

Friday, March 7, 2008, 8:00 am

CENTRAL COAST ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Sharing the Night Sky for over 25 Years

<http://www.ccastronomy.org>

President Daniel George amonatumra@yahoo.com 805-462-9126

Hello again. Surprise email from me from home on a Friday morning. I am home sick today, no sleep last night, having a strong cough and sneezing, hot and cold, fever, etc., so am getting a little email work done occasionally. I doubt that I will be able to attend the CCAS star party tomorrow night, if we are lucky enough to have clear skies.

Regarding the email I sent to most everyone yesterday about the fascinating Alt-Az Telescope Development Project (copy below), for this information and more, see the CCAS Events & Projects web page <http://www.ccastronomy.org/events.htm>. Scroll to the bottom of the web page for more details about this new telescope being designed and built here in SLO County.

Walter Reil

CCAS Communications

JPL Solar System Ambassador

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----- Forwarded Message

From: Walter Reil <ccas@ccastronomy.org>

Date: Thu, 06 Mar 2008 18:37:45 -0800

To: 1-Distribution <ccas@ccastronomy.org>

Conversation: CCAS E-News: Alt-Azimuth Telescope Development Program Workshop

Subject: CCAS E-News: Alt-Azimuth Telescope Development Program Workshop

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Please spread this word around the astronomical community along the Central Coast of a fascinating opportunity to experience personal insight into the development of a new state-of-the-art telescope right here in SLO County.

The following announcement and invitation is from CCAS member, retired professional astronomer, Cuesta College Astronomy instructor, Cal Poly Research Scholar in Residence, and Orion Observatory

<http://www.orionobservatory.org/> Director **Dr. Russ Genet** russmgenet@aol.com.

Walter Reil

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It is my pleasure to invite you to attend and participate in the design review discussions and also the future development discussions at the Alt-Az Telescope Development Program Workshop. You would also be most welcome at the informal dinners on Friday and Saturday night. This will be a fun telescope gathering.

All the best,

Russ

Russell M. Genet, PhD
Research Scholar in Residence,
California Polytechnic State University
Adjunct Professor of Astronomy, Cuesta College
Phone (805) 438-3305, Fax (805) 438-3355

Alt-Az Telescope Development Program Workshop
Critical Design Review and Future Developments
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, California
March 14-16, 2008

Introduction

An international consortium of teams, including three teams from California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) are designing and building a modest aperture (18 inch) advanced technology alt-azimuth telescope <http://www.orionobservatory.org/Telescope%20Design.html> . This telescope will feature axial flux direct drive motors, high resolution optical tape encoders, an instrument rotator and off-axis autoguider, and unusually stiff optical tube and fork assemblies being designed by two Cal Poly senior project mechanical engineering teams. A Cal Poly physics team is handling the observatory enclosure and operation. The telescope, once completed, will primarily be used for student astronomical research, but will also serve as a test bed for advanced engineering development projects.

Cal Poly and Cuesta College students and faculty, as well as members of the Central Coast Astronomical Society, are welcome to attend both the design review and future developments discussion.

For those interested in small telescopes, this is a unique opportunity to be exposed to the latest state of the art.

Friday, March 14th

1800-2200 Social hour, dinner, and informal discussions
Vallarta's Mexican Restaurant, Monterey Street, SLO

Saturday, March 15th CHN-18 Critical Design Review (CDR)

Cal Poly Mechatronics Laboratory, Bld.192, Room118

0830-0900 Welcomes and Program Overview Russ Genet and John Ridgely
0900-0930 Optical Design and Fabrication Dave Rowe, Tong Liu (Conference Call), Cary Childeboard
0930-1030 Optical Tube Assembly, Cal Poly OTA Team
Matt Swanson, Josh Schmitt, Michelle Kirkup, and Wilson Chiu
1030-1100 Break
1100-1200 Fork Cal Poly Fork Team, Drew Murphy, Rob Urban, and Billy Albertson
1200-1330 Lunch
1330-1400 Direct Drive Motors / Azimuth Assembly Dave Rowe
1400-1430 Primary Mirror Support / Secondary Assembly Howard Banich
1430-1445 Telescope Control Dave Rowe for Dan Gray
1445-1500 Observatory Enclosure and Site John Keller
1500-1530 Break
1530-1700 Program Discussions
Technical, Tasks and Schedules, System Integration and Testing, Financial
Approval of Action Items and Agreements
1700 Adjourn CDR
1800-2200 Social hour, dinner, and informal discussions at the Apple Farm Restaurant, Monterey Street

Sunday, March 16th Future Developments Discussion

Cal Poly Mechatronics Laboratory, Bld.192, Room118

0830-0915 0.75 m CDK Discussion Leaders: Rick Hedrick Joe Habberman, and Dave Rowe

0915-1000 Low Cost, Mass Produced, Newtonian Systems Discussion Leader: Eric Kopit

1000-1030 Carbon Fiber CDK OTA Discussion Leader: Paul Guttman

1030-1100 Break

1100-1130 Cast Mirrors Discussion Leader: Cary Childebrad

1130-1230 Advanced Technologies Pot Pouri

Deviator Plates / Tip Tilt Secondaries, Advanced Control Algorithms,
Active Mirror Control, Wavefront Sensing and Deformable Mirrors,
Multiple Mirror Telescopes

1230-1400 Lunch

1400-1600 Optional Informal Discussions

Rooms are available at the Sands Motel. Call 805 544 0500.

Rates for us (mention the telescope workshop) are \$119/night single King, and \$134/night two Queens.