

June 2020

Dear members of SAG-SAS sections,

Dear friends of SAG-SAS,

We have all been affected by the effects of the current Corona pandemic for several weeks and for us amateur astronomers the term "Corona" has a nice and positive meaning in Corona Borealis and Corona Australis. Let us console ourselves with the fact that the two constellations will last longer than the virus.



For current reasons, the newsletter begins with a reference to protective measures in the reopening of the public observatories after the officially prescribed closure. The SAG-SAS Board of Directors has prepared recommendations for the observatories, which want to open on June 6 or shortly thereafter. The recommendations are posted on the SAG-SAS website (www.sag-sas.ch) and can be adjusted as conditions change. The concrete implementation of the recommendations must be carried out by the individual observatories, in accordance with local circumstances.

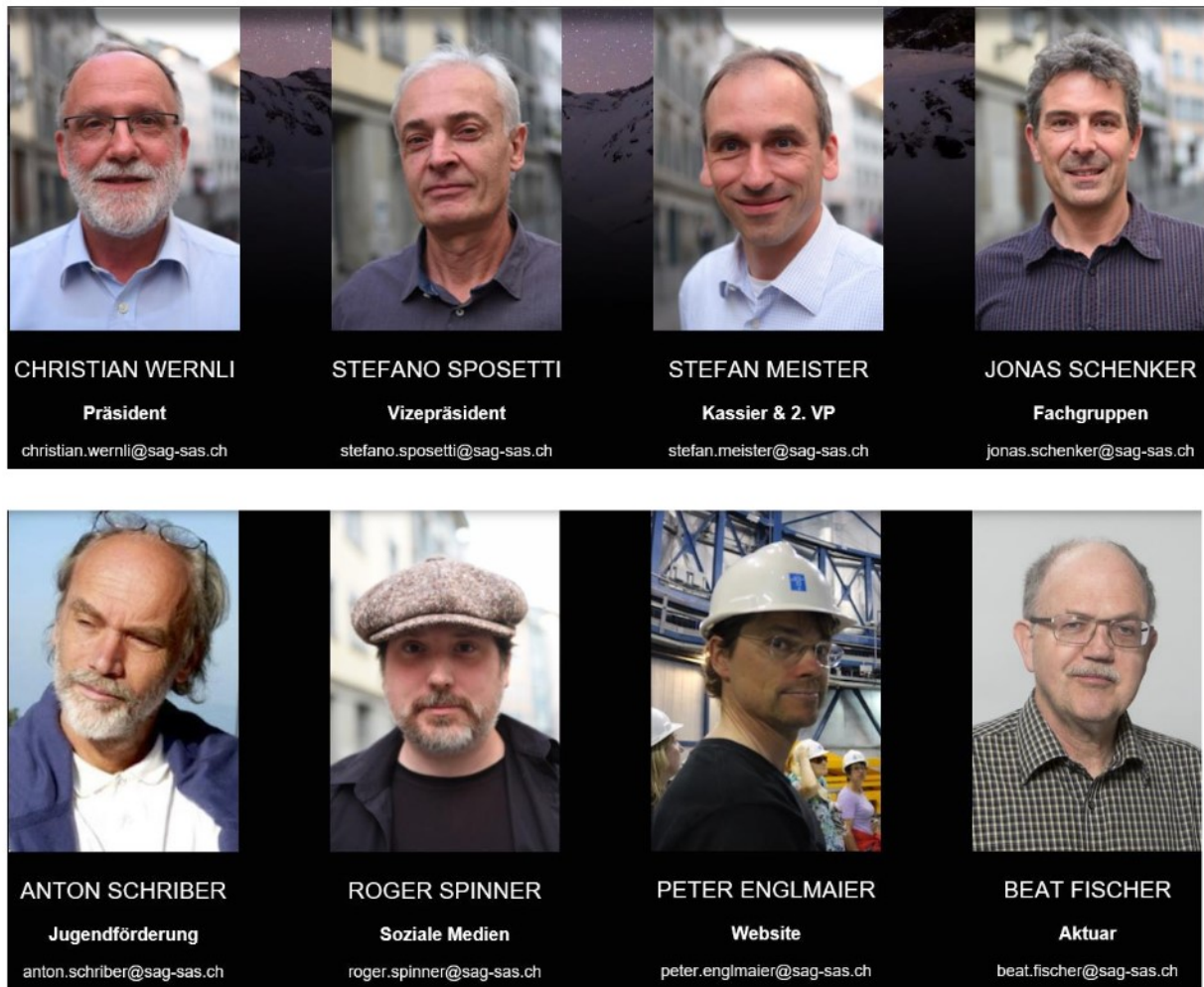
1. Review of the 2020 Delegates' Meeting

Due to the current corona crisis and the associated ban on meetings, the delegates' meeting (DV) planned for 4 April at the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland in Brugg could not be held. Since the duration of the ban on the meeting was not foreseeable, the Board of Directors decided not to postpone the DV, but to replace it with an electronic participation of the delegates. The delegates received all relevant documents by e-mail and were able to comment on all the submissions via an electronic form and to vote on the applications and to participate in the elections.

All feedback from the 36 participating delegates was automatically recorded in an Excel spread sheet and the results were checked and confirmed by two vote counters:

- The applications for approval of the minutes of the last DV, the 2019 financial statements, the Décharge grant to the Board of Management and the 2020 budget were adopted without a vote against, with individual abstentions.
- The members of the Executive Board (Stefan Meister, Jonas Schenker, Stefano Sposetti, Roger Spinner and Christian Wernli) were unanimously re-elected at the end of their first term of four years.

Together with the three colleagues whose term of office has not yet expired, the Executive Board still consists of the following 8 persons:



The next meeting of delegates of the SAG-SAS will take place on 27 March 2021 at the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland in Brugg.

2. Astronomy conference planned for 2021

As for the DV 2020, a combination with a general astronomy conference for all SAG-SAS members is also planned for the DV 2021.

In the entrance area of Building 6 in the Brugg/Windisch campus of the FHNW, the SAG-SAS specialist groups will present their work and parts of their equipment according to current planning. In addition,

several companies are invited to present their products and services in the field of amateur astronomy at their own stands.

Detailed planning will begin in autumn 2020 and further information will follow as soon as possible.

3. Review of the IAU project Nameexoworlds

As was announced in the last newsletter of December 2019, Eiger and Mönch are now immortalized in the constellation Jungfrau at the firmament. In the meantime, the certificates of the IAU have arrived.



Class L3a Cantonal School Menzingen, the winners of the naming Mönch and Eiger



Certificates of the national coordinator, Stefan Meister, and the other members of the national committee

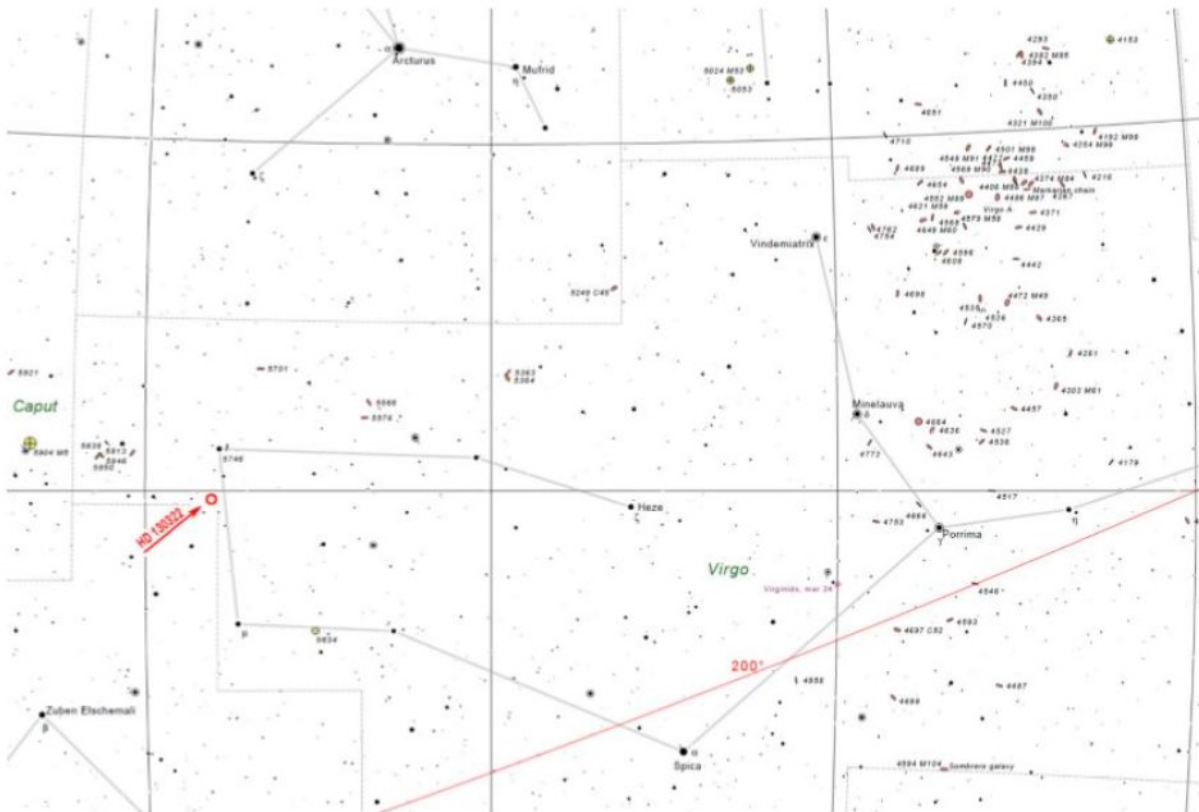


For more information, please visit: <https://nameexoplanet.ch/>.

Jonas Schenker has drawn on a star map where the newly baptized "Eiger und Mönch" are located in the starry sky. The exoplanet Eiger is of course not visible, but the star Mönch (m = 8.0 mag) with a telescope already.

Coordinates (J2000.0): RA: 14° 47' 32.73" DEC: - 00° 16' 53.30"

Das Exoplaneten-System HD 130322 "Eiger und Mönch" sind in der Jungfrau leicht zu finden:



4. New "Fachgruppe" Observatories

This year, SAG-SAS has started to set up the new "Fachgruppe" observatories. The (developing) website www.observatories.ch and the SAG-SAS Forum observatories (<https://forum.sag-sas.ch/viewforum.php?f=29>) serve as a common platform. Further information on the establishment and operation of this new Fachgruppe can be given by its coordinator, Jonas Schenker (jonas.schenker@sag-sas.ch).

5. Mutation in SAG-SAS members

Following a preliminary announcement last year, the Astronomical Society Rheintal (11 – AGR) decided on 28 February 2020 to disband. The Board of Directors has noted with regret the decision of the Astronomical Society Rheintal. As a reason for the dissolution, the president of the AGR wrote: "No new entrants, ageing and club fatigue". Problems that we unfortunately know in many places.

6. Periodical ORION

The future of our magazine ORION will continue to be an important topic. Often in the almost 77-year history of ORION, the objective, content orientation and editorial work had to be reconsidered. We are in the process of revisiting all these issues.

For the successful development of the magazine, sufficient suitable contributions as well as initiative and versatile interested editorial members are necessary. To promote the submission of contributions, ORIONmedien GmbH has set up a new e-mail address under which contributions can be submitted directly to the ORION editorial team: redaktion@orionmedien.ch. This official address can also be used to ensure a traceable processing of the submitted contributions.

We are still looking forward to being interested people who would like to take on an exciting task for the benefit of the Swiss amateur astronomers with a part-time job in the editorial team. Interested parties should contact the President for a non-binding meeting (christian.wernli@sag-sas.ch).

The digitization of the previous ORION issues is in full swing. All issues are at the ETH library in Zurich and we will get back to you as soon as the electronic access is available.

7. Dates

24 October 2020, 2. Astronomy day this year, together with VdS

7 November 2020, Presidential Conference in Schaffhausen

27 March 2021, Delegate`s assembly (DV) and astronomy conference in Brugg

With warm greetings and best wishes,

Christian Wernli

SAG-SAS President

