

5/21/2010

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<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>09-AFC-9</b>	
DATE	MAY 21 2010
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**Subj:** Comments on the draft SA/DEIS Document, Docket Number 09-AFC-9, “Solar Millennium, Ridgecrest Solar Power Project”

**Ref:** 1) China Lake Astronomical Society viewing site at Latitude 35 deg 33 min 06.74 sec N, Longitude 117 deg 44 min 54.99 W 829 meters elevation. 2) Announcement of the April 30, 1976 China Lake Astronomical Society viewing party (enclosed)

This letter is written by me personally, and does not necessarily reflect the consensus of the China Lake Astronomical Society.

I would like to thank the California Energy Commission (CEC) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff for an opportunity to offer input into the Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA/DEIS) for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP). A great deal of effort has been put into the Application for Certification (AFC) for this project by Solar Millennium (SM), which requests a Right of Way (ROW) from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for certain properties on which to construct a solar power plant. However, there is a serious conflict with an existing use of part of the ROW area that SM is requesting. For at least the last 34 years, the China Lake Astronomical Society (CLAS) has used a site that is within the boundaries of the applicant’s solar field on the south side of South Brown Rd. CLAS has used a specific unimproved road leading to a site where public astronomical viewing is provided. These public events are known as “star parties”, and are held ten months of the year. The star parties are provided by the China Lake Astronomical Society as a free public service.

These locations have been previously identified to the applicant and to the BLM and to the California Energy Commission. It can be proven that the use of these sites dates back to April 30, 1976 and perhaps before. The unimproved road begins at approximately Latitude 35 deg 33 min 27.03 sec N, Longitude 117 deg 45 min 09.07 sec W, 820 meters elevation and ends at the viewing site whose approximate coordinates are given above. The viewing site is roughly circular, with a radius of about 200 feet.

Coordinates were determined from Google Earth.

I have been a CLAS member since its founding in 1958. I have served in as an officer of the club and have been the Newsletter Editor for many years. I have a complete set of the Society's newsletters and have appended an image copy of the April 30, 1976 edition as evidence of our early activity at the referenced site. Star parties have continued to the present day, and will continue unless or until they are no longer feasible at this site.

It is my intention that this letter be viewed as evidence that the CLAS is able to assert a ROW for our activity under Federal Regulations and Laws embodied in RS 2477 and FLPMA Section 701, said CLAS having constituted a legitimate and documented historic usage. I am requesting this letter be posted in the docket for the RSPP. In addition, it is also my intention to recommend that CLAS formally request a ROW for our activity from the BLM and request that this ROW be excluded from the ROW issued for the RSPP and that the construction plans approved by the CEC and BLM not disturb this right of way and the road therein in any way.

Signed, Carroll Evans

Cc: [Hector\\_Villalobos@ca.blm.gov](mailto:Hector_Villalobos@ca.blm.gov), RFO

# SKYWATCHER'S NEWSLETTER

OF THE CHINA LAKE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

26 APRIL 1976

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY, 3 MAY, AT 7:30 PM IN THE CLAS CLUBHOUSE, 401-A MCINTIRE. THE CLUBHOUSE WILL BE OPEN THE OTHER MONDAY EVENINGS OF MAY FOR CONVERSATION AND TELESCOPE MAKING.

## PROGRAM FOR MAY 3 MEETING

For the regular meeting on Monday, May 3, Jim Fujii will present a very basic presentation on how binary star measurements relate to true orbital parameters.

The featured film for this meeting is a 21-minute film entitled "Space Navigation." If the title of this film sounds familiar, it should. This film was scheduled to be shown at our January meeting but arrived too late to be shown. It must have had a navigational problem, namely a slight timing error.

This film describes the principles of charting a course in space for manned and unmanned spacecraft. The emphasis will be on navigational techniques, navigational problems, and equipment used in the Apollo program.

--- JIF

## DATES TO KEEP IN MIND

Friday, April 30:	CLAS star party at old Highway 395 site. (See below.)
Monday, May 3:	Regular CLAS meeting.
Saturday-Monday, May 29-31:	Riverside Telescope Makers Conference at Camp Oaks.
Monday, June 7:	Regular CLAS meeting.
Tuesday, June 15:	Morrison Lecture at Community Center

## CLAS STAR PARTY ON FRIDAY, APRIL 30, AT SITE SOUTH OF OLD HIGHWAY 395

Weather permitting, there will be a CLAS star party on Friday evening, April 30. The star party is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. PDT at a site 9 miles southwest of Ridgecrest off old Highway 395.

To reach the star party site take South China Lake Boulevard + where it intersects U. S. Highway 395 at 6.3 miles from the intersection of Ridgecrest and China Lake Boulevards. Go straight across U. S. Highway 395 at this point and you will be on old Highway 395. Proceed west on old Highway 395 for 2.4 miles from the intersection. At this point there will be a 2-foot by 2-foot sign on the north side of the old highway labelled "STAR PARTY" with an arrow pointing to the left (south). Turn off the highway to the left (south). (The back side of the sign will have another "STAR PARTY" sign facing west for those approaching the site from Inyokern.) Proceed southeast from the old highway on a dirt road for 0.5 mile to the star party site.

This star party is on next Friday evening, three days before our regular May meeting on Monday, May 3. Make a note of the day and tell your friends. If the