

SAN JOSE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS INC.

April
1975

BULLETIN

Bob Malm, EDITOR

President: Tom Mungall 257-3262
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Treasurer: Gerry Rattley 732-0202
Secretary: Norman Wild 252-8966

Board members: Dave Erickson
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A.B. Gregory
Bob Malm
Jim Van Nuland
Jim Vermilion

NOTE: We are now in black and white again! Due to the recent donations of Jim Vermilion, Dr. Gregory and new member, Don McGlaufflin, we no longer have to dittoe your bulletin. These three gentlemen have joined the ranks of celestial landholders, Jim being deeded the scenic panorama on Ganymede, Dr. Gregory obtaining all rights to the asteroid, Icarus (if he can catch it!), and Don, ceded the entire red spot of Jupiter. We understand that Don will now go into the business of selling bottled methane and ammonia. Meanwhile Gerry is growing tired of the long trek out to his property of Ceres and wishes to trade it for something closer to home on the far side of the moon.

RECENT ACTIVITIES: On March 7, 1975 the general meeting at Olinder center featured Jim Vermilion and his 15" telescope. Jim described the trials and tribulations of grinding, polishing and figuring such a large reflecting objective. The 15" was his second mirror, a 12" lens being his first. He exhibited the large telescope and described its operation. Earlier, Gerry described interesting objects to be found in Virgo, especially the galaxies. Beginning this month, Gerry will change his format and describe Skalnate Pleso charts containing current constellations. (See Coming Events.) The evening concluded with several astrosides taken by members. Dave Erickson's Orion Nebula taken on high-speed ektachrome with his Wright-Schmidt 'scope was very impressive.

The star party of March 15 at Coe State Park was cancelled due to bad weather.

The public star party at the K-Mart on Highway 9 on March 21, 1975 was a big success. It was especially important that this star party be a success as this was Astronomy Day for the Bay Area astronomical societies. (The actual sponsor was the Astronomical Association of Northern California to which our group belongs.) We were located in an ideal location in the center of the parking lot where our sky-pointing instruments attracted about 300 people. Several expressed interest in our organization. While the mercury vapor lights ruled out the possibility of viewing deep-sky objects, the moon, Venus, Saturn and several bright stars were easy to see. Saturn, especially, showed up well in the various telescopes.

COMING EVENTS: April 4, 1975, 7:30 P.M. at Olinder Center in William Street Park: general meeting. The club's 12" telescope will occupy the spot light. Slides, discussion and display will enlighten those not familiar with the history of this piece of apparatus. In addition, Gerry will discuss briefly Skalnate Pleso Chart III and Don McGlaufflin will lecture on collimation.

April 12, 1975: Star party at Henry Coe State Park. As usual the club will pay for the use of this site.

April 25, 1975, 8 P.M.: Board meeting at the home of Bob Malm. Instructions will be given at the April 4th meeting.

In May: Astronomer Frank Holden returns! In addition there will be three star parties! Of special interest is the lunar eclipse of May 24, 1975.

Keep these dates in mind: June 20, 1975 and August 22, 1975 (Board meetings.)

FOR SALE: Realistic TM 90 solid state AM-FM stereo tuner in walnut cabinet -- \$55, Contact Norm Wild or call 252-8966.

NEW MEMBERS: Don McGlaufflin - 1571 Piedmont Rd. - San Jose, Ca. 95132 - 923-5344; Robert Fingerhut - 971 Orchid Wy. - San Jose, Ca. 95117 - 296-8565; Tony Smith - 1427 Essex Wy.#3, San Jose, Ca. 95117 - 374-2813.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Ron Hansen -10941 Miguelita Rd. S.J. 95113; Jim Vermilion 2101 California Street #314 - Mountain View, Ca.94040 - 969-4933.