



THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

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THE BULLETIN

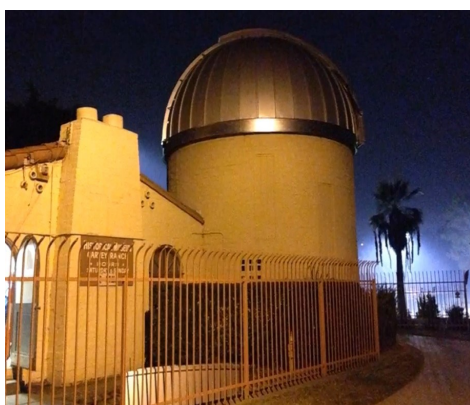


Eclipse Trip To Kerrville, TX

See Page 5 for more photos thanks to LAAS member Elizabeth Wong.

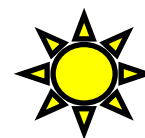
From left to right: Andrew Inohara, Heven Renteria, Matt Ventimiglia, and Elizabeth Wong

The Garvey Ranch Park Observatory is open for free to the public and to all LAAS members and friends on Wednesday nights from 7:30 PM to 10 PM. Go to our website at LAAS.org and click on "Locations" to learn more about this special weekly event.



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Upcoming Club Events

- Dark Sky Night: May 4
- Board Meeting: May 8
- Family Night: May 11**
- General Meeting: May 13
- Public Star Party: Apr. 18

Mt. Wilson 60 and 100 Inch Nights

Schedule for 2024

60 Inch Dates:

Friday May 3

Friday June 7

Friday July 5

Friday Aug. 2

Saturday Sept. 7

100 Inch Night:

Friday, June 7th.

Friday Oct. 4th.



The Cost per person, per session:

60 Inch Night - \$65.00

100 Inch Night - \$170.00 (Booked/Waiting List only)

There will be 20 people, per session

Learn more about these incredible events by visiting Mt. Wilson Observatory's website:

<https://www.mtwilson.edu/60-telescope/>

<https://www.mtwilson.edu/100-telescopeobserving/>

How to Make a Reservation?

Please contact Darrell Dooley **BEFORE** you pay for your reservation. Darrell is our Mt. Wilson Coordinator and the **ONLY** contact available.

Darrell's Email Address: Mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Darrell will answer all of your questions and concerns.

Partial Eclipse Images - April 8, 2024

By Ray Blumhorst

*"The stars and planets seek to imitate the **perfection** of the unmoved mover by moving about the Earth in a **circle**, the most **perfect** of shapes." - Aristotle*

Given that Aristotle said that before any telescope existed we have to cut him a little slack, IMHO. Even though a partial eclipse observer won't see a "Diamond Ring," or "Bailey's Beads," the irregularity in features at the edge of the Moon is still evident upon close examination.

PHoto Credit: Ray Blumhorst





Jackalope Total Solar Eclipse Event

From Kerrville, TX

By Elizabeth Wong

The following photos are informal non-astropics, taken by me, at the Jackalope Total Solar Eclipse Event organized by Griffith Observatory's Matt Ventimiglia (museum guide since 2006) for family and friends of G.O. docents/guides/telescope operators (past and present), Los Angeles Astronomical Society and Mt. Wilson Observatory. It was an official/unofficial private group trip organized by Matt Ventimiglia and Lloyd Franklin at least two years in the planning. Matt and Lloyd scouted and arranged for a free no-fee location -- and they thought of everything -- from especially-designed Jackalope tee shirts, the American flag hoisted on a flagpole, along with the appropriate totems (a Schreiner University pendant acknowledging our host; also a small Texas flag acknowledging our location); also on eclipse Monday, Matt played DJ with appropriate eclipse/space-themed music piping fun onto at a well-manicured (and secure fenced in) soccer field on the campus of Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas. Matt, ever the educator, devised a scale model of the Earth and moon. And with his wry sense of humor, he set up a table with our photo-worthy mascot, a big rubber Jackalope (some lucky guy later won the coveted beast at a dinner raffle: I myself won a Jackalope bobblehead).

Matt arranged for a private bbq after-eclipse party at Gravity Check Saloon, which serves barbecue and is also a rodeo/horse show/watering hole venue. Lloyd designed a Jackalope-inspired tee shirt for sale; Matt gifted participants with a Schreiner tee shirt as well as the rental of the port-a-potties.

And oh yes the eclipse!! We saw it for a nanosecond!! Through perk-a-boo clouds. In a word -- glorious!

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Wong







Welcome Banner at Schreiner University soccer field.

Tim Thompson looking through my Lunt Solar Binoculars 8 x 23.

A fleeting view of totality from Kerrville, Texas.

Matt Ventimiglia with Earth, setting up scale model.

Matt Ventimiglia affixing Jackalope Griffith Observatory stickers onto the mascot.

Matt Ventimiglia with Andrew Inohara (left), Heven Renteria, (center), Matt and Elizabeth Wong (far right)

Heven Renteria and his telescope

Clive and his telescope and tent

Jackalope with pennant and Texas flag







Clive and Noel.
 Clive with his blue Meade and his orange tent
 Official Jackalope tee shirts.
 Andrew Inohara with mascot table
 Elizabeth Wong with the Earth.
 Free camping accommodations at the Schreiner University soccer field thanks to Matt Ventimiglia.
 nightly visitations from a large herd of deer
 How I viewed the eclipse -- through sucker holes and passing clouds.
 Welcome Griffith Observatory at Gravity Check Hotel
 Waiting for the buffet to begin
 My door price - a Jackalope bobblehead





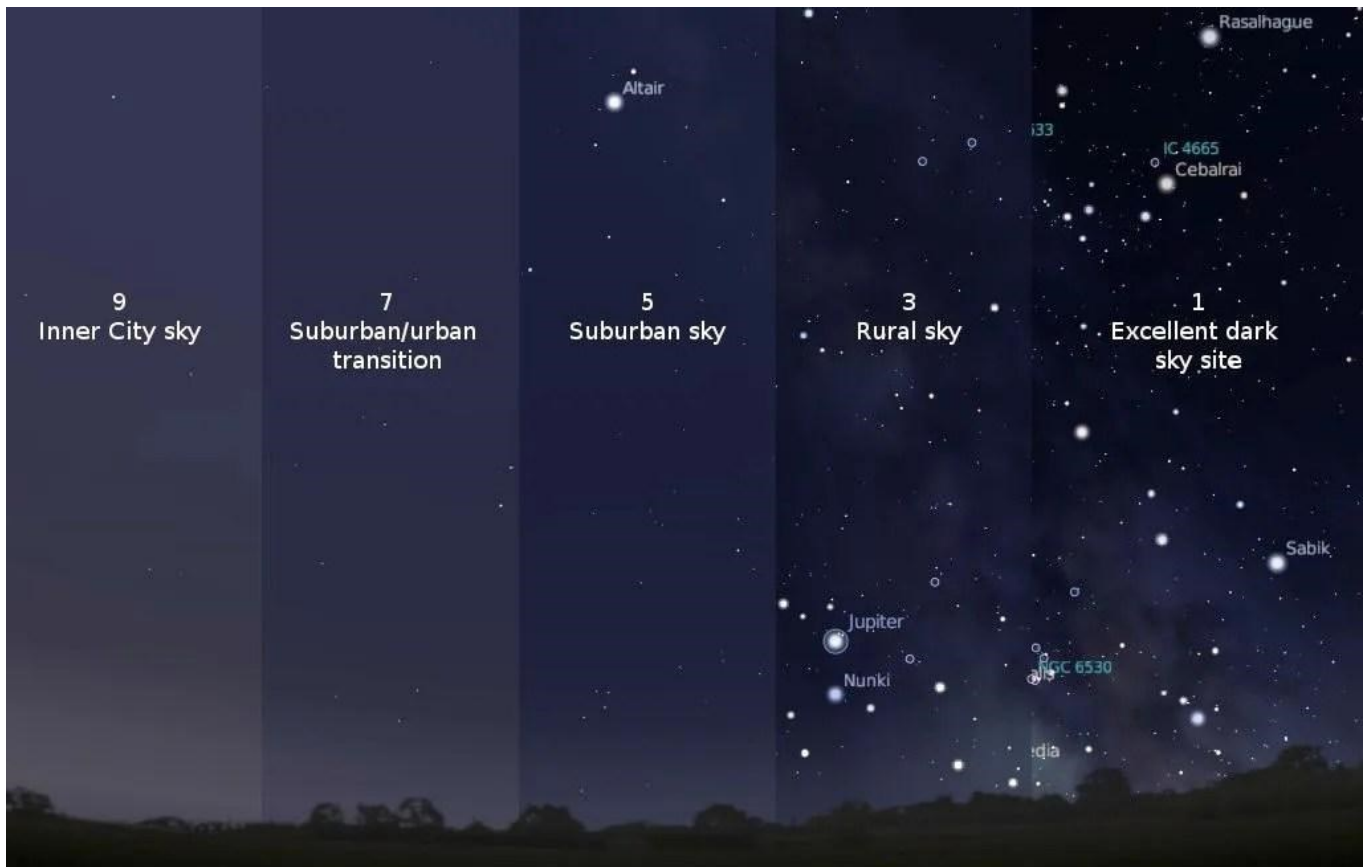
Stargazing for Beginners

By Kat Troche

Millions were able to experience the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, inspiring folks to become amateur astronomers – hooray! Now that you’ve been ‘bitten by the bug’, and you’ve decided to [join your local astronomy club](#), here are some stargazing tips!

The Bortle Scale

Before you can stargaze, you’ll want to find a site with dark skies. It’s helpful learn what your [Bortle scale](#) is. But *what is the Bortle scale?* The Bortle scale is a numeric scale from 1-9, with 1 being darkest and 9 being extremely light polluted; that rates your night sky’s darkness. For example, New York City would be a Bortle 9, whereas Cherry Springs State Park in Pennsylvania is a Bortle 2.

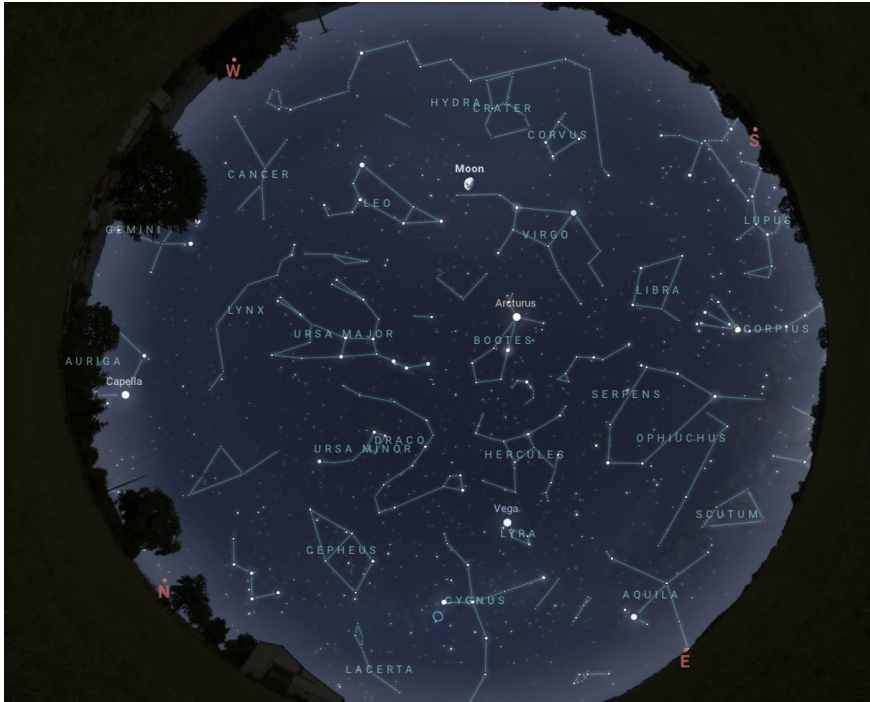


The Bortle scale helps amateur astronomers and stargazers to know how much light pollution is in the sky where they observe. Credit: International Dark Sky Association

Determining the Bortle scale of your night sky will help narrow down what you can expect to see after sunset. Of course, other factors such as weather (clouds namely) will impact seeing conditions, so plan ahead. Find Bortle ratings near you here: www.lightpollutionmap.info

No Equipment? No Problem!

There's plenty to see with your eyes alone. Get familiar with the night sky by studying star maps in books, or with a planisphere. These are great to begin identifying the overall shapes of constellations, and what is visible during various months.



A full view of the northern hemisphere night sky in mid-May.

Credit: Stellarium Web.

Interactive sky maps, such as [Stellarium Web](http://StellariumWeb), work well with mobile and desktop browsers, and are also great for learning the constellations in your hemisphere. There are also several astronomy apps on the market today that work with the GPS of your smartphone to give an accurate map of the night sky.

[Keep track of Moon phases](#). Both the interactive sky maps and apps will also let you know when planets and our Moon are out! This is especially important because if you are trying to look for bright deep sky objects, like the Andromeda Galaxy or the Perseus Double Cluster, you want to *avoid the Moon as much as possible*. *Moonlight in a dark sky area will be as bright as a streetlight, so plan accordingly!* And if the Moon is out, check out this [Skywatcher's Guide to the Moon: bit.ly/MoonHandout](http://bit.ly/MoonHandout)

Put On That Red Light

If you're looking at your phone, you won't be able to see as much. Our eyes take approximately 30 minutes to get dark sky adapted, and a bright light can ruin our night vision temporarily. The easiest way to stay dark sky adapted is to avoid any bright lights from car headlights or your smartphone. To avoid this, simply use red lights, such as a red flashlight or headlamp. **The reason:** white light constricts the pupils of your eyes, making it hard to see in the dark, whereas red light allows your pupils to stay dilated for longer. Most smartphones come with adaptability shortcuts that allow you to make your screen red, but if you don't have that feature, use red cellophane on your screen and flashlight.

Up next: why binoculars can sometimes be the best starter telescope, with [Night Sky Network's](#) upcoming mid-month article through NASA's website!



This article is distributed by NASA's Night Sky Network (NSN).

The NSN program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov to find local clubs, events, and more!

Monthly Sky Report

By Dave Nakamoto

All times in Pacific Daylight Time.

On the 1st, the sun rises at 6:03 a.m., 19 degrees north of east, and sets at 7:38 p.m., 19 degrees north of west. On the 31st, the sun rises at 5:43 a.m., 28 degrees north of east, and sets at 7:59 p.m., 28 degrees north of west.

The last quarter moon is on the 1st, new moon on the 7th, first quarter on the 15th, full moon on the 23rd, and last quarter again on the 30th.

Here are the planets as they appear from evening to morning.

Venus is close to the sun all month long and is unobservable. Do not observe any planet when it comes close to the sun, for the danger to the eyes is great.

On the 1st, Jupiter sets in the west at 8:34 p.m., 56 minutes after sunset. On the 8th, the sun sets at 7:43 p.m., and Jupiter sets in the west-northwest at 8:15 p.m., 32 minutes later. Jupiter will be too close to the sun until the 31st, when it rises in the east-northeast at 5:14 a.m., 29 minutes before sunrise. Jupiter is 100-percent illuminated and 33 arcseconds wide. A telescope capable of magnification 50x will show the Red Spot, and the four bright Galilean moons also can be seen moving back and forth, across and behind Jupiter.

Saturn rises in the east at 3:44 a.m., on the 1st, and at 1:52 a.m., on the 31st. Saturn is 16 arcseconds wide. The rings and Saturn's largest moon, Titan, may be seen with a telescope capable of magnification 50x.

Neptune rises in the east at 4:14 a.m., on the 1st, and at 2:17 a.m., on the 31st. On the 15th, Neptune is at Right Ascension 23^h 59^m 27^s, declination -1° 24' 44". Neptune's disk is 2.3 arcseconds wide, and a magnification of 200x is needed to see its disk.

Mars rises in the east at 4:18 a.m. on the 1st. The planet is 94-percent illuminated and only 4.7 arcseconds wide. On the 31st, Mars rises in the east at 3:20 a.m., and is 92-percent illuminated and 5.0 arcseconds wide. A pair of binoculars or a small telescope is needed to see it.

Mercury rises in the east at 5:07 a.m., on the 1st, 56 minutes before sunrise. The planet is 26-percent illuminated and 9.6 arcseconds wide. On the 31st, Mercury rises in the east-northeast at 4:54 a.m., 49 minutes before sunrise. Mercury is 80-percent illuminated but only 5.7 arcseconds wide. Do not observe any planet when it comes close to the sun, for the danger to the eyes is great.

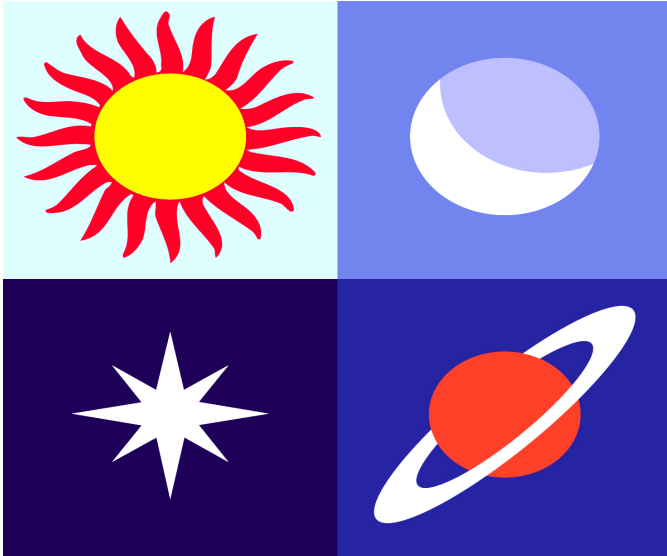
Uranus rises in the east-northeast at 6:40 a.m., only 37 minutes before sunrise. On the 31st, Uranus rises at 4:48 a.m., 55 minutes before sunrise. On the 15th, Uranus is at Right Ascension 3^h 23^m 30^s, declination +18° 19' 00". Uranus is 3.4 arcseconds wide, and a magnification of 200x is needed to see its disk.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The eta Aquariid meteor shower will occur from the night of April 15 through May 27. The meteors come from comet Halley. They are named for the star in Aquarius the Water Bearer, from which they appear to originate. The shower is best seen from the southern hemisphere. From the northern hemisphere, it usually produces medium rates of 10 to 30 meteors per hour just before dawn. The meteors are swift with a high percentage of persistent trains but few fireballs. The peak occurs from the evening of the 4th to the morning of the 5th. On that night, the moon is a crescent, 14-percent illuminated, and after midnight it will not interfere.

The author can be reached at
dinakamoto@hotmail.com.





Almanac

Source:

Seasky.org

May 6, 7 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Eta Aquarids is an above average shower, capable of producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. Most of the activity is seen in the Southern Hemisphere. In the Northern Hemisphere, the rate can reach about 30 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet Halley, which has been observed since ancient times. The shower runs annually from April 19 to May 28. It peaks this year on the night of May 6 and the morning of the May 7. The nearly new moon means dark skies for what should be an excellent show this year. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

May 8 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 03:23 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

May 9 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 26.4 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

May 23 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 13:55 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Flower Moon because this was the time of year when spring flowers appeared in abundance. This moon has also been known as the Corn Planting Moon and the Milk Moon.

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Garvey Night	2	3 60 Inch Night	4 Dark Sky Night
5	6	7	8 Garvey Night Board Mtng	9	10	11 Family Night
12	13	14	15 Garvey Night	16	17	18 Public Star Party
19	20	21	22 Garvey Night	23 Visioning Workshop	24	25
26	27	28	29 Garvey Night	30	31	

Meet The New Members



Mary Avery

Michael Kantor

Mayra Vasquez

Jose Castro

Michael Kim

Jennifer Dinoia

Paula Jane Lucas

Jesse Dorado

Ana Maricic

Daniel Handlin

Sandra Repash

Craig Kadoya

Nira Shaw

LAAS Board Meetings

All Board Meetings are held online, live on Zoom. Please check the information posted in the IO Group Forum for any current news related to these meetings. If you wish to attend a board meeting, please send a request to secretary@laas.org for a link to Zoom.

Volunteer Opportunities

Every LAAS member is a volunteer at some point. Some members volunteer to share telescopes with the public, while others tackle administrative duties, help out at our community and public events, or join a club committee. Taking photos at our events and writing articles about events for our club newsletter are great ways to volunteer and become more involved in the LAAS as a member.

Volunteers are always welcome to write articles for our monthly newsletter or share images captured of the night sky. Members are also welcome to come up with new ideas and future activities for the membership which can be shared in Board meetings. If you are artistic and enjoy creating posters or flyers, or printable astro-educational handouts for further star parties, please let us know.

Please send any articles, images, or artwork to the newsletter editor here: communications@laas.org

Time To Renew Your Membership?

Please remember to renew your membership after you receive a notice from the Club Secretary.

Please send any new contact information to the club secretary at secretary@LAAS.org OR login to your account here: <https://common.wildapricot.com/login>



Outreach Team Member Volunteers

“We are dedicated to advancing the knowledge of astronomy, optics, telescope making, and the wonders of our universe.”



One of the ways the LAAS advances the knowledge of astronomy and the wonders of our universe is to visit local schools in our area with telescopes. The telescope operators are current members of the club. Many schools invite us to their campus to provide views of the objects in the night sky for not only the children but for the staff and parents, too. Some schools invite us on scheduled “Science Nights” while other schools plan a special evening of astronomy education on their campus. Other activities may be planned by the school during the event while our members are stationed in one specific location with telescopes to share with students and other school guests. These special members are part of our Outreach Team.

Our Outreach Coordinator is Heven Renteria. He and the others on his team have been attending outreach events on campuses throughout Los Angeles county and beyond.. Many of them travel great distances (and after a full day of work) to share astronomy with children and the public. The LAAS is also invited to attend special community events or events at state or city parks, libraries, and other venues. Recently, the club could not accept additional requests for outreach events because the team’s schedule was full.

The LAAS needs more members to join the outreach team. Some of these events may be local to you. Outreach members are greatly appreciated by the school administrators and students at every event.

You don’t need to be an expert using a telescope as the members of the team will help you set up and find objects in the sky to share with the students. You can attend an outreach event without a telescope and help the team with their telescopes or help with the long lines of children who are excited to look through a telescope for the first time.

These events are fun and rewarding in many ways. The enthusiasm shared by the children is infectious, in the best way possible. If you enjoy attending Public Star parties at the Griffith Observatory, you will enjoy a school outreach event.

The Outreach Team really needs your support and participation.

Please contact Heven at outreach@laas.org to learn more.

Thank you for volunteering!

Andee Sherwood
Communications



John O’Bryan shows a student the Sun at Overland Elementary, 2021.

Photo credit: Van Webster

LAAS Outreach Program

The mission of LAAS is to promote interest in and advance the knowledge of astronomy, optics, telescope making and related subjects. In furtherance of its mission, LAAS conducts public star parties and other outreach events that are intended to enhance the public's understanding of astronomy and its enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty and wonders of our universe.



We provide outreach events at local schools, Griffith Observatory, Mt. Wilson Observatory, various state and county parks, and community events.

Join our Outreach team of volunteers today.

Contact Heven Renteria, our Outreach Coordinator at Outreach@LAAS.org for more information.



Want to include astronomy outreach at your school's science night or open house? Follow the link below to access the request form:

[Outreach Request Form](#)

LAAS Club Merchandise

LAAS T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, MUGS, AND MORE!

To find new merchandise from our store, please use the following link: [Shop Here](#)

Please note all prices listed are subject to change and include all shipping and handling costs. All items will be shipped directly to the address you provide on your order form.



LAAS Hoodie



Donate



Disclaimer: The Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc. is a public charity, as defined by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and all contributions to the Society are deductible for Federal and State Income tax purposes.

John O'Bryan, Jr.

Treasurer

Astronomy Magazines

Discounts for astronomy magazines can be found on the internet. Look for the best deals possible. Send a copy of your LAAS membership card with your check or payment to receive a club member discount.



[Click here to subscribe to Sky and Telescope Magazine.](#)



Subscribe or renew to the McDonald Observatory's StarDate Magazine and receive a special discount. Follow this link to subscribe and press "Add to Cart" under the type of subscription option: <http://stardate.org/store/subscribe>

On the Checkout form, enter "network" in the Coupon Code box.



As a member of the Night Sky Network, you may use the above link to renew your Astronomy Magazine subscription (or enter a new subscription) at the club discount rate. If this is a renewal, Astronomy Magazine will match your entered name and address and extend your subscription. For inquiries, please contact Astronomy Magazine customer service & sales at 1-800-533-6644.

Use [this link](#) to begin the subscription process.



[Join the Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#) and help support the cause of advancing science literacy through engagement in astronomy. Member benefits include a subscription to [Mercury Magazine](#), published quarterly.

Club Contact Information

President: Darrell Dooley

President@laas.org

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Secretary: Spencer Soohoo

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Outreach Coordinator: Heven Renteria

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Club Communications: Andee Sherwood

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Mt. Wilson Coordinator: Darrell Dooley

mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Bulletin Editor: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org

Club Historian—Lew Chilton

trainfans2@sbcglobal.net



Find astronomy outreach activities by visiting NASA's [Night Sky Network](#)

Club Contacts

Club Phone Numbers

LAAS Message Phone:

213- 673-7355 (Checked daily)

Griffith Observatory:

213-473-0800

Sky Report:

213-473-0880



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