

The Quasar Quarterly

Have we got SPACE for YOU!

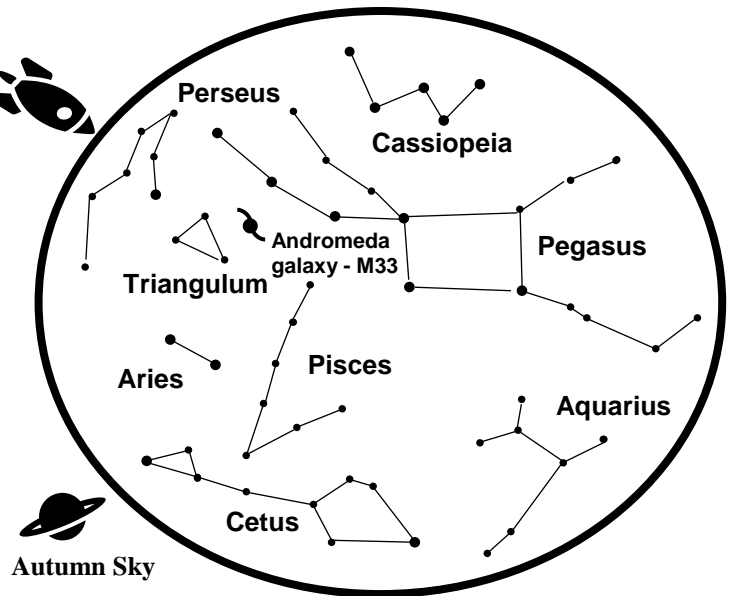
Newsletter of the Los Angeles Valley College Astronomy Group

From the editor

Return of the Newsletter!

Greetings, welcome back to a new semester and a new newsletter. Originally, the plan had been to begin printing *The Quasar Quarterly* again in 2016, and, now, after a few setbacks the newsletter is finally ready to re-launch: for the club and LAVC, the community and space enthusiasts alike, and, of course, mankind. Club and class resources along with astronomy-related topics will be found here for your benefit and enjoyment. Input is welcome as well as requests for topics to include that may satisfy your curiosity or clarify any confusing concepts encountered in class.

Robert Mejia - Editor



Autumn Sky

Club Officers

President - Bryan Stranahan

Vice Presidents - Buddy Watson
& Zach Montes

Secretary - Loni Young

Assistant Secretary - Daniel Hoffmann

Treasurer - Rodrigo Torres

Assistant Treasurer - Spencer Marks

Faculty Sponsor - David Falk

Newsletter Editor - Robert Mejia

The LAVC Astronomy Group

The LAVC planetarium and its inhabitants, the LAVC Astronomy Group, offer to the community opportunities to experience amateur astronomy in our otherwise light-polluted city. In 1986, the local universe, Valley Glen, was devoid of the group but not a passion for all things space. A club was thus created with help from a younger David Falk, at the time a de facto technician for the planetarium, and late professor Bob Barlow becoming its sponsor.

The eons since have seen many people come and go, yet there remains a dedicated few who have remained year after year. Bonnie Kent, for example, has been with the club since 1988. Secretary Loni Young has been a member for almost 20 years. Daniel Hoffmann and Rodrigo Torres have both been involved for over 10 years. Other notable figures include physicist and speaker Jed Laderman, who is no stranger to astronomy clubs, and Robert Gerard, the namesake for the group's guest speaker series created in gratitude to him, his family, and his passion for astronomy and the LAVC astronomy group. He passed away in 2014.

The planetarium has provided a venue for engaging shows and lectures since 1966 on topics ranging from the constellations, aliens, space exploration and black holes. Speakers hail from places such as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) working on advanced missions to LAVC astronomy lab professor, Hal Jandorf, discussing down-to-earth astrophotography. After public shows, if the night is clear, the community is invited to view for themselves otherwise inaccessible views of the cosmos through a 16-inch telescope nestled within an impressive dome atop the planetarium.

Ultimately, the goal of the group is to promote education, discussion, outreach, and enthusiasm of astronomy and space.

Robert Mejia - Editor

Club Reports

Sept 15th Meeting

- *The Quasar Quarterly* is OK'd for publishing after some suggested edits are made. Also; the newsletter is open for suggestions and submissions.
- The group discussed the design of a banner with the motto, "Bringing the Stars to You!", to be placed outside the planetarium.
- Dr. Ralph Bird followed the meeting with an excellent lecture on gamma-ray astronomy.
- As usual, suggestions for topics and speakers for the lecture series are welcome.

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Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Tour

Shortly after arrival to JPL, I joined 90 other eager visitors within the von Karman center where we enjoyed a video and several scale models including Galileo and Voyager. Afterwards, we broke into smaller groups and walked to Mission Control and a high bay. We regrouped by replicas of the Mars rovers, Spirit and Pathfinder, and walked through a display of the solar system scaled to a cut-out of the sun. That really put our size into perspective. After one last video, we received stickers and perused the gift shop before heading home.

You can have your very own JPL tour experience by going to jpg.nasa.gov/events/tours and selecting Visitor Day Tour. You can reserve space for up to 10 people. New tour dates can be posted any day so check back frequently for a day that works for you.

Buddy Watson -Vice President

A Zeiss planetarium projector in Berlin - 1929



Source: Creative Commons via Wikipedia

Robert Gerard Foundation Memorial Lecture Series

- Sept 15 - Dr. Ralph Bird "High Energy Astronomy"
- Oct 13 - Dr. Jerrell Thomas "Building the Saturn V Rocket for Apollo"

Sponsors:



Find Us At:

LAVC Planetarium: 5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen, 91401

Hotline: Recorded information (818) 947-2335

Web: lavcastrogroup.org

Joining the Club

You can join at a Sunday Business Meeting. Membership is \$15.00 per year. Membership is open to students and the community.

For questions, suggestions, or complaints about *The Quasar Quarterly* or to contribute a submission, please contact Robert Mejia at robsmejia05@gmail.com. Thank You.

Resources

For Students

Astro Tutoring: LARC 213 with Daniel Valle
Mon: 1:30 - 3:30 & Tues & Thu: 1:30 - 5:30

Tips

Look up! ... Research! ... Learn!

We are part of the *Night Sky Network*, a nationwide network of astronomy clubs sponsored by NASA and other science organizations. Check out nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov to discover clubs, events, NASA, and space science.

Fall Tip For Getting to Know the Night Sky:

In the old days, constellations were learned from experience or on paper. Nowadays, technology offers interactive, digital planetariums in the palm of your hand through smartphones. Many are free and readily available in app stores. Knowing the night sky is also like knowing your directions in the Milky Way once you have celestial movements figured out. Try it!



Events



Hint: * Extra Credit* with proof of attendance and written report.

Earth

* LAVC Planetarium - Robert Gerard Foundation Memorial Lecture Series and public full-dome shows. Pick up a flyer from the planetarium or download it from the web. Please see Resources section below.

* Griffith Observatory - Attend a planetarium show and don't forget to save the ticket stub.

* Star Parties - Public telescope viewings sponsored by local astronomy groups. For example, once every month at Griffith Observatory.

Sky

- Mercury transit across the sun on November 11-12. Viewable in Los Angeles. Its next transit will be in 2032!

THE PLANETS - This fall, Venus will be bright and visible in the western evening sky from October to December. By November, Jupiter will be too low in the west to see. Look southwards for Saturn near Sagittarius.