



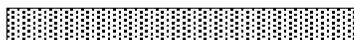
East Valley Astronomy Club

December 2004

www.eastvalleyastronomy.org

Scottsdale, Arizona

December 2004



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From the Desk of the President by Peter Argenziano 2004 EVAC President

As this year draws to a close, I'd like to reflect back on another great year for the East Valley Astronomy Club. This was my second year serving as club President, a post I will soon relinquish to Steven Aggas. We had great participation in all club events and my sincere appreciation goes out to all who were involved in making these events a huge success! I extend a personal invitation to everyone to join in to ensure 2005 is even better!

During 2004 our webmaster, Marty Pieczonka, really transformed our already excellent website into something we can all be proud of. We are now showcasing a set of photographs by Tom Polakis on the main page. Contact Marty if you would like to see your astro-related shots featured here in the future.

The club has continued its alliances with Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park, Arizona Science Center, and the Riparian Institute. These affiliations are mutually beneficial and serve to reinforce the club's position as a responsible member of the community. These partnerships also contribute to the club's ability to maintain our membership dues at \$20 annually. Boyce Thompson continues to be the site for the monthly Local Star Party. The club has participated in events at the Science Center, and we held a couple of our meetings there as well.

The Gilbert Rotary has chosen as its centennial project the observatory that is being constructed at the Riparian Institute's park. Several club members are serving on an advisory committee to provide recommendations for the dome and telescope. Once completed, the Rotary will be looking to EVAC for volunteers to operate the observatory in its mission of public education and outreach. Contact Win Pendleton for further details.

This past year our guest speaker program included a wonderful mix of amateurs and professionals: in addition to some memorable member presentations, Steve Coe spoke about supernovae; Adam Block gave a presentation about CCD imaging processing; David Williams talked about the current Mars mission; Fathers Chris Corbally and Bill Stoeger talked to us about research at the Vatican Observatory; Paul Scowen gave us a preview of the MIDEX mission; Michelle Minitti provided details about the Mars Exploration Rovers; Bill Carswell visited us from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center; Tony Hallas took us on a journey covering the last decade of his work; and Phil Harrington gave us a delightful presentation on the history of the equipment used by backyard astronomers. This month Tom Polakis will present details of his recent trip to the Namib Desert in Africa. This year's slate is going to be a tough act to follow!

Our Events Coordinator, Howard Israel, once again did an outstanding job this year in organizing all kinds of events in which to participate. Howard will serve on the Board in 2005 and will pass the torch on to the team of Gwen Grace and Dave Williams. Join me in thanking Howard and welcoming Gwen and Dave!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who served as the governing body for

contd. from p.1

EVAC in 2004. Thank you for your dedication and efforts in making the club successful! I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the 2005 EVAC cabinet:

- President: Steven Aggas
- Vice President: Peter Argenziano
- Secretary: Diane Cook
- Treasurer: Wayne Thomas
- Event Coordinators: Gwen Grace and Dave Williams
- Newsletter Editor: Dean Personne
- Webmaster: Marty Pieczonka
- Properties Director: Dave Williams
- Board of Directors: Jim Fitzpatrick, Howard Israel, Joe Goss, Tom Polakis and Dave Shafer

The EVAC Holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 18th, at the home of Tom Polakis. This is a potluck, so bring your favorite appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. The address is 121 W. Alameda, in Tempe. Complete details are available on our website at:
<http://www.eastvalleyastronomy.org/holiday04.htm>

As of this writing, we are tentatively planning to hold our

monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning at 7:30 pm. Our relationship with Scottsdale Community College took a step backwards this year when our faculty sponsor withdrew his support due to personal reasons. With no other sponsor available, our status fell to that of any other entity using the campus. Previously we had free use of the classroom for our meetings; now we have to pay \$170 per month. The rate would drop to less than \$75 once we gain charitable status in the eyes of the IRS (something I'd like to see happen next year). So, we are conducting a search for a new meeting site... possibly Mesa Community College. More details will be communicated as they become available.

We will continue with the current venue for our monthly member star parties: the Local Star Party at Boyce Thompson Arboretum State Park and the Dark Sky Star Party at the Vekol Road site. We will also continue to host a public star party at Water Ranch at the Riparian Preserve, in Gilbert. This event is held on the second Friday of each month.

I'll close this month's installment by wishing everyone a joyous Holiday Season!

Keep looking up!



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Galactic Surprise

by Patrick L. Barry and Dr. Tony Phillips

Open an old astronomy textbook. The basic sketch you'll find there of galaxy formation is fairly simple: a vast cloud of diffuse hydrogen and helium gas condenses under gravity, and dense spots in the cloud collapse to form stars. Voila! A galaxy.

But real galaxies are much more complex than that. A galaxy is a swirling "soup" of billions of stars and roaming black holes, scattered clouds of gas and dust, random flashes of star birth and exploding supernovas, and an unseen and mysterious substance called "dark matter." Over time, all these ingredients mix and interact—pulling and compressing and colliding—and somehow that interplay leads to the galaxies we see today. No wonder it's such a hard problem to solve!

Just over one year into its three-year mission, GALEX is already shedding some new light on the problem.

"Some of the discoveries GALEX has made will change our understanding of how galaxies develop and when, where, and why stars form in galaxies," says Peter Friedman, a researcher at Caltech and Project Scientist for GALEX.

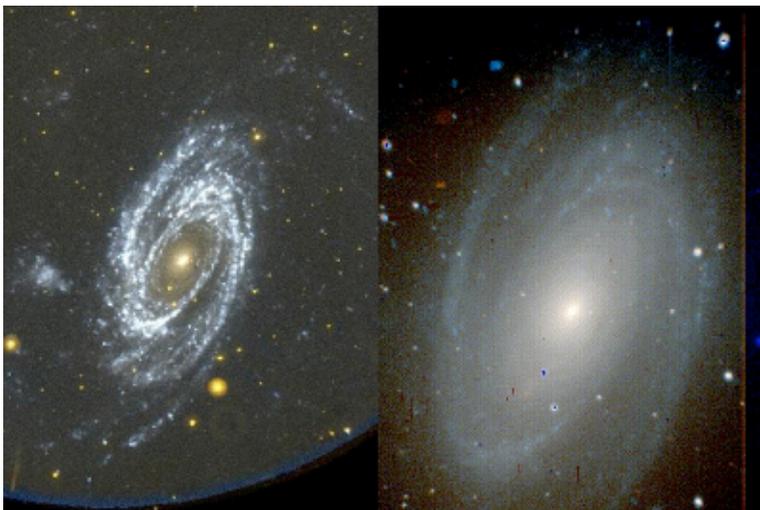
This small space telescope, called the Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX for short), makes its discoveries by taking pictures of millions of galaxies scattered over the whole sky. Some of these galaxies are close by (at least by astronomical standards of "close"), while others are as much as 10 billion light-years away. Because light takes time to travel through space, we see these distant galaxies as they appeared billions of years ago. Comparing young galaxies from the distant past with older, modern galaxies will teach scientists about how galaxies change over time.

Looking at these pictures, scientists were surprised to find many newborn stars in the outer parts of old, mature galaxies. Scientists had assumed that as a galaxy ages, the clouds of gas needed to form new stars in these outer reaches either got used up or blown away. Finding so many new stars in these regions of old galaxies (such as Centaurus A, Messier 101, and Messier 81) shows that, apparently, they were wrong.

Friedman says that astronomers don't know yet how to explain these new findings. Rethinking and improving theories to explain unexpected discoveries has always been the way science makes progress—and GALEX is certainly making progress.

One thing is certain: It's time to re-write some old textbooks.

For more information, see <http://www.galex.caltech.edu/> . Kids can do a galaxy art project and learn more about galaxies and GALEX at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/galex/art.shtml> .



M81 is 10 million light years away. The image on the left was made from GALEX data and shows UV light from hot, new stars. These star forming regions are not detectable in the visible light image on the right (McGraw-Hill Observatory, Kitt Peak, Arizona, Greg Bothum, Univ. of Oregon.)

Backyard Astronomer

By Bill Dellinges (10/04)

Down Telescope Memory Lane

Bitten by the astronomy bug in 1956 at age 13, my father and I sought to acquire a telescope for my new hobby. We knew zilch about them or where to find them. I perused magazine ads and Dad and I hit the photography stores in our quest for any affordable telescope (there weren't very many telescope stores then, if any). For a kid who knew very little about astronomical equipment, I was surprisingly adept at weeding out scopes I knew were unacceptable. One day I spotted an interesting looking candidate in what may have been S&T or Mechanics Illustrated. With the monies I'd saved bringing a quarter to school each week for my bank account and Dad's help, we ordered the \$45 **Criterion 4" F11 Dynascope reflector** (see EVAC newsletter, May 2001). It had a Bakelite tube, and I still remember the smell the material gave off when sticking my nose to the front of the tube—such a nostalgic aroma! The eyepieces gave me powers of 65x, 130x, and 167x. Supported by a spindly wood tripod, the mount had a funny simplistic looking head which could be bent to mimic an equatorial arrangement such that it would track the stars as you pushed it along. It served me well for years until the night it fell over (due to no counter weight) while aimed at the zenith and M57. "Hey, Ma, come out and see M57!" CRASH!! The focuser and viewfinder were pushed through the Bakelite tube, and the eyepiece rolled down our San Francisco street. I guess that was my first experience with tragedy. However, I taped it up and still used it, though it was never quite the same. When I entered the military at 17, Dad gave it to a neighbor kid. Thus began a long journey in which many telescopes would pass through my life (I include the original price for historical purposes).

1970: Unitron 4" F15 refractor (\$785). I had eyed these refractors for years in S&T ads. Finally financially established in the work force, I could afford what would be my first serious first class instrument. Saturn was glorious in it! The thing was huge for a 4". The tube was 5 feet long and the mount weighed a ton. And it wasn't so great on deep sky objects. I needed more aperture! Sold to finance my next scope.

1974: Celestron Pacific 8" F10 SCT (\$1170 incl. wedge/tripod). Looking for a replacement for the Unitron, I was attracted to the new Schmidt-Cassegrains making their appearance on the market. With more aperture in a smaller package, they seemed just the ticket. I bought it directly from Celestron and loved it immediately. I almost passed out when I observed M13 in the scope—I couldn't believe the resolution I was getting compared to the old 4" Unitron. I've had the telescope for 30 years now and would never think of selling this old early "sandcast" fork armed C8. NO plastic anywhere on it!

1979: Celestron C-14 F11 SCT (\$4110, incl. wedge/tripod). Yikes! Celestron announces a price increase of the C-14 from \$3600 to \$5750. I scrambled to get the money together before the scope became too expensive for me to ever buy. I'd worry about what to do with it later. As it turned out, I found it remarkably easy to transport and set up alone. Many a night I hauled it up in my van to Fremont Peak or Mount Hamilton (Lick Observatory) and spent the entire night observing. Again, NO plastic. All metal construction. They don't make them like that anymore (well, maybe AP, Televue, and Questar still qualify for that distinction).

1979: Celestron C-90 F11 (\$300). This cute little scope was my

first grab and go scope. I wasn't real crazy about the focusing ring being around the body of the scope, nor the crowded eyepiece/finder area but you couldn't beat it for portability and the optics were pretty good. Great spotting scope. Its 1000mm focal length was perfect for solar eclipses and created what I felt was the best image size of the sun on a 35mm negative. I sold it to a friend when I upgraded to a C-5. Still miss it. Sorry I sold it!

1979: Celestron C-5 SCT OTA (\$500). One of the finest grab and go scopes I've had. Matched with an Orion like EQ-2 equatorial mount, the setup was the last word in portability and simplicity. I used it often on vacations, the annular eclipse in Mexico in 1984 (see photo, S&T Sept 1984, p.280) and a 2 week Halley Comet tour to Australia in 1986. Like an idiot, I sold it in 1992 to help finance a refractor.

1980: Meade 4" F5 Newtonian guide telescope (\$165). It looked cute and I thought I could use it as a Richfield (RFT) telescope. Stupid purchase. Never used it. Sold it eventually. Hey, c'mon, haven't you done that before?

1980: Home made 8" F4 Newtonian (parts~\$300). Due to a strike, I had spare time to try my hand at grinding a mirror. 35 hours of grinding. Perhaps the biggest waste of time in my life. Never again! Never used, except as a table to support a lamp. Sold it after a few years. Hope the new owner gave it CPR.

1982: Weird 5" F5 refractor (\$300). Bought this thing at a club auction on a whim. I must have had a screw loose in the early 80's. The OTA was cut from solid aluminum stock. The seller claimed it had split Sirius (HA!). It was useless to me and I traded it to Jack Marling at Lumicon for a C14 Easy Giant Guider as an RFT for the C-14. Soon after he told me it rolled off a table crashing to the floor destroying the lens.

1982: Unitron 4" F15 refractor (\$800). The screw is still loose! I missed having a good refractor and saw a S&T ad for a used Unitron. He was asking \$600 and told me it was sold. I offered him \$800. It arrived a week later. I found it did not perform as well as my first Unitron. Sold it in 1987 to a school in Texas for \$600 through the StarryMessenger.

1987: Edmund Astroscan 4 1/8" F4 (\$269). I was returning an 80mm finder I didn't like to Lumicon. I traded the finder in for the Astroscan. Don't ask me why. I still have it. It's great for kids at public star parties.

1987: Meade 622 6" F3.6 Schmidt-Newtonian (\$360). I saw this scope at Lumicon and thought it looked interesting. I fell in love with the corrector plate. It looked so cool! Used it a few times and quickly sold it. For a loss naturally.

1990: Questar 3 _" F14.4 Maksutov (\$3800 incl. Zerodur mirror, full aperture solar mirror, special coatings, DC drive). OK, here's the deal. Now we've all drooled over those Questar ads in S&T and I'm sure just about every stargazer out there hoped that someday, somehow, he or she could acquire one. I decided it was time to get one. I deserved it. I had no money for it. But I had a steady job and used some creative financing and got the thing. I still have it. It's everything they say it is, a real "jewel", literally. Just remember though, you can only do so much with 3 _" of glass. This scope would run about \$5700 today similarly equipped.

1992: Astro-Physics 5" F8 refractor (OTA-\$2450). OK, here's deal. I had been following the development of this firm ever since

a guy's 6" AP blew my C14 out of the water on Saturn and splitting Castor one night at Mt. Hamilton. "Holy cow, what is this thing? "A triplet APO from Roland Christen," he said. At the July 1991 total eclipse of the sun in Baja, Mexico, I was set up next to Roland and his 5" refractor. It was beautiful - I had to have one. I ordered it in March 1992 and received it in August. Those were the days when you simply ordered their scope and 6 months later you got it.. Now there is a wait list for the privilege of waiting. The scope's on a Losmandy G-11 mount, a match made in heaven. I've been on the wait list for their 4" since March 2002. I understand they're just now calling up those who signed up in 1999. If it's ready after I die, please forward it to...ah, wherever I end up.

1996: Celestron C-5+ SCT (\$900). I lost my senses and came up with what I thought was a brilliant idea. Sell the Questar, replace it with a C-5 and have thousands of dollars left over to spend on astronomical equipment. Seemed like a good idea at the time. Thank God I held on to the Questar until I could compare the two. In a shootout, I found the Questar out performed the C-5 in every way except light gathering power. Although deep sky objects were slightly brighter in the C-5, it could not come close to duplicating the Questar's superior resolution and contrast. I sold the C-5 and kept the Questar. I dodged a bullet there; I almost lost my baby.

1998: Televue Ranger 70mm F6.8 (\$549). I bought this scope for no good reason. I just wanted SOMETHING made by Televue and this was their cheapest telescope. It's that simple. However, I find it very useful as a giant finder for my C-14, where it has

found a loving home.

1999: Miyauchi 20x100 fluorite binoculars (\$3200). Fellow EVAC member Silvio Jaconelli cost me \$3200 when he introduced me to these binoculars. I was so impressed with his non fluorite pair that I spent a little more and purchased the fluorite model. I LOVE them. Being able to use two eyes to pan star fields in the 2.5 degree field is breathtaking.

2002: Televue 85 (3.3") F7 (\$2080). It had been ages since I bought a telescope, I was having withdrawal symptoms. How about a grab and go scope since the old Ranger is riding piggyback on the C-14? This scope had been getting great reviews. I always felt that of the top refractor companies, Televue produced the nicest looking telescopes. AP and Takahashi objectives might be better but I think Televue takes the prize in the looks department. Their optics are considered to be topnotch too, right up there with AP and Tak. I find the scope to perform as advertised, a killer scope for its size. It resolves all four Trapezium stars at 29x. The scope is mounted on a Televue Telepod head and Bogen tripod which makes for a terrific grab and go arrangement. I can be out the door and viewing in minutes.

2004: Coronado PST H-Alpha telescope (\$500). It seemed to me this cute little scope would be a relatively inexpensive, entry level route into the world of H-Alpha solar observing. The PST (Personal Solar Telescope) delivers respectable H-Alpha images of the Sun.

I wonder what the next 10 years will bring forth? One thing is for sure: the journey never ends.

EVAC 2005 Officers		
Name	Office	email
Steven Aggas	President	--
Peter Argenziano	Vice President	--
Diane Cook	Secretary	--
Wayne Thomas	Treasurer	--
Gwen Grace & Dave Williams	Events Coordinators	--
Dave Williams	Properties Director	--
Dean Personne	Newsletter Editor	--
Marty Pieczonka	Web Master	--
Dave Shafer	Board Member	--
Jim Fitzpatrick	Board Member	--
Tom Polakis	Board Member	--
Howard Israel	Board Member	--
Joe Goss	Board Member	--

1 Month Event Schedule
Prepared
by
Howard Israel

		Dec. Events	
Sat. 12/4	Local Star Party	Boyce Thompson.	Sunset: 5:20 PM
Thurs. 12/9	General Meeting	AZ Science Center	7:30PM Spkr. Tom Polakis
Fri. 12/10	Public Star Party	Gilbert Library	6:00 PM Setup
Sat. 12/11	Deep Sky Star Party	Vekol Road	Sunset: 5:15 PM

***Remember! EVAC Holiday Party: December 18, 2004, 6:30 p.m.,
at the Home of Tom Polakis, 121 W. Alameda, Tempe, AZ
Please bring a side dish or dessert.
Brief show-n-tell items are encouraged --
a slide projector will be available.
There's room for a few telescopes too!
Food, Fun, & Door Prizes!***

EVAC Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November, 10, 2004, 7:30 p.m.
Diane Cook, EVAC Secretary

President Peter Argenziano opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Star party safety (Vekol site) discussion is tabled for now. Please continue to send comments and suggestions for future star party and star gazing sites to the EVAC board.

Chris Schur, *Astronomy*, Dec '04, Reader Gallery: Nebula and Surrounding Merope, p. 120

Announcements

RASC Observers Handbooks - available for \$17.00
2005 Calendars - \$8.00

Holiday Party: December 18, 2004, 6:30 p.m., at the Home of Tom Polakis, 121 W. Alameda, Tempe

December Guest Speaker: Tom Polakis from Namibia

Recognition

Joe Orman, *Sky & Tel*, Dec '04, Gallery: Orion Setting, p. 144

2005 Elections

Members volunteered for several remaining open positions, followed by voting via secret ballot (majority vote wins.) See December EVAC newsletter or EVAC website for 2005 election results.

Member Presentations

Randy Peterson – Asteroid Occultations

Guest Presentation

Steve Coe – “Supernovae”

December Classified Ads (Wanted & For Sale)

Noncommercial advertisements for Scopes or Astronomical equipment, books, computers, or software — Wanted or For Sale — will be accepted from current EVAC members.

Ads will be run on a “space available basis” and may be edited slightly to best fit the space. Ads should consist of a brief text description and must include a current member name and an evening phone number. You may include your email address if you wish.

Ads will be run until canceled or until they have appeared in three issues of the newsletter (whichever occurs first). **Ads are “tagged” with the first issue in which they appeared.**

Ads can be emailed to: john-cathy@cox.net
(this address may change in the future)
or send by U.S. Mail to:
EVAC PO Box 2202
Mesa, AZ 85214
Please mark the subject line of the email or the envelope,
“EVAC Newsletter Ad.”

New Meade Pictor 416XT CCD (Nov.)

All components, filters, manuals, adaptors, the Autoguider and CCD camera are still in their original factory sealed condition and plastic wrap. Why? Well, the Pictor and it's software are intended for use with a Windows computer and I never got around to buying a Windows laptop -- sounds silly -- but that's the fact.

The Pictor 416XT uses the Kodak KAF-0400 CCD chip with the extended blue response. As a CCD camera, it's considered among the best available under \$5000! The Autoguider and camera will connect directly to the control panel jacks of Meade LX50, LX90 (APM) and LX200 telescopes (and probably others with similar electronic relay autoguider ports).

See a current ad for this unit at:
http://telescopes.net/ccd__cameras.html

Meade's description is at:
http://www.meade.com/catalog/meade_pictor/meade_pictor_416xt.htm

The Pictor 416XT normally sells for about \$2000 (I paid \$2035 with tax), but I'll sell it for \$1299 (brand new!!).

Contact: John Matthews
phone: (602) 952-9808
email: john-cathy@cox.net

16" f4.5 Meade Starfinder (Dec.) with Equatorial Mount

Optics remounted into a new tube with a JMI focuser built by **Pierre Shwarr**.

7, 12.5, 17, 20, and 32mm eyepieces

2.8 klee barlow

Laser collimator and OM1 camera

Many extras!

Call or e-mail me for a list.

\$5200 invested, but will sell for \$2600

Contact: Dave Rainey
Phone: 602-980-0582
email: draine7@cox.net

EVAC is selling ASTRONOMY calendars published by Kalmbach. □The list price is \$11.99 plus shipping (if you order them on the internet). □Our total price to you is \$8.00. □They are almost gone - any remaining calendars will be available □at the December EVAC meeting (Dec 10 at the Az Science Center). □They are strictly first come, first served. □You can pay with cash or check.

□

□While back we had **T-shirts made, printed with a 4 color picture of M51 (by Chris Schur) on the front and the EVAC name and logo on the back.** □There is one size MEDIUM T-shirt left, which may also be purchased at the December meeting, for \$10.

□

Contact: Randy Peterson
(at the December meeting)

Set of four Radian Televue EP's 3, 5, 8 and 10mm

asking \$150.00 each or \$550.00 for all four.
Like new condition in original packages.

An altazimuth head from a Televue Gibraltar mount
in good condition, just needs legs or permanent pier.
asking \$100.00 OBO

Contact: Russ
Phone:(480)554-0815 - days only
email: rchmela@sedona.ch.intel.com

If it's clear...
by Fulton Wright, Jr.
Prescott Astronomy Club -- December 2004

Shamelessly stolen information from Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy magazine, and anywhere else I can find info. When gauging distances, remember that the Moon is 1/2 a degree or 30 arc minutes in diameter. All times are Mountain Standard Time unless otherwise noted.

This month you might be able to catch **comet Machholz** as it passes southwest of Orion. See Astronomy Magazine, December 2004, p. 71 or <http://www.astronomy.com/asy/default.aspx?c=a&id=2465> on the web for a finder chart. It should be at its best in January, so stay tuned.

On Sunday, December 5, about 6:30 AM, you can get your best view of **Mare Orientale**. With a small (3 inch) telescope look high in the south for the last quarter Moon. Look, not at the terminator, but at the lower left limb, which is tilted toward us by libration, for this spectacular, multi-ring, impact site. This is a very difficult observation because this feature can only be seen pretty much edge-on from the Earth. The next morning will also be good.

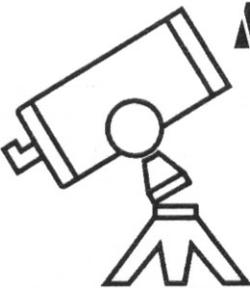
On Sunday, December 5, about 6:30 AM, you can also see two planets near each other. With your unaided eye look 15 degrees above the southeast horizon for **Venus** (mag -4) and **Mars** (mag 2) about 1 degree apart.

On Tuesday, December 7, at 2:32 AM, the **Moon** will rise and uncover **Jupiter**, which it has been hiding, at the same time. This event happens 5 degrees south of east and will be very hard to observe. If you observe from farther east than Prescott, the Moon will rise first. In any event, you will be able to see Jupiter near the Moon after moonrise.

From Friday, December 10, to Monday, December 13, the **8 planets** (other than Earth) will be lined up in their natural order, from east to west, in Earth's sky. This isn't an especially visible treat. As a matter of fact, both Mercury and Pluto are too close to the sun to observe. **But it is especially rare. Next time is in the year 2333.**

On Monday, December 13, starting about 10:00 PM and extending into the next morning, you might see some **Geminid meteors**. Lie back facing Gemini (initially to the east) and watch the whole sky. This might be the best display of the year, about one meteor a minute under good conditions. Wear a lot of clothes, there is little danger you will be too warm.

About Sunday, December 26, about 6:30 AM, you can see two planets start a dance around each other. With your unaided eye or binoculars look 5 degrees above the southeast horizon for **Mercury** (mag 0) to the left of, and slightly higher than, **Venus** (mag -4). The dance continues into next year, becoming most intimate on January 13 with the planets 1/3 of a degree apart.



Mr. Telescope

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East Valley Astronomy Club Membership Form

Please complete this form and return it to the club treasurer at the next club meeting OR mail to EVAC, P.O. Box 2202, Mesa, AZ 85214, with a check or money order made payable to EVAC.

IMPORTANT: ALL memberships expire on December 31, of each year.

New Member Only - select month joining:

- \$20.00 January – March
- \$15.00 April – June
- \$10.00 July – September
- \$25.00 October – December & Next Year

Newsletter delivery option, check one:

- Email (saves club printing & postage) U.S. Mail

Total enclosed \$

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # () _____

Email: _____

URL: _____

Membership Renewals:

- \$20.00 January – December

Name Badges:

- \$7.00 each Name: _____

Magazines: if renewal, customer # _____

(New) (Renewal)

- \$29.00 /yr. Astronomy Magazine
- \$33.00 /yr. Sky & Telescope

**Local Star Party Site
Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

General Information: The Boyce Thompson site is still considered the **new** local site by some EVAC old-timers. However, it has now become our preferred nearby site. It has some privacy and possibly safety advantages over the older Florence Junction site. In addition, it is the location where EVAC provides star parties twice yearly for members of the Friends of The Arboretum (FOTA) -- an organization of members and supporters of the Arboretum. Some current EVAC members were first introduced to EVAC through these delightful evening potluck dinners and star parties

Location: N 33° 16' 52" W 111° 09' 35"

How to get there: Drive East on US 60 past Florence Junction. The Arboretum is located at Milepost #223, and is about an hour's drive from Phoenix. Just before you enter the town of Superior, the Arboretum's location is marked with a large brown and white State Park Sign and there is a right turn lane to exit the highway at the entrance. On local EVAC star party nights, please plan to arrive at the Arboretum **after** 5:30 pm -- to avoid being confused with regular Arboretum patrons who are required to leave the park at the regular 5:00 pm closing time.

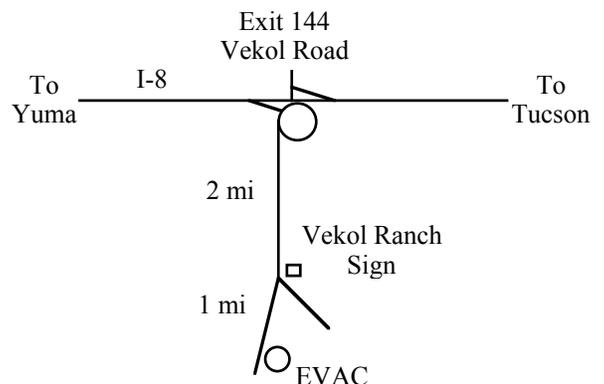
You can visit the Arboretum on the Internet at:
<http://arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/index.html>

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 sky glow from Phoenix to the North. The site is within 90 minutes 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 small road (now paved) 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.



EVAC Officers

PRESIDENT

Peter Argenziano
(480) 633-7479

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant, (duties being
shared by other officers)

TREASURER

Jack McEnroe

SECRETARY

Diane Cook

EV. COORDINATOR

Howard Israel
(480) 893-7523

PROPERTIES

Dave Williams

NEWSLETTER

John Matthews
(602) 952-9808

WEB MASTER

Marty Pieczonka

East Valley Astronomy Club

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

Membership & Subscriptions: \$20 per year, renewed in December. Reduced rates to *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* available. Contact the Treasurer:
Jack McEnroe at: keystoneconsulting@earthlink.net

Address Changes: Contact: Jack McEnroe. PO Box 2202 Mesa AZ 85214-2202

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of every month at the Scottsdale Community College, 7:30 p.m. Meet in Room PS 172 (Physical Science Bldg.).

Newsletter: Email John Matthews at: john-cathy@cox.net The newsletter is mailed out the week before the monthly Club meeting. An electronic version is available in Adobe PDF format in lieu of the printed copy. Please send your contributions to John Matthews at: john-cathy@cox.net Contributions may be edited.

EVAC Library: The library contains a good assortment of books, downloaded imagery, and helpful guides. Contact Dave Williams at: davewilliams@cox.net
Book Discounts: Kalmbach and Sky Publishing offer a 10% discount to EVAC members on books and other items from their catalog. When ordering, notify the person on the phone that you would like the "Club Discount." When ordering by mail, there is a line to subtract the club 10%.

EVAC Star Party Line: Let other members know in advance if you plan to attend a scheduled observing session. Contact Events Coordinator Howard Israel at (480 893 7523).



**East Valley
Astronomy Club**

**EVAC
PO Box 2202
Mesa, AZ 85214**

**EVAC Homepage:
www.eastvalleyastronomy.org**

Reminders:

December EVAC Meeting Thursday, Dec. 9, 2004

Location: AZ Science Center
600 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85004 @ 7:30PM

January EVAC Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2005

Location: To Be Determined
@ 7:30PM