

# Saguaro Astronomy Club

Metro Phoenix, Arizona

## SACNEWS



December 1991 — Issue #179

## Comet Comments

by Don Machholz

Three new comets have been discovered lately. Meanwhile, Periodic Comet Hartley remains brighter than expected, and Comet 1991d, discovered early this year, is in our morning sky.

Periodic	Comet	Hartley	2	(1991t)
Date	RA-1950-Dec	RA-2000-Dec	Elong	Sky Mag
11-25	10h38.1m -02°33'	10h40.6m -02°48'	80°	M 9.9
11-30	10h43.7m -03°40'	10h46.2m -03°56'	83°	M 10.1
12-05	10h48.4m -04°42'	10h50.9m -04°58'	87°	M 10.2
12-10	10h52.1m -05°38'	10h54.7m -05°54'	90°	M 10.3
12-15	10h54.9m -06°27'	10h57.4m -06°44'	94°	M 10.5
12-20	10h56.7m -07°11'	10h59.2m -07°27'	99°	M 10.6
12-25	10h57.4m -07°47'	10h59.9m -08°04'	103°	M 10.7
12-30	10h57.1m -08°17'	10h59.6m -08°33'	108°	M 10.8
01-04	10h55.4m -08°38'	10h58.3m -08°54'	113°	M 10.9

Periodic	Comet	Faye	(1991n)
Date	RA-1950-Dec	RA-2000-Dec	Elong Sky Mag
11-25	01h57.6m +00°58'	02h00.2m +01°10'	145° E 10.2
11-30	02h01.5m +00°58'	02h04.0m +00°54'	141° E 10.3
12-05	02h06.0m +00°25'	02h08.6m +00°48'	137° E 10.4
12-10	02h11.2m +00°38'	02h13.8m +00°52'	133° E 10.5
12-15	02h17.0m +00°52'	02h19.6m +01°06'	129° E 10.7
12-20	02h23.4m +01°14'	02h25.9m +01°27'	126° E 10.8
12-25	02h30.3m +01°42'	02h32.8m +01°56'	123° E 10.0
12-30	02h37.6m +02°17'	02h40.2m +02°30'	120° E 10.1
01-04	02h45.5m +02°56'	02h48.1m +03°08'	117° E 10.3

**Periodic Comet McNaught-Hughes (1991y):** Robert McNaught reported his discovery of a comet on a plate taken by S. Hughes. We now know that this comet is periodic, orbiting the sun every 6.7 years. It was closest the sun last June at 2.12 AU and remains fainter than fifteenth magnitude.

**Periodic Comet Shoemaker-Levy 5 (1991z):** Carol and Eugene Shoemaker and David Levy picked up this comet on plates exposed October 2. They were using the 18" Schmidt at Mt. Palomar. Then at magnitude 16, the comet will not get brighter even though it is approaching perihelion (Dec. 1 at 1.98 AU) in its 8.6-year orbit.

## Quick Calendar

Star Party

Buckeye Hills Recreation Area

Saturday, December 7

SAC Christmas Party

7:30, Saturday, December 14

Potluck

Star Party

Buckeye Hills Recreation Area

Saturday, December 28

**Comet Shoemaker-Levy (1991a<sub>1</sub>):** The same team also discovered this comet four days later. It will be closest the sun next July at 0.8 AU and should be visible then in binoculars in the northern summer sky.

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Comet	Shoemaker-Levy		(1991d)
Date	RA-1950-Dec	RA-2000-Dec	Elong Sky Mag
11-25	14h30.7m +36°41'	14h32.7m +36°28'	61° M 11.2
11-30	14h48.0m +37°10'	14h50.0m +36°58'	62° M 11.1
12-05	15h05.7m +37°38'	15h07.6m +37°27'	64° M 11.1
12-10	15h23.2m +38°05'	15h25.7m +37°54'	65° M 11.1
12-15	15h42.3m +38°29'	15h44.1m +38°20'	66° M 11.0
12-20	16h00.9m +38°51'	16h02.7m +38°42'	67° M 11.0
12-25	16h19.6m +39°10'	16h21.4m +39°02'	68° M 11.0
12-30	16h38.3m +39°25'	16h40.0m +39°20'	68° M 11.0
01-04	16h56.8m +39°36'	16h58.5m +39°34'	68° M 11.0

## Directions to SAC Events

**SAC General Meetings** 7:30 PM at Grand Canyon University, Fleming Building, Room 105 — 1 mile west of Interstate 17 on Camelback Rd., north on 33rd Ave., second building on the right.

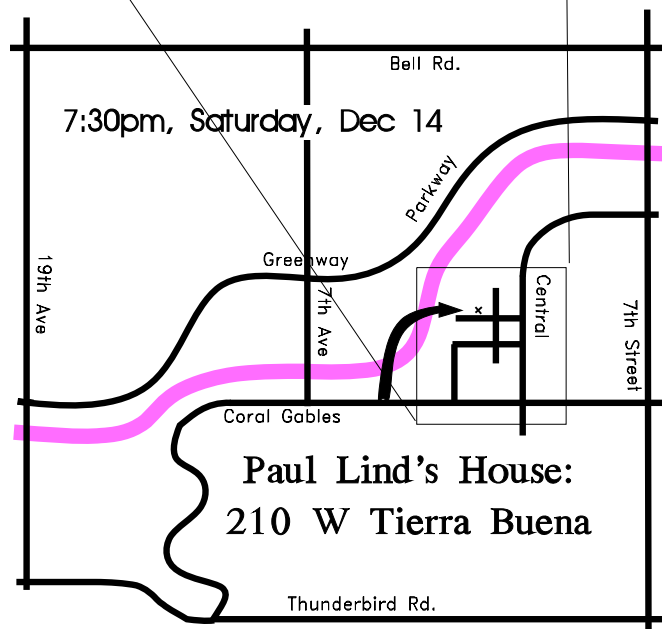
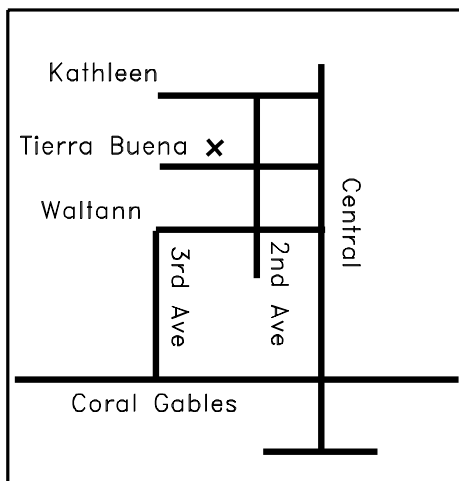
**SAC Star Parties** at Buckeye Hills Recreation Area — Interstate 10 west to Exit 112 (30 miles west of Interstate 17), then south for 10.5 miles, right at entrance to recreation area, one-half mile, on the right. No water and only pit toilets. Please arrive before sunset; allow one hour from central Phoenix.

# Bits and Pieces

## Coming Events

The elections are over. Those elected to office for 1992 are: President, Paul Lind; Vice-President, Steve Coe; Treasurer, Bob Dahl; Secretary, Susan Morse; for Properties, Rich Walker.

The end of the year party is upon us. Below is a map:



Several Public Star parties are being planned for the Spring. Currently it looks like South Mountain in February, Reach 11 in March, and Thunderbird Park in April.

## Minutes of the October Meeting

President Paul Lind called the meeting to order at 7:35pm. Several visitors introduced themselves. Paul then summarized upcoming events. Bob Dahl then presented the Treasurer's report. We are now 111 full members. He also reminded the club members that dues are now due (see the Member Services Form on the back page).

Officer nominations for 1992 were then opened to the floor. Paul Lind was nominated again for President. Steve Coe was nominated for Vice President. A.J. Crayon and Susan Morse were nominated for Secretary. Bob Dahl was nominated for Treasurer and Rich Walker was nominated for Properties Director. All nominations were unanimously accepted by voice acclamation.

For the Show-N-Tell portion of the meeting Pierre Schwar shared his video of sunspots, the moon and Saturn. During the break Brian Vorndam had his video of the eclipse running.

After the break club member Steve Coe gave an excellent talk titled "A History of Astrophotography." —*Phil Dahl, SAC Secretary*

### 1991 SAC Meetings

December 14 Party  
— 1992 —  
January 17  
February 14  
March 20  
April 17

### 1991 SAC Star Parties

December 7  
December 28  
— 1992 —  
January 25  
February 22  
March 28

## January Newsletter Deadline

Be sure to mail items to be included in the newsletter by Dec 24. Items sent later will not be included, but will be included in the next newsletter.

## SAC Officers

President	Paul Lind	863-3077
Vice President	Virginia Campbell	253-3025
Secretary	Phil Dahl	839-8990
Treasurer	Bob Dahl	582-5526
Properties	Rick Rotramel	439-4701
Chairman of SACNEWS/Editor	Paul Dickson	841-7044

## Such-A-Deal

**SUCH-A-DEAL** is a place to advertise equipment, supplies, and services related to amateur astronomy. This is a free service for SAC members and friends. SAC is not responsible for the quality of advertised items or services.

**Telescope**—8" *f*/15 refractor with accessories. Excellent optics. \$2000 Jim, 265-7833.