

★ ABOVE THE FOG

• BULLETIN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS •

GENERAL MEETING - DECEMBER 19, 2012

*Randall Museum . 199 Museum Way . San Francisco
7:00 pm Doors Open . 7:30 pm Announcements . 8:00 pm Speaker
SFAA's General Meetings occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except January)*

THE SUTTER'S MILL METEORITE FALL IN CALIFORNIA'S GOLD COUNTRY

*a presentation by
DR. PETER JENNISKENS
SETI Institute*



*Join Dr. Peter Jenniskens from the SETI Institute for a presentation on **The Sutter's Mill Meteorite Fall in California's Gold Country**. On April 22, 2012, a bomb-like detonation was heard in a wide area around Lake Tahoe. A small asteroid had crashed in our atmosphere, broke in fragments, and pieces of the asteroid fell down over the Colama/Lotus region. This is right above Sutter's Mill where James Marshall's discovery of gold in 1848 led to the California Gold Rush. The recent fall of the meteorites has created a second rush in the area, now many are trying to recover the precious space rocks. SETI Institute meteor astronomer Dr. Peter Jenniskens found the second recovered meteorite from this fall. Jenniskens will talk about the efforts made by NASA Ames Research Center and the SETI Institute to coordinate the recovery*

and learn as much as possible about the asteroid that shook people's imagination.

Peter Jenniskens latest project took him and 27 researchers on NASA's DC-8 Airborne Laboratory for a mission to study the re-entry of JAXA's Hayabusa mission in June of 2010. Before that, he had been the Principal Investigator of a number of airborne observing campaigns that studied meteor showers and the fireballs created when spacecraft returned from interplanetary space. He received his Ph.D. in astronomy from Leiden University in the Netherlands and has since been associated with NASA Ames Research Center and the SETI Institute. He is the author of "Meteor Showers and their Parent Comets" (2006).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's with mixed emotions that I write this, my final missive as 2012 President of the SFAA. I'm incredibly proud of the work we have completed as a club over the past two years, and with gesticulating enthusiastically in front of the General Meetings each month at the Randall as I relate all the exciting events club members can participate in.

However I'm excited that we'll have new Officers who will bring wonderful new ideas to the club and inspire even more growth and outreach.

Of all the accomplishments of the past two years I'm most proud of our establishing a strong educational outreach program with the Dominican University who have become generous supporters of the club. The opportunity to be founding members of their Big History program has ensured we are important participants in a global educational movement to introduce science, anthropology and philosophy to students in a cohesive way.

Members should also be proud that we launched a redesigned website which brings a more visual, engaging and interactive experience to our community. During the past two years, thanks to the dedicated efforts of key Board

Members, we've seen the club's social media presence grow and reach a new, science-loving, motivated and active young audience.

As I leave my tenure as President, our club stands at over 210 members and is in the strongest financial standing ever!

Most of all, however, I'm honored to have represented such an important astronomy club, and to have met, worked with and viewed alongside so many wonderful club members. Your wisdom, patience and enthusiasm for astronomy are inspirational.

I look forward to stargazing with you again soon.

Sue-Ellen Speight

SFAA President 2012

**STATEMENT OF
ANGIE TRAEGER
NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT
SAN FRANCISCO AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS**

I'd like introduce myself to those of you who don't know me personally. For over a year and a half, I have served as an Officer on the Board – first as Co-Treasurer in 2011, and this year as Treasurer. I will be running for the role of President for the upcoming year of 2013.

My memories of being a brand new beginner amateur astronomer involve my husband and my first astronomy club event, to observe along with other amateur astronomers. Where was our first club outing? You guessed it, Mt. Tamalpais, about 13 years ago. The SFAA provided us with a warm welcome, and I appreciated the friendly “open door” feeling of the club.

I have since then been an avid amateur astronomer. My current project is an Astroleague observing program, to learn about our Local Group of galaxies, extragalactic globular clusters, and nearby galaxy clusters. My husband and I enjoy road trips to observe under dark skies together, whether to a group campground in Colusa County, to the White Mountains in Inyo County, to large star parties such as CalStar. I enjoy observing locally with fellow San Francisco Amateur Astronomers on Mt. Tamalpais, enjoying binocular and telescope views and discussing and sharing knowledge.

My desire in running for the President role is to give back to club that helped us get started as amateur astronomers, to say thanks to the SFAA for helping me meet so many friendly, knowledgeable, and interesting people.

It would be an honor to serve as the President of the SFAA, a club with a rich history and a promising future.



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

BALLOT FOR 2013 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President (*Vote for one*)

Angie Traeger

Vice-President (*Vote for one*)

Matthew Jones

Secretary (*Vote for one*)

Douglas Smith

Treasurer (*Vote for one*)

Michael Patrick

Directors (*Vote for 9 - the top 7 become the Board Members and the 2 with the next highest votes become the Board Alternates*)

Anil Chopra

Dean Gustafson

Bob Haberman

Joe Heavey

Sunil Nagaraj

Paul Salazar

Mitchell Schoenbrun

Sue-Ellen Speight

George Teiber

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

You may cast your ballot at the membership meeting on 19 December 2012, or you may mail it to **SFAA Secretary, PO Box 15097, San Francisco, CA 94115**. Ballots must be received no later than January 15, 2013. Each club member may submit only one ballot; family memberships may submit a separate ballot for each voting family member.

The club members listed above are candidates for officers and board of directors of SFAA for the year 2013. Please vote for one candidate for each officer position and nine candidates for the board of directors including write-ins. Voting for more than one

candidate for any officer position or for more than nine candidates for the board of directors will invalidate the entire ballot.

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

The seven Board of Director 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.

2012 CLUB OFFICERS & CONTACTS

<i>President</i>	SUE-ELLEN SPEIGHT	sfaapresident@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Vice President</i>	Joe Heavey	vicepresident@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Secretary</i>	Douglas Smith	secretary@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Treasurer</i>	Angie Traeger	treasurer1@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Speaker Chair</i>	Linda Mahan	speakerchair@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>City Star Party</i>		
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	Annette Gabrielli	editor@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Telescope Loans</i>	Anhil Chopra	telescopes@sfaa-astronomy.org
<i>Honorary Director and Board Member Emeritus</i>	John Dobson	
<i>Board Members</i>	Anhil Chopra Dave Frey Dean Gustavson Bob Haberman Matthew Jones Jessica Santascioy Mitchell Schoenbrun	deangustavsonartist@gmail.com
<i>1st Alternate</i>	Michael Farino	
<i>2nd Alternate</i>	Michael Patrick	
<i>Webmaster</i>	Matthew Jones	

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

San Francisco Amateur Astronomers
POB 15097
San Francisco CA 94115

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

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

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

Membership Categories (Check one): _____
\$10 Youth/Student _____
\$25 Individual _____
\$30 Family _____
\$40 Institutional _____
\$75 Supporting _____

Members pay one half the amount listed below
Membership is billed for each upcoming year on June 30. Between January 1 and June 30, new

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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.