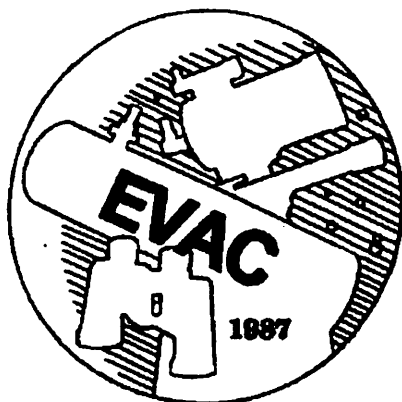


May 1999

Newsletter

Scottsdale, Arizona



# East Valley Astronomy Club

## EVAC At-A-Glance

- May 8      **EVAC Local Star Party**  
             Florence Junction-*at the Corral!*
- May 12     **EVAC Meeting at SCC, 7:30 pm**  
             Speaker: Dr. Jeff Hester, ASU,  
             "A Part of the Universe"
- May 15     **Boyce Thomson Arboretum Star**  
             **Party & Dinner**
- May 15     **EVAC Deep Sky Star Party**  
             Vekol Road
- May 21     **SAC Meeting at Grand Canyon**  
             University, 7:30 pm  
             Speaker: Bill Peters, "Finding  
             Meteorites"
- May 22     **Astronomy Day Public Star Party**  
             Thunderbird Park, sunset  
             Contact: Rich Walker, 997-0711
- May 28-30   **Riverside Telescope Makers**  
             **Convention, Riverside, CA**

## Sentinel Star Gaze '99

Steve Coe, SAC

Well, after a couple of years having to deal with poor weather for the Sentinel Star Gaze, this year decided to really show off. A.J. Crayon and I made it out of Phoenix about 2:00 PM on Friday, April 16. This day also turns out to be my 50th birthday, a fact which has yet to sink in completely. I am, after all, only 23 years old in my head.

We made it to the tiny Arizona town of Sentinel and took a short trip over the railroad tracks and down a dirt road to a big flat spot in the desert. Several other astronomers are showing up at about the same time and by the time it gets dark we have 8 scopes and fewer and fewer clouds.

I set up the 13' and A.J. sets up his 8", both Newtonians. Once collimation is complete and finders are aligned, we are just waiting for it to get dark. An obligatory view of Venus shows it to be about 50% illuminated and it is swimming in a huge, bright cone of zodiacal light rising from the western horizon.

Once it is good and dark, I can see that the seeing is even pretty good to a dark southern horizon, so I decide to chase some objects in the far south. First is NGC 2440, a planetary nebula in Puppis. It is obviously a planetary, even at 100X, and it is in the field of view of

[www.goodnet.com/~rkerwin/evac/evac.html](http://www.goodnet.com/~rkerwin/evac/evac.html)

→ Rich Blahely (Lens maker) Tucson? ←  
Tours Optics (Tucson)

(Cont. from p. 1) a nice orange star and delicate triple. Going to 330X it is pretty bright, pretty small, somewhat brighter in the middle and elongated 1.8X1 in PA 60°. Averted vision does two things for this fine planetary, first it doubles the size and also brings out a dark marking across the middle of the nebulosity.

I also did some galaxies in Sextans, then swung the 13 inch over to Virgo and just did a little galaxy surfing. Using the 22 mm Panoptic eyepiece to give a power of 100X, this overwhelming river of star cities is fun. Jumping from one galaxy to another, every shape and brightness is presented.

By now Mars is up nicely and we have a "Mars-a-thon" for half an hour or so, trying different magnifications and filters. Syrtis Major is easy, as is the Hellas basin and Utopia. The southern polar cap is seen at higher power, along with some clouds at the limb. The dark features are more prominent with the orange and salmon filters and the clouds and bright features stand out with a light blue filter installed.

All too soon the clouds roll back in and by midnight, the observing session for Friday night is over. So, a good night's sleep is in order. We get up in the morning and after fixing breakfast, we spend the day chatting and using a tarp that Gus VanNoy (thanks Gus) set up to prevent roasted astronomer being the specialty of the house. Dale shows up later and adds more tarp space and we now have plenty of room to discuss eyepieces, scopes I would like to have the money to build, where to go observing and I sure hope it stays clear for tonight. The usual.

As the Sun gets lower, more and more folks start pulling into the observing area; it used to seem large. As it gets dark, I count 55 vehicles, most with either telescopes, binoculars, or both, set up and ready to observe. And it is a great night to observe. The clouds have dissipated completely by now and as a gorgeous thin crescent Moon, Venus and the Pleiades set, the stars come out and really show off.

As I put the 13 inch on NGC 2467, a nebula in Puppis, I realize that it is a special night. The seeing is excellent and I am using 220X on an object that has a Declination of -26 degrees! Realizing that the sky is clear and steady even a small distance above the southern horizon, I spend some time on 2467 and see lots of fine detail with the round, pretty faint nebula. There are several, thin, dark lanes within the nebulosity and 9 stars involved. At this point I decide to rate the seeing as a 7/10 and the transparency at 8/10, as good as Sentinel gets.

## EVAC & Other Events: 1999

	New Moon	Mtng	Local	Deep Sky	Other
Jan	17	13	9	16	
Feb	16	10	6	13	
Mar	17	10	13*	20	13: Messier Marathon*
Apr	16	14	10	17*	17: Sentinel Star Gaze*
May	15	12	8	15	9-16: Texas Star Party 28-31: Riverside TMC
Jun	13	9	5	12	12-19: Gr Canyon SP
July	13	14	3	10	1-7: Universe '99
Aug	11	11	7	14	13-14: Stellafane
Sep	9	8	4	11	10-11: N AZ Star Party 17-19: Astrofest
Oct	9	13	2/30	9*	9: All-AZ Star Party* 4-10: Okie-Tex SP 8-10: Starry Nights Fst
Nov	8	10		6	
Dec	7	8	11	4	

I move on to a galaxy group in Antlia, Abell 4712. Even this group of distant galaxies that is only 10 degrees above the horizon shows six galaxies that are pretty easy seen at 150X. I decide to make a tour of the observing area and chat with some other folks about what they are observing.

I observe Mars in a variety of apertures and again tonight, lots of detail is seen. Joe Goss's 10" Meade does a nice job of pulling out some nice detail at 250X. Bill's 18 inch Dobsonian shows off lots of spiral arm detail in M 101. There are pretty bright nebulae in the arms and the core is bright and round. Ken Reeves, Brian Workman, A.J. and I spend some time in the Coma Galaxy Cluster, I count 32 galaxies in a two degree area of the sky, many differing shapes. John Maris(?) from California has a 22 inch and the view of the Dumbbell in it is excellent.

So, the Sentinel Star Gaze was certainly a success. There were a few problems with people splashing around white light—thank you. All in all, a fun time was had by everyone I spoke with. I will coordinate again so that this star fest falls away from the Messier Marathon and we will see you next year.

## EVAC Meeting Highlights

April 14, 1999

Tom Mozdzen, Secretary

Call to Order: President Silvio Jaconelli called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm. There were 76 attendees, at least 10 guests, and one new member.

Announcements:

On May 15th there will be a star party & dinner at the Boyce-Thompson Arboretum. Bring a scope and get a dinner! Contact Don Wrigley (982-2428) for more info.

Sam Herchak took a show of hands for EVAC T-shirts and sweatshirts. We came up with 15 and 20 respectively.

The International Dark Sky Association was mentioned in an effort to increase awareness of the society and perhaps get a few new members as it is in our best interest to keep the sky dark! Pedro's attempt to persuade Home Base and Home Depot to stop selling mercury-vapor lights was recounted. Unfortunately, these chains are still illegally selling mercury-vapor lights.

EVAC ADOT adopt a highway participants were recognized. We need to clean a 1 mile stretch 2 times per year. Participants had a good time and enjoyed the socialization.

Tom Polakis reminded us that the May meeting will contain a short member survey which will be used to help the club better meet the needs of its members.

A.J. Crayon talked of the great time everyone had at the Messier Marathon. Many members from SAC, EVAC, and Tucson participated. There was a reporter from the Atlantic Monthly who visited, and should get his article published later in the year.

Joe Orman, Rick Scott, and Tom Polakis had photos published this month.

Marsha Collette spoke about the Planetary Society which was formed originally by Carl Sagan, Bruce Murray and Louis Friedman. Membership is \$25/yr. They also provide a screen saver program to help process the SETI data from Areceibo.

Show and Tell:

Joe Orman presented us with photos from the recent planetary alignment. The photos were from 2/17 with the moon, Venus and Jupiter in proximity to each other through 3/19 showing the moon, Venus, and Saturn.

He then showed us pictures from the 3/15 tour of the Whipple Observatory, which is SE of Tucson. We were shown views of the 48", 52", and the 60" telescopes which were used to plot the large scale structure of the universe.

The MMT was shown which originally consisted of six 1.8m mirrors. However, the six mirrors were replaced by one 6.5m mirror.

Chris Schur showed us ~12 slides taken from Payson using Kodak PPF 400 film (red sensitive). The slides were stacks of 4 x 5 min each. He should have an article in the July or August issue in *S&T*.

Chris showed us some of his best double stacked slides, and then compared them against what he could do digitally with the 4-stacks. The extra amount of nebulosity visible with the new technique was amazing. Some of the objects photographed were the Witchhead Nebula, Horsehead Nebula (Barnard's Loop very visible now), nebulas in Gemini and Monoceros among others.

Laurice Dee gave a presentation on the Stardust mission to collect – what else? – stardust! It will make 3 heliocentric loops between 1999 and 2001. It will intersect comet Wild 2 in 2004.

She also mentioned that the X-ray observatory was delayed because the rocket it intended to use failed on an earlier mission. Once the failure is understood and corrected, the mission will proceed.

Guest Speaker:

Ben Mixon was the guest speaker for the evening. He has been involved in archaeo-astronomy for 35 years.

He talked about ancient calendars such as those at Circle Stone—a pre-historic Hohokam site which predicted solstices and equinoxes, and also of star maps which were written in 1168 on a large 3'x7' stone in a field.

He also described how the Hole-in-the-Rock site at Papago Park may have been used to predict the equinoxes and solstices. At the special times of the year, the sun passes through the opening in the rock and illuminates a special path marked by bowls and boulders.

Depressions on the horizon were used for markers, and Circle Stone is found at one of the depressions marking an equinox. They were able to mark both solstices, and then divide the angle between them to within .1 degrees to mark the equinox.

Throughout the valley there were numerous other markers which enabled them to turn it into a calendar. 40 sites have been found in the Salt River Valley, many on the alignments with the solstices. About 5 of these sites are still standing.






# May 1999

All Times MST

Mark in the space along the sky,  
And 'twixt the Cup and Virgin's spike,

where Hydra's volumes are,  
you'll find the Raven's square.

—Admiral Smyth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Jupiter near Mercury Mars closest to earth
2 E. Halley arrested, suspected of piracy, 1700	3	4	5 Eta Aquarid meteors	6	7	8  EVAC Local Star Party
9 Texas Star Party (May 9-16) Mother's Day	10	11	12 EVAC Meeting 7:30 pm at SCC	13 Moon near Jupiter Sun enters Taurus	14 Moon near Mercury & Saturn	15  EVAC Deep Sky Star Party
16 Moon close to Aldebaran	17 N. Lockyer, b. 1835	18 Moon near Venus	19	20	21  Moon occults Regulus	22 Astronomy Day
23	24 Moon near Porrima	25 Mercury at superior conjunction	26 Yesterday & Today: Moon near Mars	27	28 Riverside TMC (May 28-29)	29 
30	31 Memorial Day Pluto at opposition					

Meeting Close: The meeting was called to a close at 9:30 pm.

about ourselves."—Jeff Hester, Arizona State University

## May Guest Speaker

Pedro Jane', Vice President

Our guest speaker May 12 will be Dr. Jeff Hester. His discussion will be titled, "A Part of the Universe"

"The sense of awe that we feel when looking at the night sky is an experience that we share with our most remote ancestors. Humans have always searched for a connection between our existence and the patterns that we see in the sky. That search continues to this day. But unlike the failed attempts of the astrologers and mystics, our modern quest for a connection to the stars has borne remarkable and wondrous fruit. I will discuss the key realization that opened the doors to modern astronomy, and will look at how the discoveries of the astronomer force us to change the way that we think

Dr. Hester attended Rice University and received a Ph.D. from the Department of Space Physics and Astronomy. He then worked at the California Institute of Technology as a member of the team responsible for the first Wide Field and Planetary Camera. After coming to ASU, he worked with the team responsible for the instrument which restored Hubble's imaging capability. The Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2. We have all enjoyed the wonders of this device. Dr. Hester is known to most of us for the image of M16, the Eagle Nebula. Using the Hubble wide field and planetary camera 2, Dr. Hester and associate Paul Scowen thrilled us all with the photo showing the huge pillars within the nebula where star forming can be seen occurring near the tips of the pillars. Dr. Hester's main science interests lie in the structure and dynamics of the interstellar medium. He has worked on problems ranging from star formation to supernova remnant evolution to pulsar winds.

His lecture should prove to be quite informative. Do not miss this chance to hear him speak!

## EVAC Board Minutes

### 4/29/99

Tom Mozdzen, Secretary

Meeting ran from 6:30 pm—8:50 pm and was held at Stan Ferris' house.

#### Attendees:

Silvio Jaconelli  
Tom Polakis  
Tom Mozdzen  
Robert Kerwin  
Pedro Jane

David Romney  
Joe Goss  
Steve Bell  
Enrico Alvarez  
Stan Ferris

#### Topics:

1. Membership list to go out in the next newsletter.
2. Board discussed the format of the Member Survey to be held in the May meeting. Format is for Tom P. to distribute the surveys during the meeting, read off the questions as members answer them, and then collect them.
3. Discussed the need to bring new members up to speed faster. We will ask how many members would be interested in some sort of class next meeting.
4. Discussed having an EVAC Messier Marathon, but majority of board quickly shot it down.
5. Electronic newsletter is the future. We will figure out the how, who, and when.
6. Joe Goss and Pedro will look into obtaining red blinking lights to help mark the star party areas.
7. Membership growth is causing attendance at SCC to exceed the capacity of the room. Pedro, Tom P. and Tom M. will explore various alternate sites (National Guard, Pyle Center, and Mesa CC).
8. SCC would like another star party. Sherri and Lika to schedule one in November.
9. Paid star Parties—Tom P. to contact leads. Participating club members compensation still under discussion. Currently it ranges from free food to half of the per scope fee. The next event will split the fees between the telescope owners and the club.
10. Decided that the official site at Florence Junction is at the corral.
11. Agreed to change the maps on the web, newsletter, and new member packets to correctly show this.

12. The Cookout had a low turnout. The board decided that an events coordinator would have helped the situation. Pedro nominated his wife Diana to be events coordinator.

13. The board decided to spend \$70 to register a web domain name for the club, and \$35 per year thereafter.

14. The board voted for the Internet domainname "EastValleyAstronomy.org". Note: the name "EVAC" was not available.

15. Incorporation papers were filled out correctly to bring us current to the year 1998. David R. received the papers to fill out for 1999. He has the new papers filled out ready to be mailed in for this year along with the \$10 fee.

16. Decided that the club should get a gavel for the president to help call the regular club meetings to order.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

## Change in Venue of Local Observing Site

Silvio Jaconelli, President

At the April EVAC Board meeting, the subject of the venue of the local star party site was discussed.

It seems that after the recent heavy rains, some members had to have their vehicles pulled from some hard-to-spot mud holes along the road leading to the "railroad tracks". Thanks to the efforts of Steve Bell and his sturdy truck, these members did not end up stranded. There has been other discussion concerning the night sky darkness of that particular site, and it was noted that more and more members were no longer using that particular site.

After some discussion, a vote was taken, and it was unanimously agreed that with effect from June 5th, the old "corral" site would become the official EVAC local star party site.

In addition to this newsletter article, this change will be announced at the May and June club meetings, Aaron will re-publish this article in next month's newsletter as well, and Robert Kerwin will amend the EVAC Web site accordingly, as well as publish a map in the newsletter.

## President's Comments

Silvio Jaconelli, President

This has been quite a time for planet watchers—the last seven or eight star parties have all had considerable emphasis on planetary observing—Jupiter, then Jupiter/Saturn, and now we have Venus affecting our night vision for the first couple of hours after twilight, setting just as Mars moves into an acceptable viewing elevation over in the east. And intermittently, we have had grandstand views of Mercury surprisingly high and surprisingly bright in the western twilight. All this at our dark sky sites !!! We will have a few more months of Mars before the monsoons set in, then it will be back to Jupiter in the fall !

At the April Board Meeting, we covered a lot of ground, including a member survey (thanks to Tom Polakis for all his work on this), chose a web name for our club (thanks to Robert Kerwin for his efforts on this), moved the local star party site to a new location (to the 'corral', rather than the 'railroad tracks'), appointed an Events Coordinator (thanks to Diane Jane for taking this on). We also discussed the growing attendance at the monthly club meetings—it is standing room only, some nights—and we will decide what to do, if anything, as we gather more inputs.

Until next month .....

## Newsletter Editor Needed!

M. Aaron McNeely, Editor

Due to a variety of circumstances, my tenure as newsletter editor must end. This will be my last issue as editor.

The duties of the newsletter editor are:

- To provide a timely listing of all EVAC events
- To establish a deadline for inclusion
- To accept and proof articles from EVAC members
- To purchase stamps and receive address labels from the database manager (Bill Smith)
- To take original newsletter to be reproduced at a printing business such as "Staples"
- To fold, append stamps and address labels, and mail approximately 110-180 newsletters before the date of the next EVAC meeting

- Provide extra newsletters for newcomers at the EVAC meeting

This is a big job, yet is very rewarding in terms of providing service and being creative! I will provide guidance to the new editor as well as copies of my newsletter computer files.

## Ancient Astronomers

Pedro Jane', Vice President

Our speaker for last month, (Ben Mixon), discussed the interest ancient people of the Salt River Valley had in celestial events and the night sky. As you all know, this is an interest shared by ancient people world wide. The Mayans created the most accurate calendar known from their observations. The Egyptians built the greatest structures on earth from their studies. Stonehenge still is not completely understood. There are innumerable ruins everywhere which point to man's fascination with the heavens. One thing is clear however. Ancient man was quite obsessed with the motion of the stars and planets, even more so than some of EVAC's members!

A recent discovery in Guam repeats this idea. A University of Guam astronomer, Rosina Iping, found paintings in a cave on the Pacific island. The drawings show people staring at constellations of stars depicting a 16 month calendar used by Micronesian navigators. This calendar is unique in that it differs from all other known calendars of early cultures. It is based on the movement of stars rather than the sun and moon. Dr. Iping believes the Chamorro people are the designers and is working to date these drawings. She believes they could be 3500 years old!

So the next time you take your telescope out for a cruise around the sky, try to imagine how old a hobby this really is and feel the connection to our ancient astronomy ancestors.

## If it's clear...

May 1999

Fulton Wright, Jr., Prescott Astronomy Club

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

The times given for the two occultations are for Prescott. Other places in the state may be a few minutes different.

On Saturday, May 1, Mars is closest to the earth (just after opposition on April 24). With a medium (6 inch) telescope, look for that bright red thing in the southeast in the early evening. For a couple of weeks on either side of this date you can see the surface marking of the planet at their best.

On Friday, May 21, at about 9:13 PM you can see the Moon occult Regulus, a first magnitude star. With binoculars or a small (3 inch) telescope look 40 degrees above the west horizon for the first quarter moon. You will probably want a telescope to see Regulus reappear on the bright side of the moon about 10:03 PM.

On Friday, May 28, at about 6:53 PM you can see the Moon occult a double star. With a small (3 inch) telescope look 6 degrees (low!) above the east southeast horizon for the full moon (bright!). At about 5 o'clock on the Moon's limb (non-inverting telescope) you will see 4th magnitude gamma Libra. The two equal brightness components are only .1 second of arc apart and will disappear about .2 second of time apart. They reappear at about 7:35 PM at about 2:30 o'clock on the Moon's limb.

## Celestar 8—Super Optics!

Ken Dauzat

As a kid growing up on a farm, I often dreamed of owning the perfect telescope that would allow 500 to 1000 magnification! Of course that was just a dream after owning and testing several dozen from 6" refractors to a 16" cassegrain. I built several and went crazy with baffles, blacken tubes, air vents, open structures, the works! I tried refractors from f/5 to f/17, Newtonians from 4" f/12 to 12.5" f/10...

I purchased my first SCT from Celestron Pacific in 1975 and enjoyed several years of observing my three favorite objects, Jupiter, Saturn, and of course, the moon. The stars were a "turn off" for me because of the flaring and distortion at over 200 power, imperfections that I began to associate with Schmidt optics. I branded the limit of "Clear Imaging" in my mind as 160 X for my old C-8! That was it, anything over that was just false magnification. I figured that was tops for my low altitude Louisiana atmosphere and humidity! Nearly all the articles I had read stated that no matter what kind of telescope you used, the result of clear contrast

## Heavenly Details

courtesy of  
**The Old Farmer's Almanac 1999**  
[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)

May 1999  
The Fifth Month

(all times EST)

This month belongs to **Venus**. Although the blazing evening star will continue to brighten further through June, it has now reached its highest point in the sky, allowing it to shine for several hours after sunset. When darkness falls, the cloud-shrouded world stands a hundred times brighter than any star and will inevitably prompt numerous UFO reports. Because of their different angles of orbit this season, the **Moon** and **Venus** will have few close conjunctions; however, the two pass near each other on the 18th. **Mars**, still brilliant but fading rapidly, passes impressively close to Virgo's brightest star, blue-white **Spica**, the last week of May.

**Last Quarter:** 8th day, 13th hour, 28th minute  
**New Moon:** 15th day, 8th hour, 5th minute  
**First Quarter:** 22nd day, 1st hour, 34th minute  
**Full Moon:** 30th day, 2nd hour, 40th minute

*Maybe we're moonstruck, but we humans seem never to tire of watching the amazing spectacle of the sky. For your interest and edification, The Old Farmer's Almanac provides the dates and locations of solar and lunar eclipses for the year, as well as the days of the full moon for seven years. Check it out at [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com), then go outside and look UP!*

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images in most seeing conditions favored the small aperture. Well, my old 60 mm Unitron would give a better image and near that power.

So I learned to live with 20 to 30 power per inch. In my mind, "diffraction limited" star images were just for small refractors and larger aperture telescopes were just for deep space objects.

My first impressive telescope came in 1994 when I acquired a Takahashi FC-100 that I even traded for with my new Meade ED 127 OTA. I then realized just what I'd been missing. I found it hard to understand

how smaller precision optics could outperform larger inferior ones.

After having owned 8 different C-8s (over a 22 year period) and two Meade 10s, in 1996 I purchased a used "Celestar 8" out of the Starry Messenger for \$800. I also traded out my old collection of oculars for a selection of Tele Vues and even the new 3-element barlow. After my loving wife quieted down, the first night of good seeing appeared a week later. My old favorite lunar viewing object was in a perfect position near the terminator, the sunrise was just over Copernicus and her rim appeared with a brilliant, sparkling 3-D like image in the 7 mm Nagler at 285 power! Then came the barlow and WOW! More detail and still impressive views. After the RPM's of my heartbeat slowed down some, I realized that my FC-100 would lose its ruling position with me, the Celestar's very pleasing lunar images at 570 power were etched in my mind. The old schoolday memories of my first 60 mm Sears refractor and visions of Percival Lowell raced through my mind. Next was the ultimate test. Several degrees from the moon was a 4th magnitude double that displayed the finest text book star images that I have ever seen even in the old Unitron or Tak, with perfectly black velvet-like background. The image breakdown began to show with the barlow in front of the star diagonal and with the 7 mm Nagler (a configuration that I believe should have generated about 800 power), although the lunar images were still quite pleasant and showed detailed quite well. The magnification had approached 100 power per inch.

Several weeks after, I confirmed this evaluation with my telescope observing friend and critic, and he too was as impressed as I had been. Jupiter showed more detailed than I had ever see through any telescope. He described the performance as similar to a unique 12.5" Newtonian he had once seen at the "Texas Star Party" during the late 80's.

The only improvements I've added to my Celestar 8 today is the addition of a JMI CCD type electric focuser, an underside balancing weight, and swapped the finder for a Tasco 4 X 32 rifle scope.

## Nikola Tesla's "Grandiose Conception"

(Excerpt from *Tesla: Man out of Time*, Margaret Cheney, Dell Publishing, 1983).

"Tesla was led to one of his most grandiose conceptions, the "terrestrial night light"-a way of lighting the whole Earth and its surrounding atmosphere, as though it

were but a single illumination. He theorized that the gases in the atmosphere at high altitudes were in the same condition as air in his partially evacuated tubes and hence would serve as excellent conductors of high-frequency currents. The concept intrigued him for many years. One had only to transmit sufficient high-frequency currents in the right form to the upper air, at an altitude of 35,000 feet or even lower. When asked how he proposed to conduct his currents, he merely replied that it did not present any practical difficulties."

Let's all be thankful that this was never successful! Nikola Tesla (born 1856), the famous Victorian inventor and scientist, obviously wasn't an astronomy enthusiast!

## In Astronomical History

May 1, 1949: Gerard Kuiper discovers Nereid, a satellite of Neptune.

May, 15, 1713: Nicholas de la Caille, b.

May 17, 1835: Norman Lockyer, b.

May 20, 1773: Paris newspaper predicts date as the end of the world due to comet collision, misinterpretation of work by astronomer Lalande. Incident prompted Voltaire to write essay *Letter on the Alleged Comet*.

May 29, 1919: Einstein's theory of General Relativity was first tested during A. S. Eddington's solar eclipse expedition to Principe Island, Africa.

## *Evening Star*

◆  
H.P. Lovecraft

I saw it from that hidden, silent place  
Where the old wood half shuts the meadow in.  
It shone through all the sunset's glories—thin  
At first, but with a slowly-brightening face.  
Night came, and that lone beacon, amber-hued,  
Beat on my sight as never it did of old;  
The evening star, but grown a thousandfold  
More haunting in this hush and solitude.

It traced strange pictures on the quivering air—  
Half-memories that had always filled my eyes—  
Vast towers and gardens; curious seas and skies  
Of some dim life—I never could tell where.  
But now I knew that through the cosmic dome  
Those rays were calling from my far, lost home.



EVAC Membership List—Private  
May 1999, p. 1

Robert Aepli  
Diane & Manfred Alber  
Enrico Alvarez  
Bob Anderson  
Howard Anderson  
John P. Anderson  
Len Austin  
Wayne & Judy Begun  
Jerry Belcher  
Steve Bell  
John Beraud  
Bob Birket  
Jim & Lynn Blaugh  
Dwight Bogan  
Martin Bonadio  
Bob Brazeal  
David Brown  
Sheri Cahn  
Jon Christensen  
Gordon Cluff  
Marcia Collette  
Dean Corn  
Kate D'Aoust  
Laurice Dee, PhD.  
Bill Dellinges & Lora Shank  
Cliff DeVlieg  
Paul Dickson  
George Doust  
Kathy Doyle  
John & Nellie Durham  
Wes Edens  
Bob Erdmann  
Michael Evans  
John Evelan  
Don Farley  
Michael Felong Jr.  
Stan Ferris  
Mark Foltyn  
Karen Ford  
Freddie Franqui  
Patrick Gavin  
Subhash Gedam  
Steve Gifford  
Joe Goss  
Tom Harvey  
Sam Herchak & Anne Beeby  
Frank Honer  
Richard D. Jacobs, MD  
Silvio Jaconelli  
Pedro Jane'  
Don Jones  
Harold Judson  
Kirk & Hunter Keating  
Robert & Beth Kerwin  
Bill Korhely  
Frank Kraljic  
Kris Lamb  
Ray Lambert  
Eron Lee  
Gene Lucas  
Michael Mackowski  
Aaron McNeely  
John Milu  
Jon Milan  
Carolyn & Ira Miller  
Jerry Misner

EVAC Membership List—Private  
May 1999, p. 2

Tom Mozden  
Tony & Joyce Muller  
Loretta Murray  
Jason Nelson  
Rick Noem  
Bob Norby  
Leroy & Connie Nunn  
Joe Orman  
Tony Ortega  
Louis Pappas  
Richard Payne  
Jo Pena & Michelle Cozzi  
Bill & Kajia Peters  
Eric Peterson  
Randy Peterson  
Glen Piper  
Tom Polakis  
Rick Rachkofski  
Dave Rainey  
Gerald Rattley  
Dave Richardson  
David Ricks  
Lika Romney  
Steve Roquemore  
Bernie Sanden  
Mike Sargeant  
Jack Schroeder  
Chris & Dawn Schur  
Pierre Schwaar  
Rick Scott  
Neil Sheldon  
Cale Shipman  
Dick Simmon  
Frank Simon  
Bill & Becky Smith  
Robert Smith  
Gregg & Theresa Sorrell  
Angie Soto  
Matt Spinelli  
Emerson Stiles  
Rick Stoneking  
Don Swaney  
Don Tellis  
Gary Tharalson  
Jamie Theiss  
Lilly Thompson  
Tom Trolen  
Ken Tullis  
Ken Tydeck  
John Varnes  
Glenn Vandiver  
Pat Wagaman  
Wendy Wallace  
Roger Walters  
Jim Waters  
Linda Weaver  
James Weisenberger  
Donald Whitson  
Ron Williams  
Matt Wise  
Trudy Wise  
Kathy Woodford  
Don Wrigley  
Dee Ann Zacher  
Art Zarkos



# 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. See below:

### Enclosed:

Kathy Woodford  
EVAC Treasurer  
PO Box 213  
Apache Junction, AZ 85217

Enclosed:  
\_\_\_ \$20 Annual  
\_\_\_ \$10 July-Dec  
\_\_\_ \$27 Sky & Telescope  
\_\_\_ \$29 Astronomy Magazine  
\_\_\_ \$ 7 EVAC Nametag  
\_\_\_ Total

Circle: New Member    Renewal

Please Print (indicate confidential information)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
URL \_\_\_\_\_

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.goodnet.com/~rkerwin/evac/evac.html](http://www.goodnet.com/~rkerwin/evac/evac.html)

### E-mail Mailing Lists

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

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

**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 the "-request" mailing address at [psiaz.com](mailto:psiaz.com). For example, you would send the request for AZ-Observing to "AZ-Observing-request@psiaz.com"

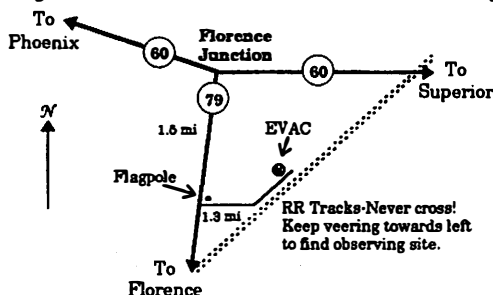
## EVAC Star Parties

### 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. At Florence Junction, turn right (south) on SR 79. After 1.5 miles, you will see a tall steel flagpole and a dirt road to the left. Turn left onto the dirt road and continue for another 1.3 miles. Drive with caution as the road is rough in some areas. To the left there will be a large open area.

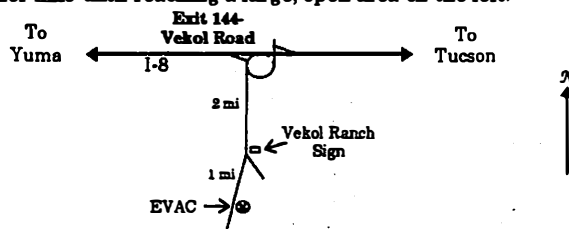


### Deep Sky Star Party: Vekol Road Site

**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.





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*Don't Forget: Florence Junction Star Parties now meet at the Corral!*

- Contents**
- Sentinel Star Gaze
  - May Speaker: Dr. Jeff Hester
  - EVAC Board Minutes
  - FJ Venue Change
  - President's Comments
  - Newsletter Editor
  - Ancient Astronomers
  - If it's clear...
  - Celestron Optics
  - EVAC Members

Valued member since 3/16/97  
Next EVAC Meeting — May 12th 7:30 pm



M. Aaron McNeely, Editor  
16129 West Madison Street • Goodyear, AZ 85338



**East Valley Astronomy Club**



## East Valley Astronomy Club—1999

Scottsdale, Arizona

EVAC Homepage—<http://www.goodnet.com/~rkerwin/evac/evac.html>

### EVAC Officers

**PRESIDENT**  
Silvio Jaconelli  
602/926-8529

**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
Pedro Jane  
602/833-2002

**TREASURER**  
Kathy Woodford  
602/857-3438

**SECRETARY**  
Tom Mozdzen  
602/497-5703

**PROPERTIES**  
Enrico Alvarez  
602/837-0486

**Membership & Subscriptions:** \$20 per year, renewed in December. Reduced rates to *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* available. Contact Kathy Woodford, P.O. Box 213, Apache Junction, AZ 85217, 602/857-3438. Email—ariz.kat@juno.com

**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:** Mailed out the week before the monthly Club meeting. Send contributions to M. Aaron McNeely, 16129 W. Madison St., Goodyear, AZ 85338, 602/925-0183. Email—amcneely@primenet.com  
Contributions may be edited.

**Address Changes:** Contact Bill Smith, 3430 N. Mountain Ridge Unit 32, Mesa, AZ 85207, 602/854-8071. Email—bsmithaz@aol.com

**EVAC Library:** The library contains a good assortment of books, downloaded imagery, and helpful guides. Contact Enrico Alvarez for complete details, 602/837-0486.

**Book Discounts:** Great savings through Kalmbach and Sky Publishing. Contact Kathy Woodford, PO Box 213, Apache Junction, AZ, 602/857-3438. Email—ariz.kat@juno.com

**EVAC Party Line:** Let other members know in advance if you plan to attend a scheduled observing session. Contact Stan Ferris, 602/831-7307.

