

SAN JOSE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 1975

New Officers:

President: Tom Mungall 257-3262  
Vice-President: Norm Wild 252-8966  
Treasurer: Gerry Rattley 732-0202  
Secretary: Bob Malm 941-1343

Board Members: Dave Erickson Jim Vermilion  
A. B. Gregory Jack Zeiders  
Debbie Moore  
(Officers are also members of  
the board.)

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to limitations of time and space I will attempt to cram a lot of material into one page. If it seems awkward or I have left anything out, please bear with me.

THE COMET: As most of us know, Douglas Berger of the Eastbay Astronomical Association was co-discoverer of Comet 1975-h. What SKY AND

TELESCOPE doesn't know (YET) is that most if not all of the members of his discovery group were members of the San Jose Amateur Astronomers. If I have my information right, the first photograph of Comet Kobayashi-Berger-Moore-Rattley-Zeiders-McGlaughlin-----Milon was taken by Jack Zeiders. SKY AND TELESCOPE (which was out-scooped by ASTRONOMY on the comet) should be so informed.

NOVA CYGNI: It was last evening (Aug. 29) around 8:40 P.M. PDT. I had decided that it was time to do a little viewing from my back yard. The relatively smog-free day promised a good sky. I took one step out the back door and glanced up to see if this prognosis was correct. I immediately noticed something wrong with the tail of the Swan. It was longer and bent! Upon further examination I noticed that the appearance of Cygnus was this way because of an extra second magnitude star a few degrees north and east of Deneb. When it didn't move -- I thought that it might be an airplane --- I thought, "Nova!" Calls to Emmet Murphy and Dr. Gregory convinced me that I was destined for immortality! I would go down (the tubes?) along with Galileo, Herschel, Tombaugh, Berger ----- and Milon, and other great celestial discoverers! I again reached for the telephone and dialed the number of that branch of the Smithsonian Institute responsible for discoveries. My heart beat faster as the phone rang on the other end. Then there was an answer. My moment was at hand!! A voice on the other end of the line answered and said, "This is a recording. A new nova of R.A. 21h 10m declination +48° was discovered in Japan (approximately twelve hours ~~ago~~).". I put down the phone, walked over to a wall cabinet and reached for a flask of whiskey.

RECENT ACTIVITIES: The July 12 picnic was not too well attended but those who partook of the food, flew kites and viewed celestial objects afterwards, had a good time. The other July activity (a K-Mart public star party) was not very successful. My memory is playing tricks but I believe that the weather was to blame.

The August 1 general meeting was an interesting one. Vick Nikolashin delivered a rather technical talk on the plateless Schmidt camera and related subjects. It was well received. Slides of the Riverside Telescope Convention taken by Norm Wild and <sup>the</sup> May 24 Lunar Eclipse taken by your editor completed the program.

The August 9 star party at Coe was another good one. A new area was made available to us by the ranger there which was free from camper's lights. The northern sky was not obstructed as had been feared. City lights were not particularly objectionable though there is less shelter from the wind. The officials at Coe want to make this area available to astronomical groups on a permanent basis and are willing to level it and do other developmental work on it with this goal in mind. The ranger also mentioned that some of the remote areas in the Park would be made available from time to time for overnight astronomical work.

The Lunar star party at the Mt. Umunhum site was attended by perhaps ten viewers and, despite the fact that the moon set rather late, a good time was had by all. Jim Van Nuland viewed several occultations during the evening. The bell which would ring periodically was Jim's alarm, alerting him to the fact that a new occultation was about to occur.

COMING EVENTS: Sept. 5, 1975, 7:30 P.M. at Olinder center. General meeting. Joe Perry will talk and show slides on his 32" telescope and observatory plans. Time permitting, Vick Nikolashin will talk and exhibit a working model of a Pioneer 10 telescope. He delivered a similar talk to the recent WAA Convention in San Francisco. After the regular meeting a special meeting will be called for the purpose of making changes in the constitutional by-laws of the club. See page two of this bulletin.

Sept. 6, 1975, Mt. Umunhum. Star party. If you are interested in helping put up the gate to protect our site from motorcycles, etc., come at 5:30 P.M.

Sept. 13, 1975 at the K-Mart in East San Jose. 7 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. Public star party. This K-Mart is located at McKee and Jackson.

Oct. 3, 1975: General meeting. Dr. Reise of the ASP will be guest speaker.  
Oct. 10, 1975: Board meeting at Dr. Gregory's home.

**CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION:**

August, 1975

**Purpose:** Clarification of certain articles of current by laws and addition to same.

**Amendment:** #1 Ref. Article 5, titled "Officers", section 1.

**To Strike:** The words "Officers of the Corporation shall become honorary members of the Board of Directors with full membership privileges during their tenure in office. The Board of Directors may create such additional office or offices as it deems necessary and elect their officers thereof.

**To Add:** The words "The Board elects the Officers from its own Board Membership, should an office be impossible to fill from a Board Membership, the Board shall have the option to nominate a person from the general membership. For election, two-thirds of the total Board Membership will be required. This person if elected, will become an active Board Member in addition to the normal (9) members.

**Amendment:** #2 Ref. Article 4, section, titled "Directors".

**To Strike:** The words "monthly, regular".

**To Add:** To read "Meetings of the Board".  
"The Board of Directors shall meet at the boards discretion, either monthly or bi-monthly, at a location specified at the preceeding board meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or by any two Board Members, at any time.

**Amendment:** #3 Ref, Article 4.

**To Add:** New section: Section 7.

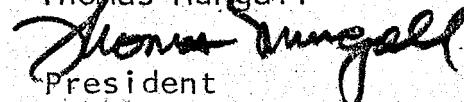
**To Add:** The words for title "Qualification for Board Membership".

**To Read As Follows:** "To be qualified for nomination to the Board, a member must have (1) one year active membership or attend 3 board meetings if bi-monthly or 6 board meetings if monthly. Termination of board membership will be automatic if member misses (3) three consecutive meetings without notification to the board:"

Sincerely,

San Jose Amateur Astronomers

Thomas Mungall

  
President