JUNE 1981

NEXT MEETING will be at 8:00 PM, June 5 (Friday) in the Emporium room of the Four Seasons Motor Inn, I-40 & Carlisle. This is practically next door to the Cotillion room #3 in which the static display for Astronomy Day was held. The program will be the Carson solar film. The main order of business will be to welcome any new members who will be joining as result of their attendance at Astronomy Day activities. This is the reason we are holding this particular meeting in a location with unusually large capacity. There were one hundred sixty persons who signed up as being interested in knowing about the club and we are preparing for a deluge. Don't miss this one!

STAR PARTY will be attempted on Saturday, May 30 at Bullhead Park, located at the south end of San Pedro. Backup date will the following Saturday, June 6 at the same place. If we're not done in by clouds, wind, rain, hail, cold or pestilence we'll see you there. Non-members are also welcome.

ASTRONOMY DAY could only be described as an overwhelming success. Although the club officers and the Astronomy Day committee members, Derek Wallentinsen, Alan Lampson, Merv Seay, Lou Baker, Jerry Goffe, and Susan Dietrich worked long and hard on preparations for the event, the response and the enthusiasm surrounding it could hardly have been predicted. Estimates of crowd numbers at this kind of free-wheeling event have to be shaky at best but it is possible close to a thousand people showed up to view the static display and outdoor setup. Many were those who came early in the afternoon and then also later in the evening and many were hotel guests, no doubt, but even allowing for counting a few heads twice, the turnout was enormous. At my scope alone, trained on Saturn, there was an average of ten to twelve people lined up for almost two and a half hours! My bladder will testify to it! Across the patio of the Four Seasons could be heard an almost constant oooohing and aaaaahing to the celestial sights. Less than ideal light interference prevented much observation of anything other than planets but even so the show was spectacular. The late sunset and rising wind hampered any deep sky observing.

Special thanks to Adron Lilly who came to our rescue by constructing several easels on which to put our Astronomy Day notice posters. The easels are now the property of the club and will be invaluable in future programs. Our thanks to Adron. Also the club wishes to thank Heather Kennedy, the student from Montezuma Elementary School who was kind enough to allow us to display her solar observing safety poster. We are delighted to benefit from the contributions of students such as Heather and I have sent her a letter expressing our thanks.
One of the most important items on the agenda for the June meeting will be a critique of the Astronomy Day program with an eye toward improving the one we hope to have next year. We urge the committee members especially to attend this meeting and bring notes on suggestions for future events. Any comments from anybody are welcome, so chirp up! It is unlikely the club has ever attempted anything as ambitious as this year's program and so the program was something of a shakedown cruise. Mac Morgan reports that the Four Seasons' management was delighted with the presentation and there is a good chance they will cooperate in the future.

**FOR FREE** - two mirror grinding pedestals and German equatorial mount with sleeve bearings and one inch shafts. Call Merv Seay (883-4279).

**1981 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION** of amateur astronomers will be held in Fort Worth, Texas on June 26-28. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting of the Astronomical League contact me. Derek Wallentinsen has provided the club with a copious amount of literature on the event, all of which will be available at our June meeting.

**EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ASTRONOMY BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK** meeting was held at my house Sunday, May 17 to celebrate Susan Dietrich's and Barbara Arthur's new telescopes. They both are 2½" refractors and we are looking forward to these additions at the next star party. My thanks to Derek again for his frequent participations in these classes. He is one of my slower students but with Barbara and Susan's and my help and enough of my wife's strawberry shortcake there may be hope for him yet.