

ABOVE THE FOG

• BULLETIN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS •

Vol. 59, No. 11 – November 2011

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 – General Meeting

Randall Museum . 199 Museum Way . San Francisco

7:00 pm Doors Open . 7:30 pm Announcements . 8:00 pm Speaker

SFAA's General Meetings take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except January)



DR. NICK KANAS
Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry
University of California
San Francisco

PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES AFFECTING ASTRONAUTS IN SPACE

A number of psychiatric and interpersonal issues can affect astronauts in space. Professor Nick Kanas will review important psychosocial issues, describe his research with astronauts and cosmonauts who have flown on the Mir and International Space Stations, and discuss countermeasures that will improve the psychological well-being of future space travelers.

Dr. Kanas is an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco. For over 35 years, he has conducted research on people under stress, and he has over 200 professional publications. For over 15 years, he has been a NASA-funded principal investigator, doing psychological research with astronauts and cosmonauts. Together with Dietrich Manzey, he is the co-author of the book Space Psychology and Psychiatry (2nd ed.), which was given the 2004 International Academy

of Astronautics Life Science Book Award. In 1999, Dr. Kanas received the Aerospace Medical Association Raymond F. Longacre Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in the Psychological and Psychiatric Aspects of Aerospace Medicine. In 2008, he received the International Academy of Astronautics Life Science Award. Dr. Kanas has been a member of San Francisco Amateur Astronomers for over 30 years and is deeply interested in astronomy. This marks the third lecture he will be presenting for San Francisco Amateur Astronomers.



San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

Upcoming Lectures and Lecturers

Randall Museum Theater . Randall Museum
199 Museum Way
San Francisco

7:30 p.m. . Free & Open to the Public



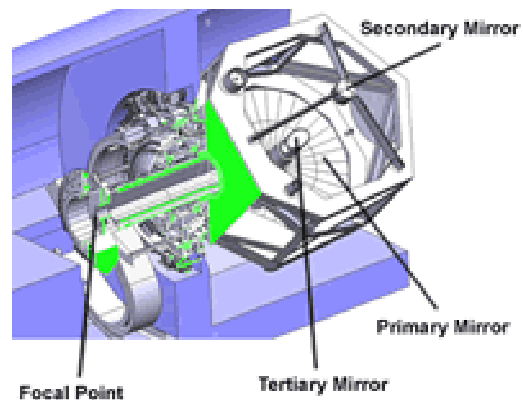
December 21

SOFIA: ASTRONOMY FROM NASA'S AIRBORNE INFRARED OBSERVATORY

ERICK YOUNG, SOFIA Science Mission and Operations Director

Erick Young, a widely recognized authority on infrared astronomy, is Science Mission Operations Director for SOFIA. Most recently, Young was responsible for developing the far-infrared detector arrays on the Spitzer Space Telescope's Multiband Imaging Photometer for Spitzer (MIPS). The instrument provided both imaging and spectroscopic data at far-infrared wavelengths. Dr. Erick Young will describe both the technology of SOFIA as well as

some of the scientific highlights in the past year of observing.



IMPORTANT DATES

SFAA GENERAL MEETINGS & LECTURES

Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way (Near 14th Street and Roosevelt)

Third Wednesday of each month: 7:00 p.m. Doors open. 7:30 p.m. Announcements. 8:00 p.m. Speaker

SFAA BOARD MEETINGS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDE GENERAL MEETINGS AND BEGIN AT 6:00 P.M.

November 16

December 21

CITY STAR PARTIES *Land's End (Point Lobos)*

The parking lot at Lands End is currently under construction and will be inaccessible for a few months. SFAA Public Star Party will be held at the multi-tiered parking lot just past the entrance of land's end on Geary Street. We believe the address for this parking lot is 1 Merry Way.

Directions:

If you are heading west on Geary (toward the Ocean), the entrance will be on your right a few hundred feet after the Lands End turn off. It is located above the Cliff House Restaurant.

Map and directions: <http://www.sfaa-astronomy.org/clubarchive/directions-pointlobos.php>

TELESCOPE CLINIC ONE HOUR BEFORE SUNSET

NOTE: While City Star Parties WILL ALWAYS be held on a Saturday, some will be close to the last quarter phase of the moon; others will be close to first quarter. This is so we can work around dates for Mt. Tam public star parties and Mt. Tam members-only events.

2010 MT TAM SPECIAL USE PERMIT STAR PARTIES - MEMBERS ONLY

GATEKEEPERS NEEDED

Special Use Permit observing nights on Mount Tamalpais are private and open *only* to SFAA members. Please arrive by sunset. 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).

November 26

December 24

MT TAM PUBLIC STAR PARTIES (May through October)

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 view privately after crowd departs from approx. 11 pm-2 am.

For more information: <http://www.sfaa-astronomy.org/starparties/>

President's Message – November

Finally, a series of wonderful nights for viewing...with a gorgeously prominent and accessible Jupiter leading the way.

Always a favorite, Jupiter was a big 'star' on the celestial stage at our volunteer event at the San Francisco Day School on October 25th. Despite a persistent fog bank that made less brilliant targets somewhat hard to find, the faithful gas giant shone through and our wonderful volunteer club members saw lines of amazed children saying 'Wow!' and 'I can SEE it!!' Truly a wonderful experience for those of us who love bringing the mysteries of our solar system down to earth. A particularly big 'Thank You!' goes to Sam and Maria from Scope City who helped pull the event together and fielded telescopes, friends and their tireless enthusiasm for reaching out to the community.

Our StarBQ was also fantastic with 50 club members joining us for a cook out at Bootjack on Saturday 22nd. Refusing to be defeated by my very amateur fire starting skills (note to self - next year let's partner with the Boy Scouts!!!) our members rallied and got the BBQ up and running, flipping burgers and dogs and having a great old time. If you didn't make it this time, keep it in mind for 2012.

Our 'next big thing' is November 5th at Rock Springs where we are celebrating the Bay Area Science Week by extending the Mt Tam Summer Astronomy Program by one month, with a Cal speaker and the SFAA providing telescopes and sky tours afterwards. Though the nights are getting cooler, they are getting longer and even more beautiful, so let's get in as much viewing as we can before the rains start. Hope to see you under clear skies soon.

Sue-Ellen Speight

SFAA President 2011



Science organizations throughout the Northern California area have joined to produce the first-ever Bay Area Science Festival -- 100 science events for the public in 10 days (from Oct. 29 through Nov. 6th.) See:

<http://www.bayareascience.org> for the amazingly full program.

Many astronomy organizations and individual astronomers are participating, particularly during a Bay Area Star Party on Saturday evening, Nov. 5th. Here are some highlights of astronomy during this Festival:

1. Alex Filippenko on "Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe" Oct. 26
2. Jill Tarter on "Contact: The Reel and the Real" Nov. 2
3. Seth Shostak on a panel on "Hollywood Science" Nov. 4
4. Bay Area Star Party Nov. 5 at 21 locations (please join in)
5. Family Science Festival at AT&T Park Nov. 6 (with booths, Andrew Fraknoi on Pluto, and the Physics Chanteuse)

1. October 26, Wednesday, 6:15-7:30 PM

ALEX FILIPPENKO on "Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe"

Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin St, San Francisco, 94102

Join award-winning Berkeley Professor Alex Filippenko as he explains the discoveries that won the 2011 Nobel Prize in physics. In this free talk, you can learn about the evidence that shows the expansion of the universe is speeding up and what scientists think might be behind it.

For more, see: <http://www.bayareascience.org/10/26/dark-energy-and-the-runaway-universe/>

2. November 2, Wednesday, 6:00-9:30 PM

McKenna Theater at San Francisco State University,

Holloway Avenue and Tapia Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132

For a map and parking links, see: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sfsumap/>

JILL TARTER on "Contact: The Reel and the Real" Humanity's Search for Extra-Terrestrial

Intelligence, A film and talk with Dr. Jill Tarter of the SETI Institute

Seats for this free program are available on a first come, first served basis!

Join astronomer Jill Tarter, whose work and life was a key model for the character Jodie Foster plays in the film *Contact*, for a very special evening of science fiction and cutting-edge science. We will screen the full-length feature film about the discovery of intelligent life among the stars, and then hear Dr. Tarter discuss her ongoing work at the SETI Institute to find radio signals from alien civilizations. After her film and the talk, there will be time for questions from the audience.

For more information, see: <http://www.bayareascience.org/11/02/are-we-alone-a-special-screening-of-contact-with-jill-tarter/>

3. November 4, Friday, 5:00-7:00 PM

Pier 39 Theater at the Aquarium of the Bay

SETH SHOSTAK on a panel on "Hollywood Science" Nov. 4

The SETI Institute's outreach scientist (and winner of the ASP's Klumpke-Roberts Prize for astronomy popularization), Seth Shostak, will be part of a panel of producers, directors, and science advisors for television and film, discussing how science fiction can be used (and misused) to educate the public about science ideas. Seth will be joined by "Battlestar Galactica" science advisor Kevin Grazier, SciFi Channel's Jamie Paglia, and Pixar Studio's Tony DeRose for a wide-ranging discussion.

Free and open to the public.

For more information, see: <http://www.bayareascience.org/11/04/science-hollywood/>

4. November 5, Saturday, BAY AREA STAR PARTY

Over 20 science institutions with astronomy programs will join with amateur clubs who are AANC members to sponsor a Bay-Area-wide star party, with telescopes and astronomy-related family activities open free of charge to everyone from Santa Cruz to Marin Counties. This is a chance to bring friends, neighbors, and colleagues to take a look through a telescope (Jupiter will be nicely placed for viewing) and learn about the excitement of astronomy.

For more information about all the star party locations, see:

<http://www.astrosociety.org/events/starparty.html>

Many locations will be welcoming additional telescopes, so contact the local organizers if you'd like to join in.

5. November 6, Sunday, FAMILY SCIENCE FESTIVAL, AT&T Park, San Francisco

AT&T Park will be open to the public from 11 am to 4 pm for "Discovery Day" -- a ballpark-sized family science fair, with activities, exhibits, and entertainment. Many astronomical and space organizations will have booths among the 170 that will be spread out on the field and in the concession area.

Andrew Fraknoi (Foothill College & Astronomical Society of the Pacific) will be one of the speakers/performers on the Main Stage above the dugout. Fraknoi will speak at 12:30 pm on "Whatever Happened to Pluto: Why It Got Kicked out of the Planet Club." At 2:45 pm, you can hear Lynda Williams, the talented "Physics Chanteuse," perform some of her physics and astronomy cabaret songs.

For more information, see: <http://www.bayareascience.org/11/06/dd-at-att-park/>



SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS
BAY AREA SCIENCE FESTIVAL EVENT
November 5, 2011
MT. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK
Rock Springs
<http://www.bayareascience.org/>

We are participating in the Bay Area Science Festival's Astronomy program at Rock Springs parking lot (same location as our star parties) on November 5th.



In an event that is similar to the Summer Astronomy Program (closing program – October 17) the public is invited to listen to a talk by a Bay Area physicist, as well as an astronomy sky tour and viewing through our scopes!

Please come out in force to the Rock Springs parking lot for this event, and help us close out the 'summer program' for 2011.

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS, SEE FOLLOWING ARTICLE FOR 2011 MT.
TAM ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS**



2011 MT TAM ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS
MT. TAMALPAIS STATE PARK
Cushing Memorial Theatre, aka the Mountain Theatre

NOVEMBER 5 – SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA SCIENCE FESTIVAL STAR PARTY

As part of the San Francisco Bay Area Science Festival (Oct 29 - Nov 6), there will be a **BAY AREA STAR PARTY** at over 20 different sites on **NOVEMBER 5**.

On Mt Tam, the Mt Tam Programs of the Mount Tamalpais Interpretive Association, Wonderfest and the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers will jointly sponsor an evening of astronomy. We begin in the **Mountain Theatre** at **6:30pm** by bringing back our June speaker, **Dr. Michael Kuhlen** from the Astrophysical Center at UC Berkeley, who was rained out during the summer. If you were disappointed by not hearing about "**The Milky Way as a Dark Matter Laboratory**" you have another chance. Dr. Kuhlen will explain why he predicts that over the next decade a combination of astronomical observations and particle physics experiments hold great promise of finally shedding light on the nature of Dark Matter, the dominant contributor to the matter content of the universe.

As usual, the talk will be followed by **observing through telescopes** provided by the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers in the Rock Springs Parking Lot.

And as a special treat for those unfamiliar with the brighter stars, constellations and planets visible that night, **Paul Salazar**, the Urban Astronomer who is a member the SFAA and a volunteer at the California Academy of Science, will conduct a **NEKKID-EYE Tour** of the sky that is visible from the Mt Theatre before you go down to the telescope area.

We will give away 5 1/2 inch plastic planespheres, to the first 50 observers requesting them, and Mt Tam tattoos for all. The 2012 Astronomical Pocket Diary will be available for purchase at \$10 a copy.

You can check out what's happening at each of the other star party sites at:

<http://www.astrosociety.org/events/starparty.html>

But, of course, we hope you will join US on Mt Tam that evening.

For more on the full Bay Area Science Festival (with over 100 events in 10 days), see:

<http://www.bayareascience.org/festival/>

Thanks for your continued support of our programs, and thank you for sharing this

information with everyone who may be interested. Have a great winter and we will be back in the Spring with our 2012 Series.

Thank you for sharing this information with others.

Looking for a flashlight for the mountain? Check out Visionaryflashlights.com. Use the code astro for a 15% discount

NIGHT SKY NETWORK

November 2011 - The Evening Sky

Sky Map: <http://www.skymaps.com/skymaps/tesmn1111.pdf>
Sky Calendar: <http://www.skymaps.com/articles/n1111.html>

BAY AREA ASTRONOMY EVENTS – Kenneth Lum

<p>Friday, 11/04 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM</p> <p>The Tech Museum of Innovation 201 South Market Street San Jose, CA 95113</p>	<p>Dinner and a Private Screening of 'Hubble' in IMAX with NASA Astronaut Megan McArthur</p> <p>Astronaut McArthur shares her stories from Space Shuttle Atlantis and the last Hubble mission. Enjoy dinner and a private screening of our IMAX movie Hubble introduced by Astronaut McArthur. Afterward, join our Astronaut on the rooftop terrace under the stars for space-themed treats, Q & A, and photo opportunities.</p> <p>Cost: \$39.99 Adult, \$19.99 Children, Discount for Member</p>
<p>Fri. 11/4 7:00 PM</p> <p>Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyline Boulevard Oakland CA 94619-2450</p>	<p>The Telescope Makers' Workshop</p> <p>The Telescope Makers' Workshop is held every Friday night from 7pm - 10pm, excluding major holidays (e.g. Christmas Day and New Year's Day) that fall on Fridays. The Workshop is always closed on Memorial Day Weekend. Attendance every Friday night is not mandatory, and members work at their own pace. The Workshop meets at Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. Contact us for more specific details:</p> <p>Contact: E-mail Richard Ozer (rozer@pacbell.net) or (510) 406-1914</p>
<p>Friday, 11/4 and Sat. 11/5</p> <p>Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyline Boulevard Oakland, CA 94619-2450 (510) 336-7300</p>	<p>EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKIES AT THE CHABOT OBSERVATORIES for more information: http://www.chabotspace.org/</p> <p>Free Telescope Viewing Regular hours are every Friday & Saturday evening, weather permitting: 7:30pm - 10:30pm Come for spectacular night sky viewing the best kept secret in the Bay Area and see the magnificence of our telescopes in action! Daytime Telescope Viewing On Saturday and Sunday afternoons come view the sun, moon, or Venus through Chabot's telescopes. Free with General Admission. (weather permitting) 12pm - 5pm: Observatories Open</p>
<p>Friday, 11/4 and Saturday, 11/5</p> <p>Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyline Boulevard Oakland, CA 94619-2450 (510) 336-7300</p>	<p>Dinner, a Movie, and the Universe at Chabot Space Center 06:00 PM Chabot Space and Science Center, Oakland Join us for Chabot's unique evening social rendezvous. Start your night off with dinner and drinks, then cozy up in the planetarium as you're whisked to the edge of the universe and cap off the evening with telescope viewing featuring breathtaking views of the cosmos. Dinner: Buy advance tickets to ensure your dinner reservation. Purchase dinner separately at the cafe (\$15).</p> <p>ADVANCE TICKETS A Movie and the Universe: Admission to Chabot includes all access to our interactive exhibitions, a film in the MegaDome theater AND a show in the</p>

	<p>Digital Planetarium. Purchase your advanced tickets online or call the Box Office at (510) 336-7373.</p>
<p>Friday, 11/4 9PM</p> <p>Foothill Community College 12345 Moody Rd. Los Altos Hills CA</p>	<p>Foothill Observatory is open for public viewing every clear Friday evening from :00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Visitors can view the wonders of the universe through the observatory's new computer-controlled 16- inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Views of objects in our solar system may include craters and mountains on the moon, the moons and cloud-bands of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn, etc. The choice of targets for any evening's viewing depends on the season and what objects are currently in the sky.</p> <p>On clear, dark, moonless nights, the telescopes give visitors views into the deeper reaches of space. Star clusters, nebulae, and distant galaxies provide dramatic demonstrations of the vastness of the cosmos.</p> <p>The public viewing programs at Foothill are free of charge and are open to guests of all ages. Please note that the observatory is closed when the weathers cloudy. Also note that visitor parking permits are available from the machines in the parking lots for \$2.00.</p> <p>Come to Foothill Observatory and join us in the exploration of our Universe!</p> <p>Foothill Observatory is located on the campus of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA. Take Highway 280 to the El Monte Rd exit. The observatory is next to parking lot 4. Parking at the college requires visitor parking permits that are available from the machines in the parking lots for \$2.00.</p>
<p>Friday, 11/4 – 7-10 PM Saturday, 11/5 – 7-10 PM</p> <p>San Jose Astronomical Association Houge Park San Jose</p>	<p>Two Star Parties On One Weekend! SJAA Star Party November 4, 7-10PM Bay Area Science Fair November 5, 7-10PM</p>
<p>Saturday, 11/05 09:30 AM - 01:00 PM</p> <p>The Tech Museum of Innovation 201 South Market St San Jose CA 95113</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>Teacher Open House with Astronaut Megan McArthur</p> <p>Join us for an extraordinary morning with NASA Astronaut Megan McArthur! Astronaut McArthur will introduce a screening of the IMAX movie Hubble, followed by a Q&A session detailing her experiences with Hubble. Learn more about the space-related activities available for you in the museum, and in your classroom from NASA. Reservations required at (408) 294-8324</p>
<p>Saturday, 11/5 10AM 10AM-12PM if it is clear</p> <p>Foothill College Observatory Foothill Community College</p>	<p>Solar observing with a Hydrogen alpha solar telescope every clear Saturday morning. This allows spectacular views of solar prominences and unusual surface features on the Sun not otherwise visible with regular white light telescopes.</p> <p>Foothill Observatory is located on the campus of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA. Take Highway 280 to the El Monte Rd. exit. The observatory is next to parking lot 4. Parking at the college requires visitor parking permits that are available from the</p>

<p>12345 Moody Rd. Los Altos Hills CA</p> <p>Admission is free</p>	<p>machines in the parking lots for \$ 2.00.</p>
<p>Saturday, 11/5 2:00 – 11:00 PM</p> <p>College of San Mateo Building 36 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd San Mateo CA 94402</p>	<p>FAMILY SCIENCE AND ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL In conjunction with Bay Area Science Festival, College of San Mateo and San Mateo County Astronomical Society present Family Science and Astronomy Festival. Enjoy science and astronomy activities for the whole family. Events are free to the public. Free parking in Marie Curie Lot 5, and Beethoven Lot 2 by CSM Theatre.</p> <p>Photos: John Fiske & Ed Pieret, SMCAS Keynote speaker ALEX FILIPPENKO Jazz Under The Stars</p> <p>Schedule of events: College of San Mateo, Building 36, 1700 West Hillsdale Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94402 2:00 pm: Planetarium show 2:30 to 4:30 pm: Science demonstrations by CSM science faculty (Biology, Geology, and Physics) 4:30 to 6:30 pm: Astronomy demonstrations, hands-on workshops, and planetarium shows. 7:00 to 8:30 pm: Keynote speaker: Dr. Alex Filippenko, Professor of Astronomy, UC Berkeley "Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe" CSM Theater (Building 3). 8:30 to 9:00 pm: Speaker reception in the Theater Lobby 9:15 to 11:00 pm: Telescope viewing of the night sky in our rooftop observatory. (Dress warmly!)</p>
<p>Sunday Nov. 6, 12:30PM</p> <p>AT & T Park San Francisco</p>	<p>Astronomer to Give Talk on What Happened to Pluto at AT&T Park During Science Festival</p> <p>Astronomer Andrew Fraknoi (Foothill College) will be one of the invited speakers/performers during the Family Science Discovery Day at AT&T Park, Sunday, Nov. 6th.</p> <p>The all-day event is part of the first-ever Bay Area Science Festival (100 events about science in 10 days from Oct. 29 - Nov. 6, 2011).</p> <p>Fraknoi will speak from the Main Stage above the dugout in the park at 12:30 pm on the topic:</p> <p>"Whatever Happened to Pluto: Why It Got Kicked out of the Planet Club, and Why It Had It Coming!"</p> <p>The entire day is free and open to the public. There will be many dozens of booths, activities, and exhibits on science throughout AT&T Park. (The Physics Chanteuse will also perform.)</p> <p>The demotion of Pluto shocked the public and led to angry letters and even protests in some cities. But the story of how Pluto became a dwarf started back in the year 1800 when a Sicilian astronomer made a dramatic cosmic discovery. Popular lecturer and frequent radio guest Andrew Fraknoi will fill everyone in on the behind-the-scenes history of Pluto and what really led to its being kicked out of the planet club. He will also describe the newer „dwarf planets%o Eris, Makemake, and Haumea, whose discovery contributed to Pluto,s downfall.</p>

	<p>Andrew Fraknoi is the Chair of the Astronomy Department at Foothill College and the former Executive Director of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. He was selected as the 2007 California Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Endowment and recently won the national Gemant Prize for his work bringing the sciences into popular culture. You may have heard one of his regular appearances on Bay Area radio; he is a frequent guest on KGO and on the Forum program on KQED. He specializes in explaining astronomical ideas in everyday language. Asteroid 4859 has been named Asteroid Fraknoi to recognize his contributions to the public understanding of science (but he is quick to reassure everyone that it is a very boring asteroid, and not one that could hit the Earth.)</p> <p>For more information about the Bay Area Science Festival, see: http://www.bayareascience.org/festival/</p>
<p>Monday, 11/07/11 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM</p> <p>Commonwealth Club 595 Market Street 2nd Floor San Francisco CA 94105</p> <p>Cost: \$20 standard MEMBERS FREE \$7 students</p>	<p>DAVA SOBEL: A MORE PERFECT HEAVEN Speaker: Dava Sobel, Author, Longitude and Galileo's Daughter; Science Writer</p> <p>The bestselling author of Longitude and Galileo's Daughter tells the story of Nicolaus Copernicus and the revolution he inspired. By 1514, the reclusive cleric Copernicus had written an initial outline of his heliocentric theory - in which he defied common sense and received wisdom to place the sun, not the Earth, at the center of our universe. Over the next two decades Copernicus expanded his theory through hundreds of observations, while compiling in secret a book-length manuscript that tantalized mathematicians and scientists throughout Europe. Fearing ridicule, he refused to publish. More than 20 years later, a young German mathematician finally unleashed Copernicus' ideas on the world. Sobel will chronicle the conflicting personalities and extraordinary discoveries that shaped the Copernican revolution, giving us an unforgettable portrait of scientific achievement and of the persistent tensions between science and faith.</p>
<p>Monday, 11/07/11 07:30 PM - 09:00 PM</p> <p>California Academy of Sciences 55 Music Concourse Dr. San Francisco CA 94118</p> <p>Cost: \$12 General \$6 Members</p>	<p>Benjamin Dean Lecture: Sun, Maize, and the Maya Calendar: Maya Astronomy and Enduring Traditions in Mesoamerica Speakers: Dr. Isabel Hawkins, Astronomer, Exploratorium Doña María Ávila Vera, Yucatec Maya Elder</p> <p>Mesoamerica's great pyramids excite our imagination with images of a fascinating civilization in the distant past, but they also provide a tangible link to the richness and enduring power of Maya culture as expressed by the Maya people today. The infamous year 2012 gains astronomical and cultural significance in a calendar system that connects the Maya, corn, and the zenith passage of the Sun. The presenters will share experiences from recent research trips to Guatemala and Mexico, where they gathered content through the Maya people's own voice regarding the Calendar system and their cultural practices.</p>
<p>Wednesday, 11/9 - 7:00pm</p> <p>SETI Institute Colloquium Series 189 Bernardo Ave Mountain View, CA 94043</p>	<p>Past Climate In Antarctica: Looking Back to Our Future Stephen Pekar City University of New York</p> <p>Carbon dioxide levels are predicted to rise during this century to levels not seen in 25 to 50 million years. Back during this time, the Earth changed from a generally ice-free 'greenhouse world' to a more much colder and heavily glaciated 'icehouse world'. Dr. Pekar will provide an overview of Antarctic climate changes when CO2 levels were similar to what is predicted for this century and also provide some of early results from IODP Wilkes Land Expedition.</p> <p>Dr. Pekar is traveling to the SETI Institute with the assistance of the Integrated Ocean</p>

	Drilling Program Ocean Leadership Distinguished Lecturer Series.
<p>Fri. 11/11 7:00 PM</p> <p>Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyline Boulevard Oakland CA 94619-2450</p>	<p>The Telescope Makers' Workshop</p> <p>The Telescope Makers' Workshop is held every Friday night from 7pm - 10pm, excluding major holidays (e.g. Christmas Day and New Year's Day) that fall on Fridays. The Workshop is always closed on Memorial Day Weekend. Attendance every Friday night is not mandatory, and members work at their own pace. The Workshop meets at Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. Contact us for more specific details:</p> <p>Contact: E-mail Richard Ozer (rozer@pacbell.net) or (510) 406-1914</p>
<p>Friday, 11/1 Saturday, 11/12</p> <p>Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyline Boulevard Oakland, CA 94619-2450 (510) 336-7300</p>	<p>EXPLORE THE NIGHT SKIES AT THE CHABOT OBSERVATORIES for more information: http://www.chabotspace.org/</p> <p>Free Telescope Viewing Regular hours are every Friday & Saturday evening, weather permitting: 7:30pm - 10:30pm Come for spectacular night sky viewing the best kept secret in the Bay Area and see the magnificence of our telescopes in action! Daytime Telescope Viewing On Saturday and Sunday afternoons come view the sun, moon, or Venus through Chabot's telescopes. Free with General Admission. (weather permitting) 12pm - 5pm: Observatories Open</p>
<p>Friday, 11/1 Saturday, 11/12</p> <p>Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyline Boulevard Oakland, CA 94619-2450 (510) 336-7300</p>	<p>Dinner, a Movie, and the Universe at Chabot Space Center 06:00 PM Chabot Space and Science Center, Oakland Join us for Chabot's unique evening social rendezvous. Start your night off with dinner and drinks, then cozy up in the planetarium as you're whisked to the edge of the universe and cap off the evening with telescope viewing featuring breathtaking views of the cosmos. Dinner: Buy advance tickets to ensure your dinner reservation. Purchase dinner separately at the cafe (\$15).</p> <p>ADVANCE TICKETS A Movie and the Universe: Admission to Chabot includes all access to our interactive exhibitions, a film in the MegaDome theater AND a show in the Digital Planetarium. Purchase your advanced tickets online or call the Box Office at (510) 336-7373.</p>
<p>Saturday, 11/11 9PM IF IT IS CLEAR</p> <p>Foothill College</p>	<p>Foothill Observatory is open for public viewing every clear Friday evening from 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Visitors can view the wonders of the universe through the observatory's new computer-controlled 16- inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope. Views of objects in our solar system may include craters and mountains on the moon, the moons and</p>

<p>Observatory Foothill Community College 12345 Moody Rd. Los Altos Hills CA</p> <p>Admission is free</p>	<p>cloud-bands of Jupiter, the rings of Saturn, etc. The choice of targets for any evening's viewing depends on the season and what objects are currently in the sky.</p> <p>On clear, dark, moonless nights, the telescopes give visitors views into the deeper reaches of space. Star clusters, nebulae, and distant galaxies provide dramatic demonstrations of the vastness of the cosmos.</p> <p>The public viewing programs at Foothill are free of charge and are open to guests of all ages. Please note that the observatory is closed when the weather is cloudy. Also note that visitor parking permits are available from the machines in the parking lots for \$2.00.</p> <p>Come to Foothill Observatory and join us in the exploration of our Universe!</p> <p>Foothill Observatory is located on the campus of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA. Take Highway 280 to the El Monte Rd exit. The observatory is next to parking lot 4. Parking at the college requires visitor parking permits that are available from the machines in the parking lots for \$2.00.</p>
<p>Saturday, 11/12 10AM 10AM-12PM if it is clear</p> <p>Foothill College Observatory Foothill Community College 12345 Moody Rd. Los Altos Hills CA</p> <p>Admission is free</p>	<p>Solar observing with a Hydrogen alpha solar telescope every clear Saturday morning. This allows spectacular views of solar prominences and unusual surface features on the Sun not otherwise visible with regular white light telescopes.</p> <p>Foothill Observatory is located on the campus of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA. Take Highway 280 to the El Monte Rd. exit. The observatory is next to parking lot 4. Parking at the college requires visitor parking permits that are available from the machines in the parking lots for \$ 2.00.</p>

NASA SCIENCE NEWS

The Science@NASA team is pleased to announce a new product: the ScienceCast. Every week, we produce a short video highlighting a topic in NASA science news. A complete list of ScienceCast episodes may be found on Science@NASA's Youtube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ScienceAtNASA> . Enjoy!

<http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/>

2010 Club Officers & Contacts

<i>President</i>	SUE-ELLEN SPEIGHT	sfaapresident@sfaa- astronomy.org vicepresident@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Vice President</i>	Vivian White	
<i>Secretary</i>	Douglas Smith	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Bob Haberman Angie Traeger	treasurer1@sfaa-astronomy.org angietraeger@gmail.com
<i>Speaker Chair</i>	Linda Mahan	speakerchair@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>City Star Party</i>	David Frey	csp@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	Annette Gabrielli	editor@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Telescope Loans</i>	Pete Goldie	telescopes@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Honorary Director and Board Member</i>	John Dobson	
<i>Emeritus</i>		
<i>Board Members</i>	Doug Smith Dave Frey Joe Heavey Dean Gustavson Elan Morpurgo	joe@sfjupiter.com deangustavsonartist@gmail.com elan@sfaa-astronomy.org 415 383-2247
	Doug Smith	
	Matthew Jones Anil Chopra Mitchell Schoenbrun	sfaa@strider.com webmaster@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>1st Alternate</i>	Chris Coffin	wbmsr@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>2nd Alternate</i>	Dave Goggin	daveg@SFAA-Astronomy.org
<i>Webmaster</i>	Mitchell Schoenbrun Matthew Jones	wbmsr@sfaa-astronomy.org

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 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 sfaa-astronomy.org is provided to our members and the general public for the sharing of club information and services. The web site contains links for club [star parties](#), [events](#), [newsletters](#), [lectures](#) and [meetings](#). If you wish to interact with other people who are interested in astronomy, the SFAA web site offers public and members only [bulletin board forums](#). If you wish to remain up-to-date on club activities, then we encourage you to subscribe to one or both of our public [mailing lists](#), 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 [observing location reviews](#), member [astronomy photos](#), and [members only telescope loans](#). Information about SFAA's membership, organization and by-laws are available at the club's online public document [archive](#). If you need to contact a representative of the SFAA, then please visit our [contacts](#) page to help in finding the right person to answer your questions.

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 25th day of the month.** Send your articles to Editor@sfaa-astronomy.org

