
Desert Sky Observer

Volume 21 Issue 10

October 2001



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

October 2: Full Moon at 13h 49m UT.

October 10: Last Quarter Moon at 4h 20m UT.

October 12: Annual Business Meeting and Annual Elections, 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.

October 13: "Super Science Saturday" at Joe Walker Middle School.

October 16: New Moon at 19h 23m UT.

October 20: Prime Desert Woodlands, Community Star Party.

October 24: First Quarter Moon at 2h 58m UT.

November 9: Monthly Club meeting.

Anytime: Observe.

President's Report

Doug Drake, Sr.

Hi everybody, welcome to your newsletter, the DSO. Our editor and staff does indeed do a good job of faithfully getting this DSO to you. This October 20-21 the Orionid meteor shower will be here and we will hold a star party at the Poppy Fields to view this meteor shower. Up to 10 or 15 swift meteors might be seen each hour.

Our club Christmas dinner will be, Saturday, 15 December at 7:00PM. I will provide details for this event as we approach December.

October 12, Friday, will be our business club meeting and a very important one to be at. You should be there because we shall conduct a number of important issues that have direct effect on your membership. We will have final nominations, and then voting, for our new 2002 club board members. I encourage you to join in and be part of the action and help direct the course of your club. And as important, we will be voting on proposed changes to our club Constitution and By-Laws. And, we will be voting on next years membership dues that help pay for quality attributes such as:

1. The club Library/Equipment (telescopes, eyepieces, astrophotography equipment, books, videos and load of other good stuff).
2. The members guide book (loaded with astronomy info, Albedo to Zodiac).
3. Planetarium software disk.
4. Outside lecture presentations at club meeting.
5. Club annual summer picnic.
6. Club post office box.
7. And, the very newsletter you're reading (DSO).

Vice-President's Report

Terry Pedroza

It's October and you all know what that means!! It's time for the AVAC yearly business meeting and elections. We have many items on the agenda this year to make our club even better than it has been! If that's possible. If anyone is

interested in running for an office, speak up now or be left out....

We are doing many things out in the community now; that, we could not do in earlier times. We are becoming a sought after club in the Antelope Valley and I think that is something we can all be proud of. We have done the "Youth Exploring Astronomy" essay contest, the Poppy Festival, numerous school functions and the like. The city of Lancaster has called us to be involved in some of this year's events. These are things that take people to coordinate and manpower; that in years gone by, we (as a smaller club) could not do. I urge all of you to become involved in these community projects as the rewards will warm your heart and soothe your soul. As I have said before" there is nothing better than hearing the "Wow" of someone seeing Saturn for the first time or one of the many beautiful night sky objects! I hope to see you all at the next community event.

Secretary's Report

Tom Koonce

Minutes of the A. V. A. C. Regular Club Meeting

September 14, 2001

Call To Order:

Doug Drake, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Doug welcomed visitors and our newest members.

Doug read the duties of each office and several nominations for Club Officers were made. Doug announced that nominations will remain open right up to the election, and the following individuals will be running for office at the annual October Business Meeting:

President: Terry Pedroza
VP: Matt Leone
Secretary: Brian Peterson
Treasurer: Mary Andrus
Member-at-Large: Debora Pedroza

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Treasurer's Report:

Steve Trotta, Club Treasurer, announced that the Club treasury balance now stands at \$847.65.

Secretary's Report:

Tom Koonce announced upcoming astronomical observation opportunities.

As Astronomical League Coordinator, Tom presented **Matt Leone** and **Bill Ellison** their Honorary Messier Certificates. **Dave Allen**, who couldn't make this month's meeting, will be awarded his certificate at the next meeting. These members are the first three in the AVAC to have observed and documented ALL of the Messier objects. In addition, **Brian Peterson** and **Steve Trotta** were awarded their Messier Certificates for having observed in excess of 70 Messier objects, as required by the Astronomical League. Congratulations!

New Business:

Errol Van Horne discussed the upcoming Aerospace Walk of Honor and Club Picnic at Crystalair Country Club on September 22.

Break: 7:30 pm

Presentation: 7:45 pm

After a short moment of silence in honor of the victims of the recent terrorist acts, our presentation for the meeting was, "Astronomy Essentials," by **Tom Koonce**, a list of twenty things that should be understood by all those interested in amateur astronomy.

Jeremy Amarant, S.A.G.E. Planetarium Director, gave a 10-minute "Star Talk" using the planetarium to guide members through many constellations around near the constellation Cassiopeia, and he and several members had a fun time trying to pick out the constellation Cepheus from among the dense stars of the Milky Way. It's refreshing to see that even the experts have a tough time when scanning through the millions of stars in this area!

Close of Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm. Minutes written and respectively submitted to the Executive Board, September 23, 2001

Member-At-Large Report

Errol Van Horne

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Liaison

The City Of Lancaster, Aero Space Walk of Honor, was a great success both for the community and for our club. We had many people stop to observe the sun through our scopes and a good deal of interest from possible future members. Best of all, several hundred children got a great introduction to astronomy and the sciences. Special thanks to **Debora** and **Terry Pedroza**, **Doug Drake**, **Mary Andrus**, **Judy Gordon**, **Sharron Dalton**, **Dave Allen**, **Bill Ellison** who although packing for his return to England still came out to support the club and **Matt Leone** and his son **Matt Jr.** who manned the 16 inch scope while Dad worked at his shop, and his other son **Michael** who entertained us with his magical disappearing feats throughout the day. It was a hot day but well worth the effort.

Get ready for "Super Science Saturday" at Joe Walker Middle School on October 13 and Prime Desert Woodlands on October 20, I will start putting the schedules together next week. Please try to find time to come out for at least one of these events. Joe Walker is a major opportunity to introduce youngsters to Astronomy and Prime Desert Woodlands is an environmental effort that benefits the entire Antelope Valley.

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.

Desert Sky Observer

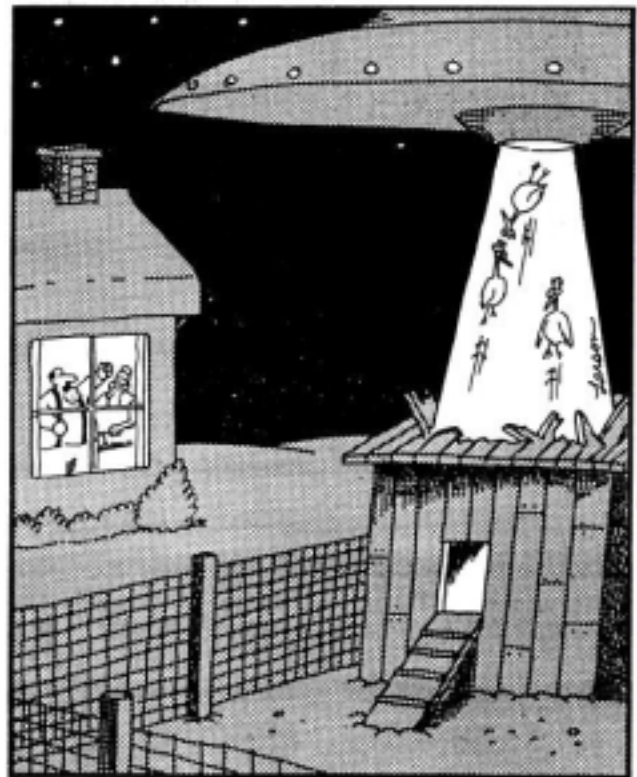
- The Reflector—the quarterly publication of the Astronomical League.
- The A.V.A.C. Membership Manual.
- To borrow club telescopes, binoculars, camera, books, videos and other items.

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.

For Sale

Celestron CD-150HD – 6" Refractor with Motor Drive. (Just Reduced \$100!)
\$425 Contact Holland Fountain at (661) 942-3505 with additional questions.

Humor



"Dang! Get my shotgun, Mamal The aliens are after the chickens again."

A.V.A.C. Board Members

President: Doug Drake (661) 266-2202 -
ddrake@hughes.net

Vice-President: Terry Pedroza (661) 949-6975 -
res0hqoz@verizon.net

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

Treasurer: Steve Trotta (661) 269-5428 -
sstrott@prodigy.net

Member At Large: Errol Van Horne (661) 943-8454 -
ejvan@hughes.net

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Errol Van Horne (661) 943 8454 - ejvan@hughes.net

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Frederick N. Ley (661) 727-1060 - fnley@qnet.com

Steve Trotta (661) 269-5428 - sstrott@prodigy.net

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

John Eakin (661) 946-0444 john.eakin@warnerbros.com

Steve Trotta (661) 269-5428 - sstrott@prodigy.net

CLUB LIBRARIAN

Terry Pedroza (661) 949-6975 - res0hqoz@verizon.net

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.

P.O. Box 4595

Lancaster, CA 93539-4595

e-mail: info@avac.av.org

website: www.avac.av.org

A.V.A.C. Monthly Meeting: October 12.

"Super Science Saturday" at Joe Walker Middle School: October 13.

"Super Science Saturday" at Prime Desert Woodlands: October 20.

**CLUB ELECTIONS AT
THIS MONTH'S MEETING -
COME AND VOTE**