



VOL. 50, No. 1 – January 2002

Special Event
January 16, 2002
Morrison Planetarium Show

“An Evening Wasted Under the Stars”
Kirsten Vanstone

Kirsten Vanstone, our resident Morrison Planetarium guru and liaison has graciously volunteered to give club members a special Planetarium show. Kirsten hails from Canada and has worked at the planetarium for some time. She has been a great supporter and friend to the SFAA, hosting our General Meetings and helping in ways too numerous to recount here.

The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments and conversation. The show will start at about 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Wilson Observatory Excursion

The SFAA has reserved the 60 inch telescope on Mt. Wilson, near Pasadena, for the night of Saturday, January 19, 2002. The party is limited to twenty club members, but guests will be permitted if space is available. The cost of renting the telescope is \$900 for the night, so each member will have to pay \$45, as well as their own transportation costs. The weather can be very cold and snow is not unusual at this time of year. Money will be refunded if the night is cancelled due to bad weather. Reservations must be made by contacting Bill Stepka, SFAA Vice President, by email at stepka@aol.com. Visit the Mt. Wilson Observatory Association web site at www.mwoa.org for more information about this historic observatory.

Happy New Year!!!

San Francisco
Amateur Astronomers

Web Page:
www.sfaa-astronomy.org



Sharing the Wonders
of the Universe

Information Hotline
(415) 566-2357

2001 Club Officers & Contacts

<i>President</i>	Al Stern (415) 929-7035	<i>City Star Party Coordinator</i>	Toney Burkhart
<i>Vice President</i>	Bill Stepka (415) 928-2367	<i>Membership & Subscriptions</i>	Chelle Owens (415) 479-5313
<i>Secretary</i>	Jason Burkhart	<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	Lorrie Boen (415) 921-1432
<i>Treasurer</i>	Chelle Owens (415) 479-5313	<i>Telescope Loans</i>	Pete Goldie (415) 206-9867
<i>Honorary Director</i>	John Dobson	<i>SFAA Website</i>	www.sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Board Members</i>	Lorrie Boen Jason Burkhart Dan Christian	Nancy Cox Rita Nossardi Stern	Fraser Reich Dennis Tye
<i>Alt. Board Members</i>	Randy Taylor	Jim Webster	

Club Telescopes

The SFAA owns 3 club loaner telescopes, Dobsonian/Newtownian reflectors: 6" f/10, 8" f/7, and 10" f/8. These are available for extended periods (30 days or more) to SFAA members. These are generally very fine scopes, easy to use and well-suited for deep sky, planets, and star parties. The loaner custodians are Pete Goldie & Sarah Szczechowicz, located in San Francisco. If you are interested in borrowing a scope, or if you have items you can donate for the loaner program (eyepieces, star maps/books, collimator, etc.) please contact them via email (pg@lbin.com) or phone (415-206-9867). Email communication is preferred and strongly recommended for a quick and accurate reply.

Important Dates

Board Meeting – January 9 - 7:00 p.m.

February 13 – 7:00 p.m.

Western Addition Library, Scott & Geary Sts., SF

SFAA General Meeting – February 20

Morrison Planetarium, Golden Gate Park

Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.

Speakers begin at 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Tam Star Party

April 13 – 8:00 p.m.

City Star Party

March 16 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Morrison Planetarium's
Benjamin Dean Lecture Series

presents

January 29

Dr. Alexander Vilenkin

Tufts University

Eternal Inflation

The eternal nature of inflation – an epoch of accelerated expansion driven by the repulsive energy of a “false vacuum” – has profound implications for understanding the Universe.

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



SFAA Annual Awards Dinner

Saturday, February 2, 2002

No Host Bar - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner – 7:00 p.m.

Basque Cultural Center

599 Railroad Ave, South San Francisco

(650) 583-8091

Our Banquet Menu ~

Prime Rib with Scalloped Potatoes & Vegetables (\$27.00)

Breast of Chicken Chasseur with Vegetables & Rice (\$22.00)

Vegetarian Pasta (\$19.00)

All meals include Soup, Salad, Bread & Butter, Ice Cream and Coffee. Price includes tax and gratuity.

Please send a check or money order, made out to San Francisco Amateur Astronomers, along with your choice of entrée, to Lorrie Boen at 765 Geary Street #302, San Francisco, CA 94109 by **January 26, 2001**. Any requests received after this date cannot be guaranteed.

Directions to the Basque Cultural Center from Highway 280 coming from San Francisco.

Take the Westborough exit near South San Francisco. Turn left at the light. (heading toward San Francisco Bay). Turn right at El Camino proceeding South. Two or three blocks later turn left onto West Orange heading toward San Francisco Bay. Go for some distance (what would be about 5 blocks except there are almost no side streets) Turn right onto Railroad Ave. Drive a few blocks and then turn right into the parking lot of The Basque Cultural Center at 599 Railroad Ave.

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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