

Vol. 57, No. 1 - January 2009

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers Annual Awards Dinner

Saturday, January 24, 2009 6:00 p.m. - No-host Bar 7:00 p.m. - Dinner

DELANCEY STREET RESTAURANT

600 Embarcadero, San Francisco CA 94107 . (415) 512-5179 \$30.00 per person (Tax and gratuity included)



MENU

Includes appetizers, soup, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages
Served with Baskets of Assorted Breads
Select from the following entrée choices –
OAK FIRED BARBEQUED CHICKEN
OAK FIRED BARBEQUED BABY BACK RIBS
OAK FIRED BARBEQUED COMBO

All above entrees served with greens

MEDITERRANEAN VEGETABLE PLATTER

Spinach and feta phyllos, over minted cucumber yogurt sauce, apricot spiced Israeli couscous, baba ganoush, hummus, olives, and pita bread

Dessert . Coffee or tea

PLEASE SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER WITH YOUR CHOICE OF ENTREE PAYABLE TO SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS AND SEND TO P.O. Box 15097, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94115

BY SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2009.

REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

FROM HIGHWAY 280: TAKE HIGHWAY 280 NORTH TOWARD CIVIC CENTER/BAY BRIDGE. TAKE LEFT RAMP ONTO KING ST AND PROCEED 1.0 MILE. CONTINUE ON THE EMBARCADERO, GO 0.4 MILE. MAKE A U-TURN AT BRANNAN ST. ONTO THE EMBARCADERO, ARRIVE AT 600 THE EMBARCADERO, ON THE RIGHT.



FROM HIGHWAY 101 (SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO): TAKE US-101 NORTH TO THE I-280 EXIT TOWARD PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO, GO 3.2 MILES. TAKE LEFT RAMP ONTO KING STREET, GO 1.0 MILE. CONTINUE ON THE EMBARCADERO, GO 0.4 MILE. MAKE A U-TURN AT BRANNAN ST. ONTO THE EMBARCADERO, ARRIVE AT 600 THE EMBARCADERO, ON THE RIGHT.

FROM MARIN COUNTY: TAKE US-101 SOUTH OVER THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE. CONTINUE ON RICHARDSON AVENUE, GO 0.2 MILES. CONTINUE ON LOMBARD STREET, GO 1.1 MILES. TURN LEFT ON VAN NESS AVENUE,

2008 CLUB OFFICERS & CONTACTS

President	DIRK LAMMERTS	president@sfaa-astronomy.org
Vice President	Stephanie Ulrey	vicepresident@sfaa-astronomy.org
Secretary	Barbara Arrighi	secretary1@sfaa-astronomy.org
Treasurer	Vivian White	treasurer1@sfaa-astronomy.org
Speaker Chair	Linda Mahan	speakerchair@sfaa-astronomy.org
City Star Party	Stephanie Ulrey	csp@sfaa-astronomy.org
Bulletin Editor-in-Chief	Phil Estrin	editor@sfaa-astronomy.org
Associate Editor	Annette Gabrielli	editor@sfaa-astronomy.org
Telescope Loans	Pete Goldie	telescopes@sfaa-astronomy.org
Honorary Director and Board Member Emeritus	John Dobson	
Board Members	Joe Amato	wbmstr@sfaa-astronomy.org
	Jim Cottle	jimc@sfaa-astronomy.org
	John Dillon	johnd@sfaa-astronomy.org
	Kenneth Frank	ken@sfaa-astronomy.org
	Elan Morpurgo	elan@sfaa-astronomy.org
		415 383-2247
	Jorge Morales	jorge@sfaa-astronomy.org
Alternate Board Members	Jared Willson	jared@sfaa-astronomy.org
	Lon Carter	lon@sfaa-astronomy.org
Webmaster	Joe Amato	wbmstr@sfaa-astronomy.net

CLUB TELESCOPES

The SFAA owns eight very fine, easy to use, loaner telescopes well-suited for deep sky, planets, and star parties. All scopes are available to any SFAA member. The loaner custodians for the majority of our fleet are Pete & Sarah Goldie. Please contact them at telescopes@sfaa-astronomy.org for details if you are interested in borrowing a scope or if you have items you can donate for the



you have items you can donate for the loaner program (eyepieces, star maps/books, red flashlights, collimator, etc.). Please contact the appropriate member indicated below if you are interested in borrowing one of the telescopes.

- 1) 6" f/10.3 Dobsonian/Ken Frank ken@sfaa-astronomy.org
- 2) 8" f/7 Dobsonian/Pete Goldie
- 3) 8.5" f/6 Dobsonian/Pete Goldie
- 4) 10" f/8 Dobsonian/Pete Goldie
- 5) 114mm f/4 Newtonian StarBlast/Pete Goldie
- 6) 8" f/10 Celestron SCT/Annette Gabrielli/ annette@sfaa-astronomy.org
- 7) 8" f/10 Meade SCT/Stefanie Ulrey/treasurer@sfaa-astronomy.org
- 8) 9.5" f/5.6 Celestron Newtonian/Ken Frank/ ken@sfaa-

astronomy.org

CLUB ASTRONOMY VIDEOS

The SFAA owns a series of astronomy videotapes featuring Alex Filippenko, a world-renowned professor of astronomy at UC Berkeley. The videotapes provide an introduction to astronomy and cover topics such as the Solar System, the lifecycles of stars, the nature of galaxies, and the birth of the



Universe. The SFAA loans the tapes free to all members. If you are interested in viewing these tapes, you may check them out at any of the SFAA General Meetings. These tapes were kindly donated to the SFAA by Bert Katzung. For information on the course tapes themselves:

http://www.teach12.com/ttc/assets/coursedescriptions/180.asp

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership is billed for each upcoming year on June 30. Members may receive no more than one bulletin after the expiration of membership.

SFAA Website and Online Services



The SFAA web site at <u>sfaa-astronomy.org</u> is provided to our members and the general public for the sharing of club information and services. The web site contains links for club <u>star parties</u>, <u>events</u>, <u>newsletters</u>, <u>lectures</u> and <u>meetings</u>. If you wish to interact with other people who are interested in astronomy, the SFAA web site offers public and members only <u>bulletin board forums</u>. If you wish to remain up-to-date on club activities, then we encourage you to subscribe to one or both of our public <u>mailing lists</u>, which will allow you to receive our newsletter and/or club announcements via email. Other useful and interesting information and services are available on the site such as <u>observing location reviews</u>, member <u>astronomy photos</u>, and <u>members only telescope loans</u>. Information about SFAA's membership, organization and by-laws

are available at the club's online public document <u>archive</u>. If you need to contact a representative of the SFAA, then please visit our <u>contacts</u> page to help in finding the right person to answer your questions.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a great Holiday season and I wish you a healthy and successful 2009.

There is still time to vote for the election of our 2009 directors and officers if you haven't done so already. Your ballot must be postmarked by January 15 in order for it to count. You can find the ballot form in the December newsletter that is available online. The election results will be announced and the club's leadership for 2009 will be inaugurated at the Annual Awards dinner later this month.

I would like to express my gratitude and personal thanks to our officers and directors for 2008 for all their support and dedication to the SFAA.

I hope to see many of you at the Awards Dinner.

DIRK LAMMERTS
PRESIDENT

IMPORTANT DATES

SFAA GENERAL MEETINGS & LECTURES

Wednesdays January 24 – Annual Awards Dinner February 18 March 18

7:00 p.m. Doors open. 7:30 p.m. Announcements. 8:00 p.m. Speaker Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way (Near 14th Street and Roosevelt)

BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesdays
January 13
February 10
March 10
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way
(Near 14th Street and Roosevelt)

CITY STAR PARTIES - TELESCOPE CLINIC ONE HOUR BEFORE SUNSET

Saturday, 31 January 2009, 17:30 to 21:00 - Speaker and topic TBA - Land's End, San Francisco

Weather may cancel the City Star Party

Please note that while City Star Parties WILL ALWAYS be held on Saturdays, some will be closer to the last quarter phase of the moon, while others will be close to first quarter. This is so we can work around dates for Mt. Tam public star parties as well as our members-only events on Mt. Tam.

Map and directions - Land's End (Pt. Lobos) http://www.sfaa-astronomy.org/clubarchive/directions-pointlobos.php

MT TAM STAR PARTIES – SPECIAL USE PERMIT – MEMBERS ONLY

Special Use Permit observing nights on Mount Tamalpais are private and open *only* to SFAA members. Please arrive by sunset (times listed below). A permit is required for each car. We must vacate the mountain by 2:00 a.m. except on specially approved nights (such as Messier Marathon).

SATURDAYS - GATEKEEPERS NEEDED

January 24 – 5:18 p.m. February 28 – 5:49 p.m. March 28 – 6:25 p.m. . MESSIER MARATION !!!



NEW SFAA MEMBERS
Scope City is offering to new members a \$25
credi
toward the purchase of telescopes and
binoculars.
Obtain a receipt for dues payment from

Wivian White Treasurer



San Francisco Amateur Astronomers P.O. Box 15097 San Francisco, CA 94115

BALLOT

2009 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS _ President Dirk Lammerts ___ Vice-President Stefanie Ulrev Barbara Arrighi Secretary Treasurer Vivian White Write-in Name Office Write-in Name Office **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** Board-recommended candidates ____ Jim Cottle __ Annette Gabrielli ____ John Dillon Elan Morpurgo ____ Kenneth Frank Iared Willson Dave Frev Additional candidates ____ Joe Amato ____ Lon Carter Dave Goggin Write-in Name ____ Write-in

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

The club members listed above are candidates for Officers and Board of Directors of SFAA for the year 2009. 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 may 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.

Name

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 on January 24, 2009.

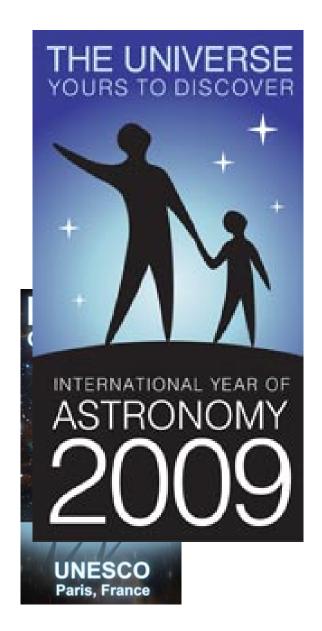
San Francisco Amateur Astronomers P.O. Box 15097

San Francisco, CA 94115



San Francisco Amateur Astronomers P.O. Box 15097 San Francisco, CA 94115

Information Hotline: (415) 289-6636 Web Page: www.sfaa-astronomy.org Sharing the Wonders of the Universe



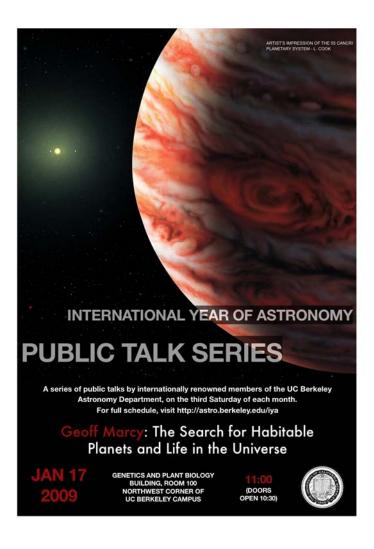


http://www.astronomy2009.org/general/

The International Year of Astronomy 2009 is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery.

UC BERKELEY . ASTRONOMY DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY PUBLIC TALK SERIES

JANUARY 17, 2009 GEOFF MARCY THE SEARCH FOR HABITABLE PLANETS AND LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE



The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) is a global celebration of astronomy and its contribution to society and culture, emphasizing education, public participation, and the involvement of young people. The grand opening ceremony will be held Jan. 15 and 16 in Paris at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

While hundreds are expected to attend the Paris event, including members of royal families, ministers, Nobel Laureates, scientists and students, many national and regional events also are scheduled.

UC Berkeley's Department of Astronomy joins the international celebration with talks on the science and history of astronomy on the third Saturday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, including two talks on April 18, UC Berkeley's annual CalDay open house. Next month's talk, scheduled for Feb. 21, is "Black Holes: Monsters Lurking at the Centers of Galaxies," by theoretician Eliot Quataert, professor of astronomy and physics. Upcoming topics include dark matter, dark energy, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, star birth and their explosive deaths, the solar system, and Galileo Galilei, who first turned a telescope on the heavens 400 years ago.

To kick off the celebration, UC Berkeley will be hosting a lecture, "The Search for Habitable Planets and Life in the Universe" in which Geoffrey Marcy, UC Berkeley professor of astronomy, director of the Center for Integrative Planetary Science, and the world's foremost planet hunter, will be speaking. It will take lace this Saturday, January 17th at 11 a.m in room 100 Genetics and Planet Biology Building UC Berkeley. The building is located in the northwest corner of the campus: http://www.berkeley.edu/map/maps/AB23.html.

For a complete list of the year's talks and other UC Berkeley activities planned to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy, link to http://astro.berkeley.edu/iya/. For more information on IYA2009, link to http://www.astronomy2009.org/

SFAA 2009

Calendar of Events

Mount Tam Public Events

Public nights on Mount Tamalpais start with a lecture in the Mountain Theatre, followed by public viewing in the Rock Springs parking lot. SFAA members may observe privately from 11 pm-2 am. SFAA's access to SUP private events (see below) is contingent on our support of the Mt. Tam public events.

- May 2, sunset 8:01
- May 30, 8:25
- June 27, 8:36
- July 25, 8:24
- August 22, 7:53
- September 19, 7:11
- October 24, 6:20

Mount Tam SUP Events

Special Use Permit observing nights on Mount Tamalpais are private and open *only* to SFAA members. Please arrive by sunset (times listed below). A permit is required for each car. We must vacate the mountain by 2 am except on specially approved nights (such as Messier Marathon).

- January 24, 5:25
- February 28, 6:03
- March 28 (Messier Marathon),

7:29

- April 25, 7:55
- May 23, 8:20
- June 20, 8:35
- July 18, 8:29
- August 15, 8:02
- September 26 (Annual Picnic),

7:00

- October 17, 6:16
- November 14, 4:59
- December 19, 4:54

City Star Party

CSP events start at sunset (times

listed below) with a public lecture, followed by public viewing. Land's End (LE) and the Randall Museum (RM) are the locations for the CSP this year.

- January 31 (LE), 5:30
- February no event scheduled
- March 7 (RM), 7:00
- April 4 (LE), International

Sidewalk Astronomy Night, 7:30

- May 9 (LE), 8:00
- June no event scheduled
- July 11 (LE), 8:30
- August 29 (LE), 7:30
- September no event scheduled
- October 24 (LE), 6:30
- November 21 (LE), 5:00

• December 26 (RM), 5:00

Weather Updates

Weather updates for all SFAA star parties are available the afternoon of the event on the SFAA Hotline:

415-289-6636 (289-NOFOG).

Board Meetings

2_{nd} Tuesday of every month, at the Randall Museum. 7 pm. All SFAA members are invited.

- January 13
- February 10
- March 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9
- July 14
- August 11
- September 8
- October 13
- November 10
- December 8

General Meetings

3rd Wednesday of every month

(Note: except January) at the Randall Museum. Doors open 7 pm, announcements 7:30 pm, guest speaker 8 pm. All are invited.

- February 18
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20
- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

Other SFAA Events

- Annual Dinner: January 24
- Messier Marathon: March 28
- Fremont Peak Night: July 24
- Annual Picnic: Sept. 26

(Bootjack, Mt. Tam)

Yosemite Weekend: TBAFall Astronomy Day: Oct 24

Other Astronomy Events

• Riverside Telescope Maker's

Conference: May 22-25

www.rtmcastronomyexpo.org

• Grand Canyon Star Party: June 13-20

www.tucsonastronomy.org/gcsp.html

Golden State Star Party: June 20-24

www.goldenstatestarparty.org

• Fremont Peak Star-B-Q:

July 25 www.fpoa.net

• Stellafane:

August 13-16

http://stellafane.org

Oregon Star Party:

August 19-23

www.oregonstarparty.org

- ASP/AANC Conference: Sept. 12
- California Star Party:

Sept. 17-19

www.siaa.net/calstar

The Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) is announcing two interesting positions available in its education department:

1. Director of Education

The ASP is looking for a person with at least a masters degree in science or science education and experience in project management and education, to provide overall management of and help develop strategic directions for the broad range of the Society's educational programs. Duties include developing new initiatives, helping with conceiving and writing proposals, supervising staff and programs, and cultivating partnerships with other organizations.

2. Lead Formal Educator

The ASP is looking for a person with good knowledge of astronomy and experience in K-12 education to work on a number of existing and developing programs in astronomy education. Current duties include coordinating Project ASTRO, managing a web-based quarterly newsletter for teachers, conducting training programs for school districts interested in hands-on astronomy, and assisting with other initiatives in formal education.

More detailed information about each position and specific instructions for applying can be found at the Society's web site at:

http://www.astrosociety.org/about/career.html

More information about the education programs of the 120-year old international Society, headquartered in San Francisco, can be found at:

http://www.astrosociety.org/education.html

This UC Berkeley Speaker series for the International Year of Astronomy 2009 Public Talks,
Hosted by the UC Berkeley Astronomy Department http://astro.berkeley.edu/~scroft/iya/

Benjamin Dean Lecture Series in Astronomy Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences 55 Concourse Drive, San Francisco, CA 94118 415-379-8000 deanseries@calacademy.org Adults \$10, Seniors \$8, Academy Members \$5

Welcome to the 20th Anniversary Benjamin Dean Lecture Series. This series will begin in January and will feature six Fellows of the California Academy of Sciences. All six of our speakers are Fellows of the California Academy of Sciences. They will be sharing their research with us under the stars of the new Morrison Planetarium, using the planetarium's technology to visualize their data.

Monday, 12 January Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe Alex Filippenko, University of California, Berkeley

February 2 - Asteroids, Evolution, and the Long-term Habitability of Earth David Morrison, NASA Ames Research Center

March 16 - Sandra Faber, University of California, Santa Cruz/Lick Observatory

April 6 - Habitable Worlds in the Universe: The Search Begins

Geoff Marcy, University of California, Berkeley

May 4 - Jill Tarter, SETI Institute

June 1 - David Des Marais, NASA Ames Research Center

What's Up for January 2009? Venus!
Each month during 2009 we'll be celebrating
International Year of Astronomy in the 2-minute NASA
JPL What's Up podcasts. We'll focus on night sky
wonders you can see, related NASA missions,
and space science discoveries.

January 2009 is all about Venus, the featured NASA IYA Celestial object. Here is where you can find the podcast in 640 x 360, HD1280 x 720,

Standard 640 x 480, and HD Podcast 1280 x 720. http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/video/index.cfm
It is also available on You Tube in 2 formats: http://www.youtube.com/profile_videos?user=JP Lnews=r=1

Here is the NASA IYA website: http://astronomy2009.nasa.gov/index.htm where you'll find monthly features under the "Go Observe" section, and IYA Discovery Guides plus NASA hot topics under the "Hot Topics" section. Please share these with your friends, family and other sky enthusiasts during International Year of astronomy in 2009. And don't forget to look up on December 31 at midnight to see beautiful Saturn rising in the eastern sky. That was part of the December What's Up podcast here: http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/video/index.cfm?id=791

Happy new year everyone!

Jane Houston Jones JPL Senior Outreach Specialist, Cassini Program

MEMBERSHIP DUES

SFAA membership now comes due in June. Before now, dues were payable in the month a member first joined. Last year, the SFAA board voted to make everyone's dues payable at the same time - in June of each year. This was done for two reasons: 1) to save a great deal of work for our volunteer Treasurer, present and future, and, 2) for the convenience of members - it's easier to remember! In the past, many members forgot their due date and their membership unintentionally lapsed.

N.B. for those of you who have a club discounted *Sky and Telescope* magazine subscription, you will need to renew your subscription separately. The magazine will send you a renewal notice. In the past, you had to send that renewal notice with payment to the SFAA; now you can mail your *Sky and Telescope* subscription renewal payment directly to *Sky and Telescope*. **Note: Not renewing your club membership on time may mean your magazine subscription(s) will also terminate.**

Thanks for bearing with us during this transition process -- it'll all seem worth it next year! Just complete the membership form on the last page of the newsletter and submit with your renewal check to:

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers P.O. Box 15097 San Francisco, CA 94108

YEARLY RATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

\$10 – Youth (under 18) Student Membership \$25 – Individual Membership \$30 – Family or Foreign Membership \$40 – Institutional Membership \$75 – Supporting Membership

MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE

- Subscribing to our Announcements mailing list to receive newsletter, activity and event announcements.
- Interaction with world class speakers as they present cutting edge astronomical research
- Discounts on <u>Sky & Telescope</u> and <u>Astronomy</u> magazines*
- Discounts on equipment and accessories at local telescope retailers
- Annual club Astrophotography, Literary & Art Awards
- Social events, such as our annual picnic and our awards dinner
- Club telescopes use one of the club's loaner scopes on a month-to-month basis
- Yosemite Star Party held at Glacier Point exclusively for SFAA members
- Access to events and resources in Northern California and beyond
- Field trips to observatories and other locations of scientific interest, such as Mt. Wilson Observatory in Pasadena, Chabot Space and Science Center, Fremont Peak, and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center
- Extended observing hours at the Mount Tamalpais Astronomy Program
- Access to dark sites in Northern California

Web Page: www.sfaa-astronomy.org Sharing the Wonders of the Universe

Has your membership expired? Your mailing label includes the month and year through which your membership is paid. If it is past, your membership has expired and this may be your last issue.



San Francisco, CA 94115

P.O. Box 15097

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is billed for each upcoming year on June 30. Between January I and June30, new members pay one half the amount listed below

\$30 Family gnitroqqu2 &7\$ _ \$25 Individual Membership Categories (Check one): \$40 Institutional \$10 Youth/Student

E-Mail Home Phone State City **Address** Name(s) Information:

You can choose E-Mail (Recommended) or hard copy delivery for Above the Fog(Check one)

E-Mail

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

San Francisco CA 94115 **LOB 12097** San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

Hard Copy