

★ ABOVE THE FOG

• BULLETIN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS •

VOL. 48, No. 11 – November 2000

San Francisco
Amateur Astronomers



Sharing the Wonders
of the Universe



Information Hotline
(415) 566-2357

Web Page
<http://www.zennla.com/sfaa>

Robert Naeye
Guest Speaker, General Meeting
November 15 at 7:30 p.m.

“Signals from Space
CHANDRA – X-ray Observatory”

The speaker for our General Meeting on November 15, 2000 will be Bob Naeye. He will talk about his new book SIGNALS FROM SPACE Chandra - X-ray Observatory. This is Bob's second published book. A very timely topic about the new observatory and what science it is doing.

Bob is the new Editor of the ASP's Mercury magazine. He most recent job has been as a senior editor for Astronomy Magazine. He has written articles such as "The Little Stars That Couldn't," "Neutron Stars With a Wobble" and "Looking for Life," which can be found at the magazine's website at www.astronomy.com. He also has a list of the year's best books in astronomy.

City Star Party

The next City Star Party will be in February, 2001. We will have the 2001 calendar in the next issue.

SFAA Officers 2000

President Al Stern
(510) 728-1851

Vice-President Bill Stepka
(415) 928-2367

Secretary Renita Mock
(415) 566-2357

Treasurer Chelle Owens
(415) 479-5313

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Bulletin Editor

Lorrie Boen (415) 921-1432

Telescope Loans

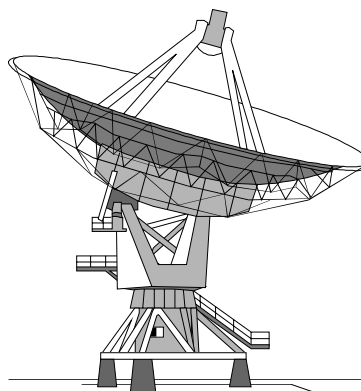
Ray Cash (415) 665-8666

SFAA Website Update

For those of you with online access, don't forget to visit the club's website. The bulletin board area especially is a great place to post info and ask questions. Go to <http://www.zennla.com/sfaa>.

Above the Fog is the official bulletin of the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers. It is the forum in which club members may share their experiences, ideas, and observations. We encourage you to participate by submitting your articles, announcements, letters, photos, and drawings. We would also like to hear from our new members. Tell us about yourself – what you have done in the past and what other clubs you have joined. **The deadline for the next issue is the seventh day of the month.** Send your articles to Lorrie Boen at 765 Geary Street #302, San Francisco, CA 94109 or at LorrenLee@aol.com.

Club Telescopes



Long time member Ray Cash-LePennec has 3 loaner telescopes for club member use and is in charge of loaning them out. If you are interested in borrowing a club telescope, give Ray a call. There are many new members in the SFAA and they ask what kind of telescope to buy or use and this is a good way to get to know the Dobsonian type of scope and learn the sky as well.

CLUB DATES

Board Meeting – November 8

7:00 p.m. Western Addition Library – corner of Scott & Geary Sts. SF

SFAA General Meeting – November 15

Refreshments and conversation at 7:00 p.m.

Speakers begin 7:30 p.m.

Morrison Planetarium, Golden Gate Park

Mt. Tam Star Party

October 28 at 7:00 p.m. (last of 2000)

From the President

Actually, it's the bulletin editor this time. The President is on his honeymoon. Al's comments will return in the next issue.

First of all, my apologies to anyone who did not receive their bulletin and copy of Literary Award entries. It appears that the USPS sorting machines took offense at the size of the package and ate some of them. Please contact me or Renita Mock, our secretary, for a copy if you did not receive it.

Remember, the elections for club officers and board members will be held at the General Meeting on December 20. Renita has written the details later in this issue.

Please also remember to send in your ballot for the Literary Award. They need to be datemarked by October 31st. The club's other contest, the Photography Award, will be held at the General Meeting on December 20th. Please bring your entries to the meeting for judging. The results will be announced at the Annual Awards Dinner in January.

We will be announcing more details about the awards dinner in the December issue.

Lorrie

Public Viewing Nights
at the
[Sonoma State University Observatory](#)
FALL - WINTER 2000-01



Friday evenings:

NOV	3	7:00 -9:00	Moon, Dumbbell Nebula
DEC	1	7:00 -9:00	Saturn, Triangulum Galaxy
FEB	2	7:00 -9:00	Jupiter, Orion Nebula

The Observatory is located [inside the football field](#) at the SE corner of the campus. The [campus](#) is located at East Cotati Avenue and Petaluma Hill Road, 2 miles east of U.S. 101 at Cotati. Follow signs from the freeway to the campus.

Call before coming if it appears possible that clouds or fog may force cancellation: (707) 664-2267.

See the website at <http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/observatory/pvn.html>

Morrison Planetarium's
Benjamin Dean Lecture Series
presents

Astronomy in the New Millennium

7 November

Hyperspace, Time Machines, Wormholes, and the Theory of Everything

Physicists are closing in on that one equation that will explain everything about time and space before the Big Bang to the ultimate fate of the Universe.

Dr. Michio Kaku, City College of New York

12 December

Millenium and Astronomy – Past and Future

The idea of cyclic time, with ages being signaled by spectacular cosmic happenings will be traced through past cultures and projected to the future.

Dr. Anthony Aveni, Colgate University

23 January

The Blind Leading the Seers – Science Fiction and Science

Science fiction is immensely important to science by getting young people hooked on science as a career and by keeping the public interested.

How do SciFi writers go about their craft?

Joe Haldeman, MIT

All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Planetarium - Tickets are \$3.00 each

DEAN LECTURE INFORMATION LINE at (415) 750-7141



Mt. Tam Star Party – ready, set, observe

Mt. Tamalpais State Park Astronomy Programs

*Lectures held in the Mountain Theater
Observing is in the Rock Springs Parking Area*

October 28 at 7:00 p.m. - DR. ROCCO MANCINELLI

Senior Research Scientist-SETI INSTITUTE
"Life's Expansion Beyond its Planet of Origin"

What is the potential for survival, adaptation, and biological evolution of life beyond the home planet?"

A no-host dinner with the speaker will be at Lau's China Bistro, 224 Almonte Boulevard (Tam Junction), at 5:00pm. Call 415-389-8868 and add your name to the "Mt. Tam Party" if you wish to join. (Cost is \$10-15 including tax and tip, depending on the number of attendees and the menu.)

Information: (415) 455-5370, (415) 388-2070

Same Day Hotlines: (415) 566-2357, (415) 455-5370 (messages after 4:00 p.m.)

Address: MTIA/Astronomy Programs, PO Box 3318, San Rafael, CA 94912

If you are a Mt. Tam volunteer, please call in your hours to Bridget Mason at (415) 361-6527

SFAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – CANDIDATES NEEDED FOR YEAR 2001

SFAA needs members to serve on its Board of Directors for year 2001. The board consists of four officers, seven directors and, generally, two alternate directors who are elected by the general membership.

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Western Addition Public Library, Scott Street at Geary Blvd. in San Francisco. Meetings run about 1-1/2 hours. Board members must commit to at least six meetings during the calendar year and may not miss three consecutive meetings.

If you would like to submit your name as a nominee or you would like to nominate someone else, you may do so at the General Business Meeting on Wednesday, October 18th; by contacting any officer or board member; or by calling the club secretary at (415) 566-2357, extension 2. If you submit someone else's name, please be sure to check with that person to make sure he or she is willing to serve.

Nominations must be received no later than NOVEMBER 7TH. Nominees will be reviewed at the board meeting on November 8. Names of candidates will appear on the official ballot which is published in the December issue of Above The Fog.

Ballots must be received in person or by mail no later than election night at the General Business Meeting on December 20th.

Serving on the board is a wonderful way to contribute your talents and interests to one of the Bay Area's best amateur astronomy clubs, so please consider it. We need you.

Renita Mock
Secretary

The Hubble Space Telescope And What It Has Taught Us
Astronomer Sandra Faber
November 15 At Foothill College

On Wednesday evening, November 15, at 7 pm, Dr. Sandra Faber of the University of California at Santa Cruz will give an illustrated talk in the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture Series, at Foothill College. Admission is free and the public is invited.

The non-technical lecture will focus on the Hubble Space Telescope, which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary in space. Dr. Faber will show the most meaningful images from the Hubble, including many that are not familiar to the public. She will explain how the images (and other data) from the orbiting telescope are changing our views of the cosmos and ourselves. Among the images she will discuss are the impact photos when the fragments of a comet hit Jupiter; close-ups of great nurseries of stars where we can glimpse what the birth of our own solar system may have looked like; and the deep views that have allowed the Hubble to look back ten billion years, when even the great galaxies of stars were still in their infancy.

The lecture will be held at the Foothill College Smithwick Theater in Los Altos Hills. From Interstate 280, exit El Monte Road and travel west to the campus. Visitors must purchase a required campus parking permit for \$2. For directions and information, call the series hotline at (650) 949-7888.

The non-technical program is cosponsored by NASA's Ames Research Center, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and the SETI Institute. Over 900 people attended several of the lectures in this series last year. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Children over 13 are most welcome.

Sandra Faber is one of the most respected astronomers in the country today. A member of the Wide-Field Camera Team for the Hubble, she was one of the three scientists who diagnosed the problems of the telescope's mirror and later helped craft the strategy for the repair mission. She has also played a major role in the construction of the world's largest light-gathering instruments, the two 400-inch Keck Telescopes in Hawaii. She is one of only three people to carry the title of "University Professor" in the University of California system, and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1985. Her research interests include the properties and the formation of galaxies, and she wrote one of the pioneering papers showing the existence of "dark matter" -- the unknown material that may fill much of the universe.

Dr. Faber is a member of the "Seven Samurai" -- the fond title given to the group of astronomers who first detected that the expansion of the universe had large-scale irregularities in it (indicating that the universe was lumpier than had been thought.) She is also a part of the team that is showing how common giant black holes are in the centers of galaxies. In addition, she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute, and is in demand as a speaker around the world.



City Star Party – the audience is listening

LECTURE
CHABOT OBSERVATORY & SCIENCE CENTER

November 7, 2000
7:30 p.m.

Dr. Mark Cole
Director

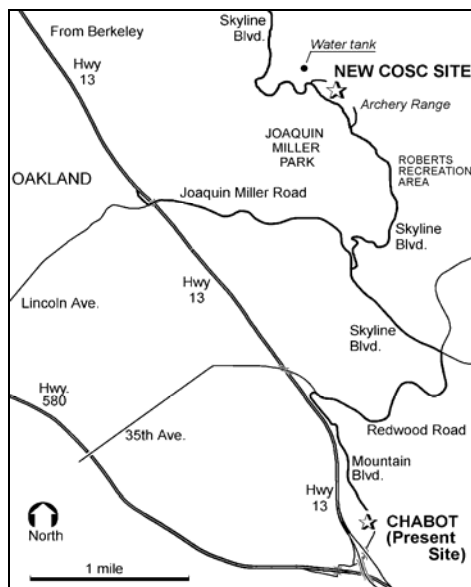
Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)
Livingston Parish, Louisiana

CATCHING A GRAVITY WAVE

Dr. Cole will discuss how gravity waves are generated, the method for their detection and the implication for further understanding of the cosmos.

New Chabot Observatory & Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland CA 94619
Tel: (510) 336-7491

Admission is free to members of the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers and the East Bay Astronomical Society. Seating is limited. Please be prepared to show your membership card.



Directions to NEW Chabot Observatory & Science Center

From downtown Oakland, San Francisco, etc. go east on I 580 to the Fruitvale exit. Go straight ahead two blocks then left on Champion. Champion becomes Lincoln which becomes Joaquin Miller where it crosses Hwy. 13. Continue to the new traffic signal at the top of the hill and turn left onto the two-lane portion of Skyline Blvd. After about 1.2 miles you will see the building ahead and above you and the main entrance road will appear on the right. If coming from most other locations, take Hwy. 13 to the Joaquin Miller exit, turn east (uphill) and follow the above instructions.

Founded in September 1952, the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers (SFAA) is an association of people who share a common interest in astronomy and other related sciences. Our membership consists of people from all walks of life, educational backgrounds and ages. Many SFAA members own their own telescopes; some have been made by hand in local telescope-making classes and vary in size from 6 to 25 inches.

Treasurer, SFAA, 13 Mabry Way, San Rafael, CA 94903

make checks payable to **San Francisco Amateur Astronomers** and mail to:

- \$25 enclosed, individual membership
- \$30 enclosed, foreign membership
- \$30 enclosed, family membership
- \$30 enclosed, institutional membership
- \$8 enclosed, youth membership (under 18)

Select one category:

Email address:

Address:

Name: Telephone:

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers Membership Application

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

c/o Morrison Planetarium
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118

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Above the Fog

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