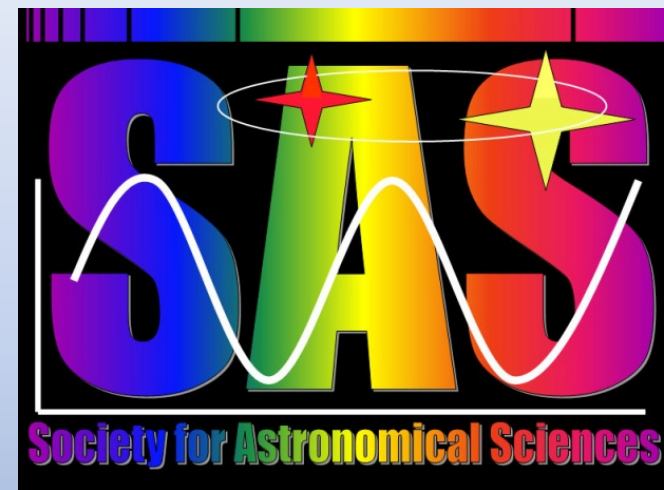




Introduction
to the



Society for Astronomical Sciences

Presented to
Maui International Double-Star Workshop
February, 2012
Robert K. Buchheim



Researchers use all sizes of telescopes:



- Large
- Small
- “Midget”

- “College” and “Backyard”-scale
- Long observing runs
 - Bright targets
 - Around-the-world continuous coverage
 - Portability
 - “low-probability” investigations



Representative Project Areas

Targets

- Asteroids
 - Rotational lightcurves
 - Phase curves
 - Occultations
- Variable Stars
 - Eclipsing Binaries
 - Cataclysmic variables
 - Pulsating Variables
 - Exo-planet transits
- Double Stars
- Meteors
- Galaxy Halos

Methods

- CCD Photometry
- CCD Astrometry
- Spectroscopy
- Video (occultations)
- Polarimetry (!)
- Very-fast photometry (Avalanche photo-diode)



“Target Audience” and Role



Who:

- Independent Researchers
- Educators & Students
- Professional + Amateur Collaborators

- Discover opportunities
- Select Projects
- Gain Skill & Confidence
- Meet other researchers
- Publish Results

Role of SAS:

- Small-telescope science community
- Education
- Share projects, results, successes, failures
- Facilitate pro-am collaboration
- Publication



Activities & Benefits

Annual Symposium

3 days in May each year
Big Bear, California (USA)
120 – 180 attendees

- Annual Symposium

- Research presentations
- Poster Papers
- Product Displays Demos

Educational Workshops

Videos

Proceedings

Quarterly Newsletter





Educational Workshops

Recent Workshops

Remote & Robotic Observatories

Eclipsing Binaries (modeling & analysis)

Small-Telescope Spectroscopy

- Annual Symposium
 - Research presentations
 - Poster Papers
 - Product Displays Demos
- Educational Workshops
- Videos
- Proceedings
- Quarterly Newsletter



Technical Papers & Presentations



- Annual Symposium
 - Research presentations
 - Poster Papers
 - Product Displays Demos
- Educational Workshops
- Videos
- Proceedings
- Quarterly Newsletter





Published Proceedings

- Annual Symposium
 - Research presentations
 - Poster Papers
 - Product Displays Demos
- Educational Workshops
- Videos
- Proceedings
- Quarterly Newsletter

Research Reports that are

- Work-in-progress
- Not yet published
- Embargoed

Aren't in the Proceedings or Videos (of course)



Newsletter

- Annual Symposium
 - Research presentations
 - Poster Papers
 - Product Displays Demos
- Educational Workshops
- Videos
- Proceedings
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News from the Society for Astronomical Sciences

Vol. 9 No. 3 (July, 2011)

Report from the 2011 Symposium

For three decades, the Society for Astronomical Sciences has supported small telescope science, encouraged amateur research, and facilitated program collaboration. On May 24-26, more than one hundred participants in the 30th anniversary SAS Symposium heard presentations covering a wide range of astronomical topics, reaching from the laboratory to the distant cosmos.

From Planets to Galaxies

Sky & Telescope Editor-in-Chief Bob Naeye opened the technical session with a review of the amateur contributions to exoplanet discovery and research through monitoring of transits and micro-lensing events.

R. Jay GaBany described his participation as an astro-imager in the search for evidence of galactic mergers. His exquisite deep images taken with his 24-inch telescope displayed the di-



A "family portrait" of 2009 TC3, at the SAS-2011 Symposium. Richard Kowalski (on left) discovered the asteroid while it was still in space, on a collision course with Earth. Dr. Peter Jenniskens (on right) organized an expedition that recovered fragments of the asteroid from the desert of northern Sudan. Dr. Jenniskens is holding a piece of the asteroid. Photo by Earl Wilson.



Join Us!

- Submit Papers + posters for Symposium
- News technical notes for Newsletter
- Take Advantage of SAS Resources:
 - Symposium
 - Proceedings
 - Tech Session Videos
 - Workshop Videos
 - Quarterly Newsletter



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