



THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2024
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THE BULLETIN



Above is a group photo taken at the LAAS Banquet and Award Ceremony held on January 28, 2024.

From left to right: Tim Thompson, Alecia Hurst, Stephanie Madison, Jennifer Roberson, and Shirley Sunada, who generously donated a large box of See's Candy for all of the attendees to enjoy.

Many thanks to the Banquet Committee members for all of their hard work to make this event a great one. The committee members were Alecia Hurst, Dave Yakerson, Greg Thompson, Spencer SooHoo, and Andee Sherwood.

Photo credit: Dave Yakerson

The Garvey Ranch Park Observatory is open for free to the public and to all LAAS members and friends on Wednesday nights from 7:30 PM to 10 PM. Go to our website at LAAS.org and click on "Locations" to learn more about this special weekly event.



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Upcoming Club Events

- Board Meeting: Mar. 6
- Dark Sky Night: Mar. 9
- General Meeting: Mar. 11
- Public Star Party: Mar. 16

Election Results For 2024

LAAS Officers and Board Members



President: Darrell Dooley

VP: Alecia Hurst

Secretary: Spencer SooHoo

Treasurer: John O'Bryan

The new Board consists of:

- Keith Armstrong
- Ed Dempsey
- Victoria Fegen
- Jason Fields
- Raphael Gonzalez
- Greg Thompson
- Tim Thompson
- David Yakerson

Alternates: Curtis Byrom

Mt. Wilson 60 and 100 Inch Nights

Schedule for 2024

60 Inch Dates:

Friday Apr. 12

Friday May 3

Friday June 7

Friday July 5

Friday Aug. 2

Saturday Sept. 7

100 Inch Nights:

Saturday April 13th.

Friday Oct. 4th.



The Cost per person, per session:

60 Inch Night - \$65.00

100 Inch Night - \$145.00 (Booked/Waiting List only)

There will be 20 people, per session

Learn more about these incredible events by visiting Mt. Wilson Observatory's website:

<https://www.mtwilson.edu/60-telescope/>

<https://www.mtwilson.edu/100-telescopeobserving/>

How to Make a Reservation?

Please contact Darrell Dooley **BEFORE** you pay for your reservation. Darrell is our Mt. Wilson Coordinator and the **ONLY** contact available.

Darrell's Email Address: Mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Darrell will answer all of your questions and concerns.

The LAAS Banquet

By Keith Armstrong

Hi Everyone!

It was so good to see so many of you at once last night at the banquet. Many members tend to engage in the club in specific ways choosing Garvey, outreach, SKAS, or the like. Seeing members of all stripes all at once felt like a mashup of sorts. Watching Nakamoto light up the photo booth was worth the trip alone. Thanks to the members of the banquet committee for putting together such a lovely event, and to Dr Krupp for his presentation. Also thanks to all of you for being such wonderful, weird, and excellent friends and mentors to me. My life has certainly taken a turn for the better with all of you in it.

-Keith



Banquet Photos

Photo Credit: David Yakerson



Treasurer John O'Bryan and his wife, Patti.



Carla and Lew Chilton with Heven Renteria



From left to right: Roman Tolesnikov, Dave Hasenauer, and Nick Sitchon.



Andy and Jan Sway



From left to right: Alan and Julie Komoto with Curtis Byrom and Carole Karche



Ben Guthrie and David Beraru



Greg Thompson

Special thanks to Greg who created this year's centerpiece and framed the glass for the tables. Thanks to Spencer SooHoo for coming up with the idea.

Below: Shirley Sunada and her Granddaughter, two guests or members and Keith Armstrong.





A group photo of those guests and members who work at Griffith. Dr. Edwin Krupp is in the center. The back, from left to right is Geo Somoza, Dave Pinsky, and Heven Renteria. All were posting at the photo booth to take their pictures.



Guest Speaker Dr. Krupp at the lectern before giving his presentation.



Apologies to those whose names were not mentioned in some of the photos. We had 95 attendees and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. All of the banquet committee members except for me, experienced working the banquet for the first time and did a great job. Many thanks to Spencer SooHoo for maintaining the list of attendees.

Before the banquet began, Arturo the staff member who set up the room for the LAAS. thanked our club for having our banquet at the Quiet Cannon. He thanked us on behalf of the staff for the work and he was grateful for that. Also, three of the younger staff members spoke with me about their great interest in astronomy. Maybe they'll stop by Garvey and join the club? Even at the banquet, the members of the LAAS sparked interest in learning more about the night sky!

Thanks to those of you who took time to introduce yourselves and say hello. It was great to meet you, too!

Andee/Editor

Monthly Sky Report

By Dave Nakamoto

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 a.m. All clocks must be set forward one hour, according to the saying, "Spring forward, fall back."

The moon is at last quarter on the 3rd, is new on the 10th, first quarter on the 16th, and full on the 25th.

Here are the planets as they appear from evening to morning.

Neptune is in the constellation Pisces the Fishes. On the 1st, the sun sets at 5:50 p.m., PST, and Neptune sets in the west at 6:58 p.m., PST, one hour eight minutes later. On the 9th, the sun sets at 5:57 p.m., PST, and Neptune sets at 6:28 p.m., PST, 31 minutes later. Neptune is the faintest of the planets at magnitude +7.8, so for practical purposes it is not observable through March.

Mercury starts March close to the sun and is unobservable. On the 6th, the sun sets at 5:54 p.m., PST, and Mercury sets in the west at 6:26 p.m., PST, 32 minutes later. The planet is at full phase but only 5.1 arcseconds wide, so a magnification of 200x or more is needed to see its disk. On the 24th, the sun sets at 7:08 p.m., PDT, and Mercury sets at 8:39 p.m., PDT, one hour 31 minutes later, the maximum time between the two events for March. The planet will be bright at magnitude -1.6, third only after Venus and Jupiter, is at half phase, and is 7.3 arcseconds wide. On the 31st, the sun sets at 7:14 p.m., PDT, and Mercury sets at 8:30 p.m., PDT, one hour 16 minutes later. The planet fades to magnitude +1.0, is a crescent and 9.0 arcseconds wide. Do not observe any planet when it comes close to the sun, for the danger to the eyes is great.

Jupiter is in Aries the Ram. On the 1st, Jupiter sets in the west-northwest at 10:32 p.m., PST, and on the 31st it sets at 10:02 p.m., PDT. The planet shines at magnitude -2.1, and is 34 arcseconds wide, the largest planet visually and second only to Venus in brightness (magnitude). A telescope capable of magnification 50x will show the Red Spot, and the four bright Galilean moons can be seen moving back and forth, across and behind Jupiter.

Uranus is in the constellation Aries the Ram. On the 1st, Uranus sets in the west-northwest at 11:12 p.m., PST, and on the 31st, it sets at 10:20 p.m., PDT. On the 15th, Uranus is at Right Ascension 3^h 10^m 44^s with a declination of +17° 29' 9". The disk of Uranus is the second faintest planet, shining at magnitude +5.8, and is only 3.5 arcseconds wide, and so a telescope with a magnification of 150x is needed, and then it is visible as a small disk.

Mars moves from Capricornus the Sea Goat to Aquarius the Water Bearer on the 19th. On the 1st, Mars rises in the east-southeast at 5:06 a.m., PST, and the sun rises at 6:21 a.m., PST, one hour 15 minutes later. On the 31st, Mars rises at 5:17 a.m., PDT, and the sun rises at 6:41 a.m., PDT, one hour 24 minutes later. Mars is nearly fully illuminated, at magnitude +1.3, but is only 4.4 arcseconds wide, which is too small a disk to see anything on its surface.

Venus rises in the morning in the east-southeast at 5:17 a.m., PST, on the 1st, one hour four minutes before sunrise. On the 31st, Venus rises at 6:04 a.m., PDT, 37 minutes before sunrise. Venus will soon leave the morning sky and start appearing in the evening. The planet is nearly fully illuminated, is at magnitude -3.9, brighter than any other planet, but is only 10 arcseconds wide.

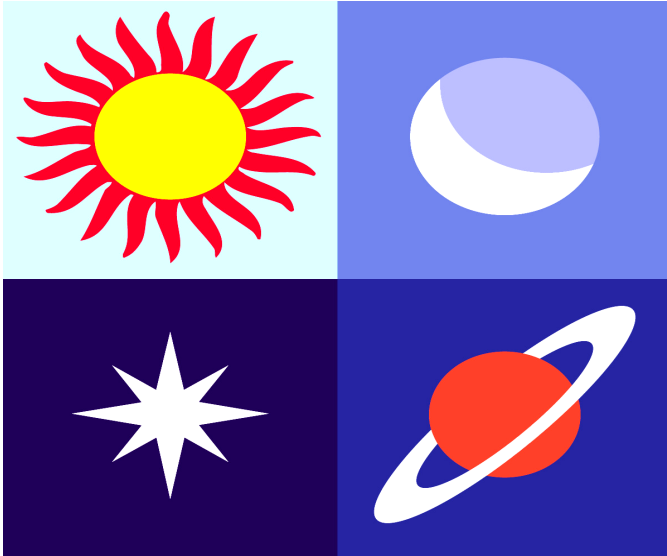
Saturn is in Aquarius the Water Bearer. The planet starts March close to the sun and is unobservable. On the 16th, Saturn rises in the east at 6:31 a.m., PDT, and the sun rises at 7:01 a.m., PDT, 30 minutes later. On the 31st, Saturn rises at 5:37 a.m., PDT, one hour and four minutes before sunrise. The planet is at magnitude +1.0 and is 16 arcseconds wide. The rings and Saturn's largest moon, Titan, may be seen with a telescope capable of magnification 50x.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Spring begins in the earth's northern hemisphere, and autumn in the southern hemisphere, at 8:06 p.m., PDT, on the 19th. This is the precise moment when the sun reaches the point where the ecliptic crosses the celestial equator, moving from south to north. The point where and time when the sun crosses the celestial equator to the north is the vernal equinox. Spring ends with the summer solstice on June 20.

A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs on the 25th. The eclipse begins at 9:53 p.m., PDT, reaches mid-eclipse at 12:13 a.m., PDT, and ends at 2:31 a.m., PDT. During a penumbral lunar eclipse, the moon travels through the outer, fainter portion of earth's shadow and does not significantly dim as it would during an umbral eclipse, when the moon passes through the darker umbral part of earth's shadow.

The author can be reached at dinakamoto@hotmail.com.



Almanac

Source:
Seasky.org

March 10 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 09:02 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

March 20 - March Equinox. The March equinox occurs at 03:01 UTC. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

March 24 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest eastern elongation of 18.7 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

March 25 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 07:02 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Worm Moon because this was the time of year when the ground would begin to soften and the earthworms would reappear. This moon has also been known as the Crow Moon, the Crust Moon, the Sap Moon, and the Lenten Moon.

March 25 - Penumbral Lunar Eclipse. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or penumbra. During this type of eclipse the Moon will darken slightly but not completely. The eclipse will be visible throughout all North America, Mexico, Central America, and South America. ([NASA Map and Eclipse Information](#))

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Outreach- Bel Aire	2
3	4	5	6 Garvey Nite Board Mtng	7	8	9 Dark Sky Night
10	11 General Mtng	12	13 Garvey Nite	14	15 Outreach- Granada Hills	16 Public Star Party
17	18	19	20 Garvey Nite	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Garvey Nite	28	29	30
31						

Meet The New Members

Welcome to the LAAS!



Anthony Accardo	Gary Inouye	Benjamin Ovington
Natalie Brgoch	Tatiana Kolykhalova	Alexander Selipanov
James Byun	Eric Liljestrand	Tommy Simpson
Lara Day	Justin Locke	Alexis Vidalbogdanovic
Barry Finnegan	John May	
David Green	Shervin Nia	

LAAS Board Meetings

All Board Meetings are held online, live on Zoom. Please check the information posted in the IO Group Forum for any current news related to these meetings. If you wish to attend a board meeting, please send a request to secretary@laas.org for a link to Zoom.

Volunteer Opportunities

Every LAAS member is a volunteer at some point. Some members volunteer to share telescopes with the public, while others tackle administrative duties, help out at our community and public events, or join a club committee. Taking photos at our events and writing articles about events for our club newsletter are great ways to volunteer and become more involved in the LAAS as a member.

Volunteers are always welcome to write articles for our monthly newsletter or share images captured of the night sky. Members are also welcome to come up with new ideas and future activities for the membership which can be shared in Board meetings. If you are artistic and enjoy creating posters or flyers, or printable astro-educational handouts for further star parties, please let us know.

Please send any articles, images, or artwork to the newsletter editor here: communications@laas.org

Time To Renew Your Membership?

Please remember to renew your membership after you receive a notice from the Club Secretary.

Please send any new contact information to the club secretary at secretary@LAAS.org OR login to your account here: <https://common.wildapricot.com/login>



Outreach Team Volunteers

“We are dedicated to advancing the knowledge of astronomy, optics, telescope making, and the wonders of our universe.”



One of the ways the LAAS advances the knowledge of astronomy and the wonders of our universe is to visit local schools in our area with telescopes. The telescope operators are current members of the club. Many schools invite us to their campus to provide views of the objects in the night sky for not only the children but for the staff and parents, too. Some schools invite us on scheduled “Science Nights” while other schools plan a special evening of astronomy education on their campus. Other activities may be planned by the school during the event while our members are stationed in one specific location with telescopes to share with students and other school guests. These special members are part of our Outreach Team.

Our Outreach Coordinator is Heven Renteria. He and the others on his team have been attending outreach events on campuses throughout Los Angeles county and beyond.. Many of them travel great distances (and after a full day of work) to share astronomy with children and the public. The LAAS is also invited to attend special community events or events at state or city parks, libraries, and other venues. Recently, the club could not accept additional requests for outreach events because the team’s schedule was full.

The LAAS needs more members to join the outreach team. Some of these events may be local to you. Outreach members are greatly appreciated by the school administrators and students at every event.

You don’t need to be an expert using a telescope as the members of the team will help you set up and find objects in the sky to share with the students. You can attend an outreach event without a telescope and help the team with their telescopes or help with the long lines of children who are excited to look through a telescope for the first time.

These events are fun and rewarding in many ways. The enthusiasm shared by the children is infectious, in the best way possible. If you enjoy attending Public Star parties at the Griffith Observatory, you will enjoy a school outreach event.

The Outreach Team really needs your support and participation.

Please contact Heven at outreach@laas.org to learn more.

Thank you for volunteering!

Andee Sherwood
Communications



John O’Bryan shows a student the Sun at Overland Elementary, 2021.

Photo credit: Van Webster

LAAS Outreach Program

The mission of LAAS is to promote interest in and advance the knowledge of astronomy, optics, telescope making and related subjects. In furtherance of its mission, LAAS conducts public star parties and other outreach events that are intended to enhance the public's understanding of astronomy and its enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty and wonders of our universe.



We provide outreach events at local schools, Griffith Observatory, Mt. Wilson Observatory, various state and county parks, and community events.

Join our Outreach team of volunteers today.

Contact Heven Renteria, our Outreach Coordinator at Outreach@LAAS.org for more information.



Want to include astronomy outreach at your school's science night or open house? Follow the link below to access the request form:

[Outreach Request Form](#)

LAAS Club Merchandise

LAAS T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, MUGS, AND MORE!

To find new merchandise from our store, please use the following link: [Shop Here](#)

Please note all prices listed are subject to change and include all shipping and handling costs. All items will be shipped directly to the address you provide on your order form.



LAAS Hoodie



Donate



Disclaimer: The Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc. is a public charity, as defined by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and all contributions to the Society are deductible for Federal and State Income tax purposes.

John O'Bryan, Jr.

Treasurer

Astronomy Magazines

Discounts for astronomy magazines can be found on the internet. Look for the best deals possible. Send a copy of your LAAS membership card with your check or payment to receive a club member discount.



[Click here to subscribe to Sky and Telescope Magazine.](#)



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As a member of the Night Sky Network, you may use the above link to renew your Astronomy Magazine subscription (or enter a new subscription) at the club discount rate. If this is a renewal, Astronomy Magazine will match your entered name and address and extend your subscription. For inquiries, please contact Astronomy Magazine customer service & sales at 1-800-533-6644.

Use [this link](#) to begin the subscription process.



[Join the Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#) and help support the cause of advancing science literacy through engagement in astronomy. Member benefits include a subscription to [Mercury Magazine](#), published quarterly.

Club Contact Information

President: Darrell Dooley

President@laas.org

Vice President: Alecia Hurst

hurst.alecia@gmail.com

Treasurer: John O'Bryan, Jr.

treasurer@laas.org

Secretary: Spencer Soohoo

secretary@laas.org

Outreach Coordinator: Heven Renteria

outreach@laas.org

Club Communications: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org

Mt. Wilson Coordinator: Darrell Dooley

mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Bulletin Editor: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org

Club Historian—Lew Chilton

trainfans2@sbcglobal.net



Find astronomy outreach activities by visiting NASA's [Night Sky Network](#)

Club Contacts

Club Phone Numbers

LAAS Message Phone:

213- 673-7355 (Checked daily)

Griffith Observatory:

213-473-0800

Sky Report:

213-473-0880



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