

Prime Focus November 2001

TVS Presents

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church,
1893 N. Vasco Rd, Livermore Ca

When: November 9, 2001 Room set-up and
conversation at 7 PM Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

What / Who: The String along Telescope by John Swenson

A brief case sized and wight 6 inch F# 8 telescope. It is an innovative collapsible carbon fiber truss. I'll also be talking about a new testing method used to test the mirror the "lateral wire test".



The TVS time machine by Debbie Dyke

H2O Outhouses Update

On September 29, a hardy group of five individuals took upon the daunting task of sprucing up the outhouses at H2O. The fearless crew was comprised of Chuck Grant, Gary Steinhour, Mike Anderson, Jim Alves, and Debbie Dyke.

The condition of the outhouses was in worse shape than had been anticipated. Almost all of the paint had to be stripped off them; the interior of one was the only thing left in decent shape. Much time was spent preparing the privies for painting. At last, late in the afternoon, the painting began. Fortunately, Mike had brought a spray gun which made painting the exteriors go rather quickly. Unfortunately, due to the small confined space inside the houses, we weren't able to use the spray gun to paint the interiors. So out came the brushes and the rather long laborious process of painting the insides began.

Alas, the sun began to set before the painting was finished, so another work party was scheduled for the following Saturday, October 6. This time we were able to finish painting the interiors and touch up the exterior where the interior paint dribbled out of the louvers. To complete the sprucing up, we installed new toilet seats. Due to budgetary restraints and the lack of electricity, we were not able to install the large screen TV, the stereo system, or the central heating & air as we had originally planned.

So how do they look? Well, much better that's for sure. The house on the right is light brown in color, the house on the left is a dark brown. The interiors have a lovely cream & very pale salmon hue to them. About the only thing left to do is to cover up a large rusted out area at the base of one of the "seating areas" with a thin sheet of wood.

Special thanks to Debbie & Phil Scherrer and the Palomares 4H Club for the donation of their leftover paint. If you have need of some paint, come to the meeting as we'll be giving away the gallons of paint that we didn't use.



The H2O Brown and White Dwarf, black hole pair, await their event horizon encounter.

Next Club Project is restoring the H2O observatory mount. Chuck Grant has a bearing modification that needs someone to help bore the bearing hole larger. Contact Chuck if you have access to machinery so we can get this bearing upgrade finished and the 17 inch scope running again.

TVS has an email list which has been used many times to start new projects like; (the outhouse repair problem was worked out with the help of this group) and to plan events like week trips to H2O. You can joint the email list by going to this web link;

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/trivalleystargazers>

The Join button is on the right side of the web page. Once your cleared, this takes a day or two as we will likely email you to confirm your a TVS member before you will be able to participate.

This e-group is a place for TVS members to chat about the hobby of astronomy, telescope making, TVS activities, and any techniques, information, or web links to such matters. Members only. You must join the club before you can join this group. Notice of the electronic version of the news letter is posted to this list so your guaranteed delivery of the news letter well before the meetings.

TVS Elections

November is TVS's election month. The current group of officers are willing to continue in their duties for another year, but would gladly let someone else take over if they so desired. In other words, if anyone is interested in running for office by all means do so.

Other non-elected positions are up for grabs as well. We still have openings for a Program Director and Newsletter Editor that definitely need to be filled.

TVS officers & board positions for 2002:

President Chuck Grant

Vice-President Gary Steinhour

Treasurer Mike Anderson

Secretary Maggie Halberg

Non-elected positions, but up for grabs as well:

Librarian Jim Alves

Refreshments Debbie Dyke

Webmaster Chuck Grant

Observatory Director/Key Master

Chuck Grant

Newsletter Editor Mike Rushford (temporary)

Program Director

School and/or Public Star Party Chair

Historians/Archivists Paul Caswell, Debbie Dyke

Loaner Scope Program Manager John Swenson

Board of Directors

Alane Alchorn; Jim Alves; Dave Anderson; Dennis Beckley; Paul Caswell; Rich Combs; Debbie Dyke; Gert Gottschalk; Kathleen; Kelley; Signe McIntire; Dave Rodrigues; Mike Rushford; Debbie Scherrer; Al Stern; John Swenson; Norm Thomas; Phil Waide.

If you are on the Board and wish not to be, notify any club officer or board member.

Board of DIRECTORS MEETING: is held at the Round Table Pizza (925) 443-7374 1024 E Stanley Blvd; Livermore, CA at 7-9 PM the following Monday night after the general meeting. Anyone interested in the clubs event planning is invited to attend.

If you come to TVS meetings from Hayward or Castro Valley please consider giving a ride to Warren Phillips, he is 87 and can not drive at night on 580. For more information, contact any club officer

TVS WEBCAST of September meeting <http://sunmil1.uml.edu/cgi-bin/sept.ram>

STAR PARTIES AND EVENTS:

School star party (Rich Green has the details.)

Recent star parties reports: Oct 3 at Arroyo Camp 100 people and 5 scopes were treated to the celestial wonders by Rich Green, Brinton "Jonesy" Jones, Phil Waid Debbie Dyke and Gary Steinhour. A gathering followed in a nearby building to thank the TVS group. TVS has a digital camera in its loaner program and this could be used to take pictures of these events and those pictures could be shared here in this newsletter.

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Observers Handbooks and calendars: Your club treasurer, Mike Anderson, has ordered a supply of the Observer's Handbook 2002 by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. They are usually shipped sometime in November, so look for them at either the November or December general meeting. The cost for the handbook this year will be \$15 each, a bargain considering the cover price is \$22.95. Also, several copies of the Observer's Calendar 2002 have also been ordered and will be available for \$10, saving you \$5.95 off the cover price. The calendar contains pictures taken by fellow amateur astronomers and are suitable for framing. Again, look for the calendars at an upcoming general meeting., will soon (next month) be available, Mike Anderson <andersonmm@prodigy.net>

Newsletter deadlines:

Submit articles/info: within 4-5 days after board meetings, email to rushford@eyes-on-the-skies.org. Printing: weekend following a board meeting Stamping and Labeling Party: one week after a board meeting The newsletter is scheduled to be in the mail at least one week prior to the next General Meeting.

Currently we have no **program director**. If you have a program idea let a board member know and we will put it into the que. You might like to team up with another person and tell us about your project(s).

Tri-Valley Stargazers Membership: 233

Web site; <HTTP://www.trivalleystargazers.org> E-MAIL; tvs@trivalleystargazers.org
Meeting Location; Unitarian Universalist Church,
1893 M. Vasco Rd. Livermore Ca. Is 3/4 mile north
of I-580.

President, Web-admin, Observatory
Director Chuck Grant charleswgrant@home.net
925-422-7278
Vice-President Gary Steinhour
<garyjane@jps.net>
Secretary Marilyn Halberg
Treasurer Mike Anderson
<andersonm@prodigy.net>
Librarian Jim Alves
<jim_alves_engr@yahoo.com>
925-634-6220
<http://Eyes-on-the-Skies.org>
Robotics solar telescope and
“- acting as -” **News letter editor**
Mike Rushford
<rushford@eyes-on-the-skies.org>

The pictures on the right were take by Vice President Gary Steinhour, so he appears absent from this TVS “stars” field event..

WhatsUp

I searched the net for” what up in astronomy” and found these site;

www.ericstelescopes.com/Whatsup.htm

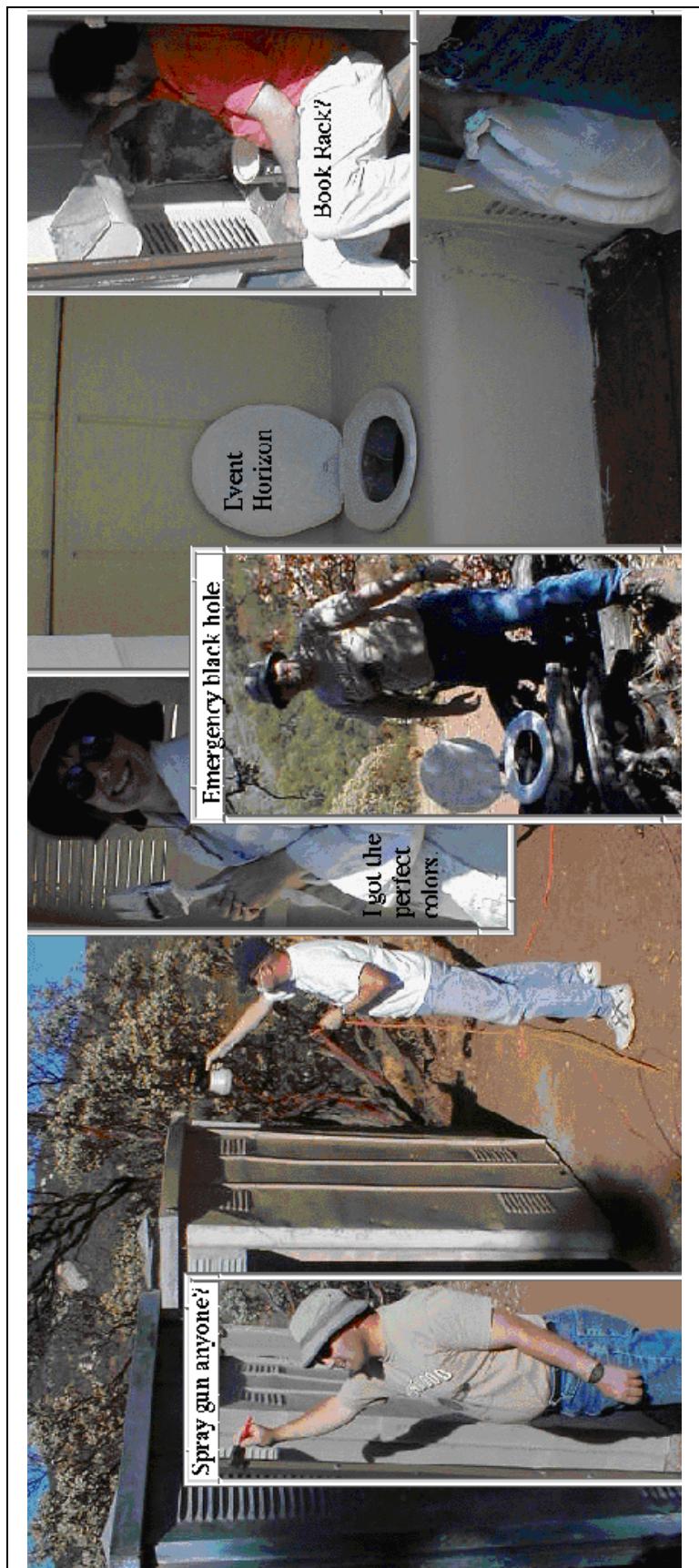
www.basnet.fsnet.co.uk/whatsup.htm

rampages.onramp.net/~binder/whatsup.html

www.calweb.com/~dmurry/scopes.html

This last sitee has a neat graphic, perhaps some TVS member could make something similar for our web page.

Lets us know what you find cool in astronomy and instrument making and we will print it here in the Newsletter.



Tri-Valley Stargazers Astronomy Club Membership Application/Renewal Form

Name _____ \$20 Single Membership

Address _____ \$25 Family Membership

_____ \$5 Student Membership
(under 18)

Phone (Optional) _____ \$40 Patron Membership
(in addition to above)

E-Mail (Optional) _____
____ \$20 Refundable Key DEP
____ \$29.95 Sky & Telescope

Discount Subscription
____ \$29 Astronomy Mag

Discount Subscription
____ Other Tax Deductible

Contribution to TVS
____ TOTAL

Membership Options (check those you want)

- Do not release my address, phone number, or e-mail to other TVS members
- Notify me via e-mail each month when the newest newsletter is available on the world wide web
- Don't send me the newsletter via US mail, I'll just read and/or print it out from the web (this option saves the club a substantial amount of money).

The term of membership is one calendar year - January through December.

All members agree to hold the Tri-Valley Stargazers, and any cooperating organizations or landowners, harmless from all claims of liability for any injury or loss sustained at a TVS function.

Return this form, with payment to:

Tri-Valley Stargazers
P.O. Box 2476
Livermore, CA 94551-2476

Notes:

Discount magazine subscriptions are available only near the beginning of each year. Sky & Telescope is normally \$36, club price \$29.95. Astronomy is normally \$35, club price \$29. Contact the Treasurer for questions about subscriptions

The patron membership fee is in addition to the regular membership fees. After one year of membership, those in good standing may apply for patron membership (subject to the approval of the board of directors)

to have access to the observatory with the 17.5" telescope. The number of patron memberships is limited; first priority is given to active patron members. For more details contact the Observatory Director.

2001 is the 13th year that a questionnaire will be used to improve the quality of the club programs and activities. The details of your response will be kept confidential. Summary results will be published in the April Issue of Prime Focus. Please answer all questions that apply. Attach an extra sheet of paper if necessary.

How did you learn about the club?_____

Why did you join?_____

Are we meeting your expectations ? ____ Yes ____ No

Comments_____

How long have you been interested in astronomy? _____ years.

How long have you been a member?

____ <1 year ____ 1-3 years ____ 3-5 years ____ over 5 years

How often do you attend the monthly meetings?

Almost always____ About half the time____ Occasionally____ Never____

How often do you view the monthly web casting of the meetings?

Almost always____ About half the time____ Occasionally____ Never____

Do you like ____ Paper or ____ electronic web version of the news letter.

How often do you go to our dark site?

Several times a month____ Once a month____ Every 2-3 months____ 1-3 times a year____

Never_____

Rate the following activities for their importance to you (1=very important, 5=no interest)

____ Monthly meetings/speakers

____ Star parties at our dark site

____ Public star parties

____ Field trips to Yosemite, White Mtns, etc.

____ Using the 30" telescope at Fremont Peak

____ Telescope making

____ CCD imaging

____ Astrophotography (film)

____ Deep-sky observing (faint objects)

____ School programs/presentations

____ Computer programs, Internet, bulletin boards

What kind of instrument do you use most for observing?

What program topics would you like us to cover at the meetings?

____ Do you have a computer? ____ Yes ____ No

Type: _____ Macintosh _____ IBM or Clone

Do you have access to the Internet? _____ Yes _____ No

e-mail? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you visited the TVS web page? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you use your computer for astronomy related purposes? _____ Yes _____ No If so, what?

Have you ever borrowed books from the TVS library? _____ Yes _____ No

Books you would like us to have: _____

Are you interested in helping with a school program? _____ Yes _____ No

How is the newsletter format and content? _____

Are there any activities that you would like us to provide? _____

Can you suggest any improvements to the club? _____

