

The Things That Come In the Mail!

by Janelle Burgardt

As NEKAAL's official contact with the Astronomical League, my name and address, both physical and electronic, are available for all the world to see. That includes spammers of all types who flood my email, as well as purveyors of various catalogs sent via snail mail. My spam filter catches quite a bit of the typical e-mail offal, and the occasional astronomy-related spam is obvious enough to be easily disposed of. You'd be surprised at how many people have written a book about astronomy that is *SO GOOD* that they have to market it personally, to their hundreds of close friends in the astronomical community (sarcasm intentionally inserted). Sadly, a number of UFO conspiracy theorists also think NEKAAL is anxious to join them in spreading the word about upcoming alien invasions. These messages keep my Junk Mail folder full and happy.

I occasionally also receive offers in the mail, usually for office products or personalized stationery that the club doesn't need and/or can't afford, or notice of an upcoming star party. Star party info is passed on, the rest is disposed of. But every once in awhile, a truly unique opportunity shows up in the mail, and I feel obligated to send it on to the membership.

Recently, a postcard arrived, hand-addressed to NEKAAL. The sender was Lesley Alward, Realtor, from Prescott, Arizona. On the reverse was an announcement of home for sale at 1411 S. Galaxy Lane, Prescott, labeled as "Astronomer's Dream Home For Sale. A picture was included, complete with little stars around the address. More information was listed below, as follows:

Located on one acre on a mountain top bordering the National Forest
3 miles to Prescott's Courthouse Square
Dark Skies to Explore the Galaxies & Panoramic Views of Prescott
Spacious 4/3 home with open floor plan, decks, hot tub, 3-part Observatory
For more information & virtual tour: *realtor's website*

What a deal! My husband couldn't wait to show it to me, so we could jump right on it. Unfortunately, I was sick and needed rest above all things, so the investigation would have to wait. When I was finally able to function, I wanted to get as much information as possible, starting with the asking price, so I could present it to the members. Alas, *I could find nothing about it on the website, leading me to the conclusion that the Dream Home had been sold.

And so, NEKAALers, it appears that our future in Arizona must be postponed. On the bright side, in a place where Galaxy Lane is a real place, there may be more homes with their own observatory that eventually come on the market. Closer to home, we need only visit the Leifer homestead to see an attached astronomy tower. As to

private observatories, NEKAAL members own and operate both Sandlot and Windy Hill observatories. And we have our shared ownership of Farpoint Observatory. If only we could get the above-zero temperatures and unclouded skies of Arizona!

Astronomer's Dream Home For Sale



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Spacious 4B home with open floor plan, decks, hot tub, 5 part Observatory
For more information & Virtual tour: www.lesleyward.com*