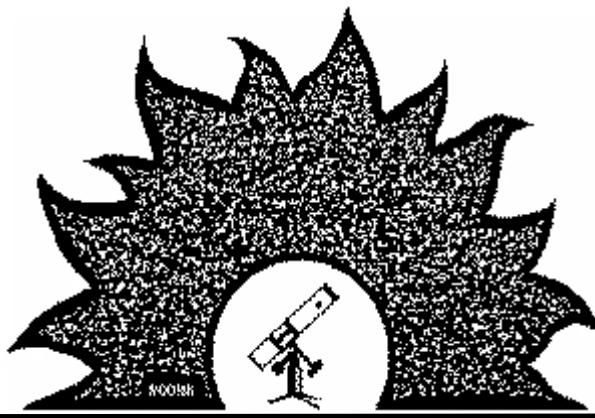




PAStimes

Phoenix Astronomical Society
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PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY — ESTABLISHED 1948

March one meeting to Feature Don Garnett

By Don

Dr. Garnett will be speaking at our March First meeting on the topic of "A Close Up Look at Our Neighbor Galaxy M33 With the Hubble Space Telescope." Garnett is Assistant Astronomer at the University of Arizona in Tucson..

Garnett had an article published in the Astrophysical Journal titled "The Metallicity-Luminosity

Relation, Effective Yields, and Metal Loss in Spiral and Irregular Galaxies" in 2002.

As always the meeting starts at 7:00 with a half hour of socializing. The meeting proper starts at 7:30 with announcements followed by the main lecture till about 9:00. The PVCC library closes at 9:30 and we usually meet in the astronomy lab room till 10:00 or so.

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PAS Social Was a Great Party

By Terri, Prez

The PAS Social happened on Jan 27th this year. If you missed this party, you missed a party of a life time! THIS WAS IT! This is the event you don't ever want to miss all year long!

The party started at 5pm, but a few folks came early to set up. Thanks goes to Bruce, Bette, Ed Wurst, Rod & Sue Sutter, William, Matt, Don and everyone else who showed up prior to the start of the party for assisting in the set up. Bruce set up the Dart area and did an awesome job. Bette and Sue worked on the Food table to get it nicely organized. Thanks goes to the Hall for having us there and supplying many things that night including the table cloths.

After the festivities got under way, we let everyone munch the food. Wow, there was some awesome food. The lasagna was terrific and made by Scotty Hartman. It disappeared almost instantly. There was more food than people to eat it all. That is the way to have a party! Thanks to everyone

who brought food and drink to share. You made this party a great success.

Then, once Frank was done munching, he helped by running the Dart board game with his dad, Sam. Together they made the game go very smooth and quickly. Rod found a P.A. system and was able to get Sam some volume to call the next player. We had 2 dart boards going at the same time, for speed. Here are the results of the game. We played Around the Clock. You have to hit #1, then #2, etc. So, The score ended this way. Terri 4, Bette 6, Bruce 18, William 5, Ed W. 8, Carol 7, Rod 18, Jerry 10, Mike 7, Chris 2, Don 6, Sonny 9, Sam 1. The winners were given some prizes donated by Jerry Belcher and Ed Rosenthal. 1st place was Rod after a play off with Bruce. For the playoff, they had to hit the highest number. Bruce got a 1 and Rod got a 2. That was close. Third place was Jerry. So, Jerry took Ed's donated prize, and Rod and Bruce took Jerry's donated prizes. And we awarded one dart board and a set of darts of their choice to the last place, Sam. He

took his choice.

We then had the fun time of the White Dwarf Gift Exchange. The game was so funny and we all had a good time. The items that were fought over the most was a long tube that was eventually won by Bruce. A pretty package, small that was won by Bette, and the suit case won by Terri. Here are the items that were won this year. Use this list to find out what to bring next year as your Gift to exchange. Chet got a Star Machine, Bruce got 2 huge see-through posters of Mars, Chris got a DVD "Atlas of the Sky", Carol got a Year in Space Calendar, Bette got a Magnetic building set and a Space Puzzle, Terri got an Eyepiece Case, Matt got a DVD "Flight 412", Ed Rosenthal got a Space Watch, Mike got a Sky Globe, Sonny got 2 Sci Fi books - older, William got a DVD about mars, Sam got a Planetarium, jewel got a Pen with a light, Jerry got a Laser pen a Moon Necklace and Star decorated Note book, Ed Wurst got a Messier Object Poster, Rod got an Eyepiece 12.5, Frank got a book about Crop Circles.

Continued on page 3

February Pas Meeting Review

By Terri, Prez

This was an awesome meeting! We were a little concerned when Dennis hadn't gotten there before me, when I was running late, but he did make it. As he was setting up I went around selling 50/50 Raffle tickets. We collected \$48 in the kitty, and \$24 went to the club, and William won the other \$24. His first win! We had a few announcements at the beginning of the meeting. Jerry took about 5 minutes to talk about the upcoming Rocket Launch. On the back of this newsletter, by Jerry's name in the list of PAS contacts, is the rocket launch web address. If you want more info and you don't have Internet access, you can call Jerry at the number listed by his name. The Rocket launch is Feb 24,25. It sounds like fun. We then had Mike do the awards. 4 Folks were being awarded for their contributions to the outreach program of educating the public about astronomy. Awards went to Barbara Hartman, Don Boyd, Rod Sutter & Terri Finch. We each got a pin and certificate. I then announced the handouts and bathroom facilities and snacks. And then we discussed a really awesome Sky Atlas by Sky & Telescope that we want to get a bulk discount for. If you are interested in this atlas, please let me know. I'm taking orders. We are contacting S&T to find out how many we need to buy to get the discount. Your participation may be very worth while. It is an awesome Atlas. Well worth the \$20 but we want to get it for \$15 or less. RSVP your copy today! We also discussed the Sally Ride event which is happening Feb 25th at ASU. If you haven't already RSVP'd to help out, do so by the



Feb 15th, as that is when i turn in the names for the volunteers. Then Dave came up to the Podium and talked about the Podiums that are being put on the PVCC campus in a Planet Walk format. If you've been to the Lowell Observatory on their Planet walk, it is very similar but we will have the chance to donate \$500 to PVCC for a plaque to say "DONATED BY THE PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY". This item is up for discussion and a vote will need to happen by the PAS Membership. More info will come your way as I get it.

We then turned the meeting over to

Dennis. What a meeting. He is so full of information. Like a walking, talking encyclopedia. He went over the history of devices used to culminate telescopes in the past to present. He showed us examples and gave us ideas on which culminating devices worked better. And

he told us which one was his favorite. Then he talked about the Couch Potato Telescope Binocular. That was interesting. A chair, you sit in it, and it has tension on the arms that hold the binocs up above you so you can sit, position the binocs to see something, and lock it in place so you can observe it for a while. The chair is also swivel-able. We also talked about Comet McNaut, which is on the Skytonight.com website. We talked about Bluetooth for Telescopes. He showed us the Sky & Tele March '07 issue and the Atlas of the Stars and some glow in the dark paint that can be applied anywhere to lighten up the night. You can get the paint at Auto Zone or Checker Auto. Then he told us of his plan to build a 7 mirror telescope. We were very entertained and there was good interaction between Dennis and the audience. 36 people signed in, but I believe there were more. I'd like to thank a few of them. John Pulis did an awesome job getting everyone to sign in. Dave and Ed need to be thanked for providing the Sub Sandwich, and Steve Snyder needs to be thanked for fetching it. Thanks to Barbara for bringing the awards. And we had the honors of having a long time member show up at the meeting, who hasn't been to a meeting in a very long time - Welcome back Walt Hohlstein. It was an awesome meeting and many, many thanks goes out to Dennis. He comes down to us from Sedona and squeezes us into his very busy schedule. Thank you so much Dennis!





Bruce Wurst & Rod Sutter preparing dart board for the big game.



Photo by Terri

Everyone enjoys the party.

We all had a good time. Thank you for participating in the game.

Then we moved to the Table decoration contest. Yes, we had an underlying reason why you should bring a table decoration to this party. We had everyone, even if you didn't bring a decoration, vote on the top three decorations. We had a variety of decorations. Kevin won first place and his decoration was his pet turtle, Icarus. He got a Computer Mouse in the shape of a Star Trek Phaser donated by Ed Rosenthal. Jerry took second place with his rocket and won the Phoenix Lights Book donated by Ed Rosenthal. And Mike took third place with his little space ship, and won a calendar donated by Jerry Belcher.

We also did the Door Prizes. We had three. Matt won the first one which was another eyepiece case. I don't remember who got the other 2 prizes and what they were.

Barbara and Scotty had to leave early so her White Dwarf gift was donated, and then she got one back that was delivered to her at the PAS meeting. Oh, there's one of the other door prizes, she won a calendar.

Many, many thanks goes to Jerry Belcher for all his donated items, for being a great sport at the darts, the table decoration game, and the white dwarf game. Thank you also to Ed Rosenthal, and everyone else who donated items to make these games work out well.

The food was awesome, the games were fun, and if you missed it this year, mark your calendar for next year's event sometime in January 2008. The location may be the same but we have some new games lined up. If you have an idea how to improve the games and the fun at the social, please let me know. I'm working on next year's event! ***



Bette Wurst's Table Decoration



Jerry Belcher and Sonny Schug watch as the Dart game gets underway.



Food, Food and more food, and Drinks! It was all so good!



Even Solar Sails Need a Mast

By Patrick L. Barry

Like the explorers of centuries past who set sail for new lands, humans may someday sail across deep space to visit other stars. Only it won't be wind pushing their sails, but the slight pressure of sunlight.

Solar sails, as they're called, hold great promise for providing propulsion in space without the need for heavy propellant. But building a solar sail will be hard; to make the most of sunlight's tiny push, the sail must be as large as several football fields, yet weigh next to nothing. Creating a super-lightweight material for the sail itself is tricky enough, but how do you build a "mast" for that sail that's equally light and strong?

Enter SAILMAST, a program to build and test-fly a mast light enough for future solar sails. With support from NASA's In-Space Propulsion Program to mature the technology and perform ground demonstrator tests, SAILMAST's engineers were ready to produce a truss suitable for validation in space that's 40 meters (about 130 feet) long, yet weighs only 1.4 kilograms (about 3 pounds)!

In spite of its light weight, this truss is surprisingly rigid. "It's a revelation when people come in and actually play with one of the demo versions—it's like, whoa, this is really strong!" says Michael McEachen, principal investigator for SAILMAST at ATK Space Systems in Goleta, California.

SAILMAST will fly aboard NASA's Space Technology 8 (ST8) mission, scheduled to launch in February 2009. The mission is part of NASA's New Millennium Program, which flight tests cutting-edge technologies so that they can be used reliably for future space exploration. While actually flying to nearby stars is probably decades away, solar sails may come in handy close to home. Engineers are eyeing this technology for "solar sentinels," spacecraft that orbit the Sun to provide early warning of solar flares.

Once in space, ST8 will slowly deploy SAILMAST by uncoiling it. The truss consists of three very thin, 40-meter-long rods connected by short cross-members. The engineers used high-strength graphite for these structural members so that they could make them very thin and light.

The key question is how straight SAILMAST will be after it deploys in space. The smaller the curve of the mast the more load it can support. "That's really why we need to fly it in space, to see how straight it is when it's floating weightlessly," McEachen says.

It's an important step toward building a sail for the space-mariners of the future.

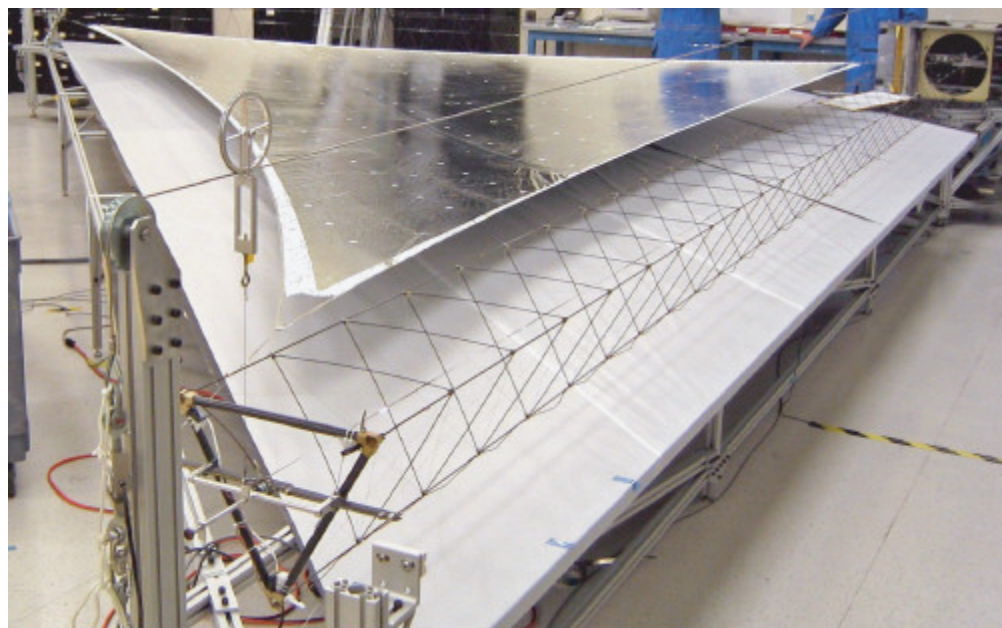
Find out more about SAILMAST at nmp.nasa.gov/st8. Kids can visit spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/st8/sailmast to

see how SAILMAST is like a Slinky® toy in space.

This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



Mike takes a shot at the Dart game.



SAILMAST is the thin triangular truss in front of the picture. It is attached to a section of a silver foil solar sail section shown here in a laboratory test. The mast in the picture is 2m (6

PAS/Sirius Lookers Messier Marathon

All are Welcome!

RSVP with Barbara Hartman to attend. We may be caravanning up there so make sure I know you are coming if you want to follow us up. We are quests at this site so no white light of any kind. If you arrive after dark drive by parking lights only (but please get there before dark) and turn off your vehicles dome light. If you plan to leave early park so that you will not destrub other participants. You are responsible for all persons in your party so be sure they know the rules too. This will be a serious competition only come if you are serious about observing. If you plan to camp you need a permit, see Sirius Lookers web site! Bring some snacks and drinks, warm clothes and let's have fun!

* Weather Permitting *

JANUARY MEETING OF THE MINDS REVIEW

By Terri, Prez

This was an awesome meeting. We had a lot of topics to cover and most of the folks stayed on track. I wanted to be sure we could cover them quickly and not miss any due to lack of time.

We started our topics with the Kit Assembly / Educational meeting dates. Everyone decided that we should do them at Bookman's during our Telescope class. So, that is what we did on 2/4 and 2/11.

We then reviewed the Paid Star Party plan. There were questions on how much are we charging for paid star parties compared to other clubs, and it appears we are still the most inexpensive. It was decided we'd stay the cheap one so that we get more requests for star parties.

Don brought up the idea of the Constitution and the fact that the way we have been doing the Directorships isn't following the Constitution and we should edit that. We

discussed it further and decided to talk about it later.

Barbara introduced some items, one of which was to mention that she wanted to do a brief Awards Ceremony for those who were being awarded NSN pins. So, we all decided she should do that at the PAS meeting. It was decided Mike would present the awards.

Feb 15th we have a star party, and at the time I made the MOM Agenda, we needed a location. Well, we decided to be by the Observing Deck at PVCC. We started a conversation about where to move the MOM Dinner prior, but no one came up with a new location. We need to discuss that one further.

We then talked over the locations of the Full Moon Star parties. Rod is looking into a place on 7th street, and I am contacting ASC to see if they will let us use their facilities. At the time of this review, nothing has been decided yet.

We also discussed Astronomy Day planning. ASC wants someone to man a table, so we got some volunteers to go to ASC in the daytime on April 21st and do a table, do solar viewing, etc, and then some of them will also do the star party in Anthem that night. Wow, those people deserve a huge hand for being able to accomplish that whole thing in one day. If you wish to volunteer for either ASC during the day, or Anthem that night on April 21st, please let me know. I'm collecting volunteers.

Then we discussed the Indoor Astro Event happening April 12th. I got some really good volunteers and ideas for that one. See the Digest for details. I'll be posting the info in the April newsletter as well. We all voted that Photo Stock Photography is NOT on our website links page, and we also decided that since there is a few Yuri night will not be part of the PAS schedule. The meeting concluded early and we all enjoyed a little chat afterwards. ***

PLEASE REVIEW THE PAS ROSTER

If you are a current PAS Member, and you receive the newsletter via the Post Office, rather than via email, then you will have received a copy of the current PAS Roster. Please note that your information needs to be verified. Please look it over, check for any errors, and if there is an error, call Terri and get it fixed. If there is no error, call her to let her know your info is correct.

Her number is 602-561-5398. When you call, leave your name & phone number if you get the voicemail so that she can call back to let you know she got your message. We are trying to update the roster and have it accurate. Also, when you call with this info, please let her know if you have a telescope and would like to participate in the PAS StarTours Group. This is the group

of Telescope owners who wish to make a little extra money showing the night sky to paying customers. Only those who wish to be on this list will be put on it. It's a first come, first served basis. The notice goes out and who ever wants the job gets it, first to reply. Thanks for your help in updating the Roster. ***

Upcoming Events Info

By Terri, Prez

When you receive the newsletter, and you look at the list of events that are about to happen for that month, sometimes you just have more questions or need more info. Well, Don and I have decided that the best way to get the info to you is via the newsletter in separate articles. So, if you go to the calendar page and you find, let's say PVCC Star Party on 2/15 as an example. If there is an article to be found about that star party, it will be listed as "See Article page ____" so that you can find out more about it, if you need to. We hope this streamlines the ease of reading things in the newsletter and finding the info fast. And we hope this helps you to attend more PAS events, and to get your RSVP in on time for those events. Thanks for your understanding and help in keeping things running smoothly. See you at the next event! ***



William Finch is theiving a gift from Bette Wurst.

BOOKMAN'S TELESCOPE CLASS REVIEW 2/4

By Terri, Prez

This was an interesting class. It started with no one there except Rod and I. We set up our tables of handouts, and signs, and then shortly after a young man wanders over, and we ask him if he is interested in astronomy/telescopes, and he says he is but he isn't sticking around that long. We get him to join us in conversation and John takes him under his wing. His name is Clint, and we are glad he attended. Clint ends up staying until we leave that afternoon around 5pm. In the mean time, John has him looking at all sorts of cool things, and finding stuff all over Bookman's to help learn about astronomy.

Sometime shortly after Clint shows up, we have Thomas join us. Leah takes Thomas aside and they chat for quite a while about astronomy, even past our ending time.

I want to thank Leah and John for working so hard with these wonderful gentlemen. The rest of us, Rod, Sue, Don, William and I were ready to, but didn't want to interrupt Leah in the corner, work on the NSN Kits. Well, that didn't work out because the TV would have been too loud to allow Leah to talk over it, so we decided not to do it. Instead we used the TV as a way to show the Hubble DVD that was in one kit, and that helped 2 other folks stop by and visit. One gentleman was from Pinetop and wanted to know how to work his telescope but didn't have it with him. I sent him off with the list of upcoming Bookman's classes in hopes we will hear from him again. There was a 4th dude



who stopped by shortly.

Thanks goes out to Rod and John for setting up the tables. Thanks to Don to bringing his scope for display. He has a really nice scope. Leah brought books to talk about astronomy. Rod brought the kits to work on. Thank you TEAM. It was a good class.

During the class, those of us not doing anything at that time, discussed the Plaque / Podium issue of PVCC to decide if we wanted to have PAS purchase one. You'll have to read up on that in another article.

Here's something interesting... upon

getting home, I checked the Bookman's website and all of our dates and times for future Bookman's classes were deleted. I immediately wrote to the calendar person and told them we had them scheduled and we want them back. Watch for updates incase something changes. I also asked for a longer time for next week, 2/11 as we want to work on the kits after the class. We can't do it before due to the Belly Dance class that is there until 2:30. Hope to see you at the next Telescope class. Your help is always welcome. Even if no one shows up, we still have a great time! ***

Bookman's Telescope Class Review 2/11

By Terri, Prez

This Bookman's class was interesting. I had to almost chase the belly dance class out to get us in 15 minutes late. Once they left, we set up quickly. I put up my collection of handouts on 2 tables. And then we had people show up. 2 gentlemen shows up this time. Ed Ruster spent some time with us, only a short while. He had to rush off someplace. Then Justin Werden came in and he was very interested. He spent a lot of time with us and gathering information. He also did a survey for us: how did you like the activities? "Everyone was very knowledgeable about their material" What was favorite

activity? "Knowing about the club." I thank Justin for his input. He left me his email address and is now on the Digest list. Hopefully we see him at future events! Before Justin showed up, Rod and I were learning about the kits. We were talking about putting together the kits and watching the DVD. When Justin came in, we put that aside and answered his questions. Then, near the end of what should have been our ending time 4:30, a gentleman stopped by to say that his club was meeting at 4pm in that room. We had scheduled it to 5pm with great hassles getting Bookman's to give it to us, but we gave it to him and Rod, Sue, William and I went to dinner instead.

For those of you interested, we are thinking of making it a regular occurrence, that after the Bookman's classes, we will go to dinner someplace. So, if you wish to attend dinner afterwards, get in on the conversation at the Bookman's class to find out where we are going. 2 Bookman's ago we went to El Torito, and this time we went to Carlos O'Breins. That doesn't mean we have to go to Mexican, we just chose it this time. So, come attend a Bookman's class and then join us for dinner, if you wish, after. Next Bookman's class is in March. RSVP if you can come! ***

INDOOR ASTRONOMY EVENT APRIL 12TH

By Terri, Prez

Planning for this year's event is taking place now. I need to know if you are attending and/or participating in this event. Last year was a huge success as far as the demonstrators. We need more public this year, so to entice them to join us, I'd like to know what you are doing for this event. Those of you who received this via email do not need to reply unless you haven't already. The Deadline for the receiving parties of the newsletter in print will be March 10th. Please contact me by phone, mail, anyway you can, and let me know what your topic is for that night, or a brief description of what you would like to show the public.

What is the INDOOR EVENT? Well, this is your chance to take a topic, let's use Mike as an example. He brings his Meteorites, sets up his posters, shows everyone what he has and has hands on activities, such as "Find the Meteor Wrong." This event is taking the place of our activities we usually have at ASC for Astronomy Day. This year we want it bigger and better than last year. If you have something you did last year and because we didn't have that many public people, and you'd like to repeat it, that's fine. Just let me know what the idea is so I can put it into the ad I'm sending out to the newspapers (I might have Steve do this after I make a flyer for it). We have a flyer, I know, but we don't have what everyone is

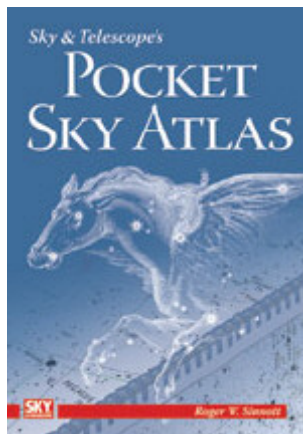
planning to do included on the flyer. So, send me your ideas today. I need to know what you are planning to do, in brief, that night. What activity.

And we will bring the kits so that if you attend and didn't come up with an activity of your own, you may borrow one from the kits and use it as a demo. We want more demos. And if we have to, we can expand out side, because in April we should have awesome evening temperatures. Let me know today. And if you are RSVP'ing to attend this event as the public with family and friends, please let me know sooner than later. Thanks so much for all your help and attendance! ***

Order Your Pocket Sky Sky Atlas Today

By Terri, Prez

As a group, PAS is gathering a bunch of folks who wish to purchase the Pocket Sky Atlas. In order to get a 10% discount, we have to have 10 atlas on order. If you are interested in this sky atlas, let me know today. It is small, easy to read, very detailed, and fun. If you need to see a copy, catch up with Rod at one of the events. He has his copy with him and can show you it. I have 3 RSVP's so far. I don't have a deadline set but the sooner we can get the order in, the sooner you get to start using it. I will be collecting \$\$\$ for this after



I research how much 10 copies, shipping, tax, etc costs. We will split the whole total evenly by the entire order. This Atlas does not expire, so it is not just for 2007, you can use it for a very long time, many years, or until you wear it out, which is what most of us will probably do before we need to buy another one. So, if you are interested, then please let me know today you wish to have one and once I have the total amount from the publisher, I can give you the exact amount I wish to collect from you. I will collect before putting the order through.

Star Party in Ahwatukee

Fri Mar 30 – Ahwatukee Foothills Academy All School Star Party – set up 5pm, Star party 5:30 – 9pm. Ahwatukee Foothills Montessori Center - 3221 E Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, AZ, Map: Volunteers needed – RSVP with Terri

FULL MOON STAR PARTY

By Terri Prez

Location to be Decided

Volunteers Needed

We'd like to hold the first of three Full Moon Star Parties this year. If you have an idea where to hold this star party, please let Terri know. The date is Mar 3 and we wish to start at 6pm. We hope you can attend and help out. It should be an awesome star party and our first Treasure Hunt. See you there!

Phoenix Lights Talk at PVCC

By Ed Rosenthal

Dr. Lynne Kitei, our Valley "Phoenix Lights" expert (who wrote the book *The Phoenix Lights*; and the former M.D. who dropped out of medicine to investigate this phenomenon) will speak at our Center for Performing Arts (CPA) on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:00pm. Please announce to PAS. Ticket prices will be \$12 general admission, \$8 students/seniors. I may have a few comp tickets. For more information, go to <http://www.thephoenixlights.net> and click on "Awards and Upcoming Events" in the upper left corner of her webpage.



Chet Schuler studies the gift he won at the White Dwarf Gift Exchange.

Observing Tips by the Prez

FOR WINTER MONTHS

The cold of a winter's night can put a freeze on your observing plans if you're not well prepared. Your body loses most of its heat through the top of your head, so be sure to wear a hat even if you don't feel cold yet. It's also important to keep well hydrated. Make sure you drink plenty of liquids, but avoid anything with alcohol or caffeine in it. ***

Naked Eye Sights for March

On March 16th you will want to keep your eyes out for a wafer-thin lunar crescent (only 2 days before new) 9 degrees to the right of Mercury.

Watch for the Moon flirting with Venus 2 nights in succession. On the evening of the 20th, a two day old waxing crescent lies a little more than one binocular field below and to the right of the planet, then about the same distance above in the next evening. ***

Cool Quick Tip for Observers

When you are hunting for a deep sky object, start with your telescope's lowest magnification. This will usually provide you with the widest field of view, which means that your star hops will require fewer steps and your chances of getting lost in space will be reduced. With the larger field of view, you can usually spot your object,

and then zoom in on the object you were hunting for. ***

Observing Tip - Averted Vision

Experienced observers make use of a trick we call Averted Vision. This technique involves the detection of fainter objects that are captured at the threshold of visibility. Instead of looking right at your object, look slightly to one side or the other of it. The trick I use is to find a star near the object I'm trying to see, and then look at the star, but focus my attention to the object (usually found in the center of the eyepiece, on my scope). This technique allows light to fall on the more sensitive part of your eye and makes seeing faint objects much easier to view. ***

PVCC Star Party Review 2/15

By Terri, Prez

It was a chilly night, but we had a good turn out. 5 Scopes and Mike came to the star party. I wish to thank Rod & Barbara for being early and catching Venus while she was visible. I showed up next and then Don and Mike and then Leah. We had an estimated turnout of about 42 people and about 1/2 were kids. I got 5 Surveys completed for which I gave Night Sky Magazines for. I gave out 4 prizes to the kids, of which was a bag of goodies, the Messier Marathon pamphlet, and a PAS bookmark. We saw

Venus, Saturn, and a good collection of deep sky items. We did the Space Safari Treasure Hunt, and most of the object could be found except the Moon. We don't know where the Moon got off to because these star parties are usually planned around a 1st Quarter Moon. Mike brought his NEW meteorites with him and had a crowd in G-147 all night. Dave had Bubba working (that's the 11 inch scope in the dome on campus).

The survey's produced the following results: "It was fun & a great learning experience"

and "We liked the entire experience." What was your favorite activity? "Saturn" repeated by 4 of the attendees. What can we do to improve? "Maybe have cookies out to snack on." That's an interesting suggestion. What kind of prizes would you like to get at future Treasure Hunt events? "A telescope" I'd like to thank the following people for doing the Survey for PAS: Mandy Marquez, Kara Cossel, Samuel Johnston, Monica Blasko, and Ron Boling. We appreciate your input and hope you will join us at future events!***

Many Many Thanks to Rod

By Terri, Prez

At the PVCC Star Party 2/15, I forgot my eyepieces and Rod lent me his 16mm so I could bring Saturn into my scope. I have my zoom eyepiece that lives in the tele-

scope case, but it wasn't doing as good as the one Rod lent me. Many many thanks go to Rod for having one on hand I could borrow. Sometimes you walk out of the house, get to your destination and realize

you forgot the most, or almost the most, important part of the star party. Let's hope not to do that again. See you at the next star party! ***

PAS's First Messier Marathon And not the last!

By Terri, prez

PAS is having a special Messier Marathon Star Party on Mar 17. You will want to get to the location before sundown. You will NOT want to arrive after dark because very serious viewing and competition to find all 110 Messier objects will be happening. And you will want to stay all night if possible. Bring appropriate clothing. The chosen location will be at the 2 Trees site in Sedona. For more info, go to our website

and see the map and directions. If you need a map and don't have Internet access, let Terri know and meet at the March PAS meeting to pick up the info there. I will only make as many copies as those requested. This is our first ever, official PAS event like this. There will be a \$20 fee to camp in that location. More research is being done on this, so if you want to know more, contact Barbara Hartman. We'd love to see you at the 2 Trees site for this event! RSVP will be

to Barbara just so we know who is attending. This is the site that Dennis Young and his club use, so be courteous to the other viewers, and please, ONLY SERIOUS VIEWERS NEED ATTEND. NO WHITE LIGHT at all, and No Children. Bring your telescope, charts, and viewing friends. This is an all night event! There are no facilities at this location. It is a cooler desert setting. Bring plenty to eat and drink through the night, and chairs, and jackets. See you there. ***

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S PAS SOCIAL



The White Dwarf Gift Exchange Theiving is underway.



Theiving is the point of the game. Steal the gift, make everyone laugh. It's fun!



The winners of the game are almost known. In this game, **EVERYONE** wins something!



Laughter is the greatest part of this game. We had tons of fun swapping gifts!



ANTHEM CROSS OF CHRIST SCHOOL STAR

Fri *Mar 16* – Daytime Solar & Activity Event in Anthem 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Volunteers needed at Cross of Christ Christian School 39808 N Gavilan Peak Pkwy. Map: <http://tinyurl.com/29ylfo> RSVP with Terri if you plan to attend.

Bookman's Survey Results 2/4

At the Bookman's class, we were able to acquire 2 completed surveys in trade for a free magazine. Let me give you the brief results of those 2 surveys.

How did they like the actives provided? "Interesting & very intriguing and fascinating" "Very good"

What was favorite activity? "Discussing Astronomy" This was the gentleman who was working with Leah. He found her to be very interesting and the topic.

What can we do to improve? "More hand-outs" We had 2 tables of handouts, more than any other Bookman's event.

Provide suggestions or comments... "It was just great."

Overall, I'd say it was a success. Thanks to Clint and Thomas for attending. ***

THANKS TO SOME GREAT FOLKS!

By Terri, Prez

I wish to send many, many thanks to the Astronomy Department of PVCC for all they do for PAS. At all of the PAS meetings we are treated to snacks, and some of them have sub sandwiches. Many thanks goes to Ed, Dave and Mike for being such an important part of the success of PAS. Thank you so much! You are greatly appreciated! ***



It's Gotta be in here somewhere!

FULL MOON HIKES

By John Dooley
jwdooley@cox.net
602-359-0838

About the hikes/overnights, thus far they have just been a spur of the moment thing but could easily grow and i am open to that. I know great places in and out of the city. I also like to go to Agua Fri National Monument for overnights and the stars and moon are superb there too as there is no light pollution there. It might be fun to overnight with telescopes near the ruins up that way. Might be interesting to see how the ancients situated their places in relation to the cosmos.....

I sleep out there about once month. just take my bag and sleep out under the stars. Real light stuff. The hike in is no more than 1/2 mile though. Last month it was so bright under that full moon that we were out hiking until it set behind the canyon walls about 2PM. Then we got up and went to Rock Springs Cafe for breakfast in the AM and then home. Pretty neat outing. I'm not much of an organizer but could do this with some tutoring. ***

(If interested, please contact John for more info)



Jerry Belcher's Table Decoration



Terri's Decoration



Jerry the dart shark

Photo by Terri

Photo by Terri



Let the Games begin



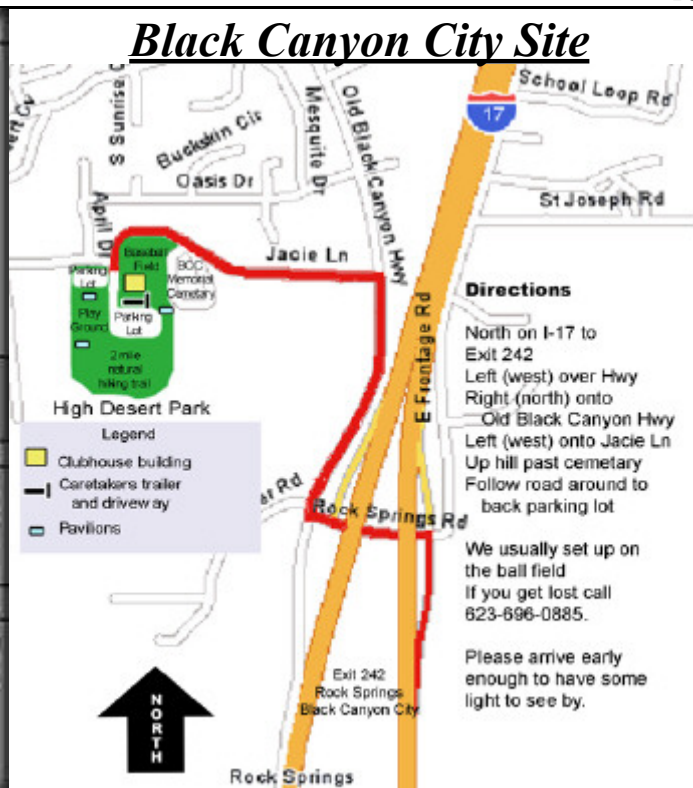
The theiving continues



Twins!



Some people did take from the table



March 1 Thursday	7 PM to 9:30 P.M.	Paradise Valley Comm. College	PAS General Meeting Don Garnett See article page 1
March 2 Friday	6 PM to 9 PM	Arizona Science Center Heritage Square	ASC Adult's Night Out *** Volunteers Needed *** RSVP with Don Boyd to attend or to help out. * Weather Permitting *
March 3 Sunday	6:00 to 10:00		Full Moon Star Party See article page 7
March 10 Saturday	Sundown to Moonrise	High Desert Park Jacie Ln Black Canyon City, AZ. 85324	PAS Third Quarter Star Party All are Welcome! \$2 per car donation request. RSVP with Barbara Hartman to attend. * Weather Permitting *
March 16 Friday	3:30 to 6:30	Anthem Church of Christ School	Star party see article page 11
March 17	6 PM to	Two Trees	PAS/Sirius Lookers Messier Marathon
March 18 Sunday	4:30 PM to 6:30	Bookman's 8034 North 19th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85021-5101	Telescope class
March 22 Thursday	6:00 to 9:00	PVCC	PVCC/PAS Space Safari star Party
March 24-25	11:00 a.m. to	Arizona Science Center	Arizona Science Center Solar Weekend RSVP on or before March 1st with Terri Finch
March 27 Tuesday	7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	ASU West	Open House Astronomy Open House on Tuesday, March 27th, 7-9 pm, in the usual location on the west side of campus
March 28		PVCC	Phoenix Light Lecture See Article page 7
March 29 Thursday	7:00 Pm to 10:00pm	PVCC	MOM
March 30 Friday			Ahwatukee foothills Starparty See article page 7
March 31 Saturday			Deadline to order Pocket Sky Atlas See article p-age 7

For more details and the latest information please visit the events page of our website

www.pasaz.org

Ads in PAStimes

Ads in PAStimes run for a month and may be renewed on a month by month basis, if submitted by deadline, space permitting.
Ads in PAStimes are FREE to members all others are asked to make a small donation. Donations are to be sent to the Editor who will forward them to the Treasurer.

Don Boyd PASTimes Editor
701 W. Del Rio St.
Chandler AZ 85225

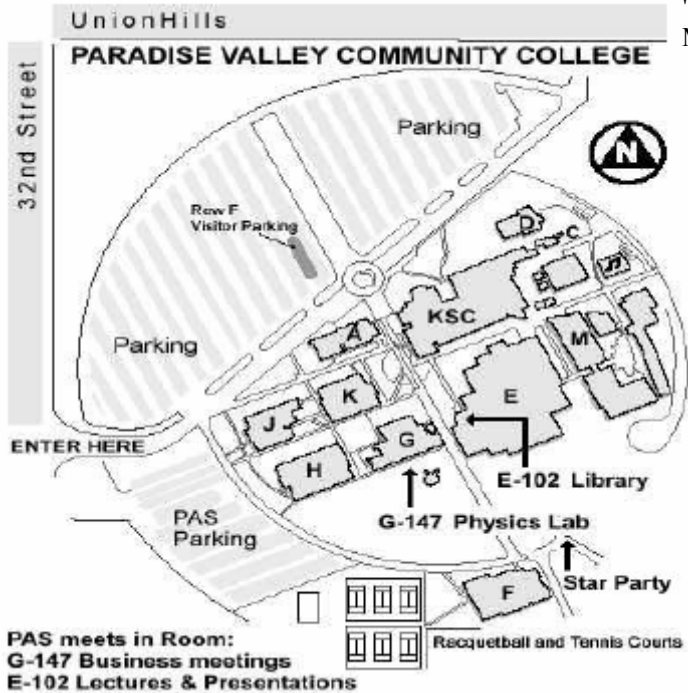
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Upcoming PAS Meetings

Larry Wasserman, U.S. Geological Survey
Asteroids"
Steve Dodder "Cataclysmic Variable Stars"

Map To PAS Meeting Location
April 5: "Kuiper Belt
May 3:



March 15 2007

Sunrise: 6:38
Sunset: 6:35



Full: March 4



Q3: March 12



New: March 19



Q1: March 25

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Rocketry Liaison	Jerry Belcher	623-328-9290	http://ahpra.org/launches.html

Astro Events

March 1: Saturn 1° South of Regulus
March 1: Regulus 1° South of the Moon
March 15 Mars 2° north of the Moon