



East Valley Astronomy Club

June

Newsletter

1994

EDITORS' NOTE

The summer months in Arizona always seem to be a little rough on astronomy clubs (and astronomers!). Many people go on vacation to escape the heat, and as the infamous monsoons approach, telescopes disappear into closets (or into workshops for improvements). We don't mean to propagate the trend, but to save costs during the lean summer months, we will be shortening our newsletter to one or two pages. We will, of course, continue to keep you up to date on all club events and happenings. The newsletter will be back to its full size in September.

Although the newsletter will be shorter, the club will still be as active as ever with fun, informative monthly meetings and local and deep-sky star parties (weather permitting). As always, you are invited to submit articles for the newsletter. If there is room in the summer newsletters, we will print them; otherwise, we will print them in the September issue.

EVAC HIGHLIGHTS

The May 25th meeting was set aside as a "show and tell" night for members to talk about the solar eclipse or anything else on their minds. Tom Polakis started off the program by showing some slides of clouds and lightning (something we will all be seeing in the near future). His slides were excellent and proved that even clouds can be beautiful. Frank Zullo followed up with some pictures of the annular eclipse. Frank again used his technique of superimposing foreground images to give his pictures a truly dramatic effect. Joe Murray also observed and photographed the eclipse, but from Phoenix. His pictures through various telescopes captured the deep partial eclipse. He prepared for the eclipse by shooting some test pictures to get the exposures correct. Sam Herchak reported on the Texas Star Party, held during the second week of May. Apparently, the weather was not the best, but the trip was worthwhile. On his way back from TSP, Sam was able to observe the eclipse. Bill Dellings finished off the program by showing some prints of

the eclipse and talking about some of his experiences. Bill had some equipment problems, but was still able to get some good pictures.

The local star party on June 4 was well attended, with about 15 people and ten scopes at the Florence Junction site. Don Wrigley and Frank Kraljic managed to find Pluto in an eight-inch scope, while others concentrated on galaxies. As the summer Milky Way rose, many turned to various objects such as M4 and the Lagoon Nebula.

The deep sky star party at Vekol Road was attended by about eight people. The evening got off to an interesting start as a two-foot rattlesnake slithered into the observing area. Using a long stick, Bill Smith picked the snake up and carried it a safe distance from the site. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief as the reptile disappeared down a hole. The night was completely clear and the seeing was at least average throughout the night. Toward midnight, the view of the summer Milky Way was spectacular as Sagittarius reached the meridian. Later, several observers took a look at Saturn, which was still too low in the sky to give a good view.

JUNE'S SPEAKER

Our speaker for the June 22nd meeting will be Rick Blakely, who will talk about telescope collimation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVAC Business Meeting

June 22, SCC Room PS172, 7:30pm

Local Star Party

July 2, Florence Junction Site and Carefree Site

Deep Sky Star Party

July 9, Vekol Road Site

COMING CELESTIAL EVENTS

The collision of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 with Jupiter on July 16-22 is the big event of the year. Unfortunately, Arizona observers are not well placed for most of the events, but we have a good chance on two or three of the collisions. Here are the four events most likely to be visible to Arizona observers:

Fragment	Universal Time		Local Time	
B	7/17	3:11	7/16	8:39pm
F	7/18	2:37	7/17	8:05pm
R	7/21	5:41	7/20	11:09pm
V	7/22	4:48	7/21	10:16pm

Remember that the events take place on the

hemisphere of Jupiter that is not visible from Earth. Jupiter's rapid rotation will bring the collision sites into view in only a few minutes. The Local Time for the above events is for Phoenix. It looks like the first and last events are probably the best in terms of visibility. The second event happens in twilight, the third event happens when Jupiter is quite low in the sky. Keep in mind however, that the exact time of collision may differ from the predicted time. For a complete list of events and a guide to observing them, see the July issue of *Sky and Telescope*. Good luck!

FOR SALE

Meade 2" Newtonian focuser. \$50 or best offer. George, 494-0879.

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