

Volume 56, Issue 9

PAS TIMES

Monthly newsletter of the
Phoenix Astronomical Society
Founded 1948

PAStimes Internet Home Page: <http://PASAZ.org>

Join our Astronomy discussion group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PASAZ>

PAS Email: phoenixastronomy@yahoo.com



ANOTHER A-MAY-ZING SEASON COMES TO AN END

**VALLEY ACADEMY
CHARTER SCHOOL
STAR PARTY**
May 6th, 8pm to 9:30pm

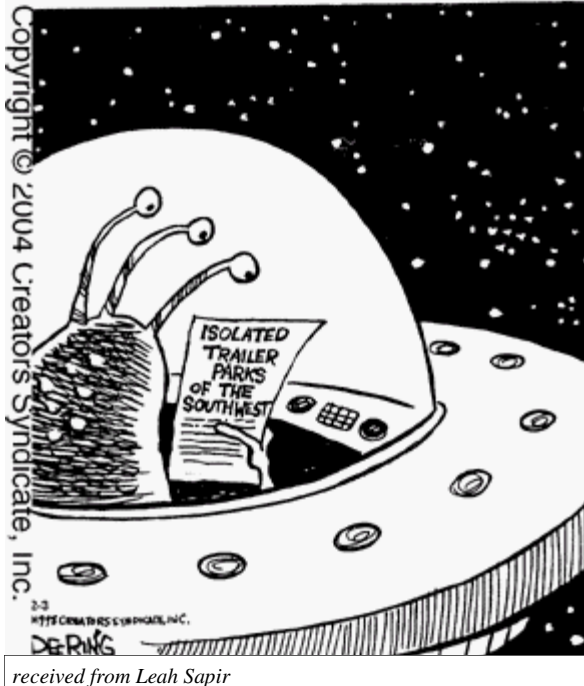
ROUND-ROBIN STORY CONTEST

Do you enjoy writing stories? Would you like to win a prize for doing so? A new contest will begin in the September 2004 newsletter that may allow you to use your imagination to write and win. It is the Round-Robin Story Contest. Based on the introduction to the story (which is included immediately following this article) write the first chapter (leave it open-ended so we can add more chapters). It should be approximately 600-625 words in length. No need to bother with paragraphs, because if you notice from reading the newsletter, there are none. The deadline is the first of each month. The editors will then choose which one they feel helps move the story along the best and include it in the next newsletter (please don't make us write it ourselves). However, if you are the winner for that month, you **MUST** attend the next meeting in order to claim your prize. (Prize may be awarded the following month if your hard-luck story about why you couldn't attend the previous meeting is convincing enough). And now, the contest begins:

HOUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

Introduction by Matt Kohl

I am alone. Well, alone in regards of who I can talk to. I don't think my former colleagues can understand me. I have them locked in the payload bay now. And whatever those things are outside might be able to understand me, but I can't understand them. For now I just ramble on, talking to myself and taping everything with this microcassette recorder. I'm not too sure how far away from Earth I am. Don't know how long I've been out here. Chronometer's busted. Does it really matter? I'm



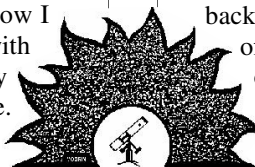
probably going to die anyway. I'd rather die instead of becoming whatever it is everyone else turned into. It's a long story. Perhaps I should start at the beginning...***

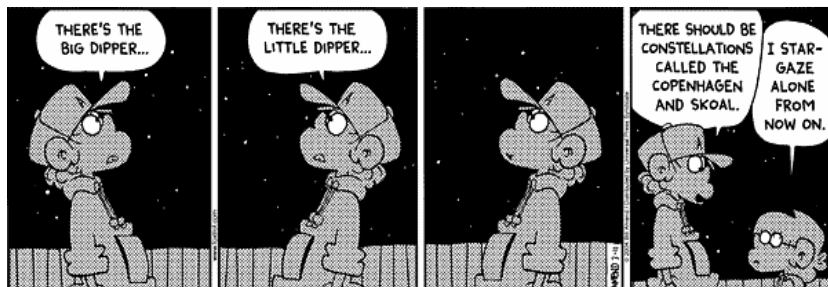
REVENGE IS SWEET

by Dan Heim

A few years ago, during our April 1st meeting (that should have been a giveaway right there), Jerry mentioned doing a Star Party for the ShangriLa Nudist Colony out in New River, a few miles from my house. I had missed a few meetings and was somewhat out of the loop for awhile, and thought nothing unusual about the so-called event. Had I been less busy, or less trusting of Jerry, I'd probably have figured out it was a joke. But I didn't, and volunteered to help set things up. I know Horst Kraus, the owner. We've played poker a few times at the home of a mutual friend in the area. So about a week later, as I was driving by the entrance to ShangriLa, I figured it was a good time to check out the facility, setup space, lighting, electricity, the usual pre-Star Party stuff. When I rung the buzzer on the gate and identified myself as Dan Heim from PAS the office manager said "Who?" I explained about the upcoming Star Party, that I knew Horst, and was stopping by to check out the facilities. They still had no idea who I was, but let me in anyway. I entered the check-in office and was greeted by several confused, but fully clothed personnel. I explained more about the planned event but they still had no idea who I was, and had never heard of either Jerry Belcher or Mark Stephenson. I had them call Horst to see if maybe they had been left out of the loop. No joy. So I left my card, packed up, and headed home. It was only later that I found out the whole thing was an April Fools prank at my expense. Note to self: figure out a good way to get back at them. In the intervening time, the prank was brought up often at meetings, and everyone always got a good chuckle out of it. But I was waiting for the right moment to strike back. That happened this year when, with the assistance

See REVENGE, p. 2





REVENGE, cont'd from p. 1

of Matt Kohl and William Finch, we put together a fake article for the newsletter using digitally doctored pics of Jerry, Mark, and two anonymous nudists. I also took a digital photo of the entrance to ShangriLa just to lend some authenticity to the article. You all saw the results last newsletter. Although the original idea for the prank was Jerry's, Mark got dragged into the plot too. Anyway, glad to put this to rest finally. Think twice before you cross someone with digital photo manipulation software. Revenge is sweet.***

MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Have you ever wondered what part of astronomy your fellow PAS members enjoy? Well, here is your chance to learn. Starting in September, we would like to offer the SHOW & TELL version of our PAS meetings again. As you all know, the meeting time begins at 7pm with socializing. This allows the speaker to get their stuff set up while the rest of us socialize and catch up on projects and talk to Mark to let him know



what we need to announce. Then Mark opens the meeting around 7:30pm. We do a few announcements, covering things like upcoming events and star parties, and introducing the Officer's to new visitors, as well as finding out who the new people are. Then we usually have the speaker start around 7:50 and go until they finish or 9:30, which ever comes first. Well, Starting in September, we want to include, prior to the speaker, Member presentations. Do you take photos of the items you see in space? Bring them along, share. Do you want to share a really cool poster? Bring it along.... When you arrive at the meeting, tell Terri you have something to present to the club, give her a brief on what it is, and she will find you space in the schedule, prior to the speaker, to do your thing. This is a great way to share what you experience, as well as get to know the people in our club. We could use more member participation. Anything astronomy, rocketry, or other related topics are welcome. Make your presentations brief but fun and interesting. We want to hear from you! ***

HAPPY MAY MEETING

This is your meeting. We will begin by having Officer Elections. Did you say you'd like to be an officer of PAS? We need more officers. We could use some new officers as well. Does anyone want the Editor's job? And remember, the May meeting is also Members' Night, so plan to do a brief presentation on something cool at the May Meeting right after the Officer Elections. See you there! And, it is viewing night, bring your scope, let's do a star party and have a great time. I



want to see as many folk as possible at that meeting. It's a great way to star off our Summer events!***

PAS IS YOUR CLUB

by Matt Kohl

You should be more involved. We could use a lot more members to volunteer. The more volunteers we get, the better promoted our club will be. And the better promoted it is, then hopefully, the more members we'll gain. And the more members we gain, the more funds we will have to build the club back up to where it used to be, ie. different speakers (some of our speakers are good, but it is kind of tiring to hear from the SAME people year after year). But by lack of participation, especially from people who should REALLY be involved, ie. Prez & Vice-Prez, show that some people just don't care. And with that attitude, this club is doomed to failure. However, I would like to thank everyone who does participate and volunteer. These FEW people shouldn't have to take on all this responsibility alone. Let's ALL try to help out a little more.***

MANY THANKS

I wish to thank Ed Garbero for doing a superb job of calling all the folks who didn't renew this year with PAS. He contacted the majority of them, talked with them, took tons of notes and did a fantastic job of reporting all that info back to me. Then, with the April issue, I sent out hard copies with the dues sheet attached, hoping to get a few more PAS members

back with us. We succeeded with 2 thus far, and hope the rest will come back as well. If you know someone who has not renewed this year, please let me know so I can send them a dues sheet and hopefully get them back in the club. Thank you so much, Ed, for all your hard work.***

DESERT SUNSET STAR PARTY

MAY 13-16, 2004

The 2004 Desert Sunset Star Party will be held at the Caballo Loco Ranch, about 11.5 miles south of Three Points, AZ, on Rt. 286, and then east for 8 miles. This RV ranch is in a secluded area of Arizona with dark skies. The Sierrita Mountains block the light dome of Tucson. The domes of Kitt Peak are in clear view to the west. The DSSP begins on Thursday night and runs through Saturday night. We will have a speaker on both Friday and Saturday evenings along with door prize giveaways. Registration information is posted on the DSSP website - <http://chartmarker.tripod.com/sunset.htm> ***

YOU ARE INVITED

All members are hereby cordially invited to participate in an event at the Challenger Space Center. Light refreshments will be served. There is no cost for members to participate. **Speaker:** Dr. Robert Millis, Astronomer and Director of Lowell Observatory **Topic:** The Discovery Channel Telescope at Lowell Observatory - The impact of this

See INVITED, p. 3

INVITED, cont'd. from p. 2

new \$30 million 4-meter class telescope on NEO search, Kuiper Belt objects and beyond. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Clifford Ochser at cjo@lowell.edu or by calling 928-774-3358 ext. 271

Saturday, May 22, 2004, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Challenger Space Center

21170 N. 83rd Ave Peoria, AZ

Here is a link with more information about the project:

<http://www.lowell.edu/dct/dct.php> ***

CELESTIAL PORTRAITS

by Tom Polakis

During a six-year period ending this month, Astronomy magazine published a series of observing articles I, Tom Polakis, wrote for them under the name "Celestial Portraits". The series ran for 45 articles until we ran out of sky to cover. Along the way, I was told countless times that the articles should be compiled into a book. Thanks to the tireless effort of Peter Argenziano, the articles are now assembled in a single volume. I will bring the books to SAC's May 7 meeting, where they will be available for \$5. PAS members are welcome to pick a copy up at this meeting. Learn more about the Saguaro Astronomy Club at <http://www.saguaroastro.org/>. The book contains all of the articles and two companion tables of all 798 objects: one sorted by article and the other by R.A. Peter turned what began as a modest copying project on my part into something much, much better. The articles were scanned into a PDF file, repaginated, an index was added, and all of this was very sturdily spiral bound and covered. He was able to do this for me for not much more than the price of paper and binding, for which I cannot thank him enough. I wanted to make zero profit, but even at the low \$5 price tag, I'll make more than a dollar per book to give to the IDA. Since the books are still no more than black & white copies, and essentially being given away, I have been given the permission of the magazine to make this offer.***

TRANSIT OF VENUS

received from Dan Heim

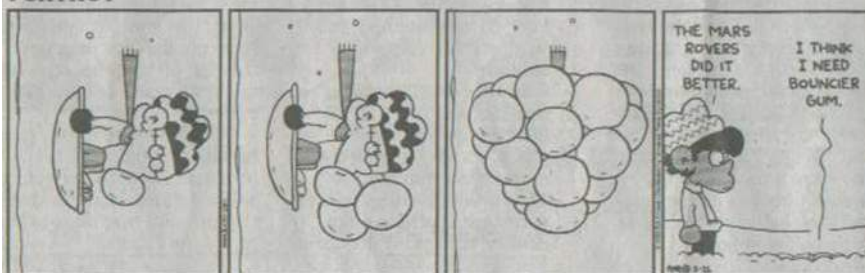
There are periodic astronomical events that could never be observed by any human alive today. One of these is the transit of Venus on June 8, 2004. On this day half our globe will be able to watch the tiny black dot of the planet Venus moving across the disc of the sun. Given a cloudless sky, all you'll need is a sun filter to follow the spectacle for several hours by your naked eyes (check your eyes). The previous transit of Venus occurred on December 6, 1882 - one of merely five events of its kind ever watched by mankind.***

ADULT NIGHT OUT

by Christine Shuplac

Yes, ANO continues through the summer this year! So we would love to have your group continue coming. As a matter-of-fact, please announce the May 7th meeting in particular, which will have Dr. Fulvio Melia talk about black holes at 7 p.m. in the planetarium. The lecture and admission to ASC will be free to adults that evening, as they have been for Adults' Night Out for many months now. For the May observing session, it will need to be held on the Science Center property rather than in Heritage Square; there is an event in Heritage

FOXTROT



Square that evening already. So no one can park their cars in Heritage Square that night; everyone will be welcome to temporarily use the bus pull-out on Washington to unload their telescopes, before parking. You can find more info on May's ANO at <http://www.azscience.org/visit/events.html>. The June ANO will be on June 4th, and the subject of the talk that night will be "Living with the Sun," and we will have an additional program in the planetarium by the Hayden Planetarium staff (NYC) on their 3-d Universe program. July ANO will be July 2nd, August's will be August 6th.***

NEEDED - VOLUNTEERS WITH A PURPOSE

For the May 15 Astronomy Day event at the Arizona Science Center, I am looking for Volunteers who can enhance a child's life with information about Astronomy or Science in a demo form. For instance.... I would like to set up a display (the one I'm making) and have about 3 or 4 people run it. That's the easy part. The other people who volunteer will have a chair, a table and some kind of science related thing to share with the kids as they walk by. You'd be doing a demo of some sort and explaining why it happens and asking the kids to try to figure it out, etc. One idea I had came from a really cool book I got in the library. We will fill a jug with water and milk. We can have 2 people for this one. Each will have a bright flash light and one will demo why we see a blue sky during the day time. The other will demo why we have sunsets and why they are red. If you want to be one of those two demos, let me know and we will experiment to get that jug of water to work for you. Then, you will be assigned to that as your project for the day. Now, if you do

volunteer for something, don't feel obligated to stay all day 10am - 5pm. If you need to leave, I just need someone to

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM/ by Mike Peters



fill in for you. So, Volunteers need to give me the times they can be available. I also need some other ideas. We will have Mike doing his normal, meteorites, posters, etc. There will be no electricity used for these events, so no TV monitors this time, no laptops, etc. Matt will be our sign-in person, and he might also hand out the worksheet for the kids to do. I don't know if we will do a worksheet yet, but it is in on the drawing board. I was also thinking of printing a page of the solar system on a paper, and having a coloring section for kids who are too young

See VOLUNTEERS, p. 4

VOLUNTEERS, cont'd. from p. 3

to complete the questions, but could still earn a prize. I have a bunch of prizes to give away at this event, and could use more if anyone has anything astronomy related they wish to donate. Donators will be thanked on the SPONSOR LIST which every one who walks into the science center will get in a packet they take home with them. Do you have an idea to share with the kids? Give me an idea what you want to do, and I will consider you for a volunteer. The more ideas, the better our display will be. Oh, and I need telescopes and people to watch them for the telescope display as well. So, if you wish to volunteer for that, please let me know. I would like at least 6 different telescope: **Don** can bring the Astro Scan and his 4.5", I'll supply my 8" again, **Adam** should bring his, **Richard's** is impressive as well, we could use a few more "different" looking scopes other than the ones we usually have around, oh a one pair of binocs on a tripod would be good too, maybe **Kevin** will bring that. If you have a scope I didn't mention or a large, very large pair of binocs and you wish to spend the day up stairs with the telescope display, please let me know.***

ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE

Deadline for FREE Membership is September 2004 Yes, that's right. September is the last month we are collecting aluminum cans to see who will win the FREE PAS Membership for 2005. Recently we made a trip to the recycling center, to get rid of the sticky batch of aluminum cans Mike gave me and here are the results. Bruce turned in 1 more pound, Mike turned in another 22 pounds and William has another 7 pounds. That means the tally to date is (in no particular order till the last one): Ted Finch with 27 pounds, William Finch with 36 pounds 10 oz, Adam Bloomer with 1 pound, Bruce Wurst with 11.5 pounds, Don Boyd with 15 pounds, Tim Steelman with 11.5 pounds, Ed Garbero with 1/4 pound, Kevin Harcey with 1/4 pound and Kevin Gray with 1/2 pound and that leaves the leaders with the higher scores of - matt Kohl with 87 pounds and Mike Marron in the lead with 117 pounds. Remember, the idea isn't to win - although Mike and Matt have been doing a great job of neck in neck up until recently. The idea is to raise money for PAS through can donations. Mike and Matt always fill my car with their cans, we go with a whole car load when we make that trip. And yours could be added to it. Just this past PAS meeting, April Fools day, again Mike brought me a bag of cans. So, get your cans in. Even if you don't' win, at least PAS will prosper with a little more money for its funds. Remember, someone has to pay for the speakers we enjoy at the



First picture of water on Mars! received from Leah Sapir



Even the Aliens come to visit the Salt Lake City Planetarium.

meetings.***

RANCHO SOLANO SCHOOL STAR PARTY REVIEW

Across the street from Horizon High School is an awesome private school Geoff Brown invited us to do a star party there. I'd like to thank Geoff for the opportunity because their location is very good for star parties and we had a wonderful time. The kids there are so interesting and their enthusiasm is awesome. I'd like to thank my volunteers, Adam, Don, Richard, Mike, Bette for bringing telescopes and other things for the kids to enjoy. And thanks too, for the refreshments. Geoff wants to have us come back sometime during the summer and do another star party, so I will be setting that up with him. If you can volunteer, let me know.***

JUPITER EVENT REVIEW

It was an interesting night. Don Boyd had asked me if I wanted to go out to our Lake Pleasant site and view Jupiter's awesome event of three moon shadows on its surface. That sounded intriguing to me so I announced to everyone that we were going out there a few days prior. Around 7:30-7:45 William and I have our stuff packed up to go. We call a friend of William's from work, who is bringing himself, his wife, and his mom, plus his daughter who is having a slumber party with 5 other girls. They are packed up and ready to go with us. We caravan on out. We arrive, it is dark, but due to the moon, it is nice out there. The temps are great, no breezes, just perfect for viewing. I set up my scope (I'm the only one with a scope at that point). A little while later I'm showing the kids some objects. I get on the third object and Carol drives in. She joins the group, looks through the scopes, has some fun. Then we get ready to view Jupiter and Don pulls in. He sets up his scope, while I show the kids and Carol Jupiter, and then the kids all leave for the night. Carol sticks around a little longer and says she must leave. That leaves only Don, William and myself - and two scopes. That's about 10:30 by then. Don and I watch Jupiter, on and off, while viewing other items like the Cat's Eye Nebula, Hercules Globular Cluster, Sombrero Galaxy, and we raced to a few. Then I started getting tired and the temperature dropped so William got in the car to keep warm and fell asleep, I dozed off freezing in my chair, Don kept playing wit his scope. He was having alignment problems all night. I don't' know if he resolved it or not. Anyway, During the night, several times I awoke, probably in about 15 minute intervals, and checked on Jupiter. Don was watching through my scope as well. But we never saw more than one shadow cross Jupiter

See JUPITER, p. 5

JUPITER, cont'd. from p. 4

and once the wind came up, the seeing wasn't good at all. We finally gave up and packed it in around 2:15pm, getting home and in bed around 3:30 that morning. I assume Don got to bed a little later than we did, as he comes all the way up from Chandler. But, I do want to thank Don for sticking it out with me in the cold, windy night air. Even though we didn't see what we were after, it was still a fun time.***

ASU WEST REVIEW March 25

We were invited, as we usually are, to do the ASU West Open House Star Party. It was a great turnout. I was impressed with the number of people and the number of scopes. Jack and Margie were there from SAC. My group consisted of Don, Richard, and myself. There were a few other scopes there as well, and Paul (the one who runs the event) had a scope and TV monitor setup so the public could see the items on the screen as well. I stayed mostly on Jupiter throughout the night. Don took Venus till she set, and then the Moon. Richard had the Orion Nebula. We must have had about 300+ people visiting that night. The weather was terrific and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.***

APRIL 1ST MEETING REVIEW

Yes, we had a PAS meeting on April Fools Day. It was some meeting. You should have been there. We had a large turnout, even though several of our people weren't there. I noticed that Ed Garbero didn't make it, and neither did Leah Sapir or Don Boyd. I wonder where they got off to on such a wonderful evening? Anyway, we started the meeting with Mark opening up with some announcements that I had written for him to relay to the group. I wish to thank Matt for his donation of candy to the snack pile.



Dennis tells us about his adventures while we see his display table with aliens and all sorts of neat, colorful things to look at.

meeting, Sharon Hansen won them. We did the 50/50 raffle, raised \$21 and another newbie, Greg Robbins, won that raffle. When I handed Greg the money he had won, he said "It pays to come to a PAS meeting." The club made some money on both raffles, which was nice. The Finches brought snacks as well. Free Icee's, which will be at the next meeting, just ask for one. By May, you will want something to keep your insides cool. There are plenty, so feel free to ask for several during the meeting. Try all flavors if you like. XS was available at \$2 a can, of which 15 cents of each sale goes to PAS, and there was also

Bette and Ed brought cookies to add to the snacks. Thanks to Sam Insana for donating Diamond Back Tickets to the April 23 game. We did a raffle for those tickets and our new visitor to the

cans of pop at 25 cents a can, of which 4 cents of each can goes to PAS. Both the XS and Pop will be available at the May meeting as well. I wish to thank Barbara Hartman for playing Hostess. John and Ed, our Hosts, weren't there yet, so I asked Barbara to go around signing people in. Its a great way to get to know who is who in the club. And the newer members should take turns doing that once in a while. Thank you Barbara, you did an awesome job. Prior to the meeting we met at the Deer Valley Airport Restaurant around 5pm for



Dan Heim reviews how Jerry Belcher and Mark Stephenson kept hassling him and teasing him about the ShangriLa Star Party of a couple years ago (that never happened). So, this month, we got even. Dan tells his story of how this all came about and why we saw Mark and Jerry nude in the April newsletter.

dinner. Yummy! Boy, that was a treat. I would like to thank the 13 of the reserved 19 people how attended. We didn't get to eat with Dennis, as he was dealing with a flat tire on the way south to our meeting. Jerry announced upcoming star parties. While discussing them, Dennis Young, our speaker for the night, joined in with an event on April 23 where Venus, Mars and the moon will be in a nice formation in the sky. You might want to check that out. The June 19th star party at the Lake Pleasant site, will be moved to the Sentinel site. If anyone wants to do Lake Pleasant, Terri will be the contact for both events, call to confirm attendance at the Lake prior to going out there. The sentinel site and the Lake site will both be potlucks. Bring food to share, and meat to cook on a grill. We can discuss details on that at the May meeting. Jerry says you want to go to the Sentinel site to see Omega Centauri. He said it is awesome and well worth the trip. Thursday August 12 is the Persieds Meteor Shower and it is usually hosted by Dan. Dan didn't commit to this event yet, but it is hoped someone will host a gathering to watch the Persieds meteor shower from a dark sky location. After all the star parties were announced, Jerry did a book review while the book was still in plastic. The book "Great Atlas of the Stars" is really nice. It has plastic over lay of the constellations, on top of large format photos of the night sky. Really impressive. He said that his opinion of the book on a scales of 1 to 10 is an 8 to 10 rating. Mark jumped in and said he thought it was an 8 because it didn't have everything in it, but it was really good for what it does have in it. We'd like to see a book report each month, and a bunch more Show and Tell. Mike didn't get to do his show and tell this month because the meeting lasted so long, but offered to do it next month if needed. Remember, next months meeting is Elections, and it is our rent time for Valley Academy, where by we show the kids of Valley Academy Charter School the night sky right there at their school on our meeting night, out front. Then we asked Dan to do a review of how the whole thing started with ShangriLa. So, Dan did a review of how he went out there because he wanted to be nice and confirm we had a star party and see what the lighting was like and the electrical needs, etc. They didn't know a thing about it and Dan was very embarrassed. That was 2 years ago. Then we let Dennis take the floor and do his

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ADS IN PAsTimes

This is the PAS advertising column & is a FREE service to all PAS members, guests, & VIP. Any Astronomy related items (books, scopes, binoculars, services, etc.) may be listed here that are being SOUGHT or SOLD. The item will only be advertised for ONE MONTH, but may be renewed each month (as needed) by contacting the Editor, by the newsletter deadline (the 1st of the month). It is requested that Non-PAS Members please make a small donation for placing your ad in both the PAsTimes newsletter and to my list of 170+ astronomy-loving email contacts. Please make check payable to Phoenix Astronomical Society and send to the return address on this newsletter. We do your advertising in hopes of great returns.

FOR SALE:

- 8" LX10..Meade SC Telescope with added Elec. Dec. System and Magellan I Computer system.
- LX 10 Heavy Duty Field Tripod.
- Camera set-up with Olympus OM1 and a Olympus OMG Camera
- 25, 16, and 10mm eyepieces.
- Some other stuff.
- **\$1000.00 Firm**

Scope is like new. I have never used the computer system since it was installed. Anyone interested can contact me. Thanks Dr. Walt Hohlstein Petvetwalt1@aol.com

WANTED:

Richard Guthrie is looking for an LX200 Super Wedge for a 10" Meade. Please contact him at 602-943-8278 if you can assist.

APRIL, cont'd. from p. 5

presentation. He had a very colorful display to work from. He showed us a 20 minute video on rocketry and the northern lights. He then went into his slides of his "Astro-Scenic-Photography." He explained how he took each photo and where it was taken and gave examples of all sorts of things that went wrong and right, and how lucky he was to have captured the images. We all enjoyed his stories and his slide show was a great way to introduce his art work. We closed the meeting after a brief review of Dennis's



Dennis Young sets up for the April PAS meeting, getting his slides ready for presentation.

newest toys, a new way to enhance your eyepieces as well as a binocular viewer. All items were well out of my price range, but the ideas are awesome. And Dennis was disappointed that he couldn't show us examples of the new toys that night, since it was raining during the whole meeting. As

a side note, since Jerry and Mark keep hassling Dan about Shangri La and so to get back at them, Dan teamed up with Matt, Terri and William, and we edited that photo you see on by the Shangri La Review in the April newsletter. Didn't we do a great job? Terri took the head shots, Matt found the nude bodies, William stuck the bodies to the heads and Dan edited the background. Anyway, this photo came out really awesome and when Mark saw it at the meeting, he was very embarrassed. He turned all sorts of Red shades. It was so funny. And to think that Matt and Terri had been planning this revenge since August of 2003. Along with the phony photo and the phony article, we also had Dennis help out. You will notice a wonderful photo taken by Dennis along with this article. The photo is real, but William took a ghost image that Matt found on the internet, and put the two together to create the ending slide that Dennis showed at the April meeting. The April meeting was a huge success, revenge was OURS, and hopefully we don't have to hear about the Shangri La Star Party any more. We never have had a star party up there, but that isn't to say that we won't. If they ask, I'm sure we could accommodate them. Green Laser Pointers will be available for purchase at the May PAS meeting.***



The phony ghost-aurora pic that was presented at the April meeting.

PAS MEETING FROM THE SPEAKER'S POINT OF VIEW

by Dennis Young

I think it was a good turn out for the meeting. Sorry though that it was pretty bad in regards to weather wise. I was really anxious to show some celestial objects that night - and with the new toy (binoviewer). I hope the video tape was ok too...being mainly on our sun and northern lights and rockets. I eventually went over to my friends place --Roger-- who wanted to show off his new place he moved to in Scottsdale and his new scope he is building.. A 16inch reflector. He is a long time friend I've known when he use to live in Sedona. As you know I had the unexpected flat on the freeway that held me up another 1 1/2hr. and that in turn put me in the middle of the Phoenix rush hour. And I of course needed to get the slide with the ghost like figure on it for the presentation. I think people got a kick out of it and it turned out pretty good as did your enlarged photo of it. I truly got to the meeting with only minutes to spare, missing out the nice dinner you all had. Dan was a life saver getting me back on the road again quickly. Thanks again for having me there.***

ASTRONOMY DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED MAY 15

I will be sending out some e-mail's asking for donations of inexpensive items for the Astronomy Day event we are doing at the Arizona Science Center on May 15. I also need volunteers. At present I don't have enough volunteers but

See NEEDED, p. 7

NEEDED, cont'd. from p. 6

those who volunteer will be working directly with the kids who visit the science center that day. So, I want volunteers who are very active and love to work with kids. The better job you do at this year's event, the more likely I will want you to help out again next year. Here are some ideas so far. I found in a few project books a way to make and explain why a sunset happens and why we see the blue in the sky. I need a volunteer who would like to take over that project. I will have a handout that you can read prior to the event and you do need a super bright flashlight and spare batteries incase they die by the end of the day. I also need everyone to donate toilet paper rolls. Lots of them. We will have someone, and if you wish to volunteer for this event let me know, who will help young kids make constellation kaleidoscopes. I also need a donation of tissue paper for this event. I'll provide most of the other things required. So, collect those toilet paper rolls and get them to me next meeting. If these two projects interest you, let me know. Also, if you do volunteer, I need to know if you can stay the whole day, 10am to 5pm for this, or if not, then I need a second volunteer to help out with that portion of the display. I need 2 or 3 people to help the kids with the questions on the display board. Each one will have their own question they are working with, to help the kids find the answers. And I need volunteers for the telescope display. Volunteers for this need to bring their telescope, the more the better, and stay with them all day, taking turns for breaks, never leaving the scopes totally unattended. I would like ADAM'S, DON'S, MIKE'S, AND RICHARD'S for starters. If you wish to volunteer for this, let me know. Some of you have asked what you get in return. Well, there are three things. First you get the feeling of having educated another kids in the world, as to how wonderful Astronomy and/or science can be. Second, you are racking up volunteer time at the science center towards a FREE membership, and third, you are helping promote PAS, and a bonus is, if you haven't seen the science center before, you will be given time to roam around and look at things in exchange for your assistance. I'm requesting a minimum of 4 hours of help for PAS, in trade for the access to the science center for Free. If you have already looked around the science center, and don't feel you need to again, then please volunteer for the full day. All volunteers must give me approximate hours they can stay that day, it is a Saturday, so that I can adjust. Also, we need night viewing with telescopes as well. The science center closes at 5pm and we will set up our scopes to be ready to view around 7pm, the sun should be down by then. So, if you can bring your scopes to the evening session, do let me know so I can mark down who my volunteers are and get your hours recorded for Christine to award you with Free membership to ASC. Donations



I sent William to the Moon. Isn't it amazing that the space men in the background have space suits while all William has on is his trench coat? Must be a special Oxygen filled trench coat. See Earth in the background?

needed: Toilet paper rolls, tissue paper of different colors, preferably darker colors***

MARS SPEAKER

A national NASA Mars representative will be giving a talk on the recent Mars landings on Tuesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at the Red Mountain public library branch, 635 N. Power Road. Color photos taken on Mars will be projected on an 8-foot screen as part of the presentation. The speaker will be Sheri Klug, who is in charge of teacher training nationwide for all of the N A S A M a r s m i s s i o n s . Her topic: "A Journey to Mars." The public is invited. The presentation will be made in a room which seats 250 persons, so there will be room for everyone. The program is sponsored by the Las Sendas Retirees of Mesa.***

ASSEMBLY PARTY THANKS

Friday, April 9th, I held an assembly party & movie night at our house. I wish to thank those participants who did an exceptional job assembling 300+ packets for the Anthem Star party. We did it in an assembly line fashion. At the beginning end we had Sharon who opened the plastic bags donated by Salah of the All In One Dollar Store. The bags were sticking together and slowing us down, so having someone to open them, really assisted in the speed of the production. Richard Guthrie was next in line doing 4 pages he gathered and stuffed into each bag. Then we came to the friend of Sharon's, Alan, who assembled a packet that William was stuffing into the bags he got from Richard. Matt Kohl then took those bags and stuffed a few more items into it and handed it on to Kevin who put the last item into the bag and folded and placed those bags neatly into a box. I made sure the piles were all filled so no one had to get up to get more stuff, and I also helped out where i could, jumping in to make more packets. So, many thanks goes to Kevin Harcey, Matt Kohl, Sharon Hansen, Alan, Richard Guthrie and William Finch. The next assembly party is April 30 and I hope for the same if not more of a turnout because it will be almost twice the amount of stuff to stuff. And this one took us 2.5 hours. The next one may take longer. Those of you who didn't help out missed out on the movie "School of Rock" which was awesome and some snacks. Don Boyd joined us for the movie and snacks.***



Here we see Your Editor all the way out on Mars. How did she get there and with no air to breathe?

ASC VOLUNTEER TRIP - DAY IN REVIEW

It was a wonderful day. I sent out a notice to all my Arizona Science Center Adult's Night Out volunteers asking them if they can make it to see the Dino display at the ASC on April 3rd. We wanted to make a

See ASC, p. 8

ASC, cont'd. from p. 7

short day of it but pick a day we could take the majority of our volunteers with us. Christine helped us out. She told us we could see the DRAGON BONES display complimentary. That's a perk to being a volunteer. So, 10 of us gathered at ASC and we had a blast. We got to the science center about 10 minutes to 10. It opens at 10. We wanted to be early. Well, we were early and so we saw this street fair going on outside, in the Heritage square over by the other buildings. So, we went there. We wandered around for about 1/2 hour, collected a bunch of interesting stuff, and then had to drop off those thing at the car before we could go in the science center. The display out doors appeared to be for children. it was hands-on activities and interesting information to find out about, and a book fair. We finally went into ASC. Our first stop was Dragon Bones. Dragon Bones ended April 11th. This was interesting and it was better than the last dino display the ASC had. It was just bones. Skeletons of the dinosaurs, but what was neat was the way they set it up with questions on a page hanging from the rope that enticed the kids to actually do something and figure something out. One of them asked "how many toes does this dinosaur (it was its name - which I don't remember) have?" And the person looking at the dino could see that that one had 5 fingers and 5 toes just like people do.

That was neat. Another one, a large dino, super long, was asking how many fee long this dino was. And I measured him to be about 50 feet long. The other neat thing we had was Mike Marron was with us. He brought a bunch of fossils to share around with the people visiting and the workers. And he was very interesting to listen to. He had a lot of really good ideas about the dinos and why they were built like they were. That was very intriguing and I want to thank Mike for making the walk through the dinosaur display that much more interesting. The initial idea was that we'd see the dino display in about 2 hours and then depart. But Christine offered us to go see 2 planetarium shows. So I took her up on it. And in return, she wanted some feedback on them. So, after visiting the DRAGON BONES, we wandered around the science center for another hour or so waiting till it was time to go to DRAGON PLANET. This show was interesting. But it lacked some information. It showed several really good effect, and had a good story line, but it seemed to not give as

much info as a dino lover might want to hear or be interested in. It lasted about an hour and we all enjoyed it. One part we weren't too crazy about was the bright flashes, every time something blew up.



Here is another shot from above at the SLC Planetarium, notice two floors and a very nice layout for the products to be sold. Plenty of room to get around in the shop.



The building for the planetarium is 3 stories high. Here we see the gift shop on two floors.

From almost total

dark to a bright flash, the human eye doesn't recover quick enough. But the story was good. Then we had to exit and come back in for the next planetarium show which worked out to be SATURN IN SIGHT. This was good, but again, lacked info. What I was hoping to see was more info we already know. It talked about the Cassini mission and had great photos and

examples, and good stuff in that sense. It lasted about 1/2 an hour and then the other half hour was dedicated to what was in the night



At the Salt Lake City Planetarium, one can see a huge pendulum which slowly works its way around the circle. It is very impressive.

time sky. I loved this part. The host, Brian, did a great job except for one thing. It was suggested by our group that when you are showing a photo of Mars to go with Mars, the photo should come from where the planet is sitting on the ceiling. Other than that, this was my favorite part of the presentation. What they did was show us right were the planets were in the night sky, point them out, give some background to the meaning of Mars, Saturn, etc... which gods they were, and then show a photo of that planet so you could see what it should look like. They were NASA photos, not through the telescope photos. I enjoyed this part of the show the best. After the two planetarium shows, we

heard that there was a show being put on by Hector. He is an awesome dude who was very helpful last year in helping me set up that massive display for astronomy day. Anyway, he was doing a presentation on nano-technology. That was cool. We stayed for that presentation. Then, we started to leave but stopped by to say goodbye and thanks to Christine. After a talk with her we hit the Awesome Atoms store, which I really like to visit. It has really cool stuff to check out. Well, our 2 hour visit to the ASC lasted the full day. We didn't get out of there till about 4pm. By the time we got home, everyone was starved because we hadn't planned a meal the whole morning. What a day, and it was so much fun. I want to thank Hector, and especially Christine for a fun day, and all my volunteers who attended for sharing the experience with me.***

COMETS Q4 & T7 (VISUAL PREDICTIONS)

by Dennis Young

COMET Q4 HIGHLIGHTS

(note that this comet moves very rapidly in sky from night to night) For northern observers we can get first glimpses... right of Sirius (about 12deg) on May 3rd. May 6th is maximum tail length and also photo opportunity...near M-

See COMETS, p. 9

COMETS, cont'd. from p. 8

46 & 47. First true dark skies and about 15deg above horizon at twilight. May 6th thru May 22nd --Prime viewing for northern



Here we have one of my favorite displays at this planetarium. Over head are huge balls depicting the planets and their size ratios. Very well done. Below that are informational items and the person standing there (I don't know her) but she is playing with one display. It is a computer display that asks questions about the Solar System and if you get 10 or so right you win Round 1 and move on to the next level. There are 4 rounds. The first three give you the chance to try a second time for the answer, but level 4 was tough. You miss the question and you start level 4 over again. Several of us played it for a while, while waiting for our planetarium show to begin.

observers. May 14th & 15th(Fri. & Sat) another Photo (op).. Q4 and M44 (Beehive cluster) within couple degrees. May 15 it passes only 1deg of M - 44!! (however in daylight hours). During all of June though much dimmer, Q4 remains visible all night long being circumpolar.

COMET T-7 HIGHLIGHTS

First glimpses for northern observers in the EASTERN sky (morning) comes on April 20th. Only 1deg high at beginning of twilight but bright enough to see until dawn. 2.6mag. Following 2 weeks it rises up to 3deg elevation (1.8mag) and best views prior to May 3rd (no moon). By mid May it's rapid motion carries it from morning to an evening object. Reappearing very low in the west (south west) in the first half of June. On June 4th its near 2nd mag star Alphard- (Hydra). Comet should be about 3.9mag. End of June Comet-T-7 fades to below naked eye and drops below horizon again.***

PERSIEDS METEOR SHOWER

Dan had declined hosting the Persieds Meteor Shower this year due to being not available. If anyone else would like to host the party or you know of a good viewing location, please let the Editors know.***

TWO STAR PARTIES IN REVIEW

It was an awesome night. You would not believe how clear the sky was, and how perfect the temperature was. On April 16, a group of us went out to the White Tank Mountains to enjoy a Star Party with a Girl Scout Troup. There were about 15 girl scouts, a few parents and a few extra folk that joined us out there. We had 4 telescopes and 2 binoculars set up. The air was calm, and very clear and the night went very well. The Girl Scouts offered us snacks prior to the viewing session. We had taken packets, that were planned for the Anthem Event (packed by my volunteer group that gathered for the Assembly Party at my home some time the week before). We also raffled off a sweat shirt that was donated, and one of the girls won it. I'd love to thank

Betty Duty, my contact for these star parties for inviting us out, and for their wonderful donation to PAS for our time. I'd like to thank those who went out with us who donated their gas money (the donation Betty made to us was to cover their fuel to get out there) and time: Mike Marron, Barbara Hartman, Kevin Harcey, Richard Guthrie, Don Boyd, & Peter Williams. I'd like to thank the extra help who came along for the ride, enjoyed the snacks and helped us unload and reload the vehicles with the scopes and supplies for the event: Scott Hartman & Matt Kohl. We had an awesome night. We got there well before sundown, enjoyed snacks and as it got dark, we started viewing. Then the girl scouts all left around 9:30pm, and some of us stayed out there till 11pm or so viewing. The air was just perfect for that. Barbara was showing us the Leo Trio, which most of us had not seen, and so Don and I tried to find it in our scopes. It was faint, harder to find the later it got and it appeared the mush in the sky was taking over. That told us it was time to leave. The seeing was just not as clear as it had been when the girl scouts were still there. So, we departed. It sure was a perfect viewing night. Then we come to the Anthem Star Party, the next night, April 17. Now, after having such an awesome time at the White Tank Mountains, one would think that the following night would be just as clear and beautiful. But.... it wasn't. We got to Anthem early, it was still day time, and it had about 1 hour left till the sun was set. The wind was tremendous and the wind brought with it, clouds. We didn't set up till just about dark, hoping the wind would die down once the sun went down. It didn't. It was terrible. But we had a pretty good turn out. About dark, we set up our scopes: Barbara, Richard, Bruce Dan and myself. Bruce was first to set up, spotted Venus, tried to get her and she went behind a cloud, just that fast. That was all we saw of anything celestial the whole night. We talked with my contact up there, Diana, and she made an announcement to the 50+ visitors who were milling around waiting for the clouds to go away. She told them we are going to reschedule this event for May or June when the storms will not be there as much. So, I asked her to try to get the available dates to us that weekend, prior to our printing date, so that we could put it in this issue, the May issue. If it is in here, you know we made the deadline, working together to get another viewing date. Just prior to the announcement by Diana to the group, Dan had consulted his GPS and discovered that the black cloud to the west was a big storm, 20 miles out, and hailing from California. It was due to rain and not very long from that moment. So, we started packing it in. We were able to sell 1 t-shirt that night, plus give out about 50 packets of info to



And then we have LaDien, my friend, who was pretending to be doing a weather forecast. It looks rather convincing on the TV screens to the left and right of her. She did a great job explaining the snow we were experiencing while visiting Salt Lake City in January.

See TWO, p. 10

TWO, cont'd. from p. 10

people who were there. The wind had all the scopes moving about (viewing would have been very difficult even if we had stayed. Matt had read on an internet weather site that there was 20-30 mph winds due that night. So, we headed out about 8:30pm. I'd like to thank my group for showing up at Anthem even with the wind and the clouds: Barbara Hartman, Richard Guthrie, Mike Marron, Bruce Wurst and Dan Heim. Let's hope the next Anthem Star Party this year, isn't so stormy. I'd love to see our usual 30+ scopes turn out for that event!***

PHOTON MAGAZINE

received from Gary Nugent, Photon Editor

'Photon' is a new bi-monthly astronomy magazine which is issued in PDF format. Written by amateurs for amateurs, it focuses on topics that relate directly to amateur astronomy rather than more esoteric, armchair-type subjects or other non-practical-related topics. In the magazine subjects have a more hands-on feel about them; experiences direct from one amateur to another. 'Photon' has been designed so that one page at a time fits on a reader's monitor. Many of the articles have hotlinks embedded in them so readers can jump straight to the relevant websites from within the magazine. For more information and some sample pages, please visit: <http://www.nightskyobserver.com/Photon> The first issue is free to download. Future issues will cost US\$3.00 each, or US\$15.00 for an annual subscription (subscribers get one issue free per year). We are seeking article/photo submissions for future issues. There will be a small payment for any material used and the author will retain full copyright on any such material.***

MESSIER MARATHON

March 29th, 2003

Two Trees site, Sedona, Arizona
Sirius Lookers, Sedona Astronomy Club
by Adam Bloomer

Rob Martin and myself decided Thursday night, March 27th, to attend this event instead of the one in Arizona City. A couple of reasons for attending the Sirius Lookers Messier Marathon were; at 4000 foot elevation there's not as much dust in the atmosphere. Most everyone knows how dusty it is at the Arizona City site, and with the wind we had Thursday and the forecast of more wind Friday and into Saturday, we knew there would be a lot of dust in the atmosphere. Another reason was it was closer for Rob to drive to Sedona instead of Arizona City. The other reason had to do with light pollution. AZ City is between Phoenix and Tucson. Lots of light pollution. Having been to the Red Rock Star party last year, I knew it wouldn't be as bad in Sedona. The only disadvantage we could think of was how cold it would be up there. I went



White Tank Mountains Girl Scout Star Party 4/16/04 was a blast! Here is Richard with his telescope and newly purchased PAS Sun T-shirt setting up for a night of viewing.



This is part of the set up we had at the White Tanks Mountain Girl Scout Star party. We see posters brought by Mike Marron, and his scope, which I didn't see him use that night because he was busy with meteorites. On the left is the Doctor's Crate, and on the right is the table that Don uses for his stuff. We had quite a set up, in a circle, and it worked out well.

up to Sedona Friday afternoon and set up camp. It was very windy all day Friday and I had a very hard time setting up my tent. About 7pm Dennis Young, John and Aria (forgive me, I'm real bad with names and forgot their last names) from the Sedona Sirius Lookers Astronomy Club showed up. As my scope was already set up we started to look for M77 on the low western horizon. I was trying to get a head start on the Marathon. Without luck. Dennis set up his little goto telescope and he found it just on the horizon. Now I knew where to look for it. I should have studied more though. We played there after, looking at this and that until Dennis decided to set up his new 18" Dob. All took all four of us to set this beast up. Dennis needs to make several modifications to it to make it easier to set up. We spent the rest of the night looking through it. I did get to use a few of Dennis's eyepieces on my 10" Dob. It was really cold out, and I'll bet that with the wind chill factor it was about 10 degrees above 0. So about 1am everyone left and I went into my tent to try to sleep. Now I haven't

camped out in a very long time and the wind was blowing the tent around some, making all kinds of weird noises. It took a long time to get to sleep. Just to the west of the Two Trees site there is a model aircraft airport. Dennis warned me Friday night that they start flying model airplanes at about 8am. Well, right at 8 o'clock they buzzed my tent and woke me up. I didn't get much sleep. I took my tent down, to make room for more telescopes and then decided to try to sleep some in my car. I slept on and off the rest of the day until other people started showing up around 3:30 or so. Needless to say I was very tired and I had a full night ahead of me.

To our great relief the winds died down around 5 PM or so. I think we had about 20 or 30 scopes set up, and members of 4 different Astronomy clubs there for the Marathon. Rob Martin showed up around 6 o'clock and set up. It started at dusk. As the sun sunk and friendly night started, we raced to find the hardest 6 evening objects. M77, M74, M33, M31, M32, & M110. Even finding M77 the night before and knowing where to look didn't help much. It still took a while to find it. I couldn't find M74 at all. I did find M33, but this took way to long. M31, M32, & M110 were way too low to see now. I should have studied more. The rest of the night went by rather quickly. I lost M72, M73, and M30 in the early morning skies. Padraig Houllahan of Flagstaff's Coconino Astronomical Society and his 10" Dob. got all 110 objects. I got 103 of

them. The rest of the observers got anywhere between 20 and 50 objects. What a night! I came in second place for this Messier Marathon. Not too bad considering I've only been using a telescope for a little less than a year. It was very hard to do, but it was a very rewarding experience. I think we should all try it sometime. Finding all the Messier objects is one

See MESSIER, p. 11

MESSIER, cont'd. from p. 10

of the many steps we need to take to gain a better understanding of the night sky. I must thank everyone who attended for the support and friendship they showed us. Especially Thom and Ellen Walczak who brought one of the most important things, a big heater. Even without the wind it was still very cold out and that heater was just the thing to keep us going. I would find a dozen or so objects and then go over to it and warm up and then start again. Also Rob Martin, who brought me some coffee and gave me very valuable encouragement during this whole night. If it wasn't for these 3 people I don't know if I would have made it through the night. Thank you all for a great weekend.***

ANTHEM STAR PARTY

Rescheduled to June 26, 2004

Volunteers needed. Bring your scopes. Set up time is 6:30pm. Let's have a blast and have fun with the night sky and the public at the Anthem Star Party. See Map for location in this issue. When you turn into the Anthem park, we are set up on the left side, second grass area by a ramada. The more scopes we have, the more fun we have. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. See you there!***

LOWELL OBSERVATORY ANNOUNCES 2ND ANNUAL STAR PARTY

June 17-20, 2004

The Lowell Observatory Star Party II unfolds from June 17-20 at the Observatory's Mars Hill campus with observing at nearby Arizona Snowbowl. Highlights include Clark Telescope observing, tours of the U.S. Naval Observatory and Lowell Observatory Anderson Mesa dark sky research site, special talks by astronomers, an astronomy marketplace, and Lowell's spectacular multimedia show. Kenneth Herkenhoff from USGS will present "Mars Rovers," with the latest from Spirit and Opportunity, by a U.S. Geological Survey scientist directly involved. Among talks by Lowell astronomers: "Recent Comets," includes two 2004 comets by expert David Schleicher; "Killer Asteroids," by Brian Skiff, an update on the productive Lowell Observatory Near-Earth Asteroid Search; "Our Variable Sun," an introduction to the seething world behind our Sun's steady light by Jeffrey Hall; and "Big Stars in Small Galaxies," by Deidre Hunter, with current research on effects of massive stars on dwarf galaxies. Project manager Thomas Sebring will present "The Discovery Channel Telescope," a behind-the-scenes look at building the new 4.3-meter, \$30,000,000 versatile instrument. Lowell Observatory is located at 1400 W. Mars Hill Road, Flagstaff, Arizona. Detailed information is available at <http://kraken.lowell.edu>. ***

The Joy of Tech™

by Nitrozac & Snaggy



When Astronomers Collide.

received from William Finch

photograph Pluto and Charon. The project, called New Horizons, will map both worlds. Sensors will chart surface minerals and ices, and catalog the gases that make up Pluto's wispy atmosphere. "It's the second epoch in the exploration of the planets," says Alan Stern, the principal investigator for New Horizons at the Southwest Research Institute in Colorado. "We're going to the very edge of the solar system." The probe is scheduled to launch in January 2006. Its journey will be a long one. Pluto is more than 30 times further away from the Sun than Earth is! Even with a speed boost from a flyby of Jupiter, the probe won't arrive at Pluto until July 2015. Afterward, the probe will venture on to explore the Kuiper Belt, a distant "halo" of small, frozen objects surrounding the solar system, from which comets originate. Aside from sheer curiosity about these distant worlds, scientists are motivated by questions about the formation of the solar system. Orbiting in the deep freeze far from the sun, Pluto and Charon have undergone less change than the inner planets during the solar system's 4.5 billion year history. These two worlds will provide a glimpse into the past. Pluto could also shed light on the origin of our own Moon. Earth, with its single, large moon, is unusual. The Pluto-Charon system is the only other pair like it in the solar system. In fact, some astronomers consider Earth and the Moon to be a double planet, too. So knowing more about Pluto and Charon could give clues about how the Earth-Moon system formed. And, of course, the spectacular, up-close photos of Pluto and Charon are going to look great as a screensaver!

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

Q: When is a window like a star?

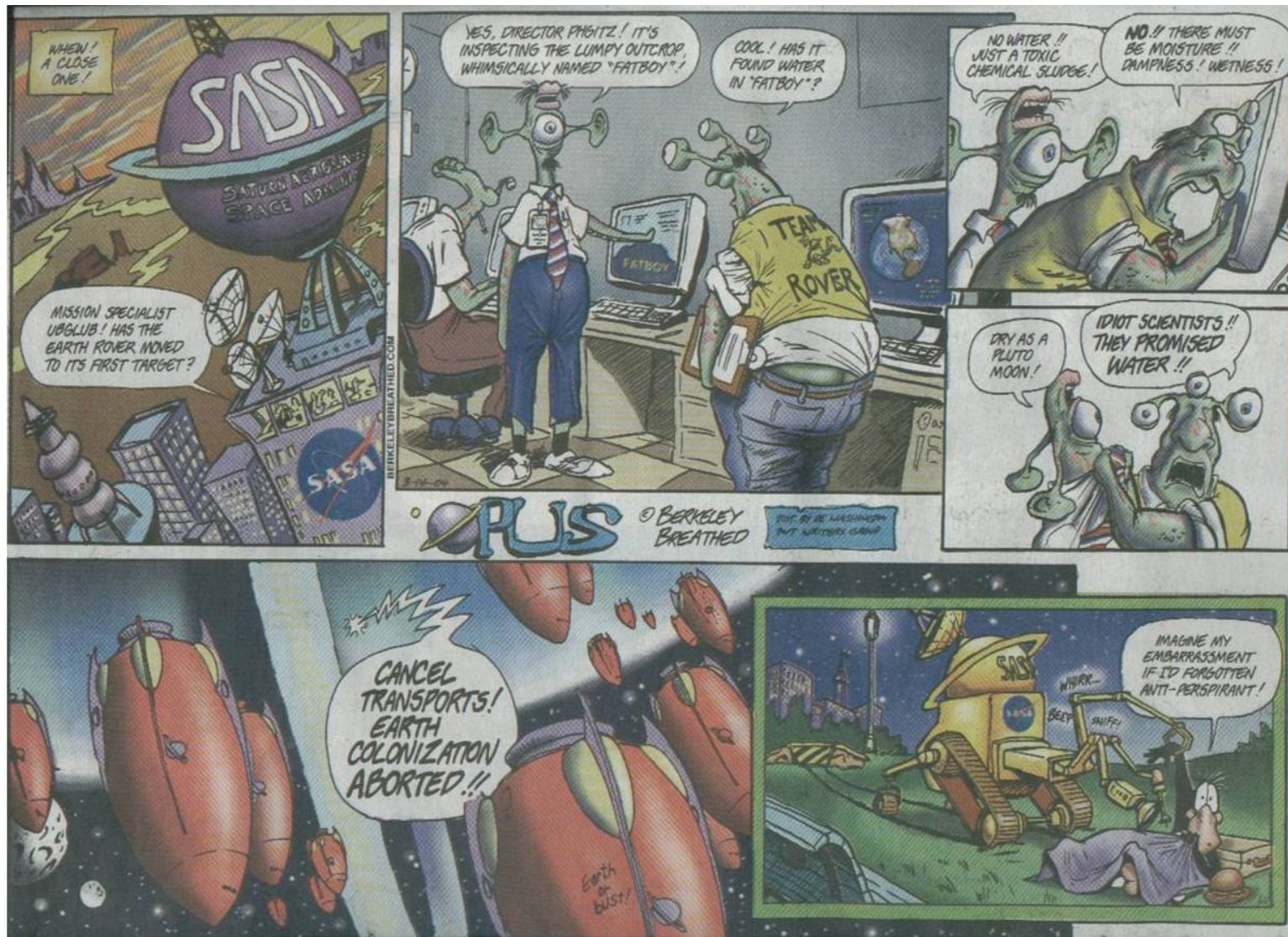
A: When it's a skylight!

NASA's Space Place

VOYAGE TO A DOUBLE PLANET

by Patrick L. Barry and Dr. Tony Phillips

Download a "nine planets" screensaver for your computer with spectacular photos of our solar system, and you'll notice that one planet is conspicuously missing: Pluto. Icy and mysterious, Pluto is the only planet never visited and photographed by NASA space probes. In fact, the clearest image we have of Pluto is a tiny, pixelated blob of light and dark patches taken by the Hubble Space Telescope in 1994. It's tantalizing but not much more. Earth-based telescopes have succeeded, however, in discovering one amazing fact: Pluto is not a lone world, but a double-planet system. Its companion, measuring about half the size of Pluto itself, is named Charon. Work is underway to launch a robotic probe to visit and



PAST MEETINGS



At the February PAS meeting, Mark and Adam were laughing at something, while the rest of the group listened and watched, prior to the meeting.

Barbara Hartman is one of our newest PAS members and has become a very active observing partner at our Star Parties. She is very appreciated.



At the February PAS meeting, we see Ed Garbero, with Ed Wurst behind him, purchasing XS Energy Drinks from Matt Kohl and William Finch.



AJ Crayon was our speaker for the March PAS meeting and he did an awesome job of telling us about the history of the Messier Marathon and about Charles Messier, himself.



Q: How do you get a baby astronaut to sleep?

A: You rock-et!

THE PAS HOLIDAY SOCIAL



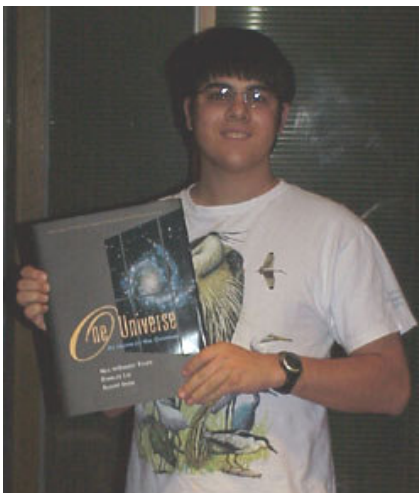
This is the fun part. At the Social this year, we did a White Dwarf Gift Exchange and here are some of the lovely, wrapped, disguised gifts that were seen there. Aren't they pretty? And they were very good gifts as well.



Your Editor was caught in the act of having an awesome time. Here she has a book she won at the Social.



Georg Koester is seen at the PAS Holiday Social of January '04. He had arrived late but joined in the fun we were having.



Frank Insana at the Social. It could be said that he has the WHOLE UNIVERSE IN HIS HANDS.



Here we have three wonderful people having a great time at the Social. Kevin Harcey, Disa Holly, and William Finch are all laughing about something. You'll have to come to the next PAS Holiday Social and enjoy some fun with us.



Social '04, Here we have two wonderful winners of prizes at the Social. Kevin Harcey and Glenn Vogt were caught having a great time.



The PAS Holiday Social has a lot of food, drink, people, and fun. Don Boyd, Mike Marron and Ed Garbero are shown in this photo having a wonderful time.

Q: Why did Captain Kirk go into the ladies restroom?

A: To boldly go where no man has been before!

Q: Why is space a vacuum?

A: To clean up all the stardust.

Q: Why did the astronomer stare at the dreamers?

A: Because they had stars in their eyes.

Q: What bug lives on the moon?

A: A luna-tick.

The Jupiter Beauty Contest Authorities have launched a bitter attack on their Earth counterparts. In a strongly-worded press release, they have pointed out that in the last 37 years every single winner of the Miss Universe competition has been an Earth woman !!

Q: Why do you see no Martian tourists at the Grand Canyon?

A: It just looks like home.

Kirk: Where's Spock? Last I heard, he was getting really sick of these jokes!

Bones: He's fled, Jim.



PAStimes

May 2004

13

SALLY RIDE FESTIVAL & RANCHO SOLANO SCHOOL STAR PARTY



Bruce puts up the sign at the Sally Ride Festival, while Ed & Bette help set up the display table.



Don Boyd and Jesse Romero join us at the Sally Ride event with their telescopes. This was a huge event. It was fun!



Sally Ride Festival on March 6, 2004. This was a hot but fun day. Here we see Adam doing some Solar Viewing and setting up for the event with his brand new solar filter. In the back to the right is the Doctor which was on display to explain the differences between telescopes.

Adam stands by his telescope with his table of observing toys. This was a very success star party at Rancho Solano Private School.



Rancho Solano Star Party was a great success. This image shows the Doctor and a beautiful Balloon in the background that was very pretty to watch. They were doing some kind of balloon rides next door.



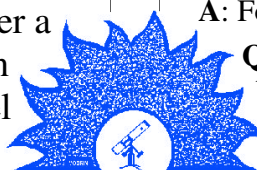
UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
18	19	20 <i>Birthday</i> Richard Guthrie	21 <i>Birthday</i> Barbara Hartman <i>Birthday</i> Liz Anderson Lyrid Meteor Shower	22 Earth Day	23 Crescent Moon, Mars & Venus make triangle within 8° in W after sunset (Mars in upper L of Venus mid April thru mid May).	24 <i>PAS Sentinel Star Party OR Lake Pleasant Shallow Sky Party</i> - see map; Astronomy Day
25 Saturn 5° S of Moon	26 "Mapping the Universe" at the Arizona Science Center, 5:30pm, Lecture 6:15, Admission: Free	27	28	29 Jupiter 4° S of Moon; <i>Meeting of the Minds</i> , 7pm, Denny's, Dunlap + I-17	30 <i>Assembly Party & Movie Night</i> at Finches 7pm - RSVP with Terri if you can attend and help out.	May 1
2 Venus at greatest brilliancy	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo; Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower	6 <i>PAS Meeting</i> , 7pm, Elections and Observing, Bring Snacks, Bring your Scope; Space Day	7 <i>Adult Night Out</i> - Arizona Science Center- Volunteers needed 6 - 10pm	8
9 Mother's Day	10 Neptune 5° N of Moon	11 <i>Birthday</i> Dennis Young (April 2004 PAS Meeting Speaker; Honorary Member)	12 Uranus 4° N of Moon & Vesta 1.1° N of Moon	13	14 Mercury greatest elongation (26° W)	15 <i>Astronomy Day</i> at Arizona Science Center, Volunteers needed all day 10am - 5 pm and Evening Viewing, Bring Scopes from 6pm to 10pm; <i>Lake Pleasant Deep Sky Party</i> - see map
16 Mercury 3° S of Moon	17	18	19	20 Venus 5° to upper L of thin crescent Moon, very low in WNW after sunset. Mars & Saturn to upper L.; <i>Birthday</i> Mike Marron	21 Venus 5° to lower R of crescent Moon	22 <i>Lake Pleasant Shallow Sky Party</i> - see map; Mars less than 2° to R of Saturn in W after sunset, Venus to lower R.; <i>PAS Sentinel Star Party; Challenger Space Center Event</i> - see article this issue
23	24 Mars 1.6° N of Saturn	25	26 	27 Jupiter 4° S of Moon; <i>Meeting of the Minds</i> , 7pm, Denny's, Dunlap + I-17; <i>Birthday</i> Dan Heim	28	29

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT'D)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31 Memorial Day	JUNE 1	2	3	4 <i>Adult Night Out</i> - Arizona Science Center- Volunteers needed 6 - 10pm	5 <i>Birthday</i> Sam Insana
6 <i>David Levy MDA Event</i> in Pinetop AZ - David can't attend but they want PAS volunteers - nothing definite has been set up as of yet (through 12th)	7 Neptune 5° N of Moon	8 Uranus 4° N of Moon; Transit of Venus	9 Vesta 1.2° S of Moon	10	11 Grand Canyon Star Party (through 19th); Pluto at opposition (visible all night)	12 <i>Lake Pleasant Shallow Sky Party</i> - see map
13	14 Mars 6° S of Pollux	15	16	17 Lowell Observatory 2nd Annual Star Party (through 20th) - see details this issue	18	19 Saturn 5° S of Moon; <i>Lake Pleasant Deep Sky Party w/ potluck</i> - see map; <i>PAS Sentinel Star Party</i>
20 Father's Day; Summer Solstice 8:57 pm; Mars 4° S of Moon	21	22	23 Jupiter 3° S of Moon	24 Venus 2° N of Aldebaran; <i>Meeting of the Minds</i> , 7pm, Denny's, Dunlap + I-17	25	26
27	28	29	30 Meteor Day; Bright star Aldebaran (mag 1.1) is less than 1.5° to lower R of Venus low in ENE before sunrise (through July 8)	JULY 1	2 <i>Adult Night Out</i> - Arizona Science Center - Volunteers needed 6 - 10pm	3

There is only one way to achieve happiness on this terrestrial ball and that is to have either a clear conscience or none at all. ---- Ogden Nash, found etched on floor, lower level of Arrowhead Mall.



Q: Why do martians have 2 antennas on their head?

A: For better reception.

Q: How many Borg does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: One, but the whole collective enjoys the experience!

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT'D)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Independence Day	5 <i>Birthday</i> William Finch, Homepage Director; Uranus 4° N of Moon	6	7	8	9	10 Mercury (mag - 0.2) .25° above Mars (mag 1.8) very low in WNW after sunset; <i>Lake Pleasant Shallow Sky Party</i> - see map
11	12	13 Venus 8° S of Moon	14 Venus at greatest brilliancy	15	16	17 <i>Lake Pleasant Deep Sky Party w/ potluck</i> - see map
18 Mars 4° S of Moon; <i>Birthday</i> Don Boyd	19 Mercury 5° S of Moon	20 Jupiter 7° to left of crescent Moon, low in W after sunset, Mercury to lower right; Moon Day	21 Jupiter 3° S of Moon	22	23	24 Regulus 1° to upper right of Mercury very low in W after sunset
25 Mercury 1.5° S of Regulus; <i>Birthday</i> Ted Finch	26 Mercury at greatest elongation (27° E)	27	28	29 <i>Meeting of the Minds</i> , 7pm, Denny's, I-17 & Dunlap	30	31 Neptune 5° N of Moon
<i>AUG. Sept. Newsletter submission deadline</i> 1	2 Uranus 4° N of Moon	3	4	5 Neptune at opposition (visible all night long)	6 <i>Adult Night Out</i> at Arizona Science Center - Volunteers needed, 6 - 10 pm	7 <i>Lake Pleasant Shallow Sky Party</i> - see map; <i>Birthday</i> Matt Kohl, Co-Editor

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Lake Pleasant Star Party Site
Contact Jerry 602-938-2932
or Mark 623-435-5454 so you
don't go alone.

PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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PAStimes
May 2004 Issue

BRING A FRIEND

STAMP



TO:

MAILING LABEL

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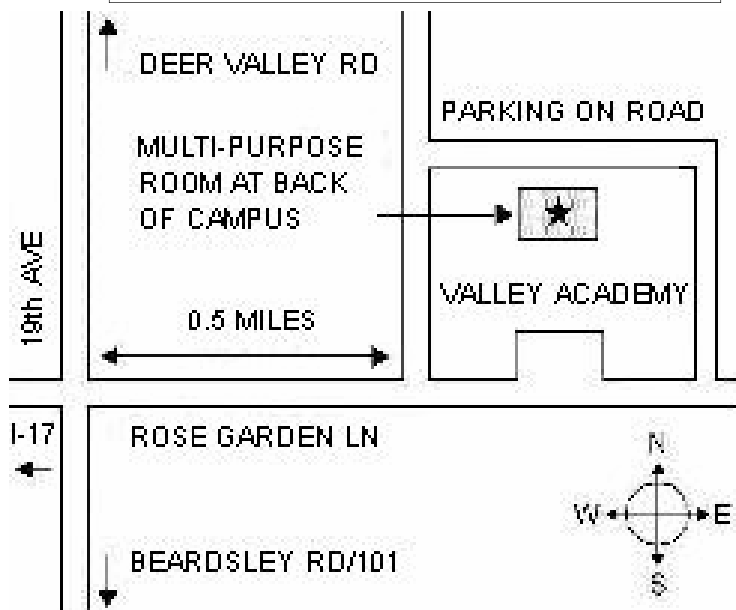
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