The Sidereal Times
Newsletter of the Albuquerque Astronomers

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NOVEMBER 1984

Upcoming meetings:

The November meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be hosted by our president, Steve Snider, at his house at 2400 Lema Road SE in Rio Rancho. The speaker will be Wayne Hicks, who you may remember for selling the Halley’s Comet T-shirts. Wayne will talk about his work as a professional astrophotographer, and will provide tips, hints, results, and whatever other information that you can extract. Afterwards, Steve will hold an open house of his observatory. This should be quite a show, so bring a guest, and let’s have a good turnout.

The October star party will be at Coronado State Monument on Saturday, October 27, starting around 8:00 p.m. The weather that we have recently had has caused an erosion problem at the monument. Therefore, we will meet at the front (south side) of the buildings instead of going around to the back. There is no backup date for this star party, so if the weather is bad, we will try again in November.

The junior club has had its second meeting, and is off and running. It meets regularly the third Friday of the month at the New Futures School at 2120 Louisiana NE (corner of Louisiana and Indian School). The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in the history classroom (main building, first room on the left as you enter). The November meeting will be on the 16th.

At the last meeting David Young of Los Alamos Labs gave an interesting presentation on the European mission to Comet Halley. David has also joined our club. We welcome him, and all of our recent members. By the way, we actually have two new members by the name of David Young: the aforementioned and another from Kirtland AFB. Feel free to become confused.
Since enthusiasm for meetings is usually not very strong in December, it has been suggested that we hold a potluck dinner "meeting" instead. If you have any comments on this idea, please let a club officer know.

There may be a permanent place for our business meetings, since the new Albuquerque Natural History Museum has offered us a room to hold our monthly meeting. As the building is not yet finished, we will still need to use members' homes for a few more months.

Election of club officers will be at the January meeting. If you would like to participate in the operation of the club, please talk to one of the current officers and we will place your name on the ballot.

Concerning progress on finding a location for the permanent observing site, contact has at last been made with the Forest Service. The club must write a letter with a formal proposal on our plan. The observatory committee will be working on this, but may need some help from other club members.

Another note for those computer types with modems. The Satellite-Cable TV Network bulletin board system includes a log of satellite data and cable TV news. The satellite data shows profiles of Satcom, Westar, Comstar, and Galaxy satellites, plus orbit positions for all the general service satellites. Also, a listing includes all the services that each one carries. Other information includes a schedule of launches and operation dates for new satellites. Use your modem to call 618-451-1041.

NASA in Houston provides the latest activities on current space shuttle missions, including crew wake-up and sleep times, satellite hand-off points, downlink points for video transmission from the shuttle, and current press conference information. Use your modem to call 713-483-4115.

Gas Net, a bulletin board provided by NASA, gives you all the latest information on how to include an experiment on the space shuttle. The cost of the experiments, called Get Away Specials, ranges from $3,000 to $10,000. Gas Net tells about the latest results of experiments, who is going to be included in the next set of experiments, when and where conferences will be held on the subject, and what you should consider when sending an experiment into space. If you want to know more about how to send something into space, contact Bob Pincus, NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Code 743G, Greenbelt, MD 20771, 301-344-5874, or use your modem to call 301-344-9156.

Now that the mailing list is more or less "automated," I will give a brief rundown on how it operates. The expiration date that is on the mailing label of your newsletter is the key; it is used to determine if you get a newsletter. The month
that the newsletter date is the same as your expiration date, there will be a message on the label stating that you need to renew. The following month, there will be a warning that your membership has expired. The following month will have a second warning. The third month will have a final warning. After that, you will be dropped from the mailing list. It is all automatic; I make no entries to drop someone. If I am in a hurry, I may not even check to see who is not getting a newsletter for that month. Some people have been dropped who I "know" will renew, but I do not intervene in the automatic deletion process. Also remember, you pay the treasurer, Bruce Levin, and it does take a little time for him to get that renewal information to me, so don't wait until the last minute.

If there is no date in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label, then the newsletter is a complimentary copy that we send to other clubs, etc. If you know of a prospective member and think they should receive a newsletter, give me a call and I will send them a free newsletter for the next two months (after that, they have to join). These free newsletters will be indicated by "SAMPLE" in the space where the expiration date is normally located.

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STEVE SNIDER
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RIO RANCHO
B92-6562

Saturday
Nov 3, 7:30 pm

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STAR PARTY
Sat, Oct 27
Coronado State Monument

[Map Diagram]

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to CUBA

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to PLACITAS

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Bernalillo

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I-25

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EXIT 242B

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Corrales Rd

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Rio Rancho Dr

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SOUTHERN BYLYD

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Sara Rd

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Nicklaus Dr

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30th St

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WILLIS DR

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LEMA Rd

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STAR PARTY
Sat, Oct 27
Coronado State Monument