

# aslc bulletin

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY of LAS CRUCES  
New Mexico  
[www.aslc-nm.org](http://www.aslc-nm.org)



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2004

## CALENDAR October - November 2004

<b>New Moon:</b>	October 14 / Thursday	November 12 / Friday
<b>Public Star Parties:</b> La Llarona Park	Oct 9 Saturday	Nov 4 Saturday
<b>Dark Sky Gatherings:</b> Upham DSO site	Oct 16 Saturday	Nov 11 Saturday
<b>Moongazes:</b> International Delights Café	Oct 23 Saturday	Nov 25 Saturday
Oct 22/Fri	<b>ANNUAL Meeting</b> 730 pm DABCC <b>Prog.</b> TBA; <b>Business;</b> <i>Election of Officers for 2005</i>	
Oct 27/We	<b>Lunar Eclipse</b> Begins at Moonrise (over the Organ Mountains) <b>Totality</b> 8:23 - 9:45 pm	
Oct 31/Su	<b>Mountain Standard Time Resumes</b> 01:00 Set your timepiece <i>back</i> one hour!	
Nov 6-7	<b>Renaissance Faire</b> See " <i>Looking Ahead</i> " and <a href="http://www.zianet.com/daac/renfaire.htm">http://www.zianet.com/daac/renfaire.htm</a>	
Nov 12/Fri	<b>Taurids</b> Meteor Shower Peaks	
Nov 26/Fri	<b>Regular Meeting</b> 730 pm <b>Place:</b> DABCC or TBA <b>Program:</b> TBA <b>Business;</b> TBA	

## THIS MONTH - October [ Annual Meeting / Election of Officers 2005 ]

**ANNUAL MEETING;** **October 22;** 7:30 PM, Room 77; Dona Ana Branch Community College

**IAW By-laws III, section 2** " The regular meeting held in October will be the annual meeting of the Society."

**Primary Business** Election of Officers for 2005. Ballots are included in this issue of the ASLC Bulletin.

**Other Business** Such business as has been designated for membership action by the Board of Directors.

**Peripheral Business** Recruitment of a new *ASLC Bulletin* editor/publisher. The November'04-January'05 Issue to be published in mid November will be the final product from your present ed/publisher. - *Al Bailey*

RASC Observers Handbooks may be available to distribute to those who have ordered them. - *Richard Jones*

**Program:** *Robert Dragon:* Background in physics/engineering and taught astronomy at American International College in Springfield Massachusetts. Was president of ASLC for two years c. 1978. Now into archaeoastronomy. Robert and his wife Ann are currently working on an Archaeoastronomy project in Show Low AZ. As you may remember at one meeting last year he gave a brief report on their discoveries there. He says "Since then our research has advanced a great deal and there are more discoveries and an obvious advanced knowledge of astronomy by the Mogollon who populated the site about 1168 AD. One important feature of this research is the discovery of a "star map rock" from 1168 AD. During that year an important alignment of the visible planets, the Pleiades star cluster, and the crescent moon occurred in the pre-dawn sky. This event was commemorated by a star map rock consisting of holes or "cupules" drilled into a sandstone rock representing the naked eye planets and several stars. We proceeded by filling the cupules with sugar, electronically photographing the rock, and computer enhancing the image - the night sky of 5 June 1168 AD." Robert will be presenting some of the details of his work in AZ at our meeting

## NEXT MONTH - November [ TBA ]

**Regular Meeting;** **November 26;** 7:30 PM, Room 77; Dona Ana Branch Community College (or TBA)

**Program** "*To Be Announced*" **Business** "*To Be Announced*" Look for the November-January issue.

## NEWS & VIEWS

**We regret to report** the death of A. S. ("Scotty") Murrell September 25, 2004. A dedicated member of ASLC since its inception, he had been an ASLC and ALPO member for half a century and was in addition a valued personal friend to many of us. Scotty was a native of Clovis, New Mexico. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II and spent most of his working life on the staff of the New Mexico State University Observatory. There, he was a major observer in the search for possible small natural satellites of the Earth in

the 1950's. In later decades of the 20th century he was a major contributor to the amassing of a very large collection of (traditional) planetary photographs. It was said that he specialized in securing good photos on nights almost completely cloudy. He was a very active member of the ASLC and was the Treasurer for many years. His patience and diligence with forgetful members in this tiresome chore were truly legendary. He was always most willing to help others in innumerable ways- e.g., finding meeting rooms for the Society and collimating the writer's Newtonians. He was very helpful with the three ALPO Conventions which have been held in Las Cruces, including caring for the familiar exhibit. Scotty will be greatly missed. ..*Walter Haas*

**Lunar Eclipse on October 27th.** Governor Richardson has proclaimed October 27 to be Dark Sky Appreciation Night in New Mexico. During the total eclipse, observers may enjoy the darkened sky by viewing deep-sky objects such as star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae-normally an impossible feat on a full moon night. The eclipse starts at 7:14 pm and isn't entirely over until 12:03 am. The total eclipse will begin at 8:23 pm and end at 9:45 pm. Last year we held a Lunar Eclipse viewing at the Tombaugh Observatory on campus with a fairly good turn out. As good as it was we have had better crowds at some of our school star parties. In view of that I would suggest that we try to plan to accommodate as many schools with Lunar Eclipse programs as we can get members to support. Possibly we can get the NMSU Astronomy department to put something on at the Tombaugh Observatory. Also White Sands Missile Range Public Information office would like to do something for this event as well, but that could be done at the school there. Any comments, suggestions or better ideas? Give me a call; then let's talk at next mwwting. ... *Richard Jones*

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/13oct\\_lunareclipse.htm?list6892](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/13oct_lunareclipse.htm?list6892)

### **Renaissance Faire 2004**

ASLC has again reserved space in the Children's Realm at the Doña Ana Arts Council 2004 Renaissance Craft Faire. The dates and times for the Faire are November 6 and 7 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. Booth/exhibit space set-up will be from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm on November 5 and tear-down after 5:00 pm on November 7. Yes, this is only four (4) weeks from now and if ASLC is to make its presence noted, we need volunteers for every aspect to commit now.

A primary focus of our display is to promote Project-Astro in our public schools, so any information that you believe is pertinent to that effort, please submit it so that we can develop/print handouts for the Faire. We plan to display a group of portable telescopes ranging from inexpensive entry level scopes and binoculars to whatever level the membership can demonstrate is available. Nils Allen will demonstrate building a Dobsonian telescope over the course of the two days and we plan to have a drawing for one person to attend the fall Telescope Making Workshop free of charge. If possible, we would like to display examples of our astrophotographers' work, including but not limited to Dave Dockery's prize winning efforts. Assuming the weather and Old Sol cooperate, we will have a solar viewing area available. This was a big hit last year so you folks with solar filters for your scopes, let us hear from you. Any ideas of other presentations/ demonstrations that we could do, especially child or youth directed, would be greatly appreciated.

Please remember, the Doña Ana Arts Council prefers that persons working in booths and display areas dress in Renaissance-period costume, but the costume police won't throw you out if you don't (we had at least two "wizards" in the booth last year). Also, there is no electrical power available in the Children's Realm. So, if it needs power, it must be via battery. Please contact Richard Jones, Cindye Sellards or John McCullough if you will volunteer any/all days and in what manner, or have suggestions. -*John McCullough*

**Fall 2004 Stargazing course** (introductory astronomy) at the DABCC. We have a small class of 7 students this time and it's going well. Several students and some other folks showed up at La Llarona Park Saturday night (10/9) and Steve & I gave them a good sky show, including observing Uranus. ... *Nils Allen*

**Our next Telescope Making Workshop** is scheduled to commence in mid-November with an introductory meeting most likely on Nov. 10. Interested parties should contact me. ... *Nils Allen nilsa@zianet.com*

**"RASC Observers Handbook" has been ordered!** Put out by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada each year, these books have been selling for about \$26. We have been ordering a large enough quantity that we have been able to get them for \$15. I hope to have them for distribution at annual meeting. ...*Richard Jones*

**Astro-Images of New Mexico:** The LodeStar Astronomy Center and The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS) have announced the October 2 opening of the third annual "*Astro-Images of New Mexico: Portraits from the Foothills of Space*" astrophotography contest exhibition. The exhibition, a celebration of the unique beauty of the New Mexico skies, features 30 celestial images taken throughout the state of New Mexico by amateur photographers. Images were submitted in four categories: Land & Sky, Plate/Film/Digital, Photo Illustration, and CCD (very light-sensitive digital imaging). How many ASLC members do you recognize in this roster?

**David Dockery of Las Cruces was awarded Best of Show** for his finely-detailed, black-and-white image of the Sun with sunspots, entitled "Sunspots--Before the Storm." The image records colossal sunspots gathering on the Sun on October 27, 2003, one day before the eruption of the third largest solar flare ever recorded. Dockery captured the winning shot with a Nikon Coolpix digital camera and Baader solar filter, shooting through the eyepiece of a TeleVue 85mm refracting telescope, for 1/500th of a second. The other 2004 contest award winners are:

- Jim Gale of Albuquerque - First Place, Land & Sky - image of forest and star trails.
- Eric Green of Norfolk, Virginia - Second Place, Land & Sky - image of Moon and yucca.
- Randall Roberts of Carlsbad - Honorable Mention, Land & Sky - image of lightning and Delphinus constellation.
- Richard Sass of Cloudcroft - Honorable Mention, Land & Sky - image of White Sands Star Party and star trails.
- Mark Hanson of Madison, Wisconsin - First Place, Plate/Film/Digital - image of the Running Man Nebula; and Second Place, Plate/Film/Digital - image of the Veil Nebula, a supernova remnant.
- David Dockery of Las Cruces - Honorable Mention, Plate/Film/Digital - image of the North American Nebula.
- Carl Frisch of Rio Rancho - First Place, CCD - image of the Leo I dwarf galaxy.
- Daniel Galassini of Albuquerque - Second Place, CCD - image of the Lagoon Nebula.
- John Laning of Tijeras - Honorable Mention, CCD - image of the Cocoon Nebula.
- Mark Hanson of Madison, Wisconsin - First Place, Photo Illustration - enhanced image of the Orion constellation and deep-sky objects.
- Randall Roberts of Carlsbad - Second Place, Photo Illustration - collage image of moon, Venus, sleeping child, and poem.
- David Dockery of Las Cruces - Honorable Mention, Photo Illustration - enhanced image of the Andromeda Galaxy.

The images will be on display through February 28, 2005 at the LodeStar Astronomy Center, located in the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science in Old Town Albuquerque.

**BALLOT** ----- Bring to meeting OR refold, affix stamp, and mail before Oct 20 ----- **BALLOT**  
**Secretary; ASLC, PO Box 921, Las Cruces, NM 88004**

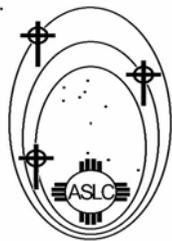
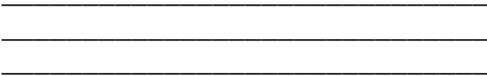
OFFICIAL BALLOT - Astronomical Society of Las Cruces, New Mexico  
 ELECTION OF OFFICERS for Year 2005

22 October 2004

OFFICE	NOMINATED CANDIDATE	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President	<input type="checkbox"/> Rich Richins	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Vincent	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Timothy Barnett-Queen**	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Janet Stevens**	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Elected Director	<input type="checkbox"/> John McCullough**	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Elected Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Olsen	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
	** incumbent	

Voting Member:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Sorry, we cannot accept unverified ballots; be sure to include your name (here), if not on the mailing label (reverse)



Secretary  
**ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**  
 PO Box 921,  
 Las Cruces, NM 88004

**ASLC BALLOT October 2004**

**ASLC OFFICERS 2004** [Board@aslc-nm.org](mailto:Board@aslc-nm.org)

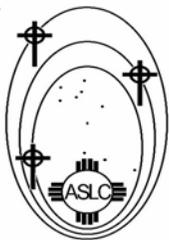
PRES. Steve Barks <a href="mailto:sbarks@comcast.net">sbarks@comcast.net</a>	647-8270	V PRES. Rich Richins <a href="mailto:rrichins@zianet.com">rrichins@zianet.com</a>	646-5169
SECY. Timothy Barnett-Queen <a href="mailto:trbqueen@zianet.com">trbqueen@zianet.com</a>	521-8028	TREAS. Janet Stevens <a href="mailto:jastevens@zianet.com">jastevens@zianet.com</a>	382-9131
PAST Pres. Richard Jones <a href="mailto:Richard.Jones@zianet.com">Richard.Jones@zianet.com</a>	523-4449	DIRECTORS: A.Scott Murrell; John McCullough EMERITUS: Walter Haas; Jed Durrenberger	

**MEMBERSHIP in the ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY of Las CRUCES, offers:**

Frequent observing sessions and parties; Opportunities to work on club and public educational projects and the ASLC Bulletin, our monthly newsletter, plus the quarterly A.L. Reflector, newsletter of the Astronomical League. Also, as an ASLC member you are entitled to the \$10 club discounted rate on subscriptions to Sky and Telescope magazine. To join the ASLC, or renew membership; your dues are only, \$35.00 per year. For those who opt to receive this BULLETIN electronically, a \$5.00 discount will apply. The optional club discounted *Sky and Telescope* presently adds \$33.00, totaling \$68 or \$63 per year. At either of these rates, mail dues, payable to **A.S.L.C.** with application form or a note to:

**Treasurer ASLC, PO Box 921, Las Cruces, NM 88004**

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