The Sidereal Times

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ASTRONOMERS

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We have several important changes which have been made in upcoming events. Astronomy Day, which we have been talking about and working on for several months, has been changed to April 23. This doesn’t leave very much time to prepare for it, so if you want to help and haven’t already contacted Jim Palmer (299-7955), you had better get to it soon. Our display this year will be at the Sheraton Old Town Motel in the Mercado Mall from 1:00 PM till midnight. There will be both indoor and outdoor exhibits, all in the immediate area of the motel. Telescopes will be set up for solar viewing during the day as well as stellar and planetary viewing at night. Help to make this a big success by inviting everyone you know. This is of interest to everyone, not just people who already have an interest in astronomy. And don’t forget to attend the party yourself! You will enjoy it, too.

The Texas Star Party is also on a different date than advertised in previous newsletters. It will be held on June 8-12, and Susan Dietrich (621-0669) would like to hear from you if you want to go along on this trip. This will be on the weekend after Memorial Day weekend.

The next meeting will not be held on the first weekend of the month as it usually is, but on April 8 instead, since April 1 is on Easter weekend and that might inconvenience many of the members. So the meeting will be on Friday, April 8, and the star party will be on Friday, April 15. The meeting will be held at 7:30 at the home of Alan Lampson, 9825 Denali NE (821-3289). See the map on the last page for details. The star party will be held at Coronado Monument again at 8:00. See the other map for directions. Following is a list of objects scheduled for viewing at the next star party:

1. M-44 - Beehive in Cancer
2. M-48 - Hydra
3. M-67 - Cluster in Cancer
5. M-60 - Elliptical galaxy in Virgo, 10th mag.
6. M-53 - Coma Berenices cluster
7. M-104 - 8th mag. spiral

8. NGC 2506 - Faint, large open cluster, low power

9. M-97 - Owl nebula

10. M-64 - Blackeye, spiral barred galaxy


Bad weather caused the cancellation of the star party last month, so we hope to make up for it this month. Maybe spring will arrive in time for this one, but I'm beginning to wonder about that.

The inflatable planetarium belonging to the Albuquerque Public Schools was available for all of us on March 10 at Hoover school, but the number of members who showed up was embarrassingly small. Only 3 of us were present for a very interesting evening. It makes it rather hard to set up special events such as this when very few members seem to care enough to bother to show up. Two teachers stayed until after 9 PM with the planetarium for us, and, although they didn't show it, I'm sure they were disappointed with the results. Hopefully, the next time we are able to obtain something like this, more of you will take advantage of it.

For those of us who don't have large telescopes but like to gaze through them occasionally, the UNM observatory on Yale NE is open almost every Friday night to the public. To find out if the observatory will be open and what objects will be viewed, you can call the Astronomy hotline at 277-4335. Professor Zeilik has assured us that everyone is welcome. He also mentioned that there is an independent study course in Astronomy called Astronomy 101C which he teaches. It is essentially a correspondence course, with written lessons to be mailed in to him. You can get 3 credits for the course, which costs about $75. You can take from 6 to 18 months to finish, and you can get more information by calling 277-2931.
VIEWING SITE

SERVICE ROAD NO TRESPASSING

Ignore this sign

MUSEUM

CAMPGROUND

Hwy 44

RIO GRANDE

EXIT 292B

I-25

STAR PARTY
CORONADO STATE MONUMENT

ACADEMY

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DENALI

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SUAN TABO

MAP TO MEETING