

The Refractor

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

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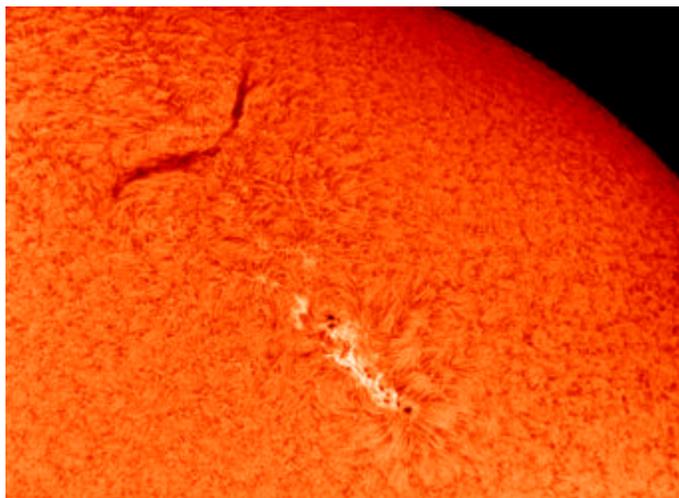
Eastbay Astronomical Society
Eighty-sixth Annual Awards Dinner
Sunday, March 28, 2010
Kepler and Copernicus Rooms
Chabot Space & Science Center

Doors open at 5:45pm, with Dinner at 6:30pm
Awards Presentation, door prizes, lecture at 8:00pm

Kepler: The Search for Earth-sized
Planets Around Other Stars

Presented by Prof. Gibor Basri, PhD

Cost per person will be **\$35.00**. Purchase your attendance online using your PayPal account or credit card by going to the EAS web site: <http://www.eastbayastro.org> ...or, mail your check, payable to the EAS, as soon as possible to: EAS Treasurer, 2539 Cordova St., Oakland, CA 94602.



A WHOLE NEW SUN TO EXPLORE!

Spectacular live video of the sun in H-alpha on the giant plasma screen in Rachel's Dome, every sunny Sunday.

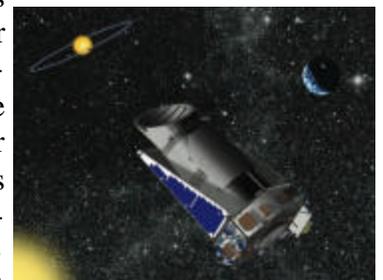
Hydrogen-alpha photo by Jim Ferreira

During the last decade, astronomers have finally begun finding planets around other stars. We still don't know anything about the number of planets like the



Earth (almost none of the known planets has a solid surface). A NASA mission ("Kepler") should directly answer the question by finding many such planets. This dedicated space

telescope will monitor more than 100,000 stars in its wide field-of-view for several years, looking for the telltale dip in their light caused when a planet crosses in front of them. It relies on the strict periodicity of planetary orbits to eliminate noise from stellar variability. Given our current understanding of planet formation, it should find at least several hundred terrestrial planets, some of which will be in the "habitable zone" of their stars (meaning liquid water could survive on the surface given a reasonable atmosphere). Kepler should provide estimates for the total number, orbital and size distributions, and correlations of these with stellar properties for inner planetary systems. This will be very helpful in assessing the likelihood of Earth-sized (or larger) planets in our Galaxy.



NO MARCH-DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

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FINALLY! PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER

Starting March 31st there will be a regular WEEKDAY AC transit bus to Chabot leaving from FRUITVALE BART and coming up Fruitvale Avenue to Joaquin Miller.

Buses will be departing BART at 9:30am, 11:35am, 1:55 pm, 2:50pm. Then it will depart Chabot at 9:55am, 11:59 am, 2:20pm, 3:15pm.



WANTED: PHOTOS OF OLD CHABOT

Do you have photographs of the Mountain Boulevard Chabot Observatory? If you do, pick out the best of the best and send a scanned image to the Newsletter editor. A new image will be posted in the newsletter each month.

FUTURE CONJUNCTIONS—2010

- Apr 24 EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm
 8 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
 18 EAS MOVN
- May 22 EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm
 13 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
 16 EAS MOVN
- Jun 26 EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm
 10 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
 13 EAS MOVN
- Jul 24 EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm
 8 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
 18 EAS MOVN
- Aug 28 EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm
 12 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
 15 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.

GOLDEN STATE STAR PARTY 2010



The GSSP is a 4 night dark sky event held each summer at Frosty Acres Ranch in North-Eastern California, near Mount Lassen, along side rural Adin, California. GSSP has dark skies from horizon to horizon, and room for hundreds of astronomers.

Early registration (through March 30) - \$60, after March 30 - \$70. On site registration - \$75

For more information go to the GSSP web site:

<http://www.goldenstatestarparty.org/>

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 and 8 inch Schmidt-Cassegrains. Scope rental is \$15 a month, with a \$50 deposit. For information, contact Ray Wong at (510) 796-5748 or qm7@yahoo.com

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 Barry Leska at leska@alameda.net

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.

NEW EAS PRESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2010

My name is **Barry Leska** and I was elected President of EAS at the February General Meeting when the gathered EAS members affirmed the nominated slate of Officers. I am joined on the Board by Vice President **Ray Wong**, Treasurer **Richard Ozer**, Secretary **Linda Lazzaretti**, Past-President **Paul Hoy**, EAS Representative to JPA **Terry Galloway**, EAS Representative to JPA **David Birnbaum**, Program Director **Dave Rodrigues**, Newsletter Editor **Jim Ferreira**, Assistant Newsletter Editor **Don Saito**, Director of Instruments **Gert Gottshalk**, Librarian **John Fang**, Membership Registrar **Bruce Skelly**, and the Directors-At-Large **Gerald McKeegan**, **Ken Swaggerty**, **Alan Fisher**, **Celeste Burroughs**, and **Conrad Jung**.



I'm very excited about this opportunity to work with such a dedicated and diverse group. As I first considered the position on the Board, it seemed overwhelming. I'm constantly amazed at the experience and knowledge that's present within EAS. I've now realized that the primary requirement for participation in EAS is simply a willingness to be active and available. By actively participating, I can contribute and I can receive. I encourage everyone to reach out for new experiences within EAS.

Several years ago, my lovely wife and I were on vacation at Bryce National Park. One evening after the ranger's program, there was telescope viewing of the moon and Saturn. That was the first time either of us saw the rings of Saturn live! When we returned to the Bay area, I discovered the Telescope Maker's Workshop and built a telescope for myself. I was really impressed with the help and guidance I received from Paul, Dave, Richard and Mark. I decided to join EAS at that time and have since become an instructor at the Telescope Maker's Workshop. As time has gone by, I've learned that there are different people that have deep passions for the many facets of astronomy. Some folks like mirror making, some

like viewing objects in the night sky, some like discussing constellations, some like viewing the sun, some like mathematical calculations, some like the physics, and the list goes on and on.

At the last Board meeting, the directors agreed that the mission statement shown on the website captured the essence of the goals of EAS. Simply put, the EAS mission is to 1) increase our own knowledge and appreciation of space, 2) to promote the space sciences to the public, 3) to support the Chabot Space and Science Center, and 4) to have as much fun as possible doing it! During the upcoming year, we plan to increase our outreach to the community, and increase our membership. With your continued support and active participation, EAS will fulfill all aspects of our mission!

EAS Yahoo Forums

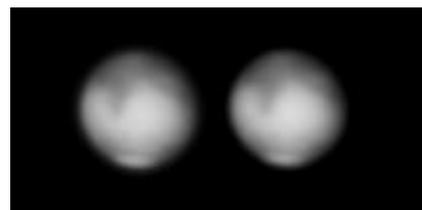
Did you know that EAS has two Yahoo forums to get news to the membership and to share astrophotos? In addition to the regular monthly newsletter, The Refractor, you can also get updates on EAS activities and find out what's going on at CSSC and in greater bay area. Ken Lum posts his weekly list of lectures, museum exhibits, star parties and more in the EAS Forum. You can also see recent astrophotos by EAS members in the EAS Imaging Forum.

All members are encouraged to post astronomy and science related news, announce star parties and outreach projects, or ask for assistance with telescopes, cameras and computers, observing techniques, research projects. The list goes on and on.

EAS Forum: <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/EastbayAstro/>

EAS Imaging Forum:
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/EASImaging/>

Stay up on the latest in EAS!



MARS



Eastbay Astronomical Society

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

March 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Eastbay Astronomical Society

President: Barry Leska leska@alameda.net

Treas: Richard Ozer (510) 532-5477 rozer@pacbell.net

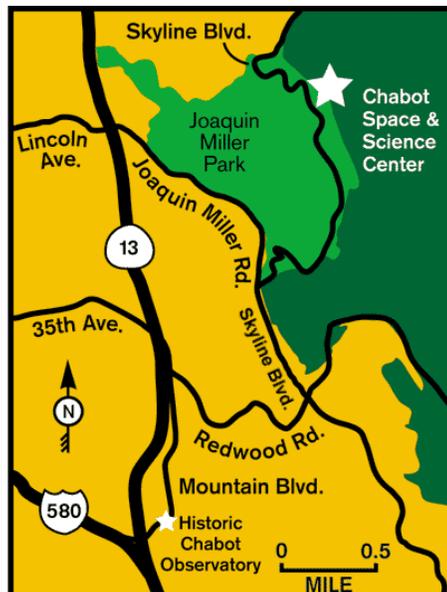
Secretary: Linda Lazzaretti (510) 633-2488

Articles and photos for *The Refractor* are encouraged. Deadline for the April 2010 issue is Apr. 10, 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: Ray Wong (510) 796-5748 qm7@yahoo.com

Membership Reg: Bruce Skelly EastbayAstro@gmail.com

Events Coord: Dave Rodrigues (510) 483-9191



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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 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/>