

★ ABOVE THE FOG

• BULLETIN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS •

VOL. 48, No. 12 – December 2000

From the President

San Francisco
Amateur Astronomers



Sharing the Wonders
of the Universe



Information Hotline
(415) 566-2357

Web Page
<http://www.zennla.com/sfaa>

The December meeting of the SFAA has a different format. This meeting is referred to as Members Night. This is an opportunity for members with a short presentation on an astronomy subject to come forward and share their astronomy knowledge. Please contact me at (415) 929 7035 so I can put you on the agenda.

This is also the meeting where we vote by ballot, with no punched holes, for the new officers and board members of the club for the next year. Please bring your ballot to the meeting or mail in your ballot as discussed elsewhere in this bulletin. PLEASE VOTE.

Please come to the Members Night meeting on December 20th and participate in some events that will kick off 2001 for SFAA.

Any club member who has a suggested recipient for the Herman Fast Award, the SFAA Service Award, or the Observer of the Year Award please contact a current club officer or board member before the December 13th Board meeting.

The January meeting is the Annual SFAA Dinner and Awards Dinner. It is on Saturday evening, January 27th at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco. The food here is excellent. Main courses to choose from are Prime Rib, Breast of Chicken Chasseur or Vegetarian Pasta. The full menu, directions, and how to reserve your place will be in the next bulletin. All are welcome to come to the dinner where we will give out club awards and install the new club officers and board of directors.

There is also an Astrophotography contest held at the December meeting. Bring your photos to the meeting and have them judged by the members present. The photography award winners will be announced at the SFAA Annual Dinner on January 27th.

The winner of the Literary Award, sponsored by Orion Telescopes, will be announced at the December meeting and the award will be presented at the SFAA Annual Dinner.

On behalf of the club I hope every one has an upbeat holiday season.

SFAA Officers 2000

President Al Stern
(510) 728-1851

Vice-President Bill Stepka
(415) 928-2367

Secretary Renita Mock
(415) 566-2357

Treasurer Chelle Owens
(415) 479-5313

Honorary Director John Dobson

Board Members

Joe Amato
Lorrie Boen
Toney Burkhart
Nancy Cox
Mary Ann Levenson
Stacy Jo McDermott
Dennis Tye

Alt. Board Members

Randy Taylor
Jim Webster

Star Party Coordinator

Bill Stepka (415) 928-2367

Subscriptions & Membership

Chelle Owens (415) 479-5313

Bulletin Editor

Lorrie Boen (415) 921-1432

Telescope Loans

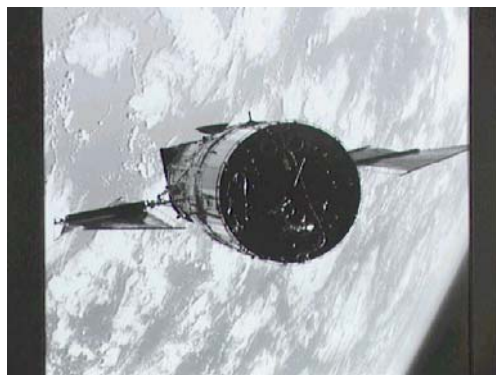
Ray Cash (415) 665-8666

SFAA Website Update

For those of you with online access, don't forget to visit the club's website. The bulletin board area especially is a great place to post info and ask questions. Go to <http://www.zennla.com/sfaa>.

Above the Fog is the official bulletin of the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers. It is the forum in which club members may share their experiences, ideas, and observations. We encourage you to participate by submitting your articles, announcements, letters, photos, and drawings. We would also like to hear from our new members. Tell us about yourself – what you have done in the past and what other clubs you have joined. **The deadline for the next issue is the seventh day of the month.** Send your articles to Lorrie Boen at 765 Geary Street #302, San Francisco, CA 94109 or at LorrenLee@aol.com.

Club Telescopes



Long time member Ray Cash-LePennec has 3 loaner telescopes for club member use and is in charge of loaning them out. If you are interested in borrowing a club telescope, give Ray a call. There are many new members in the SFAA and they ask what kind of telescope to buy or use and this is a good way to get to know the Dobsonian type of scope and learn the sky as well.

CLUB DATES

Board Meeting – December 13

7:00 p.m. Western Addition Library – corner of Scott & Geary Sts. SF

SFAA General Meeting – December 20

Members Night

Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Morrison Planetarium, Golden Gate Park

Morrison Planetarium's
Benjamin Dean Lecture Series
presents

Astronomy in the New Millennium

12 December

Millenium and Astronomy – Past and Future

The idea of cyclic time, with ages being signaled by spectacular cosmic happenings will be traced through past cultures and projected to the future.

Dr. Anthony Aveni, Colgate University

23 January

The Blind Leading the Seers – Science Fiction and Science

Science fiction is immensely important to science by getting young people hooked on science as a career and by keeping the public interested.

How do SciFi writers go about their craft?

Joe Haldeman, MIT

All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Planetarium - Tickets are \$3.00 each
DEAN LECTURE INFORMATION LINE at (415) 750-7141



Public Viewing Nights
at the
Sonoma State University Observatory
FALL - WINTER 2000-01



Friday evenings:

DEC	1	7:00 -9:00	Saturn, Triangulum Galaxy
FEB	2	7:00 -9:00	Jupiter, Orion Nebula

The Observatory is located [inside the football field](#) at the SE corner of the campus. The [campus](#) is located at East Cotati Avenue and Petaluma Hill Road, 2 miles east of U.S. 101 at Cotati. Follow signs from the freeway to the campus.

Call before coming if it appears possible that clouds or fog may force cancellation: (707) 664-2267.

See the website at <http://www.phys-astro.sonoma.edu/observatory/pvn.html>

Mt. Tamalpais State Park Astronomy Programs

2001 Calendars

Like to Stargaze?

Enthused about space?

2001 Astronomical Pocket Diary

2001 Year in Space Desk Calendar

The Pocket Diary is crammed full of all kinds of astronomical and historic trivia. Moon information is given daily, solar system “flipbook” diagrams and data weekly, special sky events like eclipses, meteor showers, conjunctions, etc. when they happen. And, best of all, the information is calculated for the Bay Area. Mt. Tam events are also listed. The Pocket Diary can be viewed at <http://members.tripod/~apd2/apd.htm>. \$5.00 of the cost goes to the MTIA Astronomy Program.

The Desk Calendar is a beautiful week by week appointment calendar with full color images and articles on space exploration. View the Desk Calendar at <http://YearInSpace.com>. \$7.00 of the cost goes to the MTIA Astronomy Program.

Use the order form below:

Send _____ copies of the 2001 Astronomical Pocket Diary (\$10.75 per diary)

_____ copies of the 2001 Space Desk Calendar (\$16.25 per calendar)

_____ donation of \$ _____

Enclosed \$ _____ (check payable to MTIA)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Email _____

_____ add me to the Mt. Tam Astronomy Program mailing list

Mail to: MTIA/Astronomy Programs
C/o Tinka Ross, 89 Dominican Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901

Partial Eclipse of the Sun!

Early December 25 will see a partial eclipse of the sun that will be visible all over North America (weather permitting), starting at about 7:30 a.m. on the West Coast. Approximately 20% of the sun will be covered by the moon by around 8:21 a.m. Further north, up to 72% will be blocked.

Please observe this, and any, solar eclipse safely, using only proper, recommended filter or projection methods!!!

If you have any questions about solar eclipse observing techniques, please contact the Morrison Planetarium at (415) 750-7127.

David H. Levy at Villa Montalvo

David H. Levy will be speaking at Villa Montalvo in Saratoga on February 4, 2001 in the Carriage House Theatre. Tickets are \$27.50, for groups of 10 or more they're \$20 and there is a \$10 student price.

By Mail - Mail your completed order form with credit card payment (no checks please) to Villa Montalvo Box Office, P.O. Box 158, Saratoga, CA, 95071-0158.

By Fax - Fax your completed order form with credit card information to 408.961.5859. Please do not duplicate your order by mail. Due to heavy volume we will be unable to confirm the receipt of faxes.

By Internet - Use the "But Online" link at www.villamontalvo.org.

New Website Alert!

Bob Parvin, who's a club member, a regular at Mt. Tam star parties and Astronomy Day at the Academy, has developed a new site for urban stargazing with binoculars. It is: <http://www.sfo.com/~parvin/skywatching.html>.

Lumicon

Lumicon Inc. would like to announce:

December 9th, 2000, Mr. Steve White of Tele Vue will be at our store to answer questions about Tele Vue telescopes and eyepieces. He will be here from 10am to 3pm. Steve has a knowledge of Tele Vue products rivaling that of Al Nagler so if you have any questions about Tele Vue products please come down and meet him.



San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

c/o Morrison Planetarium
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118
Tel: (415) 566-2357

BALLOT OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2001

OFFICERS

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| President | <input type="checkbox"/> Al Stern |
| Vice-President | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Stepka |
| Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Renita Mock |
| Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Chelle Owens |

Write-ins _____

Write-ins _____



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lorrie Boen | <input type="checkbox"/> Rita Nossardi Stern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Burkhart | <input type="checkbox"/> Fraser Reich |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Christian | <input type="checkbox"/> Randy Taylor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Cox | <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Tye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Ann Levenson | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Webster |

Write-ins _____

Write-ins _____

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

The club members listed **above** are candidates for Officers and Board of Directors of SFAA for the year 2001. Please vote for a total of four officers and a total of seven board of directors including write-ins. **Voting for more than four officers or for more than seven board members per ballot will invalidate the entire ballot.** Family memberships must submit a separate ballot for each voting family member. Write-ins for officers must include the candidate's name and office for which he or she is nominated.

All candidates, including write-ins, must have committed to attending at least seven board meetings and may not miss more than two consecutive meetings during the calendar year for which they are nominated.

The seven board of directors' candidates who receive the highest number of votes will become regular board members. The two candidates receiving the next highest number of votes will become alternate board members. The new Officers and Board of Directors will be installed at the Annual Awards Dinner in January 2001.

*Please return your ballots to: SFAA Secretary, c/o Morrison Planetarium at the address **above**. Ballots must be received no later than the general meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2000.*



San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

c/o Morrison Planetarium
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118
Tel: (415) 566-2357

2001 Calendar of Events

January

- 10 Board Meeting *
7:00 p.m.
- 27 Annual Dinner &
Awards
7:00 p.m.

February

- 14 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 21 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 24 City Star Party
6:00 p.m.

March

- 14 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 21 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 31 City Star Party
6:00 p.m.

April

- 11 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 18 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 21 Mt. Tamalpais Star
Party
8:00 p.m.
- 28 City Star Party
7:30 p.m.

May

- 9 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 16 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 26 Mt. Tamalpais Star
Party
8:30 p.m.

June

- 2 City Star Party
8:00 p.m.
- 13 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 20 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 23 Mt. Tamalpais Star
Party
8:30 p.m.
- 30 City Star Party
8:00

July

- 11 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 18 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 21 Mt. Tamalpais Star
Party
8:30 p.m.
- 28 City Star Party
8:00 p.m.

August

- 8 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 15 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 18 Mt. Tamalpais Star
Party
8:00 p.m.
- 25 City Star Party
8:00 p.m.

September

- 12 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 19 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 22 Mt. Tamalpais Star
Party
8:00 p.m.
- 29 City Star Party
7:30 p.m.

October

- 10 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 17 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.
- 20 Mt. Tamalpais Star
Party
7:30 p.m.
- 27 City Star Party
7:00 p.m.

November

- 14 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 21 General Meeting &
Lecture
7:30 p.m.

December

- 12 Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
- 19 General Meeting &
Members' Night
7:30 p.m.

* Board meetings for club
members only.

** Registration fee requested.

Founded in September 1952, the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers (SFAA) is an association of people who share a common interest in astronomy and other related sciences. Our membership consists of people from all walks of life, educational backgrounds and ages. Many SFAA members own their own telescopes; some have been made by hand in local telescope-making classes and vary in size from 6 to 25 inches.

Treasurer, SFAA, 13 Mabry Way, San Rafael, CA 94903

make checks payable to **San Francisco Amateur Astronomers** and mail to:

- \$25 enclosed, individual membership
- \$30 enclosed, foreign membership
- \$30 enclosed, family membership
- \$30 enclosed, institutional membership
- \$8 enclosed, youth membership (under 18)

Select one category:

Email address:

Address:

Name: Telephone:

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers Membership Application

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

c/o Morrison Planetarium
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118

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