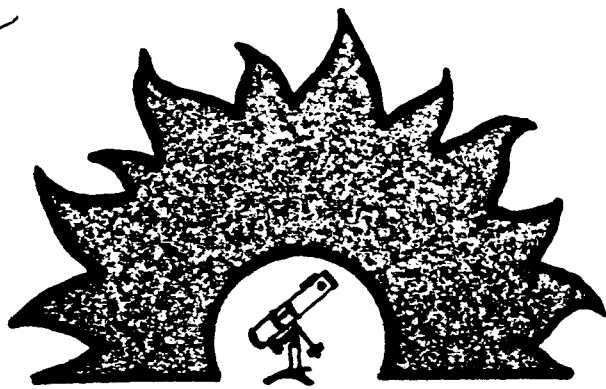




NOVEMBER

1988

PASTIMES

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY -- FOUNDED 1948

Our meeting this month will be held in our NEW room, A-126, which we will occupy for the entirety of this year. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, Friday the 18th of November. Dan Brocius from the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, a branch of the Smithsonian Institute, will be giving a presentation titled, "The Multiple Mirror Telescope- Past, Present and Future Plans and Development". Dan Brocius always delivers a splendid presentation filled with interesting information and slides. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

I regret to say that October's 'Mars Watch II' was canceled due to a sticky situation in the parking lot- mud!

October's meeting was truly interesting as Burt Griffen entertained and informed us of the various theories of how the dinosaurs became extinct- or did they?

ATTENTION: Wednesday the 23rd of November, a guided tour of the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory will be conducted with reservations for members and families of the Phoenix Astronomical Society. Individuals and carpools will meet at Amado, Arizona at 9:00 AM where a 30 minute video will be given. A bus then takes visitors up the mountain at 9:30 AM, returning them at 3:30 in the afternoon. It is a good idea to pack lunch, as there are only vending machines at the observatory. Hats, sunglasses, and warmer clothing are in order as the mountain is usually 15-20 degrees cooler than the valley.

If interested, please call Dick Wasson or Kai Staats ASAP, as our reserved seats may fill up fast. If interested in car-pooling, please notify Dick or Kai and the telephone numbers of others interested may be given to you.

"Hope to see you there!"

Special Meeting: The Multiple Mirror Telescope

We are fortunate to reside in an area so close to the great telescopes of the world. The Smithsonian University of Arizona Multiple Mirror Telescope is one of the most innovative of the new telescopes. It is located atop Mt. Hopkins at the Fred Lawrence Whipple observatory in Amado, Arizona, forty miles south of Tucson.

On November 18th we will be honored to have Dr. Dan Brocius give his reflections (pun intended) of this great telescope of now and of the future. Dr. Brocius' presentation will include a superb verbal presentation along with a series of slides.

The MMT uses six 1.8 meter mirrors working together to provide light gathering power equivalent to a 4.5 meter mirror. The six images from the mirrors are brought to a common focus by a mirror system. The coalignment of the six optical systems is maintained by an active laser and computer system which continually moves the secondary mirror to maintain alignment. It quickly demonstrated its capabilities by producing interesting discoveries about stars and quasars.

The Multiple Mirror Telescope is clearly the first of a generation of multiple mirror telescope systems that may approach the light gathering power of a 25 meter telescope. These telescopes will probably be able to sense the distortion in the light waves from celestial objects caused by the Earth's atmosphere. The various mirrors may be moved relative to one another to correct for the distortion. In such a system, very high-resolution imaging will be possible.

* * *

We look forward to having all members, friends and visitors attend this special event!

Dr. Brocius will invite our members and their family to visit this great telescope on a guided tour. For those who wish to attend, contact Dick Wasson or Kai Staats for details.

by Harold Moorin

Lunar Laughs!

"Why did the moon-to-planet shuttle captain change jobs?"

(Her work made her cross all the time! "...pretty bad- huh")

"What heavenly body has lots of dimes and nickels?"

(The moon, it is always changing quarters! "-never mind.")

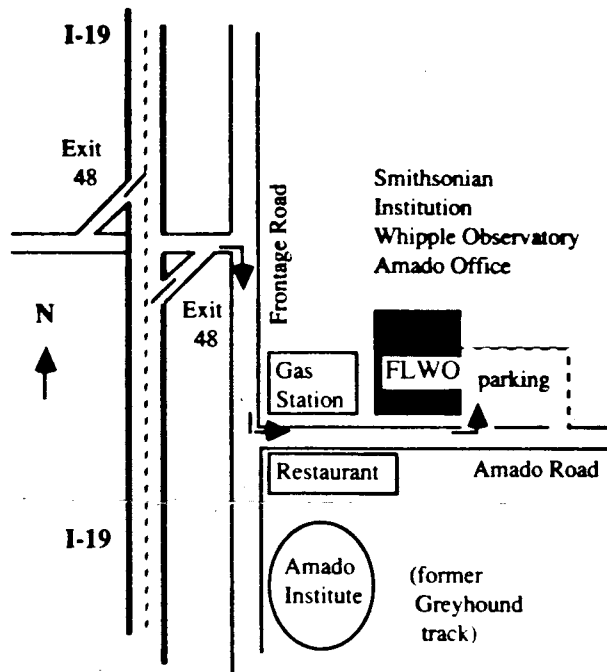
Notes from our Editor

If ANYONE, ANYwhere in ANY corner of the galaxy has something to say that will interest the members of the Phoenix Astronomical Society, well MY STARS! it had better be said. And that goes DOUBLE for astronomy related advertisements, jokes, or copies of photos that may be submitted to PASTimes. Just beam it on over to Kai Staats, the editor at LARGE!

Tour Rates

Adults	\$ 5.00
Smithsonian Associates (w/membership card)	\$ 4.50
Children (ages 6-12)	\$ 2.50

Detail map of Amado, Arizona
(not to scale)



FOR SALE: 9" Maksutov telescope
(similar to Celestron)
chain drive

"Beautiful condition!"

\$ 950.00

call Ted Paoloni

493-8049

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Director	Trevor Tuffin	948-3126
Director	Dick Wasson	279-0384

Dues are Due!

I have displayed this section of the PASTimes with creativity and with humor. I have attempted to make it appear less like a drill sergeant yelling at his troops and more like a pleasant reminder. But now- it's the end of the rope, the end of the line, the end of the universe as we know it, if those dues are not submitted pretty darned soon. Sky & Telescope will give us until the end of this month to have them in. If any are submitted after December, they may be so misfortunate as to miss one or more issues of Sky & Telescope. Sorry to use so much force, troops.

CLIP AND MAIL NOW WITH YOUR 1988 MEMBERSHIP DUES!

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Membership Dues/Enrollment Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____

Telescope Size _____ Type _____

Membership Type:

Individual \$25 ☐ Sustaining \$30 ☐

Family \$27 ☐ Non Sky & Telescope \$15 ☐

Please make check payable to Phoenix Astronomical Society

Keith Parizek
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