
Desert Sky Observer

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NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC
P.O. BOX 4595, LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93539-4595

*The Antelope Valley Astronomy Club Is A California Non Profit Corporation
Visit The Antelope Valley Astronomy Club Web Site At www.avac.av.org
The A.V.A.C. Is A Sustaining Member Of The Astronomical League*



Up-Coming Events

September 2: Full Moon at 21h 43m UT.

September 10: Last Quarter Moon at 19h 00m UT.

September 14: Monthly meeting, held at the S.A.G.E. Planetarium at the Cactus School in Palmdale. The meeting location is at the northeast corner of Avenue R and 20th Street East. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. Please note that food and drink are not allowed in the planetarium. Monthly A.V.A.C. meetings are open to the public.

September 17: New Moon at 10h 27m UT.

September 24: First Quarter Moon at 9h 31m UT.

October 12: Monthly Club meeting and Annual Elections.

Anytime: Observe.

President's Report

Doug Drake, Sr.

Welcome, all of you, we are having a good year for observing our universe. Earlier this year we watched Mars move left to right into Scorpio, June and July, and now Mars has moved out of Scorpio and we will be watching Mars move right to left and through the top of Sagittarius, the teapot. Mars looked like it was moving backward (left to right) when it moved into Scorpio, but now moving in the Easterly direction (right to left) as the planets of our Solar system move. Did Mars really move backwards earlier in the year? No not really.

The celestial movements we see from our home, Earth, are not always what they really seem to be. For what you see is an apparent movement; that

is, what looks real but may not be real. Now what a mystery this is; that's how the early astronomers seen it, a mystery. You and I share this mystery today, except the astronomers of long ago found that our home (Earth, and all the other planets) does, indeed, go around the Sun and not every thing going around us (Earth.) So what we see is really a visual inter-movement of things. Like when you are in a car and passing a bicycle, you could say that the bicycle is moving backwards; that is, as far as you visual inter-movement thinks. But as you and I really know, the bicycle is really moving forward. And that, my friends, is what will really happen when Earth passed Mars, just like the bicycle.

Our annual club meeting shall be held in October and we will review our Constitution and By-Laws, membership dues and conduct reelection of Board Officers, the new officers shall take effect at the January meeting. We will have the nominations for reelection during our next meeting, 14 September.

Vice-President's Report

Terry Pedroza

The annual meeting and club elections are rapidly approaching. Have you considered running for a club office? The rewards are many and the trials few. Yes it can be a lot of work at times, but worth every minute. The first time you see a child's eyes light up or hear there parent squeal in delight at their first view of Saturn or the Orion Nebula you'll know exactly what I mean. I have so enjoyed seeing peoples faces light up after looking thru one of our Telescopes. That is a high that I wish upon everyone!

We are still waiting for a confirmation for this month's speaker. I will mail everyone when it is confirmed. I hope everyone enjoyed last month's question and answer session. This may become an annual event. If anyone would like to give a presentation in 2002 please let myself know.

Our dark sky star party will be at Mount Pinos on September 15th. Please remember that you need a Forest Adventure Pass. This may be our last chance in 2001 to view at Mount Pinos without freezing our butts off. Soooooooo don't miss out!!!! See you at the meeting.

Member-At-Large Report

Errol Van Horne

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Liaison

A quick look at the calendar prepared by our Vice President, Terry Pedroza, shows there are several community events we will be participating in during the next few months. The Aerospace Walk Of Honor is a mid-day event to be held on September 22 that will leave plenty of time for those who participate to still enjoy the club picnic at Crystallaire Country Club. In October we are looking at the Fall Festival in Palmdale as an opportunity to introduce the community to astronomy on the 13th and 14th as is the dedication of the Prime Desert Woodlands nature preserve the following weekend on October 20th. These are strictly tentative at this point and I will get more information to you as things go together and I send out the request for commitments to man our displays. All of these events enable us to interact with our communities, gain new members and obtain funding for our youth projects and club equipment through opportunity drawings. Please support them fully, our children and our neighbors are the beneficiaries of your efforts.

Desert Sky Observer **Antelope Valley Astronomy Club** **Members – Telescopes For Sale**

For Sale: Celestron C-8 Powerstar PEC with Byers Worm Gear Drive

Included are:

- Celestron tripod and polar wedge with spreader and vibration suppression pads
- 9V internal power and exterior 12v cigarette lighter cord and plug
- Hand controller with Motodec and Motofocus motors
- Hard case for telescope
- Original Operating manual
- Tuthill Polar Alignment Scope
- 1 ¼" visual back, star diagonal, 30mm Ultima eyepiece, and a 2X Barlow
- Celestron f/6.3 Reducer/Corrector
- 6x30 optical finder
- Telrad reflex finder
- Orion dovetail balancing system with weights
- Losmandy Dovetail Mounting Plate with 90mm rings for guide scope or Richfield observing/finder scope
- 80mm Orion "Big Eye" Richfield observing/finder scope with 25mm Plain and 25mm crosshair eyepieces. Included is a "normal mirror reversed" star diagonal and an Edmond 90 degree "correct" image Amici diagonal
- Thousand Oaks 8" solar filter
- Celestron Microguide eyepiece / Meade 12MM Illuminated Cross Hair Eyepiece / Rigel Systems Pulse Guide
- Olympus OM1 camera, factory serviced two years ago with T Mount and 50MM lens.
- KwikFocus 8" focusing aid for astrophotography
- Lumicon Easy Guider
- Spectra radial off axis guider
- Orion "piggy back" Camera mount
- Orion Dew Shield
- Orion 110v Dew Zapper

If you are interested in astrophotography, this is everything you need and then some. The optics in this scope are superb and several of the photos shown on the club web site (www.avac.av.org) were taken with it. If you were to assemble these items new you would invest over \$4700.00. Everything comes as a package at \$2500.00. Also, scope is AstroMaster ready. Contact Errol Van Horne (661) 943-8454 before 9:00 pm.

For Sale: Celestron CD-150HD – 6” Refractor with Motor Drive. \$525
Great Scope! Contact Holland Fountain at (661) 942-3505 with additional questions.

A.V.A.C. Membership Information

Membership in the Antelope Valley Astronomy Club is open to any individual.

The Club has three categories of membership.

- Family membership at \$25.00 per year.
- Individual membership at \$20.00 per year.
- Junior membership at \$15.00 per year.

Membership entitles you to...

- Desert Sky Observer—monthly newsletter.
- The Reflector—the quarterly publication of the Astronomical League.
- The A.V.A.C. Membership Manual.
- To borrow club telescopes, binoculars, camera, books and other items.

The Desert Sky Observer is available as a separate publication to individuals at a cost of \$10.00 per year. Subscription to the Desert Sky Observer does not entitle the subscriber to membership in the Antelope Valley Astronomy Club and its associated privileges.

Desert Sky Observer

Humor



Henry never knew what hit him.



"Blast! The controls are jammed! . . . We're headed straight for Mr. Sun!"

A.V.A.C. Board Members

President: Doug Drake (661) 266-2202 -
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Vice-President: Terry Pedroza (661) 949-6975 -
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Treasurer: Steve Trotta (661) 269-5428 -
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Member At Large: Errol Van Horne (661) 943-8454 -
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

Tom Koonce (661) 943-8200 - takoonce@aol.com

Our Sponsors

Al's Vacuum and Sewing: 904 West Lancaster Blvd. They can be reached at (661) 948-1521. Stop by and say hi to Matthew and Suzanne.

Darkrooms Plus: 20 St. W. near Pep Boys in Lancaster. They can be reached at (661) 945-1444. Darkrooms Plus offers all club members a 10% discount on all purchases. Stop by and say hi to Dean or Hank.

King Photo: 749 W. Lancaster Blvd. They can be reached at (661) 948-8441. As a telescope dealer, they always support the AVAC. Stop by and say hi to Stokely or Paul.

QNET: 1529 E. Palmdale Blvd., Suite 200. They can be reached at (661) 538-2028. As an Internet provider, they are kind enough to provide us with a free website.

Vista Golf: 43517 N. 13th Street West, Lancaster. They can be reached at (661) 945-7003. Thanks for your generous support.



Antelope Valley Astronomy Club, Inc.

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Monthly Meeting: September 14.