

# East Valley Astronomy Club

August 1999

[www.eastvalleyastronomy.org](http://www.eastvalleyastronomy.org)

Scottsdale, Arizona

## EVAC Meeting Highlights

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Tom Polakis, Secretary  
Polakis@sprintmail.com

### Call to Order:

The July meeting was attended by roughly 45 people, due in part to widespread monsoon storms. President Silvio Jaconelli opened the meeting with new member introductions, followed by introductions of officers and Board members. Silvio then ran through a humorous list of ten signs that you're a deep-sky observer.

Newsletter Editor Tom Mozdzen discussed the availability of Adobe Acrobat reader. A CD has been written that will allow Mac users to easily install it on their computers. Only one copy is currently available.

The meeting quickly turned to the main speaker, long-time EVAC member Bill Peters. Bill has been on something of a mission to locate the meteoritic remains of a bright meteor that was witnessed around the state on June 7, 1998. During the past year, Bill investigated the fall by interviewing over 300 people in the area near Stanfield. By plotting their described trajectories, he was able to narrow down the search region to only a square mile. While Bill found only "meteor-wrongs", the real meteorite, if it exists, is masquerading in this area as a desert rock.

Bill has been in contact with the Center for Meteorite Studies at ASU, and showed off a great sample from their collection. While the room admired the meteorites, he discussed a great wealth of meteorite trivia, culminating with his personal story of his nearly buying of an 80-pound fake from a broker in the Valley. One of the meteorites from the ASU collection that Bill showed off has the same constituent metal elements as those found in the Sun. In fact, the meteorite predates the Sun as part of the Solar nebula. This makes it the oldest thing that mankind has touched, and that includes Bea Arthur.

After the main speaker, Paul Dickson talked about SETI@home, a Berkeley program of using Internet-linked computers to analyze data from the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Their Web page is at: <http://www.setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu>. There are currently five members of a team from SAC and two on the EVAC

team. Laurice Dee showed a poster presentation of the Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE). This craft, launched on June 24, will look for chemical remnants of the Big Bang. She also highlighted JPL's Venus flyby party for the Cassini mission to Saturn.

The meeting ended at 9:30.

## SETI @Home Update

By Tom Mozdzen

EVAC now has 5 members in the SETI project. To find our group from SETI's home page, go to "groups", then search for "East Valley Astronomy Club". You will see the five of us listed with how many packets of data we have processed. My first packet required 25hrs of CPU time. My second packet needed 65hrs (maybe I found ET?). The top 100 clubs are listed and ranked as to how many packets of data they have processed. The last club on the list has processed about 4,000 packets. We have processed about 25.

Needless to say, I've installed another fan in my computer's case. I'm now cranking on my third packet. Check it out - it is pretty neat.

## 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 <sup>nd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	9*	9: All-AZ Star Party* 4-10: Okie-Tex SP 8-10: Starry Nights Fst
Nov	8	10	(oct)	6	
Dec	7	8	11	4	

# August's Main Speaker

**Topic:** Automated CCD Astrometry and Photometry with Portable Instruments

**Presenter:** Robert B. Denny

**Length:** 45 minutes + Q and A

Doing automated astrometry with portable scopes presents some serious challenges. This talk describes the development and technology for an automated astrometric observing system for portable scopes. It is automatic, starting with an observing list and ending with the MPC report in three steps. The CCD camera is used both as a digital finderscope and for acquiring the images used for astrometric measurements. This is the first fully automatic astrometric system for amateurs in the world. It employs the Microsoft ActiveX object architecture so it may be controlled from a variety of sources including Excel macros, Visual Basic, and popular scripting languages such as JavaScript.

**Brief Bio:**

Mr. Denny is a relative newcomer to the amateur astronomy community. He has, however worked as a professional software developer and businessman for over 30 years. He founded and then managed a successful medium-sized software company for 14 years. He developed the first commercial web server for Windows NT and 95, O'Reilly WebSite, which is still the #2 most popular web server on all Windows platforms. His interest in astronomy dates back to his college days as an EE undergrad at the University of Arizona, and was reawakened in March 1998 by a visit with Jim Scotti at Kitt Peak.

# Message from the President

by Silvio Jaconelli

The monsoon season has arrived. Its that time of the year to reorganize our observing materials, realign our optics, wash our mirrors, and the other one hundred and one things that we never seem to get round to during prime observing weather ! It's naked eye observing (or should I say "glimpses") of the planets and the Moon and perhaps some sunspot observing for a while until the weather clears up. However, we will soon have Jupiter and Saturn to look at - especially welcome after the recent successful Mars season.

The July EVAC newsletter arrived in plenty of time - thanks to Tom Mozdzen who is doing a great job here. I prefer to receive my Newsletter electronically, so I have asked Tom to save the time, effort and expense of sending me a paper copy from now on; please feel free to do likewise if this option appeals to you.

And on the subject of newsletters, Tom will be more than happy (delighted even) to receive any articles on any Astronomy related topic from our membership: observing articles, any special techniques that you would want to share, any experiences that would interest our membership, any opinions on hardware - in short, any topic that would appeal to any segment of our club. I would especially appeal to our newer members to contribute articles.

We have brand new members (and occasionally non-members) who also read our Newsletter who would be very interested to hear from you.

Until next month .....

# Raffle Notice

Here's your chance to obtain a copy of 'STARRY NIGHT DELUXE' for only \$1 !!! Our club secretary, Kathy Woodford, recently was sent a complimentary copy of 'STARRY NIGHT DELUXE', and the question came up as to what we should do with it. Kathy suggested to the Board, and the Board agreed, that we would raffle the program at the September Club Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, September 8th. Tickets will cost \$1 each, and each member can purchase as many tickets as they wish ! So please come to the September club meeting prepared to help supplement the club funds !!!

# For Sale

Centurion Ultma 2000 fully computerized, 8 inch Schmidt with all accessories. Tripod, many eyepieces, camera mount, filters, gel cell battery and much more. I also have a set of three Brandon eyepieces in a wood presentation case. I'm asking \$350 for the eyepieces.

The scope has not been out more than four or five times and is in perfect condition.

I will take the best offer for the telescope and accessories.

Don Farley

# 1999 IDA Annual Meeting

by Sam Herchak  
[76627.3322@compuserve.com](mailto:76627.3322@compuserve.com)

On the April 24th weekend, Anne Beeby and I had the pleasure of attending the yearly meeting of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA). This short recap covers some of the stories and interesting people we learned about that weekend.

The activities began Friday afternoon, though we made a leisurely drive to Tucson and arrived just in time for a good night's sleep. EVAC members Joe Goss and Brian Page came also. The Sumner Suites Hotel hosted the event and their facilities, staff, and food were excellent. Don Davis (Director of The Planetary Institute) moderated the conference, with many short asides by Dave Crawford, former Director of Kitt Peak Observatory (KPNO) and co-founder of IDA.

After the continental breakfast, the presentations began in earnest. We got an excellent summary of the Canoa Park rezoning issue that recently threatened the Smithsonian's Observatory on Mt. Hopkins. Then Robin Martin, a non-astronomer, gave a humorous but true account of how she, her husband, their Sante Fe newspaper, their lighting "expert" (a dance instructor), and a nonprofessional lobbyist succeeded in getting New Mexico to pass a statewide light pollution ordinance! With some luck and lots of persistence, this small group worked through the system and enabled New Mexico to become the fourth such state to have a lighting law (I believe Texas also got an ordinance this year and would be #5, but its statute only applies to state facilities).

David Simon, of the National Parks and Conservation Association, talked about his organization's efforts and concern regarding light pollution in and around our national parks. David Levy gave an inspirational talk regarding mankind's long connection to the night sky and how important it is to preserve. Bob Gent, IDA's volunteer Public Relations Officer in Washington, had many good stories on how interest and momentum are building in favor of good lighting. Throughout Saturday and Sunday, many other hard working but less known people from across the country told stories of their progress, techniques, successes and setbacks in promoting good lighting.

Saturday night featured a banquet with a wonderful catered meal and Richard Green, current Director of KPNO as the speaker. Besides updating the audience on changes atop Kitt Peak, his slides showed how ground based telescopes are still doing astronomy at the limits. The highlight of the evening however, was the presentation of a plaque (complete with discovery image and inscription) to Dave Crawford, announcing Asteroid 7327 Crawford. The presence of his wife and daughters only added to the

emotion and admiration we all felt for this truly great human being. Dave's endless enthusiasm and hard work as volunteer Executive Director of IDA is nothing short of inspirational. If you ever meet him, I know you will agree.

The sad news is, with all the professional and amateur astronomers IN THIS COUNTRY ALONE, only 3,100 people (213 in AZ) are supporting IDA with a minimal contribution and membership. The good news is Dave believes we can double that in 1999! Please look at your checkbook right now and see if you can afford a tax deductible donation of \$30 for an IDA membership. This year the organization hopes to complete both a "model ordinance" and a book covering the whole lighting issue, but they need your support.

Education at an early age is far more effective than legislation. Anyone around children understands this because they make you recycle, right! So go to the IDA website, educate yourselves, then educate others. Based on our physiology, there is good lighting (shielded and subtle), and there is bad lighting (glare and over-illumination). Unfortunately, we mostly see the latter. It not only hinders our vision at night, but wastes energy and our money at the same time.

Thanks for your support. Hope to see you at the next annual IDA meeting on April 29, 2000.

**IDA 3225 N. First Ave  
 Tucson, AZ 85719-2103  
<http://www.darksky.org>**

# Minutes of the EVAC Board Meeting

Thursday July 29  
By Silvio Jaconelli

## Board/Officers Present:

1. Silvio Jaconelli
2. Pedro Jane (Proxy to Silvio Jaconelli)
3. Stan Ferris
4. Tom Modzden
5. Steve Bell (Proxy to Stan Ferris)
6. Kathy Woodford
7. Rick Scott
8. Al Alvarez

## Also Present:

1. Dee Ann Zacher
2. Mike Sargeant

- 1) The meeting started at 6:30pm
- 2) Kathy Woodford presented the Treasurer's Report. This showed a balance of \$4689, which compares to a balance of \$4354 at the start of the year. The report was unanimously adopted by the room.
- 3) Kathy presented a complimentary copy of "Starry Night Deluxe". It was agreed that we should raffle this at the September EVAC club meeting, with tickets costing \$1 each. **ACTIONS** : Kathy will obtain the tickets and conduct the raffle Silvio will put something in the Newsletter
- 4) Silvio was asked to enquire that any sales at club meetings were within protocol.
- 5) It was agreed to leave the status quo of the electronic version of our Newsletter for the time being. It is available for whoever desires to receive it that way.
- 6) There was discussion over the status of the Club - public or private. It was unanimously agreed that the club is a private club NOT open to the public at large. Potential new members would be able to check out the club as guests prior to deciding whether or not to join, but the club is nevertheless strictly private.
- 7) Dee Ann Zacher brought along some very nice materials that she had requested from 'Sky and Telescope' and 'Astronomy Magazine' that could be included in the new member packages. These were enthusiastically received and Stan Ferris agreed to include these in future packages.
- 8) Astronomy calendars will be offered for sale to club members for \$7 each (maximum 2 per member) and \$10 for non-members as well as for members' purchases in excess of 2. These calendars retail for around \$13. Members are urged to buy these calendars to help supplement club funds.
- 9) Mike Sargeant explained the star party site scouting that he had done with Art Zarkos in the

Florence Junction area. Mike and Art have spent a considerable amount of their personal time looking at alternate sites for our local star parties.

## Highlights of Mike/Art's efforts were :

- The geographic midpoint of the club members' domiciles is a point close to where Country Club Drive crosses over the Salt River.
- Potential sites were rated based on Light Pollution, Road Access, Windiness, Dust, Horizon Obstructions, Non-member Traffic and Site Capacity.
- The following ranking was determined (with best/worst ratings in parenthesis):
  - 1<sup>st</sup>. Cottonwood Road (Unobstructed horizon, but Dusty)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>. Forrest Road 231 (Very dark sky, but very Windy)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>. Boyce Thomson Arboretum (Very easy road access, but a lot of Traffic)
  - 4<sup>th</sup>. Railroad Tracks (A lot of space, but difficult Access)
  - 5<sup>th</sup>. Corral (Low Dust, but very Windy)

## General comments:

Boyce-Thomson is available by appointment only (gates locked every night)

Forrest Road 231 had by far the darkest skies (but see next comment)

Route US-60 very dangerous at Boyce-Thomson and at Forrest Road 231, the scene of very many accidents; for this reason, the club should not recommend these sites.

**LATE FLASH** - The Sat July 31st Gilbert Tribune ran a report on this stretch of highway, and it looks like it will be improved to have four lanes, reflective plastic will be put on the road surface to delineate lanes, the speed limit will be lowered, etc.

**CONCLUSION:** Continue using the Corral or the Cottonwoods as the local site for the time being, until such times as the light pollution from encroaching developments make the Florence Junction area unsuitable. At that time, the club should consider making Vekol Road the exclusive EVAC star party site.

10) The next Board Meeting was scheduled for 6:30pm at Stan Ferris' house on Thursday, Sept 23.

11) The meeting closed at 9:15pm.

# Friendly Scope Buying Advice for that First Telescope

## A new member writes:

Dear Mr. Jaconelli: Astronomy has been a lifelong interest of mine. Would you please give me some information about your meetings. I am interested in purchasing a telescope and would like your opinion on the Meade ETX 90. I am thinking about the new ETX 125 (5 inch) also. I want to get the Autostar Finger option also. Would you recommend anything larger for someone just getting started? I would like to attend your next meeting.

## Our courageous President replies:

I am copying a couple of experienced club members in my response so that they may volunteer their (perhaps conflicting !) opinions. Astronomical equipment is like politics; everyone has different ideas ! But here are my opinions:

The minimum scope size would be 6" (150mm), but I would recommend 8" (200mm); I feel that the most important attribute is aperture size - the bigger the aperture, the more detail you will see, and the brighter will be the images, and you will see fainter objects that will be invisible in smaller apertures. This unfortunately would rule out both the scopes that you mention. I have seen club members start off with 3", 4" and 4.5" aperture telescopes, and then see them quickly become disenchanted with their limitations in very short order. Now I know that the magazine ads tout the marvelous capabilities of small aperture scopes, but I regard these ads as exaggerated hype.

Before I look at serious amateur instruments, let me first state that if you wish to limit your financial investment and you wish to dabble around with something to see if you really want to get serious with the hobby, you cannot go wrong with a 6" f/8 Newtonian. Including eyepieces, this will cost around \$400. Now for the serious stuff.

There are three different types of scope. Refractors give the best images, but they are VERY expensive in 6" sizes (complete outfits run several thousand dollars !), as well as heavy and probably too complex for a beginner. But if have unlimited amounts of money and patience, they may be worth considering. If your primary interest is in the Moon, double stars and the planets, then a 4" (and therefore much less costly) refractor might work for you, but you would miss out on all the deep sky objects that Arizona has to offer !

The next kind of telescopes are Schmitt-Cassegrains - these are very compact scopes (easy to handle) and cheaper than refractors, but their quality tends to be sporadic - it is a turkey-shoot as to whether you will get a good one or a lemon. An eight inch model would run you around \$1000 to \$1500,

depending on options. The images through these scopes are the poorest of the three - they have a huge central obstruction, and the design is so complicated that it is tough to get the manufacturing just right as to where you will get top-notch images.

The final kind of telescope is a Newtonian. These are the least expensive of the three, and when properly adjusted a Newt with good optics offers superb images. If your interest lies in Moon, planets and double stars, then a long length Newt is best, but if you are primarily interested in galaxies and nebulae, you can get away with using a shorter length Newt. But there are some downsides here - these scopes require constant adjustment to ensure that the light path is not misaligned (collimated), and the mirrors need to be periodically removed for cleaning. Also, the quality of commercially bought Newts tend to be sporadic, so most serious amateurs end up buying theirs from private telescope builders - two of my four scopes are from private telescope builders and they are far and away better than any commercial scopes that I have seen. An 8" would run about \$800 - this compares with around \$600 for a commercial 8" model, but the extra money is well worth it.

On all the prices quoted above, eyepieces would be extra - perhaps around another \$200.

One thing that I have not mentioned (and they will cost extra) is electronic aids to show you where to point the scope to find objects. Many people use these, but I personally shun them - while it takes longer to find your way around the sky without aids, I think that you will become a better observer by taking the time and trouble to learn the constellations and where to find things on your own without electronic aids. Just my personal opinion.

Finally, call Don Wrigley at 982-2428 - Don has a wide range of telescopes and if his schedule permits he may be able to arrange to let you look through several of his so that you can get an idea of what telescope may be suitable for your needs.

## If it's clear...

by Fulton Wright, Jr.

Prescott Astronomy Club for August 1999

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

On Sunday, August 1, about 2:45 AM you can see an asteroid close to some stars. With a medium (6 inch) telescope look about 15 degrees above the east horizon for 31 Tau (magnitude 5.7). 2 arcminutes north (up and to the left) will be 6 Hebe (magnitude 9.8). 1.2 more arcminutes north is an 11.1 magnitude star. Hebe is passing between these two stars from west to east at 1.3 arcminutes per hour.

On Monday, August 9, about 5:00 AM you can start to find Mercury in the morning sky. With your unaided eye or binoculars look 5 degrees above and a little right of the east point on the horizon (that is, down and to the left from the Moon that morning) for magnitude 1 Mercury. During the next couple of weeks Mercury brightens a couple of magnitudes but it doesn't get a lot higher in the sky.

On Wednesday, August 11 about 1:30 AM you can see some events with Jupiter's moons. At 1:29 AM Io appears from within Jupiter's shadow. 20 minutes later Ganymede moves in front of Jupiter.

On Wednesday, August 11, if you are in Europe, Turkey, or southwest Asia, at about 11 hours UT, you can see a total eclipse of the sun. Be sure to use proper eye protection to view the partial phase. The northeast US gets to see a partial eclipse but Arizona misses the whole show.

On Thursday and Friday, August 12 and 13, after midnight you can see the Perseid meteors. Look about half way up the sky in the east for the radiant near the Double Cluster of Perseus. The moon won't interfere because it is near new phase.

On Sunday, August 15, at about 11:55 PM, you might see an asteroid occult a star. With a medium (6 inch) or larger telescope look 40 degrees above the east horizon for ACT 0587 0376, magnitude 10.6 (see S&T Aug 1999, p.114 for finder chart). Asteroid 112 Iphigenia, magnitude 12.8, might cover it for up to 22 seconds. With asteroid occultations there are no promises, only possibilities.

On Monday, August 16, at about 1:30 AM you can see two of Jupiter's satellites near each other. With a small (3 inch) telescope look 35 degrees above the east horizon for Jupiter. Io and Europa travel past each other, missing by 13 arcseconds.

On Sunday, August 25, starting about 11 PM you can watch an entire passage of Io in front of Jupiter. 10:56 PM Io's shadow lands on Jupiter 12:09 AM Io moves in front of Jupiter 1:05 AM Io's shadow leaves Jupiter 2:17 AM Io appears from in front of Jupiter

## NASA News

Collected by Martin Bonadio

### "Chandra" launched successfully

NASA's next Great Observatory, the Chandra X-ray Observatory has been launched. Launch of the spacecraft -formerly called the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility was delayed twice because ground testing took longer than expected and a possible problem with a booster rocket. Once it is safely in orbit, engineers at the control center will spend a couple of months checking and calibrating the observatory's systems. For the first two months of observations, Chandra will mostly stare at bright stars to check the focus of its images, and at the Cassiopeia A supernova remnant and the Coma cluster of galaxies, both of which have been well studied by other satellites. Two additional months of observations will be made by scientists directly involved with the program before the telescope is put into the service of astronomers worldwide.

### NASA Unveils Plans for Comet Impact

A spacecraft named Deep Impact will fire a 1,100-pound copper bullet at the nucleus of a comet, blasting out a crater the size of a football field and as deep as a seven-story building. The radical \$240 million mission, approved Wednesday by NASA administrators, may sound more like fiction than science, but its primary purpose will be to study the makeup of comets. Deep Impact is scheduled to be launched in January 2004 and will arrive at comet Tempel 1 on July 4, 2005. The projectile will separate from the spacecraft and hit the comet at 22,300 mph. Shortly after impact, the craft will come within 300 miles of the comet surface and send back data and pictures of the debris and crater. Deep Impact will allow scientists to study the inside of a comet by observing the debris ejected from the crater. They expect to learn a little more about the early stages of our solar system's formation from this project. The impact should be visible from Earth - 83 million miles away - with the aid of a telescope.

### Russians Call for Mir To Come Down

In the latest sign that Russia will carry through with plans to abandon the Mir space station, the country's top space official said the orbiter should be scrapped before a serious accident occurs. Yuri Koptev, the general director of the Russian Space Agency, said Russia has overshot its budget several times paying for the Mir and must dedicate its limited resources to the 16-nation international space station now that the Mir has completed all its planned tasks. The government has said it will discard the station next year unless the money can be raised from non-government sources.



## East Valley Astronomy Club Membership Form

### EVAC on the Internet

**EVAC Homepage:** [www.eastvalleyastronomy.org](http://www.eastvalleyastronomy.org)

**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](mailto: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.

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. leadtime for magazine renewals. See below:

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about EVAC? \_\_\_\_\_

Major areas of interest (circle): General observing; Lunar/Planetary;  
 Deep Sky; Telescope making; Astrophotography; CCD/Computer;  
 Archaeoastronomy; Other: \_\_\_\_\_

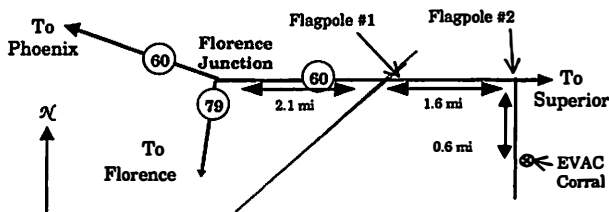
## EVAC Star Parties

### 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.

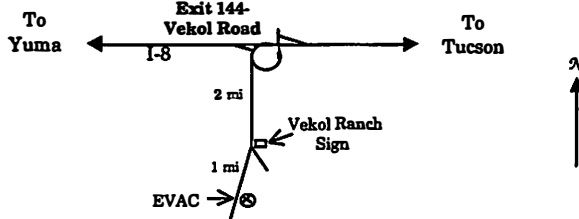


### Deep Sky Star Party: Vekol Road Site

**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**  
 Silvio Jaconelli  
 (480) 926-8529

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

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

**SECRETARY**  
 Tom Polakis  
 (480) 967-1658

**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—arizkat@psn.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.

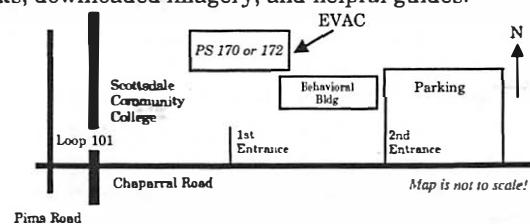
**Newsletter:** Mailed out the week before the monthly Club meeting. Send contributions to Tom Mozdzen, 1532 West Sherri Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85233. Email—tjmozdzen@worldnet.att.net. Contributions may be edited.

**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—arizkat@psn.net

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



**East Valley Astronomy Club**

Tom Mozdzen, Editor

1532 West Sherri Drive • Gilbert, AZ 85233



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Next EVAC Meeting Reminder:  
 Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>



Valued member since 3/16/97

Next EVAC Meeting — August 11th 7:30 pm

