

East Valley Astronomy Club

July 2000

www.eastvalleyastronomy.org

Scottsdale, Arizona

President's Comments

By Silvio Jaconelli

It's June already, and it will not be long before we will start looking for nominations for our officers and Board members for next year. This may sound like early days to be thinking along these lines, but bear in mind that nominations will start to be taken in September, which is only 3 months away. I request that anyone interested in any position to please let me know so that we can start to pencil in names as we near the nomination date. In the past we have found that there has not been a deluge of candidates, with the result that we have had to 'co-opt' members to fill some of the slots. So please let me know if you have any interest in serving the club in this way.

We had a 'virtual' Board Meeting in second quarter – we did not physically get together, but rather conducted the Board meeting electronically. This was a great success, as we not only saved ourselves several hours of our (scarce) personal time, but we also spared the club the cost of the meeting. We ended up making the following decisions:

- 1) The club would purchase a projector for \$150 to use in place of the SCC projector, which has proved unreliable of late. The projector would form part of the club properties (currently Rick Scott) and be brought to the Club meetings by the Properties Director.
- 2) Ken Levy volunteered to be the projector operator at all future EVAC meetings. Thanks, Ken, for volunteering for this.
- 3) Tom Polakis volunteered to be a communication conduit between EVAC and SAC, keeping each club informed of the activities of the other. Chuck Crawford has already started this with the October joint picnic, and Tom's efforts to build on

this will be appreciated. So any special events that come up in either club will be passed on to the other club for inclusion in both the newsletters and in the events announcements at the monthly meetings.

- 4) The financials for Q1 are stable. While the bank balance did show a sizable increase from December, this was due to the large spike in year-end membership dues (which will not be sustained over the entire year), and to advance collections for the (very successful) Kitt Peak trip (which was subsequently disbursed).

Until next month ...

EVAC & Other Events: 2000					
	New Moon	Meet	Local	Deep Sky	Other
Jun	2 nd	14 th	24 th	3 rd	6-3 -6/10 Grand Canyon Star Party
July	1 st , 30 th	12 th	22 nd	1 st , 29 th	Universe 2000
Aug	29 th	9 th	19 th	26 th	Stellafane
Sep	27 th	13 th	23 rd	30 th	N. AZ SP. Enchanted Skies Star Party Socorro, NM September 28- October 1
Oct	27 th	11 th	21 st	NA	10/7 Lowell Tour 10/21 SAC/EVAC Picnic 10/28 All-AZ Star Party
Nov	25 th	8 th	18 th	NA	Elections
Dec	25 th	13 th	16 th	23 rd	Christmas Party

From The Vice President

By Chuck Crawford

GUEST SPEAKER

Our guest speaker for July will be Dr. Steve Odewahn, a research astronomer at Arizona State University. Those of you who visited Kitt Peak will remember him as one of two professional astronomers who accompanied us on the trip. We do wish to thank him for doing that. Dr. Odewahn is actively engaged in research dealing with the formation and evolution of galaxies. Using observations made with the Hubble telescope, as well as ground-based CCD and Schmidt imaging, a major aspect of this work involves the development of automated image analysis methods for classifying galaxies.

The subject of his presentation therefore is Teaching Computers to "See" the Distant Universe.

With the emergence of the Hubble telescope our knowledge of the formation and evolution of galaxies has taken a quantum leap. Both the quality and quantity of the image data coming from Hubble dictates we develop automated image analysis methods for classifying galaxy images. Dr. Odewahn will describe his own research in this area and some of the new results growing out of this work.

His latest research publications are entitled Automated Morphological Classification in deep HST Fields: Evolving and Non-evolving Faint Galaxy Populations.

On a personal note it shall be my good fortune to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Odewahn in the very near future in this ongoing research for which I am grateful of the chance to do so.

DINNER WITH OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Once again dinner arrangements will be at the Black-eyed Pea on Indian Bend Road in Scottsdale at 5:30 pm. We have a steady turnout of members but there is always room for more so if you would like to join us feel free to do so. Please do contact me so I can inform the manager as to the number to expect. 480-985-8824 or email at astroc@mindspring.com.

LOWELL AND METEOR CRATER TRIP

October 7, 2000. We still have room for more as so far only 17 are signed up. The deadline for sign-up and payment of \$ 25 per person is at the close of our July meeting. To have a regular bus we need 48. Otherwise it will be necessary to locate a mini-bus and, if that is not feasible, refund paid members money and arrange those interested parties into a caravan arrangement.

NO QUESTIONS THIS MONTH

There will be no test items this month as I am in the midst of packing and moving locally. All materials are packed and awaiting the move.

PROJECT INPUT

Most of you don't know but I am President of my own IRS approved non-profit corporation entitled Earth/Space Scientific Research Institute, Inc. I have presently embarked on researching the possibility of this corporation joining the National Undergraduate Research Observatory (NURO) which is a consortium of primarily undergraduate institutions (colleges) which have joined together to provide hands-on training and research experiences for undergraduate students. Its mission is to encourage more undergraduate students to choose scientific careers. Whether the corporation will be accepted remains to be seen although a couple of ASU astronomers have consented to serve on the board and advise as to what research projects could be done.

The annual membership fee is \$ 2100 which entitles guaranteed time on the 31" telescope at Anderson Mesa near Flagstaff, use of NAU's nitrogen cooled CCD camera, a computer controlled Photometer, a SUN workstation at the telescope, another workstation at NAU, a future spectrograph with CCD detector and technical assistance while observing. Joint sharing of research, expertise and effort writing funding proposals for further support are expected of the membership.

Currently members number 12 - Ball State U., Benedictine C., Central Michigan U., Colorado C., Denison U., Dickinson C., Franklin & Marshall C., Gettysburg C., UNLV, U. of Oklahoma, Western Connecticut State U., and Northern AZ U are the members. As seen here it would be unique should membership be allowed since the Institute is not a college but it could supply research opportunities,

expertise, funding proposals and private research so the possibility exists.

Therefore, I am still seeking any support or input ideas as to projects. Specifically any member who might happen to have a Ph.D. who might be willing to serve on the board of advisors and/or lend his/her credentials to the corporation. Any ideas as to raising the annual dues of \$ 2100 would also be appreciated. Lastly, once approved for membership in the consortium the corporation could enlist interested club members to join, for a minimal cost, who might wish access to such a facility for their own private research remembering, of course, that the results must be shared. For your thoughts please contact me at 480-985-8824 or email at astroc@mindspring.com. Thanks!

MEADE DEALER

For those who might not know! I am an authorized Meade dealer and if you are ever thinking of purchasing their products I do offer a discounted price to club members. If any members wish Celestron product and are willing to pool their orders into one major order I could arrange to become an authorized dealer for them, also at a discounted price. Feel free to contact me for information.

EVAC Meeting Minutes

by Tom Mozdzen

6/4/2000 7:35pm Silvio called the meeting was called to order. There were about 50 guests in attendance with 3 guests. We possibly had our youngest guest ever: Wendy Peters, 3mos and 9days old.

Future announcements:

- Sat Oct 7th Lowell Tour
- Sat Oct 21 Joint SAC-EVAC Picnic at Lost Dutchman park.
- Regular slide presentation plus telescope viewing at various local parks for beginners by Tony and Carol Laconte – fee \$3. Call 623-979-1393 or

tlccl@cyberhighway.net
<http://www.azneighbors.com/143/>

July 8th Gilbert Star Party needs helpers call 830-3851 if you can help.

- The Greater Phoenix IDA Group announces its first meeting, 6/29/00 at 6:30pm, Wells Fargo

building @ 100 W. Washington. Call Sam Herchak for more details.

The answers to last month's quiz are: 1. B; 2. C; 3. D; 4. B; 5. D; Bonus question: C

Show and tell: Joe Orman presented his sequence of planet-moon photos, and a collection of sunrise photos in Phoenix.

8:00 - 8:15 minute Break

Gordon Garradd from Australia gave a nice slide presentation of some southern sky astronomy photos plus some Australian storm photos.

8:40. Chris Schur, our main speaker for the night, gave a talk on tri-color photography. He showed various before and after photos of replacing the luminance channel of the color film photos with the finer resolution high-resolution b/w-film. He then showed more tri-color enhanced shots, and answered questions.

9:18 Meeting adjourned.

Grand Canyon Star Party (North Rim)

By Bill Dellinges

I attended the GCSP this year at the North Rim (I alternate each year between the south and north rims). As usual, Deloy and Karen Pierce of Salt Lake City anchored the event there, as they've done for many years. They stay the full 8 nights, work with the staff, monitor who's coming, present a slide show each night, and do a 3 hour solar observation session for the public. They should get a medal!

I brought my C8 and Miyauchi 20x100mm binoculars. The 2 nights I spelled for Deloy giving my slide show (to give him a well deserved break), I set up the binoculars only to save time. They were just as big a hit as my scope, affording great views of the crescent moon, M44, M7, M81/82, M24, etc. Folks commented on how nice it was to use two eyes and enjoy the big field (2.5 degrees). Deloy had his 10" and 13" Dobs going each night. We had on average 4-6 scopes a night, about normal for the North Rim event. Our visitors numbered around a hundred or so each evening and didn't seem to be bothered by the bit of light pollution we get out on the Lodge view point. I

took care of the worst lights by talking a hiker into climbing a wall like Spiderman to unscrew a light bulb, and I draped a blanket over a light post nearby while standing on a stool perched on a ledge, something I do there every visit (whew!).

The skies were clear the first 4 nights and at 8000 feet the stars were glorious. The 5th night it clouded up a bit-which was too bad because a guy named "Dale" from Idaho arrived with a 22" truss Dob (driven). I still managed to take a look through it between clouds at M17, 13, and NGC 6231. The objects looked impressive, but not as impressive as I expected for that size scope. I think a 17" or 20" would do as good of a job.

Other scopes there: a couple brought a Celestron 8" Starhopper. A fellow from Silver City had another 13" Dob. I recall a couple in the dark one night with 2 small scopes and another guy with a pair of binoculars on a tripod. That's about all I saw equipment-wise during my 5 nights there. Forest fires nearby closed the road to the popular Cape Royal viewpoint and trails. Only a couple of trails close to the Lodge were open (thank God! My wife was very limited therefore in getting me out hiking!).

We hit Lowell Observatory on the way back, I needed a replacement t-shirt of old Percival peering through the 24". After picking one up, we were only second in line to look through the great Clark refractor at M5-again; I was disappointed by a large aperture scope. It didn't look much better than in my C14-I don't know what the problem was (?). A Meade 8" SCT was set up nearby on the moon. I can tell you the moon does not look good when viewed through a tree! So I set up my Miyauchi's outside the visitor's center and gave the folks a look at the moon as they came out, they were quite pleased.

Well, that's about it! As always, my wife and I did not want to leave-we find the North Rim very tranquil.

First Light

By Martin Bonadio

I decided a few months ago that I needed a 3rd telescope. Why might you ask? (My friends and family said the same thing – don't worry I'll explain). I already own a 13.25" f/4.4 Dobsonian that I use for deep sky work, and a 10" LX-200 Schmidt-Cassegrain that I use for astro-photography and CCD (when time permits!!). But what I lacked was a smaller telescope that I could move easily, setup in the backyard

quickly, and make visual observations of planets, double stars, and other bright objects. Since this scope certainly has less aperture than the above, I wanted one with the best optics I could get, and so my quest for a 4" Apochromatic refractor began.

I finally settled on Televue's 101. It's an f/5.6 APO refractor with a 2" everbrite mirror diagonal, hard case, and 20mm plossl eyepiece. One nice feature is that it employs a dedicated focal reducer/field flattener to achieve the shorter focal length with only a 540mm focal length (a second doublet objective group). This makes it suitable for some deep sky work. The main benefit here is that its wide field of view potential (using a low power 2" eyepiece) makes it a "cluster killer". For example, full views of the North American nebula or the Pleiades are possible. I also purchased a 2.5x and 4x Powermate image enhancers, and a 9mm Nagler to compliment my collection. For a mount I went with the Televue Gibraltar Alt/AZ equipped with a Skyview digital setting circle computer. My main motivation for the computer is to have RA and DEC coordinates available as I move across the sky. But on nights where I'm lazy or have few stars to star hop with I can use the "guide" mode to point me to objects. This comes in handy when tracking down comets or faint fuzzies.

The scope arrived on a Friday, and immediately the sky clouded up! So on my first night with the scope I unpacked it, and got comfortable with the mount and computer. I was almost tempted to hang Xmas balls around the house in an attempt to star-test the optics, but finally got tired and went to bed. As Saturday evening arrived the wind ceased and the clouds were gone. The TV 101 came out for its first night! (Along with me).

My first target was the moon. No color! (Color refers to the amount of chromatic aberration that all refractors have – better optics often produces less of this effect) Absolutely beautiful! I pushed the magnification up past 300 using my 7mm Nagler and the Televue 4x Powermate. This proved to be a heavy attachment so a re-balance was needed. Needless to say I was able to see as much if not more detail, in extreme sharpness as I've ever seen in my larger scopes, and maybe even more as the view Rupes Recta (the sword) left me speechless! I bounced over to the "Davy" feature and the shadowing and contrast left a tear in my eye.

Next I targeted Vega. With no finder yet, I had to use my 35mm Panoptic 2", which produces a very wide field some 4 degrees across. Once centered, I

changed over to the 7mm Nagler and 4x Powermate again. To no surprise Vega came to a nice little round ball of blue light. No spikes, no coma, just wonderful. At over 300x I could discern a very minor diffraction ring. But there was no color at lesser magnifications. At this point I was excited, I knew I made the right decision for my needs.

Off to the Double-Double in Lyra - There it was in my 7mm Nagler with 2.5x Powermate and it split into 4 little round peas! Perfect! Who can ask for anything more? Then Antares. For the first time I was able to glimpse a green spec of light on the edge at about 245deg (from my angle). No split, because Antares is too bright compared to it's companion. But it was there no doubt that the companion existed - I was convinced that the APO was doing it's job. Now off to Alberio at the head of Cygnus (opposite of Deneb). It was beautiful at about 50x. The color contrast was better than I have ever experienced. More power ruined the view as the distance between the two stars made it harder to experience the green and orange. A little out-focus does help make it more obvious.

At that point I got brave, so I turned on the Skyview computer, and aligned it. At first it didn't work because I had the cables to the encoders on backwards. No problem, a simple fix solved that, and the unit was soon precisely pointing me at objects. I jumped around between M47, M4, M20, M8, M6, M6, M22, M13. All were visible despite a 1/2 full moon and a lot of surrounding sky glow.

At about 1am, I decided that was enough for one night and packed it in. I know one thing; I'll never go back to a standard barlow. The Televue Powermates 2.5x, 4x, and 5x are nothing short of miraculous, and the optics on the TV101 are equally wonderful. To push the magnification to over 60x per inch is astonishing. To do it with no image degradation is nothing short of a miracle. No telling what this scope can do from a dark sky. Here I come!! :-)) I'll have to spend some time with my other scopes soon too - otherwise they (and I'll) feel neglected. My next night out will be to spend more time looking over the moon, and once I get my finder I'll start working some closer doubles. As well, I'll have to get up before dawn one morning to see if I can spot comet Linear and the planets Jupiter and Saturn! Oh boy!

If it's clear...

By Fulton Wright, Jr.
Prescott Astronomy Club

Shamelessly stolen information from Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy magazine, and anywhere else I can find data. When gauging distances remember that the Moon is 1/2 a degree (or 30 arcminutes in diameter).

There is a chance this month to see a group of 3 fairly dim asteroids fly in formation close to some bright stars in Aries. Leading the pack is 12 Victoria (mag 11.3). About 3 degrees west of Victoria is 230 Athamantis (mag 11.7). About 2 1/2 degrees southwest of Victoria is 324 Bamberga (mag 10.6). Theoretically they should be visible in a 3-inch scope but you will be happier with a bigger one. They all move about 20 arcminutes east and a bit north each night. This area of the sky rises about midnight and twilight begins to interfere about 4 AM so the observing window is convenient only for real night owls. Here are some events:

July 16, Victoria is 7 arcminutes southeast of Gamma Arietis (double star, both mag 5, 8 arcseconds apart).

July 22, Bamberga is 35 arcminutes south of Gamma Arietis.

July 24, Athamantis is 3 1/2 arcminutes west of VV Arietis (a mag 7, slightly variable, star about a degree west-southwest of Beta Arietis (mag 2.5)).

July 27, Athamantis is 5 arcminutes northwest of Beta Arietis.

OTHER EVENTS:

On **Tuesday, July 4**, about 8:30 PM you can see the Moon near a star. With your unaided eye or binoculars look 20 degrees above the west horizon for Regulus (mag 1.5) and the crescent moon about 2 degrees apart.

On **Saturday, July 22**, about 10:00 PM might be a good time to look for comet Linear. With your unaided eye and binoculars look to the northwest, under the bowl of the big dipper, it might be visible to the unaided eye. See Sky & Telescope or Astronomy magazine for more details.

On **Sunday, July 23**, about 9 PM you can see another asteroid near a star. With a small telescope look 30 degrees above the west horizon for Delta

Virginis (mag 3.5). One degree below it is 37 Virginis (mag 6). Half a degree south (down and to the left) is the asteroid 1 Ceres (mag 9).

On **Tuesday, July 25**, at 3:20 AM you can see two of Jupiter's satellites very close together. With a small telescope look 20 degrees above the east horizon for Jupiter (mag -2). A few Jupiter diameters to the east are Io and Europa forming a 6 arcsecond "double star".

On **Thursday, July 27**, at about 4:40 AM you can see Mercury. With your unaided eye or binoculars look about 5 degrees above the east-northeast horizon for the mag 1 planet. It should be visible for a week or two around this date.

On **Thursday, July 27**, at about 9:30 PM you can see an asteroid pass between 2 stars. With a small telescope look 25 degrees above the southeast horizon for 52 Sagittarii (mag 4.5) and, 13 arcminutes to the northeast, 51 Sagittarii (mag 5.5). In between them will be 4 Vesta (mag 5.5). If you observe for an hour or two you should be able to notice that Vesta does not stay lined up with the two stars.

On **Sunday, July 30**, at about 11:00 PM you can see an asteroid lined up with some stars. With a small or medium telescope look 25 degrees above the southeast horizon for 24 Capricorni (mag 4.5). 5 arcminutes south of it will be 9 Metis (mag 9.5). Off to the east are two mag 10 stars in line with Metis.

Reflections on Riverside

By Silvio Jaconelli

The Memorial Day weekend was the occasion of the annual Riverside Telescope Makers Conference.

We had a fair representation of EVAC members – Tom Polakis, Chris and Dawn Schur, Tom Mozdzen, Rick Scott, Joe Goss and Gene Lucas; at some occasions it felt like the monthly EVAC meeting at SCC!

Tom Polakis and myself car pooled to the event, leaving Phoenix on Friday morning; the trip up was uneventful, but I do find that traveling on a long journey with someone else to talk to really makes the trip a whole lot easier! The trip took about 6 hours in total, which included a few rest stops on the way. The

climb up the mountain from the smog below was a real treat – I despair of what the automobile has done to the quality of air in the Los Angeles area.

Arriving at the campsite in the early evening, we pitched our tents beside Chris and Dawn's camper, and then I immediately went off to the swap meets that were taking place. This was followed by a star party where the attendees were able to look through some large scopes – and I mean large; the largest that I saw was a 36" dob – they do not come much bigger than that. The only downside is the 'Disneyland' nature of the viewing – you stand in line for up to 15 minutes for a peak that lasts some 15 seconds. Relative newcomers will enjoy looking through these scopes as they are usually pointed at the brighter more famous objects, while I have heard some comments from more experienced people that they would like to see the larger apertures pointed at some lesser known objects. We were also treated to an Iridium flare part way through the evening – this one was around magnitude -3, I believe. It was around midnight when we made our way back to the main hall for some hot chocolate and some discussions, before crashing in our tents in the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday morning consisted of a sunrise breakfast in the pines, observing the wildlife such as squirrels and birds. Then it was off to the swap meets again. By the time lunch rolled around, I had still managed to not spend any money! The afternoon was spent in the main hall listening to the various speakers that were in attendance. Over the course of the weekend, we heard talks from some of our own folks. We had Gene Lucas give a tribute to Pierre Schwaar, Tom Polakis talked on deep sky observing, Chris Schur talked on his new astro-photography techniques, and Rick Rotramel gave a talk on the history of Riverside. Quite a representation from the Phoenix contingent, I would say! By the way, Chris Schur will be the same presentation at our June EVAC meeting.

It was really hot, even at just under 8,000 feet. By Saturday night, the heat and the non-stop action of the day had me so tired out that I ended the evening's festivities at 11pm. And I still hadn't bought any stuff!

It was not until late Sunday morning that I finally broke down and bought an eyepiece, a red flashlight, an eyepiece adapter and a tripod; rats – I almost got through the weekend cash-unimpaired. I have tried out the eyepiece – a 2" 32mm Erfle from a military tank that cost me \$60. It looks terrible from a

cosmetic viewpoint, but it has a very wide field of view and the images look great! I am glad that I did not go through with my original plan to spend a small fortune on a more exotic eyepiece. I reckon that that one purchase alone paid for the entire trip!

It was depressing listening to comments about the record heat in Phoenix, knowing that we were soon to descend from the relative coolness of the mountain into the Phoenix inferno.

My overall reflections of RTMC? Well, it is a very pleasant change from the pressures and hassles of the valley. There is also the chance of looking at some of the better-known objects through some really large telescopes, and there are many bargains to pick up. Lumicon each year brings a large supply of cosmetically blemished filters at significant discounts, and there are a lot of amateur astronomers selling good quality superfluous equipment. Crazy Ed Optical had a stall – he has a limited supply of some decent gear at very attractive prices. And there was a lot of clothing, meteorites, fossils, etc for sale. But also be warned – there was also a lot of junk there, so ‘caveat emptor’. All in all, a very pleasant way to spend a weekend!

RTMC 2000 from a First-Timer's View

By Tom Mozdzen

From the first time I heard of this meeting many years ago, I've been intrigued and wanted to go. I had a mental image of a meeting of a small group of dedicated mirror grinders and optics designers who would gather and talk about their techniques, and the nighttime would be reserved for measuring the performance of their creations. Wrong! I was quite overwhelmed by the whole event. It is quite an event. What I found out was that RTMC has three equal components:

1. A star party
 - A normal group hidden off in a baseball field, but near a parking lot. A normal group means that they brought their own scopes and wanted to do some viewing at a dark site.
 - A group near the main vendor circle – which had a variety a scopes including vendor scopes, the newly built amateur

scopes which were submitted for judging, solar scopes during the day, and a 36 f/5 belonging to one of the vendors – this scope had the longest line of course.

- Small individual groups such as Al Nagler showing others the various effects upon the view using Televue eyepieces with the Pronto 101 refractor.
2. A giant swap meet
 - Commercial vendors
 - Lumicon filters for near half price!
 - Fossil and rock vendors
 - A toyshop with jewelry & T-shirts
 - Telescope firms, etc.
 - Private individuals selling parts, artwork, fossils, books, etc.
 3. A series of talks on various topics – a small fraction of them about mirror making.
 - The talks started at 9am and usually ran until 9pm with breaks for lunch and dinner.
 - I cannot fail to mention that there was a telescope-judging event, where newly built scopes were submitted for evaluation and they would receive a rating.

RTMC is about 375mi from Chandler, AZ. with the last 50mi being a scenic climb to the meeting site. Since I purchased a camping permit, I was expecting to find a camping site like those found in AZ – a loop drive with designated campsites. However, when I got there (5pm on Friday), it was more or less like a parking lot free for all where you would park wherever it looked like you weren't going to block traffic. Being new to the area, I had no idea where I was going. There were many trees, so each parking spot had at least a little room for a tent. I eventually found a spot that turned out to be fairly centrally located.

I was overjoyed to find out on the second day that there was actually a swimming pool on site, but more importantly that there were showers in the changing rooms! After talking with some experienced EVAC members, this is actually where they set up camp – a wise tip.

By day, it gets very warm, even hot. At night I was wearing ski bibs and a hat, as the high elevation gets very cold – mid 40s.

There is a snack bar with a grill that can easily provide for all three meals of the day. Others had pre-purchased a meal pass, which allowed you to get into

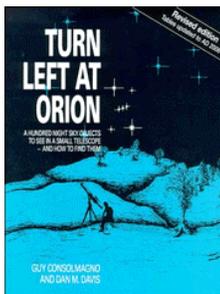
a massive food line to get a more balanced meal. The only problem with the snack bar was finding a shaded spot to sit. With all of this activity, it was hard to decide how to spend my time. My time was about equally divided between talking about astronomy related topics with fellow RTMCers, attending select talks, and shopping at the various booths.

The number of first time star party attendees surprised me. The type of questions asked, the number of car headlights shining on telescopes, and the number of bright red flashlights going directly into my eyeballs evidenced this. The sky was pretty dark for being so close to Los Angeles – no complaints there. I would classify the star party as more of a public star party than a “club” star party. I brought my 6” telescope and am glad I didn’t bring the bigger one, as the site was very crowded and there was simply too much to see to be trying to do any serious observing. The Conference officially runs from Friday 9am to Monday, but many people were packing it up on Sunday morning. If you haven’t gone before, I’d definitely recommend it. Leave your scope at home, save money by camping instead of getting an overpriced hotel room, and use that saved money to buy loads of stuff at the swap meet.

Library Focus

by Joe Orman

This month I will review: ***Turn Left At Orion*** by Guy Consolmagno and Dan M. Davis. (EVAC members will remember Consolmagno's talk on Antarctic meteorite hunting at the February 1997 meeting.)



As any telescope owner knows, the path to satisfying observing can be filled with potholes, detours and wrong turns. Sometimes that first step is the hardest -- getting the telescope out of the closet and setting it up. Then, pointing it in the right direction can be frustrating. And once we do find our way to a deep-sky object, we are often disappointed that it doesn't really look like a Hubble Space

Telescope photo! This book, subtitled "A Hundred Night Sky Objects To See In A Small Telescope -- And How To Find Them" is intended to guide us past these hazards. For the purposes of this book, a "small" telescope is defined as anything with an aperture of 6 to 10 centimeters (2.4 to 4 inches).

The authors recommend frequent, easy journeys -- keeping our telescope handy and doing as much observing from our backyard as we can. Next, they lead us through the basics of setting up a telescope. Then, we are ready to depart on our tour of the night sky. First, we are given some pointers on observing the moon and planets. But the bulk of this guidebook is devoted to the authors' favorite deep-sky objects, organized in four sections -- one for each season. A simple roadmap of each season's sky helps us get our bearings. Our path to each object starts with a simple star-hop from a bright star or constellation (as the title implies), and then a finder-scope view lets us know we're in the right neighborhood. Finally, a sketch of the object as it should appear in our eyepiece confirms that we've arrived at our destination, and a brief description tells us what we're looking at.

Each deep-sky attraction is rated by the authors on a scale of one to four. We may not agree with all the ratings (the open clusters M6 and M7 in Scorpius are rated only a 3, while the double star Albireo in Cygnus earns the full four!), but overall they are useful shortcuts to the night sky's major attractions. And those of us who attended Jeff Medkeff's talk at the May EVAC meeting will wonder if the authors are steering us wrong with the following statement:

"For small telescopes, five or ten minutes is plenty of time to cool things off, even if it's cold out; less time is needed in the summer."

But on the whole, the guidance given here is practical in the best sense -- simple advice that we not only **can** use but also **will** use! This book can turn a stargazing session into a delightful stroll through the sky ... one any owner of a small telescope will want to take again and again.

This and many other books may be checked out free of charge to EVAC members. Browse the books at the next meeting, or contact club properties manager Rick Scott at rmscott@home.com or (480) 821-5721.



East Valley Astronomy Club

Membership Form

Please complete the information requested. Return at the next club meeting or to the address below, with a check made payable to EVAC for the appropriate amount due. **IMPORTANT:** Please note that ALL memberships expire on December 31 of each year.

1. Check one of the following: New Member Renewal

2. Select appropriate dues options:

Send To:

New Member select month joining:

- \$20.00 January - March
- \$15.00 April - June
- \$10.00 July - September
- \$ 5.00 October - December

Dee Ann Zacher
EVAC Treasurer
P.O. Box 2202
Mesa, Arizona 85214-2202

Member Renewals (current Members ONLY!)

- \$20.00 Annual Renewal (January - December)

Magazines: Provide renewals notices with payment.

- \$29.00 Astronomy Magazine
- \$30.00 Sky & Telescope

Name Badges

- \$7.00 Each

_____ **Total Enclosed**

3. Complete requested information below. Please Print.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

URL: _____

4. Newsletter delivery option: U.S. Mail E-mail

EVAC on the Internet

EVAC Homepage: www.eastvalleyastronomy.org

E-mail Mailing Lists

EVAC-mls is a mailing list for club announcements and quick notification of astronomical events.

To join, send E-mail with the "Subject: subscribe" to EVAC-mls-request@psiaz.com

EVAC-Board is for EVAC business. All club members are welcome to participate.

To join, send E-mail with the "Subject: subscribe" to EVAC-Board-request@psiaz.com

AZ-Observing is a fairly general mailing list about observing in Arizona. Included are star party information, who is going, as well as the latest observations and astronomical events.

To join, send E-mail with the "Subject: subscribe" to AZ-Observing-request@psiaz.com

Although EVAC is a private club not open to the public, we do encourage potential new members to initially join us at our club meetings and/or star parties to help them determine the suitability of the club to meet their needs.

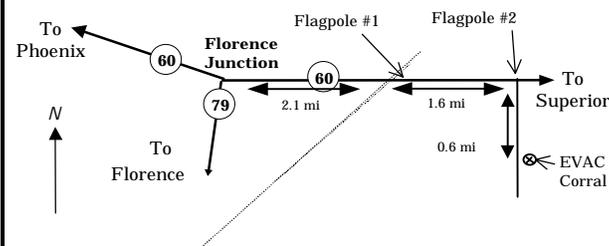
EVAC Star Parties

Local Star Party: Florence Junction Site

General Information: The Florence Junction site is the official site for the East Valley Astronomy Club's Local Star Party, typically held on the Saturday closest to Last Quarter Moon. Florence Junction offers reasonably dark skies within a short drive of most east Valley locations. (Report gunfire or illegal activity: 800/352-3796; Land use permit number: 26-104528.)

Location: N 33° 14' 40" W 111° 20' 16"

How To Get There: Take US 60 east to Florence Junction. Go past Florence Junction. 2.1 mi past FJ are railroad tracks, and on the right will be a flagpole. Do not turn there. Continue on for another 1.6 miles until you find the second flagpole on the right. This is your turn. Turn right, and continue on the dirt road for 0.6 miles. The corral is on the left right before a gas-line sign.

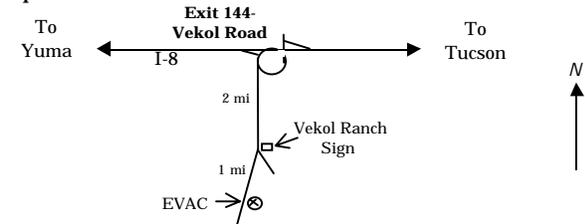


Deep Sky Star Party: Vekol Road Site

General Information: The Vekol Road site is the official site for the East Valley Astronomy Club's Deep Sky Star Party, typically held on the Saturday closest to New Moon. Vekol Road offers dark skies despite prominent sky glow from Phoenix to the north. The site is within 1½ hours drive time from most east Valley locations.

Location: N 32° 47' 55" W 112° 15' 15"

How to Get There: Take I-10 south and exit onto Maricopa Road. Continue through the town of Maricopa to SR 84, about 25 miles from I-10. Turn right on SR 84, after about 5 miles the road merges with I-8. Continue west and exit I-8 at Vekol Road—Exit 144. Turn left and cross the highway overpass. Before looping back onto I-8 take the dirt road to the left. Go south for 2 miles. At the Vekol Ranch sign bear right and continue south for another mile until reaching a large, open area on the left.



<p><u>EVAC Officers</u></p> <p>PRESIDENT Silvio Jaconelli (480) 926-8529</p> <p>VICE-PRESIDENT Chuck Crawford (480) 735-8042</p> <p>TREASURER Dee Ann Zacher (480) 545-8769</p> <p>SECRETARY Tom Mozdzen (480) 497-5703</p> <p>PROPERTIES Rick Scott (480) 821-5721</p>	<p>East Valley Astronomy Club—2000 Scottsdale, Arizona EVAC Homepage—http://www.eastvalleyastronomy.org</p> <p>Membership & Subscriptions: \$20 per year, renewed in December. Reduced rates to <i>Sky & Telescope</i> and <i>Astronomy</i> available. Contact Dee Ann Zacher. Email—dazacher@uswest.net</p> <p>Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of every month at the Scottsdale Community College, 7:30 pm. Normally Room PS 170 or 172 in the Physical Sciences Building. See map below.</p> <p>Newsletter and Address Changes: Contact Martin Bonadio 921 North Kingston Street, Gilbert, AZ 85233, 480/926-4900. mabastro@aol.com. Contributions may be edited. The Newsletter is mailed out the week before the monthly Club meeting. An electronic version available in Adobe PDF format in lieu of a printed copy. Please contact Martin with delivery your preferences.</p> <p>EVAC Library: The library contains a good assortment of books, downloaded imagery, and helpful guides. Contact Rick Scott for complete details, 480-821-5721</p> <p>Book Discounts: Great savings through Kalmbach and Sky Publishing. Contact Dee Ann Zacher, club treasurer.</p> <p>EVAC Party Line: Let other members know in advance if you plan to attend a scheduled observing session. Contact Stan Ferris, 480/831-7307.</p> <div data-bbox="974 693 1494 924"> <p>The map shows the layout of Scottsdale Community College. Loop 101 runs vertically on the left. Chaparral Road runs horizontally across the middle. Pima Road runs vertically on the right. The Behavioral Bldg is located between Loop 101 and Chaparral Road. The EVAC meeting room (PS 170 or 172) is located north of the Behavioral Bldg. The 1st Entrance is on Chaparral Road between Loop 101 and the Behavioral Bldg. The 2nd Entrance is on Chaparral Road between the Behavioral Bldg and Pima Road. A Parking area is located north of the 2nd Entrance. A north arrow points upwards. A note at the bottom right of the map area says 'Map is not to scale!'.</p> </div>
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Martin Bonadio, Editor
921 North Kingston St. Gilbert, AZ 85233

Contents:

- President's Comments
- From the Vice President
- EVAC Meeting Minutes
- Grand Canyon Star Party (North Rim)
- First Light
- If It's Clear
- Reflections on Riverside
- RTMC From a First-Timers View
- Library Focus

Reminder: Next EVAC Meeting
Wednesday, July 12th 2000