

Re: David Levy moving to Astronomy

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On 4 ^{TM+1/2}, 20:41, mommical...@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

After reading Naeye's editorial I got as far as typing up nasty letter, putting it in an envelope and putting a stamp on. I may mail the letter, but I doubt this fool will care whether a 44 year subscriber continues his subscription or not. I have 44 years bound Sky and Telescope's on my bookshelf and I often refer to them, particularly the Deep Sky Wonders and Telescope Making articles. It is very clear that Seronik has dumbed down the telescope making section compared to Bob Cox. Indeed Seronik has done more harm than good. Saying that nobody builds their own scopes any more is foolish as a quick search on the web will prove. Seronik's job is to encourage to make people feel that it is impossible. Sue French has been able to salvage Deep Sky Wonders, but I'm afraid she won't be around along. As far as more astrophotography: I wonder just how many people can afford a \$1300 CCD camera and a \$1500 mount (Orion prices) to make a 8 hour exposure at an increasing rare dark site two hours from home . Looks like Sky and Telescope is going to die off.

Personally I am not worried about the \$1300 CCD camera and/or the \$1500 mount ... these prices are peanuts ... but what worries me is the degradation in the weather. For me personally, winters are out the window as far as imaging is concerned which means I have a six-month window of opportunity to do my work (April through October) each year. My belief is that the weather is the real threat to astronomy (amateur and ground-based professional).

No matter how good your equipment may be and how good your seeing and lack of light pollution may also be, it means didley squat if the clear skies are not there to allow one to spend a few quality hours under the night sky.

It has been five to six weeks and I have yet to manage a mere 2-hr window so that I can at least pursue an open cluster. Predictions for the next ten days are more of the same: clouds and rains.

I am happy to see S&T take a more serious look at astrophotography.

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Take one look at the forums and you will see that a serious amount of bandwidth does indeed involve astrophotography.

As for S&T, I have also noted a decline in the quality and, in fact, I find myself spending more time reading my monthly issue of Astronomy than S&T. I have never been a fan of David Levy and, therefore, I feel indifferent where he ends up.

Anthony.

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