

Saguaro Astronomy Club

Metro Phoenix, Arizona

SACNEWS



August 1998 — Issue #259

v8.11

Comet Comments

by Don Machholz

(530) 346-8963 CC240.TXT July 7, 1998
<http://members.aol.com/cometcom/index.html>
DonM353259@aol.com

C/1997 J2 (Meunier-Dupouy)

Date	RA-2000-Dec	Elong	Sky	Mag
08-15	21h39.8m +14°26'	151°	M	11.3
08-20	21h34.1m +12°25'	154°	M	11.4
08-25	21h28.7m +10°21'	156°	M	11.4
08-30	21h23.5m +08°16'	156°	E	11.4
09-04	21h18.7m +06°10'	153°	E	11.5
09-09	21h14.3m +04°06'	150°	E	11.6
09-14	21h10.7m +02°05'	145°	E	11.6

The Lincoln Laboratory Near-Earth Asteroid Research Project has found four more comets. One of them, **C/1998 M 5 (Linear)**, should be visible in our northern skies for the next year. Meanwhile, two more faint comets have been discovered by the Spacewatch program at Kitt Peak, one being visually found on an image-display monitor by J. Montani.

C/1998 M5 (Linear)

Date	RA-2000-Dec	Elong	Sky	Mag
08-15	22h08.4m +33°57'	131°	M	11.5
08-20	21h55.8m +35°27'	132°	E	11.4
08-25	21h42.3m +36°46'	132°	E	11.3
08-30	21h28.0m +37°53'	131°	E	11.3
09-04	21h13.3m +38°45'	129°	E	11.2
09-09	20h58.6m +39°23'	126°	E	11.1
09-14	20h44.3m +39°46'	123°	E	11.1

Quick Calendar

SAC Meeting

Speaker: Steve Coe: *Meteor Showers*
7:30 PM, Friday, August 7

SAC Star Party

Buckeye Hills Recreation Area
Saturday, August 15

SAC Meeting

7:30 PM, Friday, September 11

The SOHO satellite found nine more comets, most being sungrazers. All disappeared into the solar vicinity. In late June, contact with the SOHO spacecraft was lost during a positioning maneuver. Hope is not lost, technicians are still working on it.

1995 O1 (Hale-Bopp)

Date	RA-2000-Dec	Elong	Sky	Mag
08-15	07h02.8m -55°30'	77°	M	10.9
08-20	07h06.7m -56°14'	77°	M	10.9
08-25	07h10.5m -56°59'	78°	M	11.0
08-30	07h13.9m -57°46'	78°	M	11.0
09-04	07h17.2m -58°34'	79°	M	11.0
09-09	07h20.1m -59°24'	79°	M	11.1
09-14	07h22.7m -60°15'	79°	M	11.1

Comet Comments celebrates its 20th year with this, its 240th issue. It all began in August 1978 when I wrote my first regular comet article for the San Jose (California) Astronomical Association Newsletter. At the same time I also wrote an article suggesting a star party in March to find the Messier Objects — our first Messier Marathon.

Orbital Elements

Object:	Hale-Bopp	Meunier-Dupouy	Linear
Peri Date:	1997 04 01.1347	1998 03 10.4365	1999 01 24.00
Peri Dist:	0.914008 AU	3.051015 AU	2.11102 AU
Arg/Peri (2000)	130.5787°	122.6755°	089.452°
Asc Node (2000)	282.4653°	148.8429°	333.261°
Incl (2000):	089.4268°	091.2731°	080.342°
Eccentricity:	0.995085	1.000760	1.0
Orbital Period:	~2500 years	Long Period	Long Period?
Reference:	MPC 30738	MPC 30738	IAUC 6961
Epoch:	1997 12 18	1998 03 08	1999 01 24
Absol Mag/"n":	-1.0/4.0	4.0/4.0	5.5/4.0

It was only a few weeks later — Sept. 12, 1978 — that I discovered my first comet.

COMET HUNTING NOTES: The Edgar Wilson Award has been announced for amateurs who discover comets. A cash award of about \$20,000 will be distributed each June 12 among those finding comets during the previous year. The rules are few. The comet must be named after you and you must be using your own equipment in an amateur capacity. The discovery may be made by visual, photographic, or electronic means. The amount an individual receives depends upon the number of comet finds during the year. For example, in the past twenty years, an individual would have received between \$1500 and \$20,000 for a comet find.

Bits and Pieces

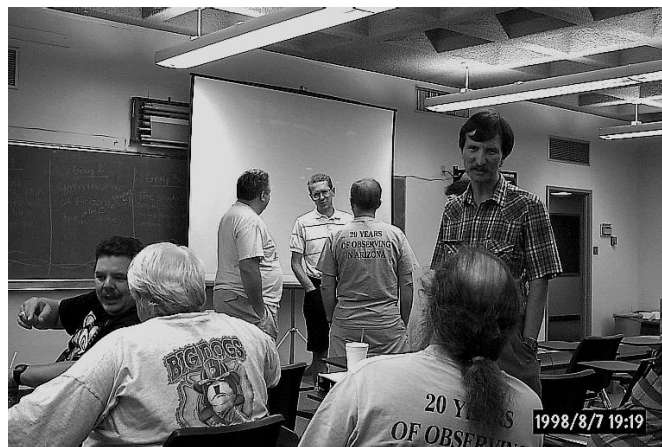
A Note from the Editor

In case you haven't already noticed this issue is small as well as late. That's because your newsletter editor has been busy lately. To help catch up, this issue has been condensed a bit. Only the info about SAC has been left alone and the timely article, *Comet Comments*, are in it.

Last week, I was going to also include Ken Reeves' *Fuzzy Spot*, but his August Column turned out to be one of Ken's largest (even without a star chart). Ken's August and September columns will appear in the September SACNEWS.

Also of note: I am again running low on articles for SACNEWS. The fewer I have means I have to put more ef-

fort into the newsletter. Some suggestions I've been given by members is have a collection of Web site published each month. This is a good idea, except I don't have time to do this myself. If you want to do this regularly, contact me.



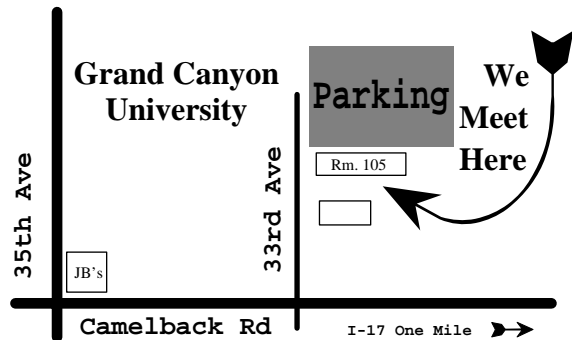
Pre-meeting discussions prior to the start of the August SAC meeting.

Newsletter Deadline

Mail items for Such-a-Deal at least two weeks before the end of the month. Articles that need to be published in a timely fashion must be submitted or the newsletter editor notified of the article at least 6 weeks before month they are published. Items arriving too late for an issue will be included in the next newsletter.

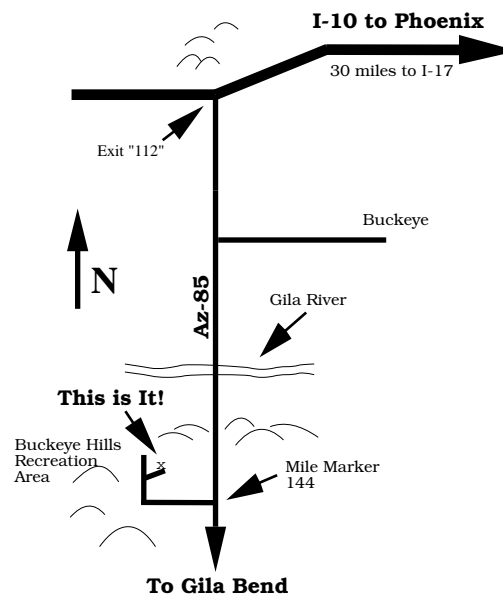
Directions to SAC Events

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 Deep Sky Subgroup Meeting at John & Tom McGrath's, 11239 N. 75th St., Scottsdale, 998-4661 — Scottsdale Rd. north, Cholla St. east to 75th St., southeast corner.

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.



August 1998

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> All Times are Mountain Standard Time </div>						
						1
2	Uranus at opposition	3	4	5	Tomorrow Full Moon 7:11 P.M.	6
					SAC Meeting Grand Canyon University, Fleming Rm. 105	7
9	Sun enters Leo 11 A.M.	10	Tomorrow Perseid Meteors Peak: 7 A.M. Z.H.R. 100	11	EVAC Meeting (SCC: Rm. PS172)	12
					Mercury at inferior conjunction (moves into morning sky)	13
					Last Quarter Moon 12:50 P.M.	14
					SAC Star Party Buckeye Hills (members&guests)	15
16		17	18	19		20
					New Moon 7:03 P.M.	21
23/30	August 31st Mercury at greatest elongation 18° (morning)	24/31	25	26		27
						28
						29
						30
						31
						First Quarter Moon 10:07 P.M.

SAC Information

Area Code (602)

President & SACNEWS Editor	Paul Dickson	Ans. & FAX: 841-0509 dickson@primenet.com
Vice President	Gerry Rattley	892-5698
Treasurer	Jack Jones	944-5488 looka.fuzzy@mcione.com
Secretary	Ken Reeves	878-9460 ken.reeves@cas.honeywell.com
Properties	Adam Sunshine	780-1386 asunshine@netzone.com
Public Events	Rich Walker	997-0711 rhwalker@aztec.asu.edu
Deep-Sky Group	A.J. Crayon	938-3277 acrayon@primenet.com

E-Mail Mailing Lists

SAC-mls is a mailing list for club announcements and quick notification of astronomical events.

SAC-Board is for SAC business. All club members are welcome to participate.

AZ-Observing is a fairly general mailing list about observing in Arizona. Where the star parties are and who's going, as well as what's up.

To join, send E-mail with the Subject: **subscribe** to the **"-request"** mailing address at psiaz.com. For example, you would send the request for AZ-Observing to AZ-Observing-request@psiaz.com.

SAC Web Sites

www.accessarizona.com/groups/group-access.html
www.primenet.com/~dickson/sac.html

Saguaro Astronomy Club Member Services Form

Membership

Memberships are for the calendar year and are prorated as follows: Jan - Mar 100%, Apr - Jun 75%, Jul - Sep 50%, Oct - Dec 25%.

- \$28.....Individual Membership
- \$42.....Family Membership (one newsletter)
- \$100.....Business Membership (includes advertising)
- \$4.....Nametag for members
- \$14.....Newsletter Only

Subscriptions

The following magazines are available to members. Subscribe or renew by paying the club treasurer. You will receive the discounted club rate only by allowing the club treasurer to renew your subscription.

- Sky & Telescope.....\$27.00 for one year
- Astronomy.....\$20.00 for one year

Write your name, address, phone number, and E-mail address in the space below.

Make checks payable to SAC.
Mail the completed form to:

Jack Jones
SAC Treasurer
2313 W Sierra St
Phoenix AZ 85029

SAC and SAC Meetings

Saguaro Astronomy Club (SAC) was formed in 1977 to promote fellowship and the exchange of scientific information among its members — amateur astronomers. SAC meets monthly for both general meetings and star parties, and regularly conducts and supports public programs on astronomy.

SAC meetings are usually held on the Friday nearest the full moon. This means that over the course of the year, meetings are not held on the same week of the month. The same is true of the club's star parties. Star parties at Buckeye Hills Recreation Area are mostly held on the Saturday of the third quarter moon.

SAC General Meetings: 7:30 PM at Grand Canyon University, Fleming Building, room 105 — one mile west of Interstate 17 on Camelback Rd, north on 33rd Ave., second building on the right. See inside for a map to the meeting location.

1998 SAC Meetings

Jan. 9
Feb. 13
Mar. 13
Apr. 10
May 8
Jun. 12
Jul. 10
Aug. 7
Sep. 11
Oct. 2
Nov. 6
Dec. 5 Party

1998 SAC Star Parties

Date	Sunset	Moonrise
Feb. 21	6:18PM	3:40AM
Mar. 21	6:39PM	2:23AM
Apr. 18	6:59PM	1:08AM
May 16	7:19PM	11:54AM
Jun. 20	7:37PM	3:27AM
Jul. 18	7:34PM	2:10AM
Aug. 15	7:12PM	12:57AM
Sep. 12	6:37PM	11:45PM
Oct. 10	6:00PM	10:32AM
Nov. 14	5:27PM	3:48AM
Dec. 12	5:22PM	2:35AM

SACNEWS

c/o Paul Dickson
7714 N 36th Avenue
Phoenix AZ 85051

Stamp

First Class Mail

August
SAC Meeting — August 7
SAC Board Meeting — August 14
SAC Star Party — August 15

September
SAC Meeting — September 11