

East Valley Astronomy Club

March 2000

www.eastvalleyastronomy.org

Scottsdale, Arizona

President's Message

by Silvio Jaconelli

The horrible weather that we have been having at weekends (especially star party weekends!) seems to be continuing with no let up - it is just incredible ! Several recent star parties have been clouded out, while the weekdays between star parties has been very nice. Frustrating to say the least.

The beginners' programs are going a lot better. I was able to match the remaining beginners to mentors - many thanks to Matt Spinelli, the latest volunteer mentor. And many thanks to Bill Dillenges for conducting the latest beginners' class at his observatory at Apache Junction. I encourage new folks with little knowledge of the hobby to attend these classes, and if any beginners want to attend the same class again, or attend another person's class, please feel free to do so. The growth of the hobby will be greatly helped by paying attention to the needs of beginners, and on this vein, I want to recognize Joe Goss, Jason Nelson and Winston Pendleton for the excellent work they are doing at Gilbert Public Library on the second Friday of every month; this is an 8pm meeting to talk to the public at large on astronomy, followed by a star party in the grounds of the library. Recognition of their efforts in this endeavor is appropriate.

DeeAnn Zacher presented the 2000 budget for the club at the January meeting; this showed an increasing trend in the membership, coupled with a gradual erosion in the club finances; this gradual erosion is due to two factors - the almost complete halt to paid club star parties, and an increase in expenses associated with the recognition for those club members that give their time in the service of the club. For 2000, however, we are projecting to hold the club funds unchanged at last year's levels. We have not had a membership dues increase in the 6 years or so that I have been with EVAC, and I hope that we never need to consider one going forward. At \$20/year,

EVAC membership represents great value - a monthly newsletter, guest speakers, member show & tell, beginners' program, club star parties, and reduced prices for magazine subscriptions and books.

I received an excellent suggestion from one of our members to include a "Q & A" section in the Newsletter. These questions can be related to any topic related to astronomy. But I will need expert "question answerers" to help answer the questions. So two things :

1. Please call me at 602-244-4699 if you wish to become a volunteer question answerer.
2. Please email any questions to me at s.jaconelli@onsemi.com, or call them in to me at the number above.

The first question has me beat - it was to do with the theory that the universe is a giant black hole. Anybody out there care to write a response to this question ? If so, please email Martin at mabastro@aol.com. A sampling Q & A can be found

EVAC & Other Events: 2000

	New Moon	Meet	Local	Deep Sky	Other
Jan	6 th	12 th	1 st	8 th	1/9 Beg. lab 1/10 Board Mtg. 1/19 Planet. Show 1/20 Lunar Eclipse
Feb	5 th	9 th	26 th	5 th	
Mar	6 th	8 th	25 th	4 th	
Apr	4 th	12 th	29 th	1 st	Messier Marathon
May	3 th	10 th	27 th	6 th	5/13 Kitt Peak Tour
Jun	2 nd	14 th	24 th	3 rd	6-3 -6/10 Grand Canyon Star Party
July	1 st , 30 th	12 th	22 nd	1 st , 29 th	Universe 2000
Aug	29 th	9 th	19 th	26 th	Stellafane
Sep	27 th	13 th	23 rd	30 th	N. AZ SP.
Oct	27 th	11 th	21 st	NA	10/7 Lowell Tour 10/28 All-AZ Star Party
Nov	25 th	8 th	18 th	NA	Elections
Dec	25 th	13 th	16 th	23 rd	Christmas Party

elsewhere in this newsletter.

And let me conclude by once again by asking for help from the membership at large in enhancing the quality of our club. I would like to have more mentors sign up to help beginners, and I would like to see more newsletter articles submitted to Martin Bonadio for publication; these articles can be on anything related to Astronomy - equipment reviews, amusing star party stories, technical tips, best and/or worst equipment that you own, observing sessions, etc. Anything related to Astronomy will be most acceptable. Help your club be a great club ! Until next month

Newsletter Help Needed!

We desperately need help putting the letter together. We would like to break the task up into two or three well defined roles:

1. Collecting the material and producing the document on a word processor.
2. Maintenance of the current membership list (hard copy & electronic lists), production of the mailing labels, and delivery to task #3.
3. Printing, folding, stapling, labeling and mailing.

Our current editor Martin is at present swamped and can not continue if he has to do all three. Please contact Silvio Jaconelli 480-926-8529 or Tom Mozdzen 480-497-5703 if you can help.

PS. The newsletter editors LOVE material sent in Microsoft word format (*.doc).

On the other hand, (*.txt) text format is bad (EVIL). Text inside of email is in text format. It takes a lot of time to remove all of the manual line breaks that appear in text format.

March Speaker

DR. GARY HUSS

Planetary geologist from ASU will be our guest speaker. The topic will be "Meteorites: Probes of the Origin and History of the Solar System".

An introduction to meteorites, what they are made of, what they look like, how they are classified, how they are found and how they are named will lead off the presentation. Samples will be displayed.

The following will then be the emphasis's of the talk.

1. What meteorites tell us about the bulk composition of the solar system and how differences in the composition of various meteorite types and planets give us clues to processes in the early solar system.
2. How meteorites permit us to investigate time scales. How do we know how old the solar system is? How quickly did it form?
3. How meteorites are now able to tell us about the formation of the elements. "Presolar grains" were found in meteorites in the late 1980's. These are grains that condensed around other stars prior to the formation of the solar system. By studying the compositions of these grains, we are able for the first time to test models of stellar nucleosynthesis, which is improving our understanding of the origin of the elements.

EVAC Meeting Highlights

Respectfully Submitted, Ken Levy

President Silvio Jaconelli called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with 84 people in attendance, including guests. President Silvio expeditiously presented club business.

Year 2000 Club budget report by Treasurer Dee Anne Zacher (if you were not at the meeting you automatically approved it.)

Speaker for the evening was The Reverend Fr. Coyne, representing the Vatican Observatory (Specola Vaticana), and the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope in Arizona. Amongst other things he addressed the question, Why is the Vatican interested in studying the Universe. If you were in attendance you would have gotten the answer.

As usual some of our amateur astronomers namely Rick Scott, Joe Orman, & Laurice Dee made brilliant color slide presentations during SHOW & TELL.

At 9:31 President Silvio adjourned the meeting. As usual at the end of the meeting there was the opportunity to socialize and enjoy the great refreshments provided again by Pedro & Dianne Jane'.

2000 Arizona Messier Marathon

Where: Arizona City Site

Solar Data:

April 1 3:57pm Moon set

6:49pm Sunset

8:11pm astronomical twilight

April 2 4:50am morning twilight

5:14am Moon rise

6:11am Sunrise

The Messier Marathon is designed to encourage Deep Sky observing. By joining in with other marathoners you will enjoy companionship of those also involved. It will test your observing skills. If you are a club member in good standing then join in and do so just for the FUN OF IT.

If you decide to participate then be sure to read ALL of this information. There will be a check off list available at the site to record your observations. Be sure to pick one up, preferably before you start marathoning and fill in the top portion so awards can be made. It is important to remember that you must turn in your form to one of the Coordinators before leaving the site or by Sunrise. We cannot accept any after these times.

Although it is possible to do the marathon with a 4" telescope I wouldn't suggest this unless you are an experienced observer. Don't forget to check off each object as it is observed. Plan on arriving at the site early enough to set up the telescope and allow it to reach thermal equilibrium. Be sure to fill out the heading of the attached form!

The Marathon this year affords the optimum conditions of finding 107 objects. The three most difficult to impossible ones are M33, M74 and M77. Next in line for difficulty are M31, M32, M110, M30 and M76.

If you plan on participating in the Marathon then doing some homework ahead of time will pay dividends. If interested the check off list can be made available prior to the marathon. Study the catalog along with your star atlas to develop your own process. Be prepared in case it becomes cloudy and the sequence has to be altered.

Your involvement will not go unnoticed, as there will be awards in recognition of effort. People observing 50 or more objects will receive an 8 1/2 x 11 certificate. For first, second and third place there will be plaques suitable for mounting on a telescope. Duplicate awards will be made for ties.

We need your clubs support to help purchase the awards for its members.

Not interested in the marathon? Come anyway, you are also invited for deep sky observing, planetary observing, astro photography or just plain old relaxing under a dark sky!

AJ Crayon, e-mail - acrayon@primenet.com

Rick Rotramel, e-mail -

Rick.Rotramel@CAS.honeywell.com

Messier Marathon Coordinators

Saguaro Astronomy Club

Tour Updates

KITT PEAK TOUR IS FULLY BOOKED

We have had an overwhelming success in booking the Kitt Peak Tour for May 13, 2000! An All Aboard America 55 passenger bus has been booked to capacity and will leave the far east parking lot of Scottsdale CC at 8:00 am that Saturday morning. Two professional astronomers from ASU will be accompanying us, Paul Scowen and Stephen Odewahn. Dr. Odewahn has indicated he would like to visit with those of you who make your own mirrors and telescopes so introduce yourself to him.

With such a large turnout I would suspect the group would have to be spit into smaller groups to visit the floor of the various telescopes comfortably and safely but all will be accommodated equal time.

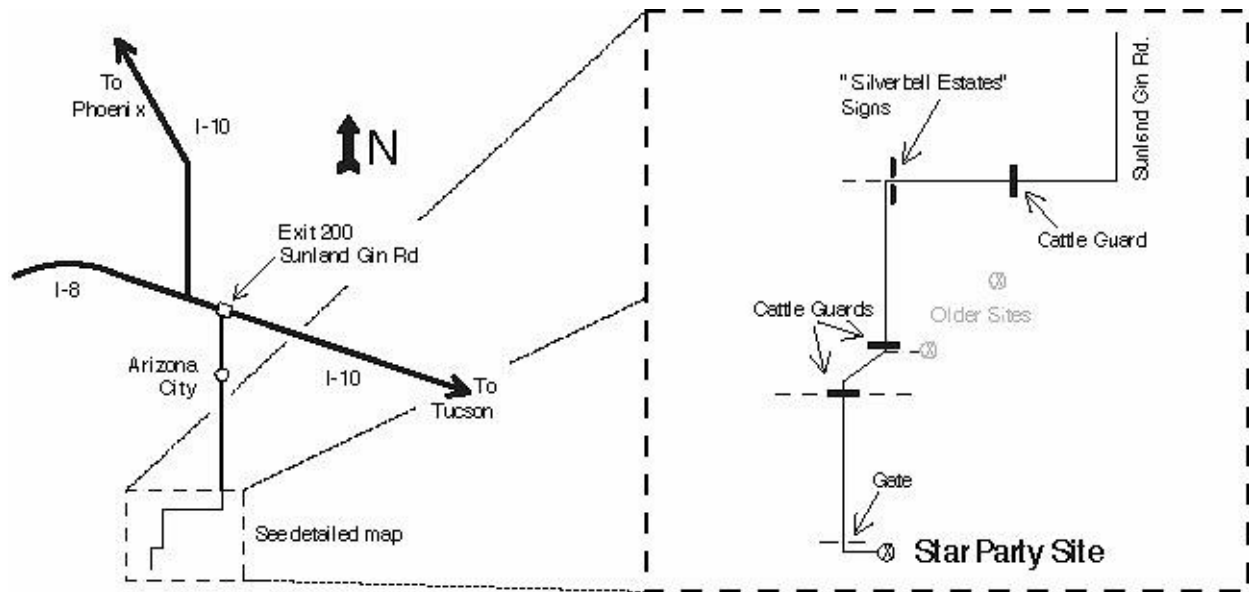
The plan is to stop on the way down for brunch or lunch as there is no food on the mountain and on the way back for dinner. We should arrive back at Scottsdale CC sometime around 8:00 pm. There is a \$2 donation per person to Kitt and a gift shop there so allow personal finances for these extras. Congratulations on a successful tour booking!

LOWELL and METEOR CRATER Tour

As a sidenote, the same company is booked (48 or 55 passenger bus) for LOWELL and METEOR CRATER on October 7, 2000. The bus charter cost should be the same (\$20/person) but the costs of admission at Lowell and Meteor Crater are higher. More on that later.

Hopefully we can have as much success for this future tour! Signups for this will start at the May general meeting with the cutoff date the July general meeting.

Messier Marathon Directions



The directions are:

Take I-10 to exit 200 (Sunland Gin Road.) From here it is about 29 miles to the site. Turn right (south) after exiting the freeway. After about 15 miles, the pavement ends and about one mile further, the road turns sharply to the west. After another four miles, the main road will turn south just after the "Silverbell Estates" signs. Three miles past the signs, the road will veer off to the west, and five miles further, the road will pass through a gate. Turn left immediately after the gate and continue for another $\frac{2}{3}$ of a mile, driving over a fence. The site is to the right.

VLA and APACHE POINT OBS./NATIONAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY

We have 21 people who indicated they wanted the two day trip and 6 the one day so far. Planning will begin for this trip with the target date of Saturday June 3 and Sunday June 4, 2000. This does interfere with the first weekend of the Grand Canyon Star Party but in order to avoid the heat of summer this is necessary as an early date. Planning will be a little more complicated as the bus cost and logistics of using it would be prohibitive. I would estimate we need 5 vehicles for the two day people and 2 for the one day people unless someone has a large capacity vehicle like a Suburban, etc. One two day vehicle would accommodate smokers or those tolerant of it depending upon the total number of course, and maybe one one day, again depending upon who might smoke. So we will need drivers with reliable vehicles and the passengers in each would be expected to help with the fuel costs.

Another area of logistics are overnight accommodations in Socorro and roommates.

I will begin contacting the three sites as well as motels and then the signups to arrange drivers, roommates, etc. Anyone who wishes to be a driver please contact me at the March meeting and indicate smoking preference as well as possible roommates (married, couples or singles) or soon thereafter if you can not attend the meeting. 480-985-8824

This will not be an easy task tying everything together so please bear with me as the planning progresses. Hopefully it will not prove to be prohibitive.

Wanted

Meteorites wanted for classes

Do you have any meteorites that are just collecting dust? Here's how they may be put to good use. I instruct public school teachers on how to teach elementary and junior high students. I could use any and all meteorites for teaching science courses.

Bill Peters: afls@earthlink.net or (480) 813-4242.

Riverside Telescope Makers Conf. Ride Share

Any members who wish to visit the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference next Memorial Day weekend and would like to car pool and perhaps share motel accommodations, please contact Silvio Jaconelli days at 602-244-4699, or email s.jaconelli@onsemi.com.

Technical Tip of the Month

By Silvio Jaconelli/Bill Dellings

I would like to encourage members to share through the newsletter any tips or advice that they think may be useful to the membership at large. Let me start the ball rolling this month with a tip from Bill Dellings that he shared with a beginners' class that he recently conducted at his observatory at Apache Junction.

It is well known that you can double the range of magnifications that your eyepieces can deliver through the use of a barlow; most barlows are rated at 2 power, so you can double the magnification of an eyepiece simply by using it in conjunction with a barlow - a 30mm eyepiece will now yield the same magnification as a 15mm eyepiece when mated to a barlow. Other barlows provide 2.5 power, or 3 power, and Televue now has a barlow rated at 5 power !!

When selecting eyepieces, make sure that you do not duplicate magnifications when you have a barlow. For example, do not acquire a

15mm eyepiece if you already have a 30mm eyepiece and a barlow, since the 30mm eyepiece/barlow combination will give you a 15mm equivalent performance.

Bill then pointed out that if you have either a SCT or a refractor (sorry - this tip does not apply to reflectors !) that uses a star diagonal, then placing the barlow between the drawtube and the diagonal (rather than between the diagonal and the eyepiece) will increase the magnification by a further 50% !! So if all you have is a 40mm eyepiece and a 2x barlow, you will have THREE options available : a 40mm eyepiece used on its own, a 20mm eyepiece when the barlow is added to the back of the star diagonal, and 13.3mm when the barlow is placed between the diagonal and the drawtube. Adding a 15mm eyepiece will give yet another 3 'eyepieces' - 15mm, 7.5mm and 5mm. So these two eyepieces plus the barlow will give a sum total of SIX different configurations - 40mm, 20mm, 15mm, 13.3mm, 7.5mm and 5mm.

So before you buy eyepieces, get out a calculator and do the math. - it means that you can invest in some very nice eyepieces and save a lot of money !

And finally, let me add my own tip - you can increase the magnifying power of a barlow somewhat by NOT inserting the eyepiece all the way into the barlow; by leaving an inch or so extending out of the barlow, the magnification will be higher than if the eyepiece was inserted all the way into the barlow. The other night I was observing the Moon with a 9mm eyepiece/1.8x barlow combination; I was able to get

almost a 2x multiplier effect by not putting the entire eyepiece into the barlow. Now, a word of caution - please make sure that the eyepiece is securely held in the barlow, otherwise the eyepiece may slip out and fall to the ground.

Now, members, let us hear what technical tips you can share with us!

New Shortwave Radio

By Randy Peterson

One of the more interesting things about astronomy to me is trying to find and time asteroid occultations. To do this with any precision, a time signal such as WWV must be recorded along with the critical events on tape. My old shortwave radio would usually get WWV, but not always. On my last outing, I couldn't get a peep out of the two WWV stations the radio is capable of receiving, in spite of attaching an external antenna to the one already on the radio to boost the signal.

Time for a new radio! With old radio in hand, I went to the Radio Shack at the Pavillions. If it didn't receive WWV significantly better than my old radio in a side-by-side test, I wasn't interested.

The radio I purchased works not only better than my old one, but much better! It receives all WWV stations (2.5, 5, 10, 15 and 20mhz), as well as the Canadian version (7.335mhz). The reception is significantly clearer and stronger than my old radio. It is digital - all 6 stations have been programmed into the memory, so with a touch of a button the "clearest" station can be tuned to. It has an alarm that will turn the radio "on" (a few minutes before the occultation starts), a countdown timer that turns the radio "off" (a few minutes after the occultation is scheduled to be done).

Some of its other features include a sleep timer, a "seek" function to find the strong stations, and an a/c adaptor and carrying case are included!

I can't vouch for its' capabilities compared to high-end short wave receivers, but for what I wanted it for it is perfect! It is the Radio Shack model DX-399, normally selling for \$150, on sale for \$100. Yeah, I know, \$100 is a lot for a radio, but compared to spending \$300 for a motorized eyepiece holder and focuser.

Update: Dinner Hour with the Guest

DINNER WITH DR. HUSS (and Future guest speakers)

Each month throughout the year we have reservations set at the Black-eyed Pea on Indian Bend road across from the Pavillions fountain for our group to have dinner before the meeting with whomever the speaker will be. Dinner is at 6:00 pm but may need to be moved up to 5:45 pm as we were a bit rushed the first time around. While it was successful and enjoyable we still had space available. Not many signed up for March but should you decide to show up at the last minute feel free to do so. It is hoped that more will take part in this opportunity to talk with the guest and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow members. Join us if you can!

Chuck Crawford
Vice President

Reflection on Fr. Coyne's Talk

by Adrienne Herzog
aherzog@imap4.asu.edu

I was so pleased to see Fr. Coyne speak at the last EVAC meeting. The Vatican Observatory is such an interesting addition to the observatories in Arizona and one that I think is often speculated about. I'm a new member to EVAC and with the call for newsletter articles, I couldn't resist throwing in my two cents this month. Please allow me to chat a bit about the "mystery" of the Vatican Observatory, the controversial Mt. Graham, and the pursuit of Truth.

I remember when I was an undergraduate at the University of Arizona. No one really seemed to know much about the Jesuits who worked there. They seemed to keep to themselves up on the 5th floor of the department. There was the illusion that they were shrouded in mystery. I happened to work on the 4th floor and one day while riding the elevator, accidentally hit the 5th floor button. When I stepped off the elevator, there was a large desk in the hallway with a woman sitting behind it who firmly instructed me to get back into the elevator because the 5th floor was off limits to the likes of me. This only added to

the mystery of the Jesuits, and increased the speculation among the undergraduates. What exactly were they doing up there anyway? It wasn't until a year later that I learned the 5th floor was off limits not because the Jesuits happened to be up there, but because there was some sensitive experiments going on at the time within a separate research group. Anyway, I've never heard any formal talk about the Vatican Observatory, and it dispelled the mystery a bit by confirming that they are just another research group.

I had a chance to visit Mt. Graham in 1994. The VATT (Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope) was brand new and sparkling. We ooh-ed and ahh-ed over the F1 ratio. The SMT (Sub-Millimeter Telescope) was also very impressive. The fact that the entire building rotated provided endless amusement to us visiting students. The LBT (Large Binocular Telescope) was at that time just a small cleared away section of land with a tiny protester's sign in the middle which read "No Scoops" [sic]. Construction had been delayed due to an injunction which was eventually lifted. But Fr. Coyne is right. To visit the place, you have to wonder why there was such a big stink about it. The observatory is like a forest oasis on a highly clear-cut mountain. Why would people protest the one facility which does the least impact? It seems to me that if these folks really want to protect the mountain, they would protest the clear-cutting of the loggers, or the established shooting range, or the housing developments. In fact, with all the activity on the mountain, it wouldn't surprise me if the Red Squirrels take up residence on observatory land to get away from all the racket.

So thank you Fr. Coyne for dispelling any rumors about the VO. For many people, the Catholic Church and astronomers just don't seem to go together. I am very proud of the fact that the Catholic Church supports scientific research. To me, scientists and theologians go hand in hand. Both are searching for Truth; both are seeking to understand how the universe operates. Why shouldn't they collaborate? And what better place to search than the skies, for the Truth is out there.

"The Heaven's declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork" (Psalm 19:2).

Members' Q and A

Q. I have been told that the way to calculate an eyepiece's field of view is to divide the eyepiece's apparent field of view by the the eyepiece's magnification.

A. This is certainly an easy rule of thumb, but the eyepiece field stop diameter (that's the diameter of the

lens that is visible when you look into the bottom of the eyepiece when held upside down) varies from eyepiece to eyepiece, so there is a lot of room for error in this calculation.

The most precise way to calculate the real field of view of a particular eyepiece/telescope combination is to use the 'drift method'. Find a star close to the celestial equator (the bottom star in Orion's belt is one possibility), and switch off any drives that the telescope may have. Put the star right in the middle of the eyepiece (one technique is to center the star using your highest magnification eyepiece, then immediately switch to the eyepiece being measured) and time how long it takes for the eyepiece to drift out of the field of view. Convert this time to seconds, then divide by 2. The answer will be the actual field of view in arc minutes. Remember that there are 60 arc minutes to one degree

Q. Can you please comment on the theory that the universe is a giant black hole ?

A. Current theories regarding the existence of black holes, indicates that anything entering a black hole would be torn apart into billions of minute pieces due to the velocity of the vortex. This seems to indicate that it would be impossible for a universe to remain intact once inside a black hole. In addition, if we consider the fact that the universe is getting bigger all the time, with objects in space continually moving away from each other, than it would be impossible for the universe to be inside a black hole, which would cause objects to move toward each other. In other words, we would find all space objects coming towards us emitting blueshifted photons, rather than redshifted photons.

Thank You List

Anonymous

- President Silvio Jaconelli for organizing our meetings and much much more.
- Pedro & Dianne Jane' for providing the meeting refreshments.
- Martin Bonadio for making our newsletter possible.
- Chuck Crawford for arranging all those great speakers & educational outings.
- Dee Ann Zacher for calendars, name badge sales and handling over 100 membership renewals.
- Tom Mozdzen for being the emergency newsletter editor in times of crisis.
- All club intellectuals for making individual club member's experience so rich.

If It's Clear...

by Fulton Wright, Jr.
Prescott Astronomy Club
for March 2000

Shamelessly stolen information from Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy magazine, and anywhere else I can find data.

Jupiter is getting low these days but you can still catch a few satellite sights.

- March 5 All satellites close to Jupiter
- March 10 All satellites on east side of Jupiter
- March 12 Ganymede's shadow on Jupiter from 7:17 till 9:14 PM
- March 20 All satellites on west side of Jupiter
- March 21 Io's shadow on Jupiter from 7:38 till 9:48 PM (Io itself appears from in front at 9:02)

On Wednesday and Thursday, March 8 and 9, at about 7:30 PM you can see the moon near some planets. With your unaided eye look in the west on Wednesday to see the Moon to the left of Mars, and on Thursday to the left of Jupiter and Saturn.

On Tuesday, March 21, at 7:40 PM you can see Algol at its minimum. With your unaided eye look 40 degrees above the northwest horizon for Algol (mag 3.4). During the next few hours it should brighten to mag 2.1.

On Wednesday, March 22, after about 10:30 PM you can see the southeast part of the Moon at its best. With a small telescope look in the east southeast for the Moon (just past full phase). Libration tips the southeast (right hand part) of the moon toward us.

How Cold is it in the Desert?

The following is a guide for out-of-towners who ask how cold it can get in the desert at nights :

AT 70 DEGREES

- * Breathing will still not fog up eyepieces
- * Your Italian car will not start
- * Arizonans wear eiderdown jackets

AT 50 DEGREES

- * Your British car will not start
- * Canadians do up their top button
- * Arizonans pack up and go home

AT 30 DEGREES

- * Alaskans drink cold beer
- * Canadians put on sweaters
- * Arizonans don't show up

AT ZERO DEGREES

- * Alaskans put on T-shirts
- * Swedish cars won't start
- * Arizonans cease to exist
- * Bears migrate to Mexico



East Valley Astronomy Club

Membership Form

Please complete the information on the form and return to the address below along with a check payable to EVAC for the appropriate dues amount. Allow 3 mos. Lead time for magazine renewals. See below:

Dee Ann Zacher
 EVAC Treasurer
 2143 E. Farmdale Ave
 Mesa, Arizona 85204
 (480) 545-8769

Enclosed:
 ___ \$20 Annual
 ___ \$10 July—Dec
 ___ \$29.95 *Sky & Telescope*
 ___ \$29 *Astronomy Magazine*
 ___ \$ 7 EVAC Nametag
 ___ Total

Circle: New Member Renewal

Please Print (indicate confidential information)

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 URL http:// _____
 Newsletter Mailed or Electronically Delivered? _____

How did you hear about EVAC? _____

Major areas of interest (circle): General observing; Lunar/Planetary;

Deep Sky; Telescope making; Astrophotography; CCD/Computer;

Archaeoastronomy; Other: _____

EVAC on the Internet

EVAC Homepage: www.eastvalleyastronomy.org

E-mail Mailing Lists

EVAC-mls is a mailing list for club announcements and quick notification of astronomical events.

To join, send E-mail with the "Subject: subscribe" to EVAC-mls-request@psiaz.com

EVAC-Board is for EVAC business. All club members are welcome to participate.

To join, send E-mail with the "Subject: subscribe" to EVAC-Board-request@psiaz.com

AZ-Observing is a fairly general mailing list about observing in Arizona. Included are star party information, who is going, as well as the latest observations and astronomical events.

To join, send E-mail with the "Subject: subscribe" to AZ-Observing-request@psiaz.com

Although EVAC is a private club not open to the public, we do encourage potential new members to initially join us at our club meetings and/or star parties to help them determine the suitability of the club to meet their needs.

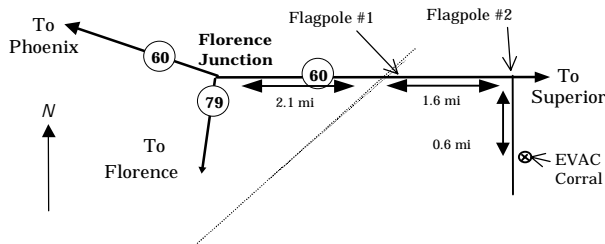
EVAC Star Parties

Local Star Party: Florence Junction Site

General Information: The Florence Junction site is the official site for the East Valley Astronomy Club's Local Star Party, typically held on the Saturday closest to Last Quarter Moon. Florence Junction offers reasonably dark skies within a short drive of most east Valley locations. (Report gunfire or illegal activity: 800/352-3796; Land use permit number: 26-104528.)

Location: N 33° 14' 40" W 111° 20' 16"

How To Get There: Take US 60 east to Florence Junction. Go past Florence Junction. 2.1 mi past FJ are railroad tracks, and on the right will be a flagpole. Do not turn there. Continue on for another 1.6 miles until you find the second flagpole on the right. This is your turn. Turn right, and continue on the dirt road for 0.6 miles. The corral is on the left right before a gas-line sign.

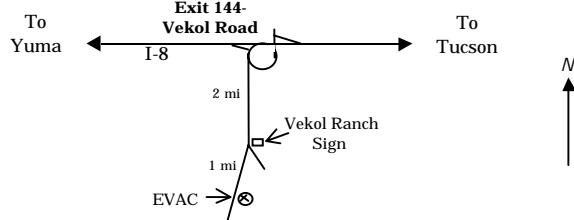


Deep Sky Star Party: Vekol Road Site

General Information: The Vekol Road site is the official site for the East Valley Astronomy Club's Deep Sky Star Party, typically held on the Saturday closest to New Moon. Vekol Road offers dark skies despite prominent skyglow from Phoenix to the north. The site is within 1½ hours drive time from most east Valley locations.

Location: N 32° 47' 55" W 112° 15' 15"

How to Get There: Take I-10 south and exit onto Maricopa Road. Continue through the town of Maricopa to SR 84, about 25 miles from I-10. Turn right on SR 84, after about 5 miles the road merges with I-8. Continue west and exit I-8 at Vekol Road—Exit 144. Turn left and cross the highway overpass. Before looping back onto I-8 take the dirt road to the left. Go south for 2 miles. At the Vekol Ranch sign bear right and continue south for another mile until reaching a large, open area on the left.



East Valley Astronomy Club—1999

Scottsdale, Arizona

EVAC Homepage—<http://www.eastvalleyastronomy.org>

EVAC Officers

PRESIDENT

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TREASURER

Dee Ann Zacher
(480) 545-8769

SECRETARY

Tom Mozden
(480) 497-5703

PROPERTIES

Rick Scott
(480) 821-5721

Membership & Subscriptions: \$20 per year, renewed in December. Reduced rates to *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* available. Contact Dee Ann Zacher.
Email—dazacher@uswest.net

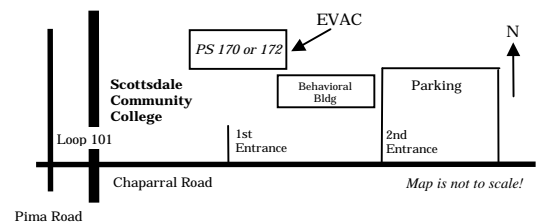
Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of every month at the Scottsdale Community College, 7:30 pm. Normally Room PS 170 or 172 in the Physical Sciences Building. See map below.

Newsletter and Address Changes: Contact Martin Bonadio 921 North Kingston Street, Gilbert, AZ 85233, 480/926-4900. mabastro@aol.com. Contributions may be edited. The Newsletter is mailed out the week before the monthly Club meeting. An electronic version available in Adobe PDF format in lieu of a printed copy. Please contact Martin with delivery your preferences.

EVAC Library: The library contains a good assortment of books, downloaded imagery, and helpful guides. Contact Rick Scott for complete details, 480-821-5721

Book Discounts: Great savings through Kalmbach and Sky Publishing. Contact Dee Ann Zacher, club treasurer.

EVAC Party Line: Let other members know in advance if you plan to attend a scheduled observing session. Contact Stan Ferris, 480/831-7307.



East Valley Astronomy Club

Martin Bonadio / (Tom M. filling in), Editor
921 North Kingston St. Gilbert, AZ 85233

Contents:

- President's Message
- Newsletter Help Needed!!!
- March Speaker
- February Meeting Minutes
- 2000 Messier Marathon
- Tour updates
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- Technical Tip of the Month
- New Short-wave Radio
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- Reflection on Fr. Coyne's Talk
- Member's Q&A
- Thank you list
- If It's Clear...
- How Cold is it in the Desert?

**Reminder: Next EVAC Meeting
Wednesday, March 8th, 2000**