The January meeting and election of officers will be held on Friday, January 6, 1984 at 7:30 PM at the home of Ramon Huerta at 7712 El Conde NE. (See map on the last page for details). The speaker will be Ramon Huerta who will give a slide presentation on his various trips around the world chasing solar eclipses, including trips to Russia and Java. Also during the January meeting will be election of officers for 1984. The only way to ensure the election of officers who are satisfactory to you is to attend the meeting and cast your vote. Every member has a vote, but you must be present at the meeting to cast your vote. Don't let a few regular members choose your officers for you. All positions are still open for nominations at the meeting, and if you know someone who would do a good job as one of the officers, nominate that person. And don't think you can't help as an officer. If you are willing to help out, let one of the current officers know. Some of the current officers are ready to pass the job on to someone else for next year. It would be ideal if everyone took a turn, but many of the members really don't have the time to devote to the position. But many of us can spare a few hours per month helping to improve our organization. How about you?

The December meeting was one of the best we have had this year. Graham Flint gave us a full description of his observatory with which he will be doing research work on the identification of extra-solar planetary systems. His observatory, still being completed in the Sandia foothills, is not your ordinary backyard setup. It is a study in planning and engineering. It will be used solely for the purpose of extra-solar planetary studies, and as such will be better for the job than most major observatories, which can't spare the great amounts of time needed for this type of work anyhow. Graham Flint is a spellbinding speaker, very knowledgeable about his work, and totally dedicated to his pursuit. As he progresses with his "hobby", as he calls it, we would certainly like to hear from him again.

This month's star party will be on Saturday, January 28, at 8:00 at Coronado State Monument. We are holding it near the end of the month this time to get back in phase with the new moon. As usual, we will have certain aspects of civilization available to us, such as rest rooms, electricity, and warmth. Skies are
particularly dark during the winter due to the lower water content, but we also have winter weather to contend with, as well as Albuquerque’s smog. But sometimes the wind and weather are favorable and we have great seeing conditions. So bundle up, bring something warm and/or invigorating to drink, and snuggle up to a telescope for a few hours. If nothing else, we always have a lot of fun.

We have been receiving a 5% rebate from Optimal Corp. on optical equipment bought from them by club members. This is a great boost to the club treasury, and Optimal carries most of the optical equipment you might want to buy. When you go in there, be sure to mention that you are a club member, so they will know to send the rebate to the club. We are also going to receive $1.00 off the price of Tee-shirts decorated by Astroline Products of Albuquerque. The point of purchase of these shirts is not quite settled yet, but should be firm by the next meeting. The shirts have an astronomy-related scene air-brushed on a blue or black background. There will be some samples at the next meeting as well as information on purchasing them.

This will be the last newsletter I will be editing for the Albuquerque Astronomers, since I will be giving the position up to someone else at the election meeting. I have enjoyed having the opportunity to put in my 5 cents worth (inflation, you know), and I learned quite a bit about the workings of the club in the process. Time, or the lack of it, dictates that I let someone else have a go at it this year. If you liked the newsletter during the last year, or even if you didn’t, let me know. The person who takes over would like to know too. It’s your newsletter, and as such it should be what you want it to be. A good time to do that would be at the next meeting, when you can vote for officers and find out what the new year has in store for our organization. Happy New Year!
"Actually, they all look alike to me."