6199 was still unaccounted for), I checked with Dr. Harold Corwin of the University of Texas, who has done much work on galaxy identification. He replied that in compiling the Second Reference Catalog of Bright Galaxies, he encountered an imprecision in the original NGC and IC coordinates, but he verified Skiff's identifications. He added that both NGC 6196 and 6197 were displaced from their real positions by the same amount. If this correction is applied to NGC 6199 (all 3 were discovered by Marth in July 1864), a 14th mag. star shows up. Since no galaxy exists at the original or offset position this galaxy should be deleted from the NGC. Finally, the IC also lists IC 4613 in this area, but no object is visible at its position. However, 6' south there is another faint unidentified galaxy (which I did not observe) possibly the intended object.

This galaxy group is rather easy to locate due to its proximity to M13 but a 12.5" scope is probably required to pull in the fainter members. If you have a large scope, give this challenging group a try.

NAME	R.A.(1950)	DEC.	MAG.	SIZE
NGC 6194	16hr. 34.8	36 18'	14.6	0.35'
UGC 10473	" 35.1	" 31'	15.0	1.6' x 0.4'
IC 4614	" 36.0	" 13'	15.3	0.35' x 0.35'
NGC 6196	" 36.1	" 10'	14.2	1.4' x 1.0'
NGC 6197	" 36.2	" 06'	15.4	0.7' x 0.2'
NGC 6199	non-existent--Corwin			

Magnitudes are blue photographic from Zwicky,
CATALOG OF GALAXIES AND CLUSTERS OF GALAXIES.

Good viewing this month! Steve Gottlieb (415) 524-4678

MAKING AN OBSERVATION SITE OUT OF A "NOWHERE"

A "Road Map" for the Commuting Astronomer

by Don Machholz
Part 2 of 2

Last month we decided exactly what type of observation site we wanted. This month we'll get out the map and then drive to the top choices and check them out first-hand. These ideas can be useful if you need to move out of our backyards to a better location, if we're going on vacation, or if we've moved to a new region and we're starting from scratch.

I mentioned getting a map of the area, although day and night aerial photographs, difficult to obtain, would be even more revealing. On your map (I use the county or state map) mark your present location and survey the area near your base- where are the houses, city lights, the ocean, the rough side of town, and everything else you wish to avoid? Now, just as important, where are the best potential sites for observation? Where are the mountains, uniform terrain, the areas far-removed from city lights? You would probably be interested in these locations. And finally, are there roads to these places so that you can get there quickly? I find that my average speed over freeways is about 50 MPH, for paved mountain roads and city streets it's 20-40 MPH, and for dirt roads it's about 10 MPH, so look first for the freeway-accessible sites. Bear in mind that some of the lesser roads may not even be marked on the map.

Next, visit the sites, preferably during the day. Is this what you have in mind or are you bothered by the artillery range on the next hill that was marked as "Government Property- keep out!" on your map? Are the horizons low? Is there a place to park your vehicle and set up your telescope safely? Here's a few things you might want to be aware of.

TRAFFIC: Heavy traffic will ruin most observations. Car lights, noise, and the endless stream of visitors who want to know what you're doing and then look through your telescope is not astronomical on any day other than Astronomy Day. So forget about setting up at the rest stop along some freeway, at the teen-age parking hangout, or alongside a runway at the county airport, unless you don't mind the interruptions of a curious society. However, if you set up at a very secluded area, where there is almost no traffic, you may have another problem to worry about, namely:

SAFETY: If you have, say, only one visitor a night, the chances are small that you'll run into that one (or more) crazy person out there who is intent on doing you harm. But, if they do, that person knows that no one is going to come to your aid (this is not even guaranteed on a busy street) for a long time. To station yourself where there is at least some traffic does have its advantages, especially if the people get to know you and stop by to see how things are going once in a while. Also concerning safety, don't set up on a snake's nest or by a bear's den or next to a 1000 foot cliff, especially if you're an astronomer who's always looking up!

PRIVATE PROPERTY: Observing from private property can be a great idea, if you have permission to be there. If you don't, you can find out

COMET COMMENTS

05-13-84

A faint comet has recently been recovered. It should become visible in amateur scopes in about a year. Meanwhile, Periodic Comet Wild 2 will be brightening to magnitude 11.5 during the next few months, but it will be less than 35 degrees from the Sun in the evening sky during that time and very difficult to observe. Still, if you wish to try for it, call or write me for Positions. We'll take a brief look at Halley's Comet, then examine the discovery and Prediscovery factors for last year's Comet Cernis in our Past Discoveries dePartment.

Periodic Comet Giacobini-Zinner (1984e): S. Djorgovski and others recovered this comet on Plates taken Apr. 3 with the 4-meter telescope from Kitt Peak. The comet appeared stellar and mag. 23 in the constellation Virgo at that time, it was later realized that the comet was also captured on Jan. 26 from the European Southern Observatory. This comet will be closest the Sun in the middle of next year, the U. S. is also sending a spacecraft to it at that time.

Halley's Comet on June 15: RA: 06hr 12.5m; Dec.: +13° 59.4'. Dis. from Sun: 6.97 AU. Dis. from Earth: 7.95 AU. Mag.: 20.4.

PAST DISCOVERIES

Comet Cernis (1983l): This comet was discovered by Kazimeras Cernis of the USSR on the morning of Tues., July 19, 1983. This is his second discovery, his first being Comet 1980k some three years before. Cernis hunts comets with a 19", f/5 reflector at 65 Power at a rate of about 100 hours per year.

The comet was found at magnitude 10.7, RA: 02hr 43m, Dec.: +11° 44', 73 degrees from the Sun in the morning sky. Comet Cernis was a distant 3.46 AU from the Earth and 3.32 AU from the Sun. It appeared diffuse, about 1.5' in diameter, and was moving due south at a slow 0.2°/day. The Moon was three days Past First Quarter and nearing the Full Phase. On the day of discovery the comet was closest the Sun.

Could the comet have been discovered earlier? In mid-June, five weeks before discovery, the comet was at mag. 11.1 and 40° from the Sun in the morning sky, increasing that distance at 1°/day. At about declination +16, the comet was well placed for comet hunters, but on the faint side and very small (it would have been less than 1' in diameter) and diffuse. These conditions would have made it a difficult find. As the Moon cleared the morning sky in early July the comet was at mag. 10.9 and 60° from the Sun, and it would have been an easier object than it was two weeks previous. So early July would probably be the first good opportunity for discovery, and indeed the discovery followed two weeks later.

After discovery the comet brightened to mag. 9.0 as it continued moving away from the Sun in the morning sky. This was the third and final amateur discovery for 1983.

What if the ascending node had changed by 90°? Then the comet would have been discoverable in mid-Feb. 1983 in the evening sky, at mag. 10.6

who owns it by calling the county clerk's office (in most areas) and asking them. When the Police stop by- and they are bound to sooner or later- this is usually their second concern (after they look through your telescope). So be prepared to show some knowledge of whose property you're on and that they approve of this arrangement.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS: I know of one site which contains a large puddle for weeks after the last rain- an example of poor drainage or underground water. Another site is nearly always windy. A third smells like hay and bothers my sinuses. These are those little things you don't see on a map but they can drive you crazy after a few nights.

The final check is for darkness, made after sunset, and I've found that even on Full Moon nights this can be done to some extent. What we want to see is the intensity, direction and location of all the artificial light sources that can be seen from the site. Can they be filtered out? Can they be masked in some way? Are they left on all night?

Isn't this what you've always wanted in an observing site, and more? If not, then try another place on the map. I've found myself setting up in some strange places in the past: behind a motel parking lot in Tombstone, Arizona; at the county dump in Alamogordo, New Mexico; while on a barge on the Panama Canal; and at the edge of a golf course in a puddle of freezing water. We astronomers are a weird lot, but what would you rather be doing than looking through your scope from the ideal observing site? So stop complaining about the city lights, haze, unsteady atmosphere and high horizons- rather- pack up your telescope and GET OUT OF TOWN!



EPHEMERIS is published monthly by the San Jose Astronomical Association,
3905 Calico Ave., San Jose, Ca, 95124

Officer:

President Dave Ambrose 816 Everett St., El Cerrito, CA. 94530
(415) 524-0869
Vice-Pres Dennis Frerichs 15022 Broadway Terrace, Oakland, Ca. 94611
(415) 654-6796
Sec. James Van Nuland 3509 Calico Ave., San Jose, Ca 95124
(408) 371-1307
Treas. Robert Fingerhut 340 Rio Verde Place, #4, Milpitas, Ca.
95035 (408) 263-4455

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Jim Eiselt (408) 984-8687 Chris Pratt (408) 629-2994
Bulletin Editor: Tom Ahl 1260 Butterfly Dr. San Jose, 95120

in Leo Minor, 150° from the Sun. It would have then gone behind the Sun, brightening again in early Nov. 1983 at mag. 10.6, 110° elongation in the morning sky.

If the ascending node had changed by 180°, the comet could have been found in the morning sky about 110° from the Sun in mid-March, 1983 at mag. 10.7 and near the equator.

If the ascending node had changed by another 90°, the comet could have been found in mid-May 1983 in the morning sky, about 85° from the Sun at mag. 10.7 and declination -6°. So in all four instances the comet would have been found, but in no case would it have been brighter than mag. 8.5.

Don Machholz
(408) 448-7077



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For your organization's newsletter

UPDATE ON THE

A.S.P. - W.A.A. - A.A.N.C. CONFERENCE

AT U.C. SANTA CRUZ

The 1984 joint meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the Western Amateur Astronomers, and the Astronomical Association of Northern California will take place from July 7 - 13, at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The following events have now been added to the program:

- 1) a special insiders' tours of the NASA Ames Research Center and the Kuiper Flying Observatory (with a 36-inch telescope on board) on Friday, July 13th
- 2) a public lecture by Dr. Robert Parker, the astronaut who flew in the first Spacelab mission aboard the Space Shuttle (Wednesday evening, July 11th)
- 3) a nontechnical talk by Dr. John Brandt, project scientist for the U.S. spacecraft going to Comet Giacobini-Zinner and by Steve Edberg, amateur observations coordinator for the International Halley Watch (Saturday, July 7th)
- 4) a nontechnical lecture by Dr. William Kaufmann on the earliest moments of the universe (Tuesday, July 10th)

There are still spaces available on the tours of Lick Observatory and inexpensive dormitory rooms are reserved at the university.

Meeting registration packets have been sent to all amateur clubs in the Western U.S. To get one, ask your club officers, or write to:

Summer Meeting

A.S.P.

1290 24th Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94122

OBSERVATORY PLEDGE FUND

For several years now the SJAA has been talking about a permanent observing site, this site to possibly include a permanently housed telescope for use by members and friends. Some work towards this goal has been accomplished in the form of fund raising through the yearly astronomical auction. Progress has been slow but steady. Now the time has come for all members to show their support and help make the Observatory Project a reality. Consider the following:

The principle goal of this project is to obtain a site to permanently house a 30 inch equatorially mounted reflecting telescope for use by the club members and friends. The telescope is currently under construction by Kevin Medlock. The possibility of housing more than one large instrument exists, as well as providing a meeting place for the SJAA. Also, at the site a series of concrete pads could be constructed for members to set up personal instruments to carry out their various observing and photographic programs. Along these lines the permanent building would provide a place to warm up between observations, perhaps a few cots to catch a few hours sleep, or even a small darkroom to develop that (hopefully) incredible 4 hour astrophoto you just shot! The possibilities here are endless and your input as to what you would like to see at the site is going to be requested and welcomed.

The SJAA would like to here from its members suggestions as to where the site should be, keeping in mind accessibility and dark, or relative dark, sky conditions. (Remember, not everyone is willing to drive 3 hours to get to a site.)

This is not going to happen overnight and we hope the ideas presented above get you excited and make you want to help make them a reality.

Towards these goals the SJAA has set up a pledge program to raise funds for the observatory project. We are asking members to pledge to the project a contribution of \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, or more a month for the next 12 months. The funds raised are to be used only for the observatory project. The goal for the first year of this pledge program is to sign up the equivalent of 50 members pledging \$20 a month. Over the next 12 months this could raise \$12,000 towards making this project a reality. Please support this project. We need your ideas and suggestions. We need your pledges.

The Board of the S.J.A.A.

I pledge \$5, \$10, \$15,
 \$20, \$____ a month for the next ____ months. I understand that
 the funds raised are to be used solely toward establishing a permanent site
 for the S.J.A.A.

signed date

Please make checks out to the San Jose Astronomical Association and mail to:

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