

SAN JOSE AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS, INC.  
MONTHLY BULLETIN  
APRIL, 1971

PRES: David Erickson  
VICE-PRES: Thomas Halliday

SECY: David Ambrose  
TREAS: J. Emmet Murphy

APRIL MEETING -- CONCEPTS IN ASTRONOMY

DATE & TIME: Friday, April 2, 8 p.m.

LOCATION: Community Bank, 111 W. St. John, 2nd floor exec. conference room (enter bank from the rear)

Beginning at April's meeting, SJAA will be presenting a series of seminars entitled "Concepts in Astronomy". These seminars will assist the newer and older members of the club in learning and experiencing the many facets of astronomy.

Dave Erickson will begin the seminars with seminar #1 and Dr. Gregory with seminar #2, both to be presented at April's meeting. Dave will give a presentation on "Atlases and their use". He will cover NORTON'S star atlas through ATLAS FOREALIS with emphasis first on an introductory level for the newer members of the club and progressing into the finer schemes for mastering the atlas.

Dr. Gregory will prepare the members for spring viewing with a presentation on "The Spring Constellations". He will emphasize all objects within each constellation, giving particular attention to those objects that will most easily be viewed at May 1's star party. Dave will assist in presenting information on Jupiter which should be rising well before midnight during the star party.

Coming up in May will be seminars on "Small Telescopes" by Dave Ambrose and "The Many Objects Viewable through Binoculars" by Emmet Murphy. In June is planned "Summer Constellations" and "A General Overview of Astronomy".

STAR PARTY - WORKPARTY

Saturday, March 27, beginning 2 or 3 in the afternoon at the SJAA Observatory. Bring a shovel, bag-dinner, and telescope. It is planned to bury the club's waterline before it erodes away due to ultra-violet radiation coming from our nearest star.

If your Saturday is tied-up, feel free to at least make the starparty that evening. Culminating will be M95, M96, M97, M65, M63, M98, M99, M40, M61, M84, M85, M100, M86, M49, M87, M88, M58, M89, and M90. Since February's starparty was "rained-out" many people should be attending in March -- Don't miss out on this exciting event.

FREE DINNER - STARDAY - REGULAR MEETING

Start planning now for May's regular meeting, to be held at the club's Skyline site. Free hotdogs, soft drinks and cookies will be available beginning at 6:30. Then sit down and listen to the concepts in astronomy, seminars #3 & #4 in an amphi-theatre by sunset environment. Wind-up the evening with viewing, either with your own telescope or any of the member's available.

REMEMBER now to hang on to the blue card coming in your Sky & Telescope soon. Emmet will need that card to renew your membership.

\*ADDITION to last month's map of the SJAA Observatory.

- ..North points up
- ..South points down

APRIL - Culmination for Messier Objects -- 10 p.m. Local Mean Time

key: G.N. Gaseous Nebulae  
 GAL.C. Galactic Clusters  
 P.N. Planetary Nebulae  
 GLOB.C. Globular Clusters  
 G. Galaxies

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OBJECT</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>MAGNITUDE</u>
4-2	M95 M96	G G	10.4 9.1
4-9	M97	P.N.	12.0
4-11	M65 M66	G G	9.5 8.8
4-25	M98	G	10.7
4-26	M99 M40 M61	G pair of stars G	10.1 9 9.6
4-27	M84 M85 M100	G G G	9.3 9.3 10.6
4-28	M86	G	9.7
4-29	M49 M87 M88	G G G	8.6 9.2 10.2
4-30	M58 M89 M90	G G G	9.5 10.0

EDITORIAL - "THE 7-DAY WEEK"

The calendar is a graphic diagram expressing the earth's rotation on its axis and the earth's revolution about the sun. Astronomers are responsible for constructing an accurate calendar and keeping it accurate.

Our present 7-day consecutive week system: Where did it come from? "Consecutive weeks" means that the sequence of the days in the week continues on from the end of one month into the next without interruption, and even into the next year, though a month may end in the middle of the week.

It was not always this way. The 7-day consecutive week system was introduced to Rome by the Christians when Emperor Constantine enacted a proclamation to change the Roman calendar to the Christian system in 321 AD. The Christians got it from the Jews, the Jews got it from Moses who designed a fifty-two, 7-day consecutive weeks calendar, with one and two days at the end of the year to fill out the solar year of 365 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  days -- almost. It is the almost which demands accurate astronomical observation and calculation.

Moses heard of the 7-day week from his Hebrew friends, who had received knowledge of it from their ancestors who had carried it with them from ancient Mesopotamia where it originated. Moses probably heard it directly from a Babylonian or Assyrian citizen since he traveled so extensively. Incidentally, when Moses and the Hebrews were in Egypt, Egypt was on a twelve, 30 day month system, with five or six days at the end of the year which did not belong to months or weeks; there were three, 10-day grouped weeks in a month. The months always started on the first day of the week and ended on the last. The seven-day week originated in Mesopotamia about 2500 BCE.

Before 321 C.E., ancient Romans split up their months into four groups of days called weeks. Since their months were of unequal length, varying from 28 to 31 days, the weeks varied from seven to eight days. In a 28 day month there were four 7-day weeks. In a 29 day month the weeks were 8-7-7-7 days; in a 30-day month the weeks were 8-7-8-7 days; in a 31-day month the weeks were 8-8-7 days; imagine the confusion. These numbers of days in the week were the days between market days; apparently there was only one market day in the week.

Quote: "The efforts of people in the past to adjust to nature must be studied if we are to profit from experience. For the future is like a corridor into which we can see only by the light coming from behind." (from introduction to "Primitive Peoples Today" by Edward Weyer, Jr.)

....contributed by Ralph Fridge

Walter Krurri, one of the SJ/A's founding members, has made the move to Oregon. He has graciously left behind, to be used by the club, the following:

- ...a 6" f/15 refractor
- ...some sky charts
- ...a Foucault tester
- ...and many mirror blanks

Many thanks to Walt for his generosity...but especially for his unending assistance and experience given to the many members throughout the years.

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If you have a joke or item you would like printed in the bulletin, please give the written copy to Dick Glasspool or Dwight Leu at either the regular meeting or planning meeting to have it published in the next month's bulletin.

Joke-of-the-month:

Life on the moon? NASA space officials have reported the finding of a bug on the moon. The scientists have classified the creature as "vierdus /stroromerus, commonly called a lunartic.

...contributed by Dwight Leu