



News from The Society for Astronomical Sciences

Vol. 6, Number 2

Successful 2008 SAS Symposium

The 2008 SAS Symposium is now in the history books. As in the past, the symposium was successful with a total of around 110 participants taking part in the 3-day event. Usually this event takes place under the clear and sunny skies of Southern California but this year we witnessed a different and unusual kind of

SAS booth at RTMC a big success

At this past years planning meeting for the SAS 2008 Symposium, the committee decided to try something different in order to help boost membership, to have a booth at the RTMC event following the Symposium. While membership was not sagging, it was not growing

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Workshop Questionnaire results

If you recall, at the end of the 2008 symposium we issued a questionnaire asking attendees to rank six possible workshop topics for next years symposium. Here were the final results with 72 participants:

1. Data Mining
2. Spectroscopy (my favorite topic!)
3. Writing Scientific papers
4. Introduction to Photometry
5. Binary Maker 3
6. Software Bisque

At this fall's meeting of the SAS committee we will take these opinions into consideration as we set next year's workshops.



climate, snow and rain, with rather cool weather throughout the event. As in the past the Symposium was initiated one day earlier with the workshop series. Bob Denny gave a workshop on ACP observatory control software while Doug George spoke on the scientific applications of MaxIm DL. This year we had a wider mix of topics to listen to ranging

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Commi ttee:

- Lee Snyder – Co-Chairman
- Robert Stephens – Co-Chairman
- Robert Gill – Audio Visual Webmaster
- Dave Kenyon – Program Co-Chairman
- Dale Mais – Program Co-Chairman, Newsletter editor
- Brian Warner– Program Co-Chairman
- Jerry Foote–Program Co-Chairman

Advisors:

- Arne Henden
- Dirk Terrell
- Alan Harris



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Utica Avenue, Suite 105, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730. You may also join online at the registration page of the web site. Membership dues are tax deductible.

We currently have 82 members with many renewals due in by June 1.

The SAS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Your Participation Wanted!

As I have mentioned in previous Newsletters, we need your participation in the Newsletter. We don't want this to become a one person or just a couple person show. If you have an article which can cover a variety of topics, please put it together for a future Newsletter. Work in progress is always welcome. In addition, we have started a "letters to the Editor" section where we would like to add 2-3 letters from the members/participants. We had no letters to incorporate into this Newsletter edition. Constructive comments are always welcome as we are always looking for ways to improve not only the quality of the Newsletter but also the quality of the Symposium. We want the SAS to become a year around organization not just a once a year group.

SAS 2008

from outreach programs to spectroscopy, interferometry, radio telescopes and exoplanet success stories. This year we also had a group of students join in the festivities and talk about their efforts in measuring the Hubble constant.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the talk by Cindy Foote as she relayed her experiences over the past 4 years in becoming a seasoned exoplanet searcher and discoverer. Prior to this she was what would be best described as an astronomy spouse, a spouse who tags along with her spouse to these kinds of events. (I think she came along to keep Jerry out of trouble!!) Following a talk given at an SAS Symposium just a few years ago, the fire took hold and now she has four exoplanet discoveries to her name! It's pretty impressive to be able to say that you have discovered another world out there and it can be accomplished with modest equipment AND attention to photometric detail.

Once again we had representation from the French spectroscopy group, Olivier Thizy, who spoke on his favorite topics, spectroscopy and Be stars.

The SAS committee will be meeting this year, not at one of the member's home as we have done in the past but at the upcoming Pacific Astronomy and Telescope Show (PATS) to discuss next year's Symposium. Remember, next year's event is a special joint meeting between SAS and the AAVSO. Fortunately, this committee member will probably be able to attend. I have taken a position at a company in Mattawan, Michigan (I know I can hear it now, where the heck is Mattawan) where I am currently living waiting for my family to join me. I plan to continue to be active in SAS and to attend next years symposium in Big Bear.

Membership Information

Membership in your new Society for Astronomical Sciences (SAS).

As was pointed out with the last issue, it was felt that a modest membership fee would greatly help SAS to produce a better product for its members. This fee will be \$25.00 per year. What will this membership fee provide? Well for one thing it WILL NOT go to any committee members as part of their efforts within SAS. We volunteer our time for The Society.

Members will receive a discount for the registration fee each year for the Symposium at Big Bear. It will assure you that you will get a copy of the published proceedings each year, even if you do not attend the Symposium. It will help defray costs in bringing in outside speakers (professionals) to the symposium.

Membership is annual and runs from July to June of the following year. To become a member, send \$25 to: Society for Astronomical Sciences, 8300





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Group photo at this years
SAS Symposium





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SAS Booth, continued from page 1

either, remaining roughly constant during the past 4 years. In spite of the weather which was cold and snowy, the booth seemed to be the center of activity along the main vendor alley leading to the telescope fields. Our theme of "Come over to the dark side" went over well with those passing by and once they looked at our booth, Lee 's ever bubbly personality reeled them in for the catch! Many members dropped by and helped by engaging those who passed by in active discussion of what SAS is all about and why "they" should come over to the dark side. Olivier Thizzy brought is new visual spectrometer and set it up alongside the booth where many could be seen observing the details of the solar spectrum between cloud patches. In all, we signed up nine new members to the SAS, more than 10% of our current active membership! This will be an event we will consider again for 2009.





New Yahoo Discussion Group on Astrophysics

by Stan Gorodenski

I created a new Yahoo discussion group oriented toward spectroscopy and photometry. The purpose of the group, as also stated in the groups web page, is as follows.

"This discussion group originated as an attempt to fill a void among discussion groups in Arizona by having a group that is more technical and research oriented. However, besides Arizona, it is open to amateur, semi-professional, and professional astronomers in the adjoining states of the South West USA, as well as anyone anywhere, on this planet, with an interest in spectroscopy or photometry. The purpose of the group is twofold. First, it is to provide a forum to discuss all aspects of spectroscopy and photometry, from theory and research results to the practical aspects of data collection and hardware and software requirements. Although the main emphasis is spectroscopy and photometry, it is also open to anyone who might have questions related to the operation of telescopes and CCD's. However, imaging and techniques of imaging, except as they apply to spectroscopy and photometry, are off limits."

"The second purpose of the group is to serve as an outlet for meetings held either by the list owner or members of the group."

I do not view this group as being in competition with the larger established lists because it has slightly different purposes and because it is more local, being primarily for Arizona and the surrounding states, i.e., the South West. Here there is a large concentration of astronomers and so I think this group would be beneficial by promoting research in astronomical photometry and

spectroscopy and to encourage communications and collaborations amongst residents of the South West.

If you would like to join the group go to the group website

