

The Refractor

The Bulletin of the Eastbay Astronomical Society
 Founded in 1924 at Chabot Observatory, Oakland, California

Volume 85
 Number 11

Oct. 2009

October 2009 EAS Lecture Meeting

Speakers: James McBride

Talk Title: Direct Imaging of Extrasolar Planets

When: Saturday, October 3rd, 7:30pm

Where: Physics Lab, 2nd Floor, Dellums Building,
 Chabot Space & Science Center

Summary: Adaptive optics has made it possible to achieve high contrast at small distances on the sky. This contrast is necessary to see a comparatively dim planet around its bright host star, meaning many more extrasolar planets will be added to the small handful that have been directly imaged to date. The planets most likely to be detected will be young, and will thus provide data on planet formation. Direct imaging will also allow detailed study of extrasolar planet atmospheres.

Bio: James McBride is a first year graduate student in the Astronomy Department at UC Berkeley. Mr. McBride attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and grew up in Sonoma County, "so I have not strayed too far from home," says McBride. Though doing his research close to home, he has obviously set his sights on exploring very distant worlds.



In with the old?! Not exactly. Robin Fox is installing Rachel's mechanically governed drive mechanism as a display in the 20" telescope pedestal. Way to go, Robin!

EAS Officers Elections

Yet, again, it is time to elect new EAS officers. Volunteers are needed for a nominating committee and nominations are sought for EAS President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. If you'd like to help or have a nomination, contact EAS President Paul Hoy at (510) 553-1225 or by E-mail at ahoy@aol.com

EAS Membership Dues are, well, due....

Annual membership starts each November 1st, so it isn't too early to think about renewing your membership. A renewal form is included in this edition of The Refractor and can also be found in the membership section of the EAS website. If you have a current club rate subscription to Sky & Telescope magazine, remember to renew directly with S&T rather than through EAS.

**DINNER WITH
 THE SPEAKER**
 5:30, Sat, Oct. 3

Contact Paul Hoy
 (510) 553-1225
 For location

Inside this issue:

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Sunspot cycle finally kicking in? Stay tuned!
 White light photo of AR11026 by Jim Ferreira

Your input, please....

Membership renewal time would seem an appropriate time to look for input from EAS members regarding what EAS is doing right, and what EAS could do differently, or better. This is not intended to be an 'answer every question' formal survey, rather, a list of 'action' items provided for members to consider and comment upon. Obviously the more input the better, however, quality out weighs quantity.

Monthly Lectures

Lecture meetings are the heart of EAS activities for the general membership. Do you regularly attend? If not, why? Day or time inconvenient? Transportation issues? What is good? What could be better?

Lecture Subjects

What subjects interest you?

Talks by university students and professionals?

- general astronomy & cosmology
- latest space science developments

Can you suggest a speaker?

Technical talks by amateurs?

- astrophotography
- telescope making
- extreme visual observing
- photometry, spectroscopy
- solar observing

Can you give a technical presentation? Suggest others that might be willing to present a talk?

Historical subjects?

- Chabot Observatory, Burckhalter, etc.
- telescopes / observatories / expeditions

Can you suggest lecturers? Do you have a story to share?

Member's reports?

- eclipse trips
- lunar grazing occultations
- star parties
- new equipment

Can you provide a member's report or suggest an EAS member?

Do you have suggestions for guest speakers?

Are there other activities you would like to see included in monthly lecture meetings?

EAS Members Only Viewing Nights

Each month the CSSC telescopes are made available for exclusive use by the EAS membership. Do you attend the monthly MOVN nights? If not, why not?

Star Parties

Would you like to see EAS organized or sponsored star parties? If so, when, where? How often? Would you like to see joint star parties with other bay area astronomy clubs? Would you be willing to help coordinate a star party?

Public Outreach

EAS has regular public outreach activities, many involving local schools, some in cooperation with CSSC programs. In coming months, sidewalk astronomy will also become a part of EAS outreach. Do you participate? If not, would you be interested in learning more about participation?

The Refractor - EAS Newsletter

Is the newsletter informative enough? If not, what could be added or changed? Do you submit news and photos to the newsletter editor? If not, why not?

EAS Web Site - <http://www.eastbayastro.org>

Does the web site provide information useful to you? If not, what could be added or changed?

EAS Yahoo Forum

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/EastbayAstro/>
Do you subscribe to the forum? If not, why not? Do you find the presently posted announcements useful?

Telescope Makers Workshop

Are you a TMW student?

Chabot Space & Science Center Invites EAS Members to Volunteer with Us!

- Share your knowledge of and passion for astronomy with thousands of CSSC visitors
- Experience the unique opportunity to operate Chabot's historical telescopes
- Share your own telescope at Chabot*
- Inspire young astronomers and future scientists by assisting students in our astronomy education programs

Explore these opportunities at our next Volunteer Orientation!

**For upcoming orientation dates, or for more information, please contact us at: volunteers@chabot.space.org
or, call our Volunteer Manager Megan Gray at (510) 336-7414**

- *EAS members who are only interested in sharing their own telescope at Chabot are required to attend a Chabot volunteer orientation and complete a self-guided training worksheet entitled "Getting to know Chabot." After completion, you may join us on deck and share your own telescope any Friday or Saturday night!*

***Full Chabot Volunteers must make the regular volunteer commitment and pursue official placement through the Volunteer Manager.*

Your Input....

It is hoped that all EAS members will take a few minutes to make comments and suggestions on those points of greatest interest to them. Your input will help the EAS officers and board to better plan and conduct future activities.

The most efficient way to send along your comments is by E-mail:

Newsletter editor, Jim Ferreira bakerst@comcast.net
EAS president, Paul Hoy ahoy@aol.com

Snail mail:

Newsletter editor, Jim Ferreira, 753 Oriole Avenue,
Livermore CA 94551

Your participation is very much appreciated!



This colorful shot of Jupiter is by long time EAS member Doug Berger. Shot from his backyard in Bend, Oregon, he used a ToUcam web cam on his 5 inch Takahashi APO refractor. Good stuff, Doug, keep it coming!

EAS Library: Hours, 3:00pm - 7:00pm every Friday, and immediately after monthly EAS lecture meetings. The library is located on the second floor of the Dellums Building, down the hall next to the interactive lunar lander exhibit.

Volunteer librarians are needed to expand library hours. If you'd like to help contact Paul Hoy at (510) 553-1225 or by E-mail at ahoy@aol.com

Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley

Discover Red Planet Mars!: Planetarium Grand Opening Program. Join us for the grand opening [Oct 3] of the NEW Holt Planetarium at the Lawrence Hall of Science! To Celebrate our move to a larger space with a new digital full dome projector, we are running drop-in interactive programs to help you discover the Red Planet Mars!

According to a missive sent out last month by Alan Gould, the furniture inside the new Holt Planetarium should look familiar to many EAS members: 'tis the very same bench seating that once occupied the dome of the old Chabot Observatory planetarium on Mountain Boulevard!

So, just as the heavy chemical elements are dispersed by supernovae throughout space to become the stuff of new stars, old planetarium components are recycled into new planetariums....

Mark Gingrich, EAS

EAS Loaner Scope Program has telescopes available for rental by EAS members. Scopes include 60mm and 80mm refractors, a C-90, two 10 inch Dobsonians, and ; 4, 8 and 11 inch Schmidt-Cassegrains. Scope rental is \$15 a month, with a \$50 deposit. For information, contact Ray Wong at (510) 796-8475 or qm7@yahoo.com



FUTURE CONJUNCTIONS—2009

Oct 3 EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm
8 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
25 EAS MOVN*, 7pm-10pm, Wightman Plaza, Chabot
Nov 7 EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm
12 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
22 EAS MOVN*, 7pm-10pm, Wightman Plaza, Chabot

*Please call Gerald McKeegan at (925) 926-0853 after 5pm on the date of the MOVN to verify that it has not been cancelled due to weather or other considerations.



Eastbay Astronomical Society

At Chabot Space & Science Center
10000 Skyline Boulevard • Oakland, CA 94619

June 2009
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Eastbay Astronomical Society

President: Paul Hoy (510) 553-1225 ahoy@aol.com

Treas: Gerald McKeegan (925) 926-0853 geraldspace@earthlink.net

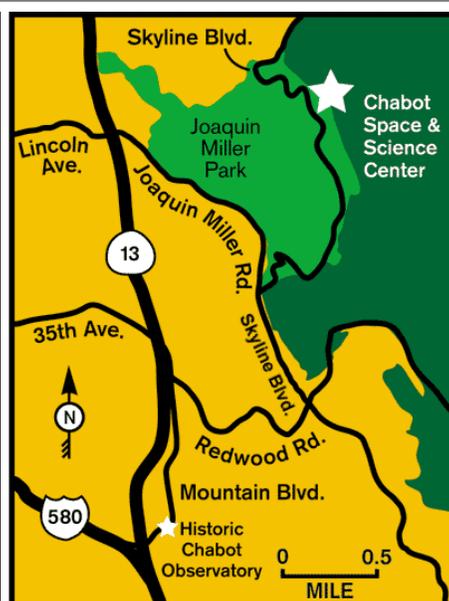
Secretary: Linda Lazzaretti (510) 633-2488

Articles and photos for *The Refractor* are encouraged. Deadline for the Nov. 2009 issue is Oct., 20 2009. Items may be submitted by mail or E-mail to: Interim Editor - Jim Ferreira, 753 Oriole Avenue, Livermore CA 94551 bakerst@comcast.net (925) 449-0107

Vice President: Alan Fisher

Membership Reg: Bruce Skelly EastbayAstro@gmail.com

Events Coord: Dave Rodrigues (510) 483-9191



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- | | | |
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*Always call to confirm

Join the Eastbay Astronomical Society

- Regular, \$24/year
- Family, \$36/year
- Contributing, \$40/year
- Student, \$15/year (digital newsletter, only)
- Sustaining, \$60/year or more

Contact: Gerald McKeegan, EAS Treasurer
Telephone: (925) 926-0853 Email: geraldspace@earthlink.net
Mail: 1760 1st Ave, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-2561

Sign up online at <http://www.eastbayastro.org/>

EASTBAY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

New Renewal *(Just print this page, fill it out, and mail it in!)*

NAME: (please print) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

DAY PHONE: (____) _____

EVE PHONE: (____) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: (please print very legibly!) _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- Regular \$24 Family \$36 Contributing \$40
- Sustaining \$60 or more \$_____ Student \$10 (digital newsletter only)

Optional discounted 12-month magazine subscriptions:

Sky & Telescope \$32.95 Astronomy \$34.00 *(Both magazines may only be ordered between the months of July and December) (If you are renewing your S&T club subscription, please use the renewal notice sent to you by S&T.)*

Optional, tax deductible donation(s) to any of the projects of the Eastbay Astronomical Society:
Burns Library \$ _____ Betty Neall Youth Award Fund \$ _____ General \$ _____ Other: _____ \$ _____

EAS Lapel Pin \$3.00 +\$1.00 per pin for shipping and handling. # of pins _____ Total Amount for # of pins \$ _____

(Tip: If you buy them at a club meeting or event, you can avoid the S&H fee.)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please mail this form and your check or money order payable to: Eastbay Astronomical Society , PO Box 18635, Oakland, CA 94619-0635

For more information, please contact club Treasurer Gerald McKeegan at (925) 926-0853, geraldspace@earthlink.net, or write him at above address.

By default, (if you have an email address) you will be notified by email that the digital (.pdf) version of the club newsletter is ready to download off the club website. If you prefer to get the B&W hard copy, please check the box below:

- I prefer the hard copy mailed to the address entered above.
- Are you interested in volunteering your time/equipment for public stargazing at Chabot?
- Are you interested in doing other volunteer work for Chabot and/or the Eastbay Astronomical Society?

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!