



The Refractor

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

Volume 89
 Number 4

January 2013

Eastbay Astronomical Society Holiday Party

When: Saturday, January 12, 2013, 6pm

What: Pot luck dinner, music and games

Where: Chabot Space & Science Center,
 Hauben Room, 2nd Floor, Dellums Building

You're not going to want to miss this one! We'll have great food, decorations, door prizes, games, and of course, good conversations with our fellow amateur astronomers - here's the details:

5:00-6:00pm Party Setups (help!)

6:00-7:30pm Dinner

7:30-8:30pm Wacky Gift Exchange

Times are flexible, depending on how long some activities go.

Our yummy pot luck dinner, for which the club will bring the main dishes (turkey and ham). If some or most of the rest of you could bring the rest in the following categories, that would be great (Last names): **A-F:** Drinks (water, sodas, coffee, tea), **G-L:** Dessert, **M-R:** Veggies, **S-Z:** Finger Food.)

Anyone interested in helping with decorations and set ups, please contact Don Saito (510) 301-2570 or send email to donsaito@yahoo.com.

Rules for 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 can afford it). Make it something that someone would actually want (no poo-pets, scented soap, whoopee cushions, etc., 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-steal-able. It can be pretty hilarious - try it, you'll like it!

Mark you calendars, and we'll see you there! ★



**NO DINNER WITH
 THE SPEAKER
 THIS MONTH**

**WE'RE HAVING A
 HOLIDAY PARTY,
 INSTEAD**

HOW NICE

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Reflections from the President

by Barry Leska

Reflecting on 2012

It is with a special sense of gratitude, that I am able to report on equipment donations received by the Eastbay Astronomical Society during 2012. These generous donations are especially meaningful to the Loaner Scope Program and the Telescope Maker's Workshop. The Loaner Scope Program provides EAS members an opportunity to try different types of equipment for a low rental fee. The Telescope Maker's Workshop is an outreach activity that teaches members and the public methods for creating a Newtonian style telescope.

During 2012, the following telescopes were donated to the Loaner Scope Program:

☺ In May, **Mr. Mike Frandy** donated a 4" telescope that was hand-made at the Telescope Maker's Workshop many years ago. This telescope has provided many hours of enjoyment to a 9-year old girl, and her father, that is currently making a telescope for herself at the TMW. Additionally, Mike donated a Meade 4504 114mm F8 optical tube. Thank you Mike!

☺ In September, **Mr. Sundeep Gill** and his brother, **Mr. Bob Gill**, donated a LX50 telescope. Although the LX50 model does not have the GPS go-to feature (so popular today for those that don't have time to learn the night-time sky from books and/or charts), this 10" Schmidt-Cassegrain is a delight to use. Although a 10" telescope is heavy, once setup, the telescope with its nice setting circles work great (and they are much better than some found on newer models). If you demand a large scope, and want to work 'the way it should be done', use this telescope to discover the wonder of the skies. Thank you Sundeep and Bob!



☺ In October, **Mr. Steve Toby** donated a 6" Meade LS telescope that has all the GPS functions and go-to capabilities. And, with this being a smaller size, it is easier to transport than some of our larger models. Thank you Steve!

☺ In December, **Cameron and Harold Teasdale**, along with **Mr. Ron Bass**, donated an older Celestron C-8. It's a great telescope and has a solar filter for day-time viewing.



During 2012, the following equipment was donated to the Loaner Scope Program:

☺ In May, **Mr. Jack Borde** donated an optical tester to the Telescope Maker's Workshop. This tester provides the instructors with another means of reviewing the optical performance of mirrors made at the Telescope Maker's Workshop. Thank you Jack!



☺ In July, **Mr. John Lewis** donated a 10" mirror blank to the Telescope Maker's Workshop. This donation of unused 'glass' provides an excellent opportunity for EAS to provide outreach to a person that does not have the full financial resources to create their own telescope. Thank you John!

☺ In September, **Mr. Walter Fosberg** donated a 20" mirror and portions of a telescope mount to the Telescope Maker's Workshop. These components will be utilized by the TMW instructors to refine large mirror telescope layout and construction techniques. Thank you Walter!

As you can see, EAS has been blessed this past year with some very nice reflecting telescopes! If you or anyone you know is interested in donating equipment to the Eastbay Astronomical Society, please contact the Loaner Scope Program director (who is also the EAS President—*Ed*), Barry Leska, at 630-715-5409 or b.leska@comcast.net. ★

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

- Maximize your potential in astronomy / science education
- Learn 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

Find out about our next Volunteer Orientation!

<http://www.chabotspace.org/volunteer/default.asp>

* 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!



Editor's News 'n Views

Howdy, Astro Fans! Yes, I'm baack! (Aieeee!) **Jim Ferreira** did an excellent job the past four years, taking over the newsletter editorship when I went on my 8.5 month cycling vacation back in 2009. After I got back, much to my surprise

and delight, he continued to do the work for another 3+ years, and for that we should all be grateful (myself, in especial), so I'm sure I speak for us all when I say, THANKS Jim! The newsletter editor job is not an easy one; trying to come up with material month-after-month can be a real effort—kind of like *pulling teeth*. But, it's got its rewards, too, and as soon as I figure them out, you'll be the first to know. By the way, if there's anyone out there in Membership-Land who'd like to give the newsletter editorship a go, let me (or any of the Board members) know. It can be fun to let your creative juices flow. For example: did you see that cool graphic on the cover page with the Christmas tree, festooned with planetary ornaments? I did that! I just got a new graphic editing program that works with layers, and I'm finally getting the hang of it. It only took me about FIVE HOURS of work, getting used to it, but the next time I do anything similar, it'll go a lot quicker. There—that's one of the rewards of the job right there; it's a definite learning experience!

This month, we've had a number of changes on our EAS club's Board that you might be interested to hear about. **Rollen Maski** has decided to retire as one of our two reps on the JPA Board (Joint Powers Association: Chabot Space & Science Center, City of Oakland, Oakland Unified School District, Eastbay Regional Park District). Thanks for the great job you did representing the EAS on the JPA Board, Rollen! You helped to keep our club's focus on the science of astronomy alive in the JPA, which at times is somewhat of a challenge. We also lost our amazing Programs Director, **Gene Weber**. Filling the shoes of our previous PD, **Dave Rodrigues**, was no small feat (get it—*feet* instead of *feat*? sorry), but Gene jumped in and did a fantastic job, so, THANK YOU Gene! Last but certainly not least, our President, **Barry Leska**, has decided to relinquish his office in 2013. Barry has been an awesome President; calm, cool, and collected in even the most intense political struggles that sometimes grip the very fabric of the EAS space/time continuum, he has been a guiding hands-on presence that got things done. But, the miracle(s) in all this is: we already have replacements for all three positions! Brave amateur astronomers willing to step up to the plate and give their time and energy for the betterment of Peoplekind (which is what our club is basically all about): **Dave Barosso** will be our new JPA rep, **Rod Simmons** will be our new club President, and **David Prosper** is already our new Programs Director. Thanks, guys. I for one am certain

each of you will forward our club's mission into the future with intelligence and vigor!

Other than that, below, you'll find a list of upcoming club events which include our Annual Awards Dinner on Saturday, March 16, and of course our most imminent event, the club's Holiday Party which will be held on Saturday, January 12. Be sure to mark you calendars, as you won't want to miss either one—they're both always a lot of fun. ★



Rollen Maski operating
20" refractor Rachel
for public view nights
at Chabot

FUTURE CLUB CONJUNCTIONS—2013

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Jan | 10 | Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm |
| | 12 | EAS Holiday Potluck Party* |
| | 13 | MOVN, Wightman Plaza, Chabot, 7pm |
| Feb | 14 | Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm |
| | 16 | EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Hauben Rm, 7:30pm |
| | 17 | MOVN, Wightman Plaza, Chabot, 7pm |
| Mar | 14 | Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm |
| | 16 | EAS Annual Awards Dinner*, 6pm |
| | 17 | MOVN, Wightman Plaza, Chabot, 7pm |
| Apr | 11 | Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm |
| | 14 | MOVN, Wightman Plaza, Chabot, 7pm |
| | 20 | EAS General Meeting, Chabot, Hauben Rm, 7:30pm |

*Leave message for Don Saito at (510) 482-2913 if you're interested in helping out for these events



Eastbay Astronomical Society

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

January 2013

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Eastbay Astronomical Society

President: Barry Leska

Treas: Richard Ozer (510) 406-1914

Secretary: Don Saito (510) 301-2570

b.leska@comcast.net

rozer@pacbell.net

donsaito@yahoo.com

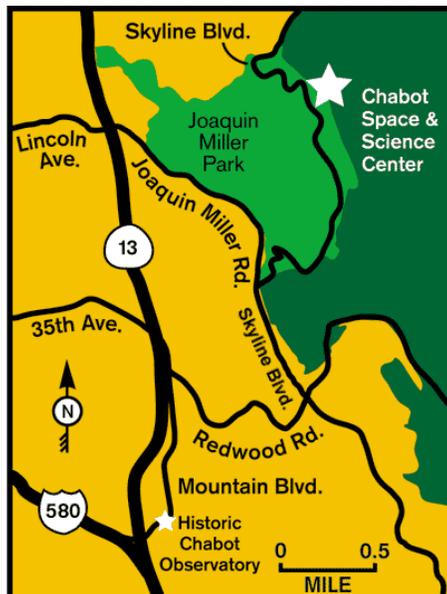
Vice President: Linda Lazzaretti - (510) 633-2488

Membership Reg: Rod Simmons - wileycoyote-genius@earthlink.net

Events Coord: David Prosper (510) 457-8346 - david_prosper@gmail.com

Articles and photos for *The Refractor* are encouraged. Deadline for the February 2013 issue is February, 1 2013. Items may be submitted by mail to:

Editor - 2676 Poplarwood Way, San Jose, CA 95132-1083. Internet email address: donsaito@yahoo.com Hm: (510) 301-2570.



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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: Richard Ozer, EAS Treasurer
Telephone: (510) 532-5477 Email: rozer@pacbell.net
Mail: PO Box 18635, Oakland, CA 94619-0635

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