

The Refractor

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

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Jan. 2010

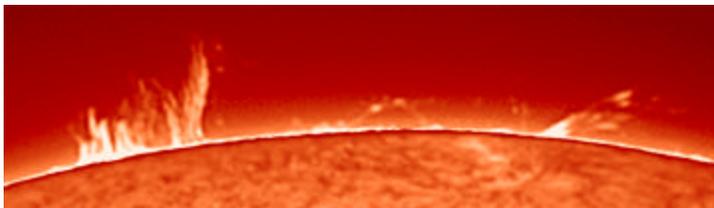
EAS HOLIDAY POT LUCK

Sunday, January 3rd, 6:30pm to 10:00pm

Location: CSSC, room to be announced

Games, door prizes, food, dessert, nonalcoholic drinks. It's pot luck - Last Name A-F: Desserts, G-L: Veggies, M-R: Finger Food, S-Z: Drinks (sodas, sparkling cider, fruit drinks). The club will provide Ham and Turkey for the main dish. Coffee from Peet's Coffee and Teas. Those willing to help with setup, please arrive early.

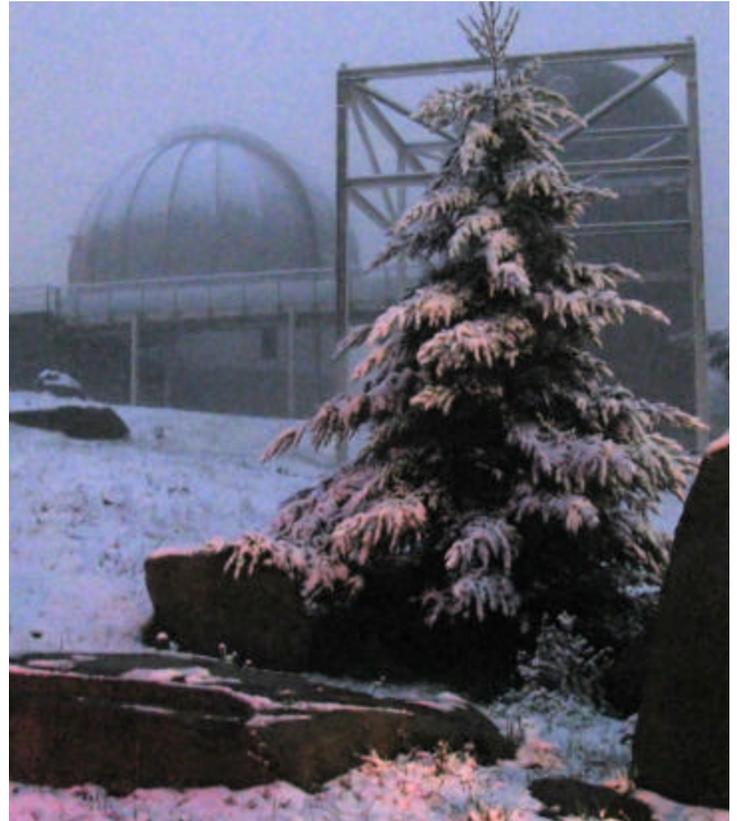
And, yes, yet again, the Wacky Gift Exchange. These are not necessarily gifts that are wacky, but rather, it's the process of giving/getting the gifts that's wacky. If you wish to participate, simply bring a gift (could be new or used) wrapped up, with a value of between \$5 and \$10 (or more, if you are so inclined). Make it something that someone would actually want (no rude gag gifts, please). Participants draw numbers from a hat, the first person picks a present, and opens it. The second person can choose to steal the first person's gift, or open a new gift. If the first person's gift is stolen, s/he gets to pick a new gift, and opens it, and so on and so forth. After the last gift is opened, the first person has the option to steal someone else's gift, however, each gift can only be stolen twice; after that, it is un-stealable.



SEE RED!

Come out to the CSSC observing deck any sunny Sunday afternoon to enjoy spectacular views of our nearest star.

H-alpha photo by Jim Ferreira



Beginning to look a lot like Winter Solstice!

Photo - Conrad Jung



Smoke trail from the Delta II rocket carrying NASA's WISE (Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer) space telescope, photographed from Chabot Monday morning, Dec. 4th by Conrad Jung.

NOTICE!

NO JANUARY
 DINNER WITH
 THE SPEAKER

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2012? No Worries, Mate

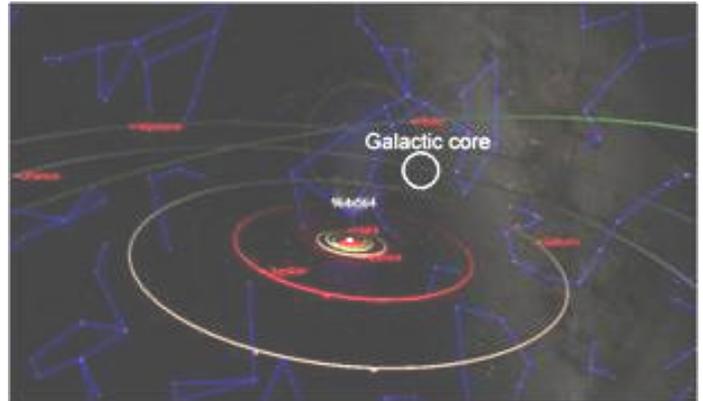
by Don Saito

I just saw the film, 2012, with John Cusack, and found it very entertaining. Of course, the premise that the Mayan calendar predicted a world destroying catastrophic event was silly, but the acting was fair, and the effects were spectacular. The astronomy of the film said our solar system's planets would align with the center of the galaxy, the resultant gravitational/tidal pull would cause the Earth's crust to shift, continents would break up, some of them disappearing completely, and the magnetic poles would flip (north becoming south, and south becoming north). I checked the time period of this alleged alignment in my astronomy program Starry Night, and with all due respect to Mayan astronomers and 2012's director, Roland Emmerich, there is no such planetary alignment, though the center of the galaxy is in alignment with the plane of the solar system (see illustration). Also, a quick web-search of "end of times predictions" revealed DOZENS AND DOZENS of specific, documented "rapture," "end of times," "end of the world," "coming of Jesus or the anti-Christ" predictions based on numerology, bible interpretations, "signs," alien channeling, or visions of God or angels. Some of you may even recall "Nancy," (Nancy Lieder) who apparently lived in the Bay Area for a while. She claimed a psychic connection to aliens (Zeta Reticulans) who warned her of the coming of "Planet X," a brown dwarf star, that would make a close pass to the Earth, causing a magnetic pole-flip with catastrophic plate tectonic shifts, yadda-yadda, boogity-boogity, all on the very specific date of May 27, 2003. Well, the date



came and passed, and as every other one of these types of predictions played-out: nothing happened. Nancy then announced the date was a 'white lie,' and the real date is hidden, but coming soon (good comeback!) Just

one more of the failed predictions among the dozens since the beginning of idiocy, which is strongly correlated to the beginning of recorded history.



So, as this article's title states: no worries, mate! I predict that on December 21, 2012, I will be having fun visiting relatives, drinking egg nog, and going to more Roland Emmerich big-screen effects movies. The good news is: these false, sensationalistic, astronomically-based claims actually helps attendance at Chabot. The bad news is: the world is chock-full of gullible people who actually pay heed to this tripe. Sighhh!

FUTURE CONJUNCTIONS—2009

Jan	3	EAS Holiday Pot Luck
	7	Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm TBA -EAS MOVN
Feb		TBA - EAS General Meeting
		TBA - Board Meeting
		TBA -EAS MOVN

*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.

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@chabotspace.org or, call our Volunteer Manager Megan Gray at (510) 336-7414

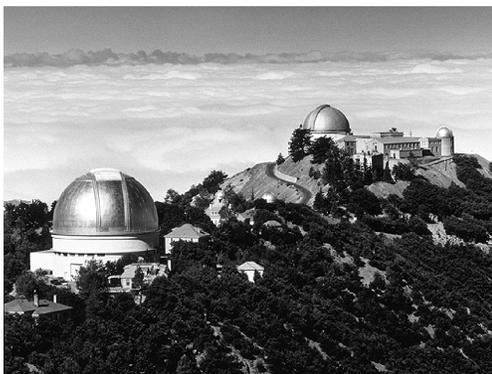
*EAS members who are only interested in sharing their own telescope at Chabot are required to attend a Chabot volunteer orientation and complete a self-guided training worksheet entitled "Getting to know Chabot." After completion, you may join us on deck and share your own telescope any Friday or Saturday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

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

Job Posting:

Lick Observatory Deputy Director for Operations

Reporting to the Director of the UCO, the Deputy Director will provide the strategic and technical leadership in managing Lick Observatory operations and staff of 17 career employees and 20 part-timers. The Deputy Director also interfaces with the scientific community throughout the UC



system, as well as the technical and management personnel at UCO to ensure that its operations achieve scientific and organizational objectives. <http://www.ucolick.org>

NOTE: Lick Observatory is located at the 4,200 feet summit of Mt. Hamilton about 23 miles from downtown San Jose, CA. Driving time is about 60 minutes from San Jose. University housing will be offered at less than market rates. Employee is responsible for personal utilities and telephone.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO USE THE UCSC ON-LINE PROCESS

View full job description and access on-line application: <https://jobs.ucsc.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=64234>

JOB # 0902428

FULL TIME; CAREER

Full Salary Range: \$66,000 - \$118,000/annually.

Position is open until filled; Initial Review Date: 01-24-2010

To ensure review of application materials by the hiring unit they must be submitted electronically via the Staff Employment Opportunities web site (<http://jobs.ucsc.edu>) on or before the initial review date. Computers are available at the UCSC Staff Human Resources office located at 1201 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz. For further information or to request disability accommodation call 831-459-2009. Hearing impaired are encouraged to use the California Relay Service 800-735-2922. The University of California, Santa Cruz is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

EAS Loaner Scope Program

The Eastbay Astronomical Society continues to offer its membership a wide range of telescopes that can be rented at the very modest fee of \$15 a month. A \$50 deposit is required for all scope rentals. The splendid thing about this program is, if you bring your rental scope to an EAS outreach star party or school program, the monthly fee is waived for that month. Which means if you regularly attend outreach and school star parties with the rented scope, you essentially get to use the scope for free.

Available Telescopes

Refractors: presently there is a 60mm refractor with EQ mount, an 80mm refractor with EQ mount, and a 80mm refractor tube assembly only.

Newtonians: a 109mm f/10 with a EQ mount, one 200mm f/6 Dobsonian and two 254mm f/4.7 home-made Dobsonians.

Maksutov-Cassegrain: a Celestron 90 with fork mount.

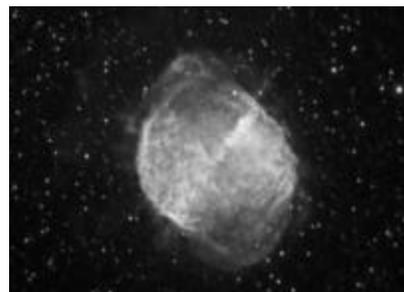
Schmidt-Cassegrain: one 100mm f/12.5 Celestron with fork mount and one 203mm f/10 Celestron on a fork mount.

Most scopes come with at least one eyepiece and have optical or Telrad view finders.

For more details on renting an EAS scope, contact Ray Wong at qm7@yahoo.com or 510-796-5748. Pickup and return of the scope is by appointment only - please give Ray enough lead time to have the scope ready to go for you. The scope must be picked up and returned to the Telescope Makers Workshop, on Friday evenings.

EAS Library: Hours, 3:00pm - 7:00pm every Friday, and immediately following monthly EAS lecture meetings. The library is located on the second floor of the Dellums Building.

Volunteer librarians are needed to expand library hours, if you'd like to help contact Paul Hoy at (510) 814-8325 or by E-mail at ahoy@aol.com





Eastbay Astronomical Society

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

January 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Eastbay Astronomical Society

President: Paul Hoy (510) 814-8325 ahoy@aol.com

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

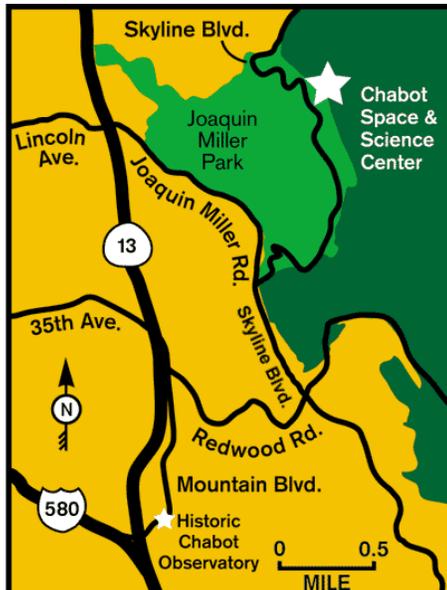
Secretary: Linda Lazzaretti (510) 633-2488

Articles and photos for *The Refractor* are encouraged. Deadline for the Feb. 2010 issue is Jan., 20 2009. Items may be submitted by mail or E-mail to: 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



FUTURE CONJUNCTIONS

Jan 3 Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

TBA Board Meeting

TBA EAS MOVN*, 7pm-10pm, Wightman Plaza

Feb TBA General Meeting

TBA Board Meeting

TBA EAS MOVN*, 7pm-10pm, Wightman Plaza

**Always call to confirm*

Join the Eastbay Astronomical Society

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

Contact: Gerald McKeegan, EAS Treasurer

Tele: (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!