

ABOVE THE FOG

• BULLETIN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS •

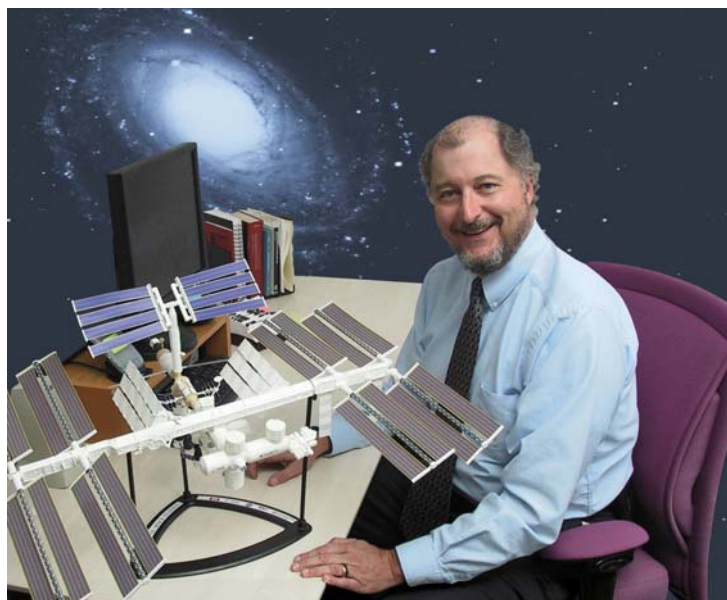
VOL. 53, No. 7 – JULY 2005

July 20, 2005 – General Meeting

RANDALL MUSEUM 199 MUSEUM WAY SAN FRANCISCO
7:00 PM DOORS OPEN . 7:30 PM ANNOUNCEMENTS . 8:00 PM SPEAKER

Nick Kanas, M.D.

**Mapping the Heavens:
The Golden Age of Pictorial Celestial Cartography**



Pictorial celestial cartography reached its zenith in Europe from 1600 to 1800, when grand atlases were produced with plates locating the stars in beautiful constellation images that were placed in accurate heavenly coordinate systems. But these books also included diagrams of the universe that were based on cosmological theories dating back to the time of the Ancient Greeks. In his presentation, Dr. Kanas will discuss how both cosmological theory and stellar mapping developed and were depicted in the great celestial atlases. He will illustrate his talk with slides of pieces from his private collection.

Nick Kanas is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California/San Francisco and the San Francisco Veterans Hospital, where he does NASA-funded research on astronauts working in the International Space Station. He has been observing the heavens through a telescope since childhood, and he has been a member of the SFAA since 1978. He has collected antiquarian celestial books and prints for over 20 years. He has given talks on celestial cartography for the California Map Society, the International Conference on the History of Cartography, the Palo Alto Art Center, Bay Area astronomy groups, and the Sydney (Australia) Observatory. He has also written articles on this topic for Sky and Telescope, Mercury, the Journal of the International Map Collectors' Society, and Imago Mundi.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

The mailing label on the back of this issue shows the month and year through which your membership was paid. If the date has passed, your membership has expired. Members may receive no more than one bulletin after the expiration of membership.

Please renew soon if your membership is expiring.



The SFAA's Secretary's Web Site helps keep SFAA information together and accessible to members. The site URL is <http://www.whiteoaks.com/sfaa/>. At this site you can find such information as minutes from meetings of the Board of Directors, the SFAA official by-laws, and other information. SFAA also offers email lists to supplement the bulletin board offered at the SFAA's official web site. At present there are two email lists – an unmoderated list for use primarily for business and discussion by the Board of Directors (but open to all members), and a moderated announcement list for all SFAA members. If you would like to be added to the SFAA-announce email list, please contact the secretary (<mailto:secretary@sfaa-astronomy.org>) and let him know. You can also sign up for the list yourself at this URL: <http://www.whiteoaks.com/mailman/listinfo/sfaa-announce>

CLUB TELESCOPES



The SFAA owns 4 club loaner telescopes, Dobsonian/Newtonian reflectors: 6" f/10, 8" f/7, and 10" f/8 and a Starblast. They are available for extended periods (30 days or more) to SFAA members. These are generally very fine scopes, easy to use and well suited for deep sky, planets, and star parties. The loaner custodians are Pete Goldie & Sarah Szczechowicz, located in San Francisco. If you are interested in borrowing a scope, or if you have items you can donate for the loaner program (eyepieces, star maps/books, collimator, etc.) please contact them via email (<mailto:pg@lbin.com>) or phone (415-206-9867). Email communication is preferred and strongly recommended for a quick and accurate reply.

CLUB ASTRONOMY VIDEOS



The SFAA owns a series of astronomy videotapes featuring Alex Filippenko, a world-renowned professor of astronomy at UC Berkeley. The videotapes provide an introduction to astronomy and cover topics such as the Solar System, the lifecycles of stars, the nature of galaxies, and the birth of the Universe. The SFAA loans the tapes free to all members. If you are interested in viewing these tapes, you may check them out at any of the SFAA General Meetings. These tapes were kindly donated to the SFAA by Bert Katzung. Our librarian is Dan Christian.

For information on the course tapes themselves:

<http://www.teach12.com/ttc/assets/courseDescriptions/180.asp>

ONLINE SERVICES FOR SFAA MEMBERS

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 20th day of the month.** Send your articles to Phil Estrin at pestrin@dir.ca.gov.



Important Upcoming Dates

Board Meeting

July 5
August 2
September 6
7:00-8:30 p.m.

*Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way
(Near 14th Street and Roosevelt)*

SFAA General Meeting & Lecture

July 20
August 17
September 21
7:00 p.m. Doors open
7:30 p.m. Announcements
8:00 p.m. Speaker

Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way (Near 14th Street and Roosevelt)

City Star Party

July 30 - 8:30 p.m. – Telescope Clinic 7:30 p.m. – At Land's End
August 27 – 8:00 p.m. – At the RANDALL MUSEUM to compliment the AANC Conference
September 24 - 7:00 p.m. – Telescope Clinic 6:00 p.m. – At land's end

Land's End, San Francisco

Map and directions <http://www.sfaa-astronomy.org/sfaa/starparties/cspmap.shtml>

Mount Tam Public Star Party

July 9 , 8:30 p.m.
August 13, 8:00 p.m.
September 10, 8:00 p.m.

San Francisco Amateur Astronomer's Rock Springs Members Only Event

(at or near new moon)

Mount Tamalpais – Rock Springs

July 2 – 7:00 p.m.
August 6 - 7:00 p.m.

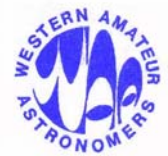
Saturday, August 27, 2005

AANC-CON 2005

Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, San Francisco, CA 94114

Hosted by

Sponsored by



The AANC is pleased to announce "AANC-CON 2005" conference and workshops to be held SATURDAY, August 27th, 2005 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM. The conference will be hosted by us, the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers, the San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers, and sponsored by both AANC and the Western Amateur Astronomers.

This year's theme is "Celebrating Bay Area Astronomy" and we have an impressive lineup of speakers and activities. We will also be celebrating John Dobson's 90th birthday!

Our speakers include Timothy Ferris, Lynette Cook, Steve Gottlieb and Richard Crisp; with additional presentations by Bob Schalk and ASP's Marni Berendsen. The \$25 registration fee will include all speakers and workshops plus lunch.

That evening, we'll have a star party at the Randall and deliver our 2005 awards. In addition, we hope to have a workshop on astronomy clubs and land use issues; focusing on the relationships (good and bad) between the park systems and amateur astronomers. Visit the conference web site at http://www.planitarium.net/aanc/aanc-con2005/program_guide/

The \$25 registration fee includes admission to all speakers and workshops, as well as a boxed lunch. We appreciate pre-registration, as it helps us plan the number of meals needed. We ask that you register for the event either online via PayPal or send your \$25 check payable to "AANC-CON 2005" to: Don Stone, AANC Treasurer, 19047 Robinson Rd., Sonoma, CA 95476-5517. If you wish to pay at the door, please notify us in advance by emailing aancregistration@pacbell.net.

The AANC acts as a forum for communication to the Astronomy Community, funds public outreach events, seed money for educational programs, and is once again holding its annual conference and awards. We invite you to this conference and historic 90th birthday celebration for John Dobson our SFAA Emeritus Board Member.

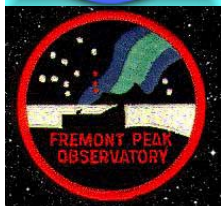
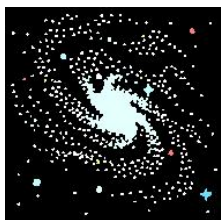
VOLUNTEERS...we need 'em. Contact Stacy Jo McDermott at aanc2005volunteers@hotmail.com.
The Amateur Astronomer Community's volunteers will handle the following:

- Speaker helpers - 3 Memory book helper - 1
- Valley of the Dobs - 3 people to watch the dobs while unattended by their owners
- Set up on Friday - 3 to help out with Randall folks
- Saturday Tear down - 6 Vendor helpers - 2
- Star party helpers - 6 Art and construction projects for kids 6
- Dob in a Day - to assist Richard Ozer from the Telescope Makers Workshop
- Misc - 6 (2 shifts of 3 people)

Since we're hosting this event, it'd be nice if we had a good SFAA turnout to help - besides, you get to hear all the speakers and attend the workshops for free!

Thank you for your support.

Richard Ozer and Kenneth Frank, Co-Chairs . AANC Conference Committee

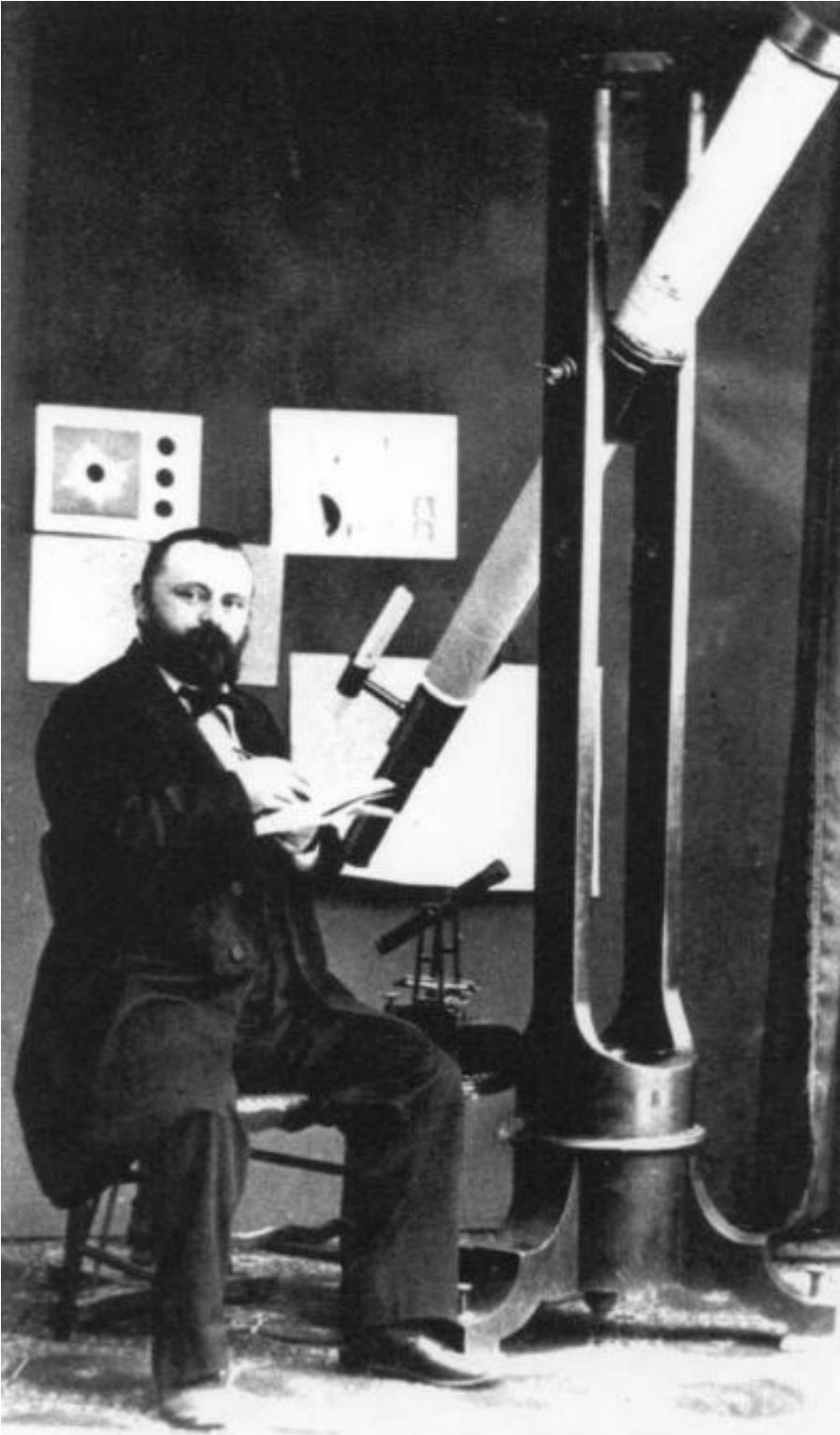


Participating Member Clubs

TEMPEL TANTRUM

Coined phrase from John Dillon

Kenneth Frank



You know, like the one's you used to have as a kid...not really!

For those of you thinking of viewing Deep Impact., here are some ideas.

When? July 3rd. After 2300.

Where? Location, location, location. [Fremont Peak](#) [Mount Tamalpias](#) [Mount Diablo](#) [Mount Hamilton](#) [Lake Sonoma](#) [Montebello](#) [Observe](#)

A [symphony](#) of data sequencing.

History:

Comet 9P/Tempel 1 was discovered on April 3, 1867 by [Ernst Wilhelm Leberecht Tempel](#), a German astronomer observing in [Marseille, France](#), while visually searching for comets. At that time the comet was 9th magnitude and described by Tempel as having an apparent diameter of 4 to 5 arcmin across. Later calculations revealed that the comet had been situated 0.71 AU from the Earth and 1.64 AU from the Sun.

The Marseille Observatory on the Mediterranean coast has been at the leading edge of comet discovery and study for a long time: more than 50 comets were discovered there from 1801 to 1919 [3] [5]. Ernst Wilhelm Tempel (1821-1889) [9] was a German amateur astronomer who discovered the ninth periodic comet 9P/Tempel 1 [8], target of the Deep Impact mission, in 1867. Around 1860 Tempel was working as a lithographer in Italy. Without any diploma in astronomy, he managed to get hired in by director Valz for observing at the Marseille Observatory [2], then in the Montée des Accoules above the harbor in the center of the old city. During his ten-year stay in Marseille, Tempel discovered five minor planets and eight comets. According to a small text in French written by Tempel concerning his own discoveries [6], he discovered his sixth comet, 9P, on April 3, 1867 at 10 PM from his window at 26 rue Pythagore, using his Steinheil 4-inch refractor. His letter with the details of the discovery was published in the *Astronomische*

Nachrichten (one of the major astronomical journals at the time), No. 1637 of April 12, 1867 [7]. It seems that Tempel was no longer

working for the Observatory - which in the meantime had been annexed to the Paris Observatory under its director Le Verrier, and had moved to a new location - when he made the discovery. Indeed the strict new director did not get on well with Tempel, whose personal successes with his own instruments probably did not improve their relationship. Expelled from France in 1871 because of his German nationality (the Franco-Prussian war had started in 1870), Tempel left for Italy, working first at the Brera Observatory in Milan and then, until his death, at the Arcetri Observatory in Florence. He is also known for his fine drawings of nebulae, a work honored by artist Max Ernst in 1964 in "Maximiliana or the illegal practice of Astronomy" [1].

- [1] From <http://www.artfifa.com/fr/par-titre/view-261.html>
- [2] See picture at <http://www.oamp.fr/patrimoine/superimp.jpg>
- [3] See Cometography by Gary Kronk <http://www.cometography.com>
- [4] Observatoire Astronomique de Marseille-Provence <http://www.oamp.fr>
- [5] Jim Caplan, priv. com. 2003-03-16
- [6] Découvertes astronomiques faites par Gme Tempel, Marseille, 1868
- [7] Astronomische Nachrichten No 1637, scanned version available at http://cdsads.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/nph-article_query?1867AN.....69...63T&data_type=PDF_HIGH&type=PRINTER&filetype=.pdf
- [8] <http://cometography.com/pcomets/009p.html>
- [9] <http://www.seds.org/messier/xtra/leos/tempel.html>

In addition, from <http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/cfa/ps/CometDes.html>, here are the discoveries of comets Tempel during his life. So indeed he discovered eight comets when he was in Marseille. That looks quite amazing to me... now rue Pythagore is in the city, before it was in the country... Interestingly in such a research on comet discovery. we find quite a direct evidence of social and demographic phenomena like... urban expansion. Indeed at the time rue Pythagore must have been quite dark and well located: I think it was also on the southern side of the hill of Notre Dame de la Garde. I shall go and check one day, but street number in Europe do not depend on mileage and DO change...

I think here are his first eight comets discovered in Marseille.

C/1860 U1	1860 IV	Tempel			
C/1863 V1	1863 IV	Tempel			
C/1864 N1	1864 II	Tempel			
55P/1865 Y1	1866 I	Tempel-Tuttle			
9P/1867 G1	1867 II	Tempel			
C/1869 T1	1869 II = 1869b	Tempel	11P/1869 W1	1869 III = 1869c	Tempel-Swift-LINEAR
C/1870 K1	1870 I 1870a	Winnecke	Winnecke	Tempel ?	
or maybe					
C/1871 L1	1871 II = 1871b	Tempel			

And his five asteroids discovered in Marseille: from <http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/lists/NumberedMPs00001.html>

(64) Angelina	1861 03 04	Marseilles	Tempel, E. W.
(65) Cybele	1861 03 08	Marseilles	Tempel, E. W.
(74) Galatea	1862 08 29	Marseilles	Tempel, E. W.
(81) Terpsichore	1864 09 30	Marseilles	Tempel, E. W.
(97) Klotho	1868 02 17	Marseilles	Tempel, E. W.

Some distance learning issues. .894 AU

Where is 1Tempel [now](#)?

How bright will it get? Your guess is as good as mine.

What will we see?

Some comet specialists predict that the nucleus may brighten to 6th magnitude as the debris cloud slowly expands. How long this brightness will last is uncertain. The outburst (if any) expected from Tempel 1 may last possibly days or weeks.

My thanks go again to my dear friend Renaud Savalle, Research Engineer at OAMP [4] formerly from [CFHT](#), and to Jim Caplan, Astronomer, in charge of the history group at OAMP [4] whom Renaud interviewed for this special look into an amateur astronomer of the past.

Sunday - June 26, 2005
Fremont Peak Observatory Association Star-B-Q
A great summer get together! <http://www.fpoa.net/>



The annual FPOA Star-B-Que will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2005, at the observatory and adjacent picnic area. This will be our 18th Star-B-Que. The picnic portion of the event will begin approximately 5:00 PM, and the annual FPOA raffle, astronomy trivia quiz, and astrofest bake contest will be held thereafter.

Our election of board members will also be ongoing during the Star-B-Que. The FPOA is always looking for new board members their new ideas and thoughts about the organization. If you are interested in becoming a board member, please let one of the present board members know.

Our guest speaker is Dr. Douglas Vakoch, Director of Interstellar Message Composition at the SETI Institute. He will be giving a talk on the progress of the SETI searches. If Comet Tempel 1 is

still bright, I suspect that will be the object to observe that night.

If you are planning to attend the Star-B-Que, please RSVP to one of the FPOA e-mail addresses or call the FPOA phone message line. If you have any questions about the Star-B-Que, please feel free to contact any FPOA Board Member.

Pat Donnelly, President
Fremont Peak Observatory Association

Saturday, July 2 at 7:00 pm
SFAA SPECIAL USE PERMIT MEMBERS ONLY NIGHT

Deep Impact is the theme for this night's viewing.

Our point of contact for Saturday evening will be one of the Rangers. Robert English is the Guy on the Mountain for the State special use permit placards. Please place your placard visible on the dash of your vehicle to avoid a problem. We'd like you to arrive before sunset prior to the gate being locked so Robert, or his appointee, doesn't have to interrupt his observing session and drive down to open the gate for you.

Ken Frank

Saturday, July 9 at 8:30pm
2005 MT. TAM ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS
Mountain Theater on Mt Tam

Postcards From Saturn: Cassini Explores the Lord of the Rings

Dr. Mark Showalter of the SETI Institute will present an update on the latest and greatest results from the Cassini Spacecraft, revealing wonders of the Saturn's rings, moons and clouds.

The Madrone Picnic Area is reserved from 7:00pm and telescope viewing will take place in the Rock Spring Parking Area following the lecture (weather permitting of course) until about 11:00pm. If the weather is questionable (dare I even suggest it?) call the program hotline 415-455-5370 or the SFAA hotline 415-289-6636 for an update after 4:00pm. (Note that there is only an update if there is a cancellation.) Normally the lectures are held even if the observing is clouded out. Dress warmly, bring a flashlight and car pool if possible.

Tinka Ross

SFAA Yosemite Star Party at Glacier Point

July 8th & 9th, 2005



Photo courtesy of Michael Portuesi

The annual Yosemite star party is held at Glacier Point, hosted by the National Park Service (NPS). Rustic camping is located at the Bridalveil Creek campground group site. There is room for several tents. Cold running water is convenient but sans showers. The camp is 8.5 miles away from Glacier Point.

For those of you unfamiliar with this event, we are given free reserved admission and camping space. In exchange, we do two public star parties at Glacier Point, on Friday and Saturday night. We have the public (about 200-300 people) from twilight for a few hours, and then the rest of the night (and all day) to ourselves; this is a mighty good deal, considering how some folks come 12,000 miles to see these rocks. We take a maximum of 30 people, with priority given to SFAA members. Please do not ask if your friends can come...unless they are SFAA members. You are expected to have at least one public telescope for every two people. Check the SFAA website for up-to-date info on Yosemite Park current weather and conditions. Once you've signed up, I'll send you a gate pass, map of our campsites and page of rules.

A note for non-members and those not making the list: Yosemite is your national park, and you may come if you arrange your own accommodations. In this case, you would be welcome to join us at Glacier Point for the public star party and the observing afterward; however, you would not be obligated to set up for the public.

Here are folks and their scopes who are signed up so far –

Jane & Morris Jones - 14.5" & 17.5" Liteboxes
Jorge Morales + 1 C 8, Giant Binocs & 10" Dob
Bob Franklin + 2 C 9.25
Ken, Aeddán Frank & Jayni Allsep - 10" f/6 Dob
Stefanie Ulrey - 4" Star Blaster
Mark & Maureen Mickels & Emma Button + 2 -
12.5" 2004 RTMC winning Dob
Jennifer, Jeff & Anna Myer - 12.5" True Dob
Margaret Petrie - Unknown Scope

Patrick McNichols – 130 mm Refractor
Danny Christian + 1 - 10" Reflector
Jung Thomas & Jinsook Cho - 8" SCT
Peter, Barbara, Larissa & Kory Schumacher - 10" Dob
John & Mary Dillon – 115 refractor of sorts (we hope)
Russ Cashin & family – C 11 SCT
Matt Miller & Tim Gerck – Meade 10" LX200
Elaine Yeu & Katie – Class-made 6" Dob

The observing area is mostly open, with good views from about NNW to the east, around to due south. The horizon from south around to the west is partly to mostly blocked by tall trees. Still, there's a lot of open sky, and typically, the seeing and transparency are excellent. It's warm (70 to 90) during the day, and cool to chilly (40) at night, due to the elevation of 7,200 feet.

One of the rangers does a sunset talk, and then delivers the crowd to us. Following that, Jane and Mojo have been kind enough to give the evening talk complete with slides, which as you all know is always informative and insightful. Some of the public will have white flashlights, and we need to be tolerant of that. We'll have club members with red brake light tape to cover the offending flashlights. We will supply an object list with corresponding finder charts and some brief information. Expect lots of questions from the public.

By around 11 or so, we'll have the place to ourselves, and can stay until dawn. Scopes must be removed when we quit, then set up again on Saturday. Some of us may set up small scopes during the afternoon, show Half Dome, and invite people to come again after sunset.

Saturday eve is traditionally potluck and it was quite an international fete last year. I'm not going to assign what to bring... just provide enough for ~ say 4 or 5. Salads, main course, pu pu's and desserts are all welcome. Let's try again for the best astronomical theme of incredible edibles as we did for last year's desserts at our place for the SFAA Star B Q. Prizes will be awarded! Please remember this repast takes time so it's better to start our own gastronomic party early so there's no need to rush for setup Saturday evening on Glacier Point.

If you'd like to attend and are a current dues-paying member, send me an email with: Yosemite subject line, your name, number of people, type & size of scope(s) to: <mailto:drsclu@itsa.ucsf.edu>.

As Pete Goldie reminded me, there will be a sliver of a Moon before it sets with Venus and Mercury ...maybe an eyepiece full! Below, and a short hop are Saturn, Pollux and Castor in the lineup too with Comet Machholz above. It will be spectacular. Don't miss it. Let's make it another great year at Glacier Point. See you there, Ken

**2005 Riverside Telescope Makers Conference
Astronomer's Choice Award
presented to
Katie Barmazel, Ivy White & Sarah Davis
of Santa Rosa Girl Scout Troop 83**



Photo courtesy Tom Davis

The winners of Riverside Telescope Makers Conference's Astronomer's Choice telescope-making award were Katie Barmazel, Ivy White, and Sarah Davis of Girl Scout Troop 83 in Santa Rosa, California. Maurice Sweiss and Sam Sweiss of Scope City generously donated parts they needed to complete their telescope. The trio's impressive 8-inch f/5 Dobsonian reflector sports a homemade mirror. While at the conference they chatted with John Dobson.

The girls won the Merit Award, and the top prize of the Astronomer's Choice Award at the RTMC Telescope Maker's Conference in Big Bear, California on Sunday May 29, 2005. They were also awarded a 10" mirror blank and a private tour of Mt. Palomar from Jean Mueller. Within scouting, they received their Girl Scout Silver Award for their project. Bob Schalck, an AANC Amateur Award winner of 1983 and master optician who was a former judge at RTMC, helped the girls with grinding and polishing their mirror and mounting the mirror and focuser. Bob will be a featured speaker and demonstrate the cleaning of optics at the upcoming AANC-CON 2005, on Saturday August 27th at the Randall Museum in San Francisco. Bob Fies of Alcoat coated the finished mirror for the girls.

Congratulations to you three and a big thanks also goes out to their leader, Janet Davis, who initially brought the girls into Scope City a few short months ago.

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, POB 15097, San Francisco CA 94115

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

- \$10 enclosed, youth/student membership
- \$25 enclosed, individual membership
- \$30 enclosed, family or foreign membership
- \$40 enclosed, institutional membership
- \$75 enclosed, supporting membership

Select one category:

Email address:

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Name: Telephone:

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers Membership Application

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers
P.O. Box 15097
San Francisco, CA 94115



Information Hotline: (415) 289-6636

Web Page: www.sfaa-astronomy.org

Sharing the Wonders of the Universe

Has your membership expired? Your mailing label includes the month and year through which your membership is paid. If it is past, your membership has expired and this may be your last issue.