

## SOCIETY MATTERS

### From the Secretary

As announced earlier in the September 2004 issue of the Bulletin, the XXIII<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Astronomical Society of India will be hosted by the *Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)*, Nainital during February 21-24, 2005. Normally February is very cold in Nainital, with temperatures in the range of 5-15 °C, so it is advisable to come prepared with sufficient warm clothing. The LOC has already mailed the first circular, giving details of the arrangements and the deadlines, which could also be found in the ASI-webpage: <http://www.prl.ernet.in/~asi>, and the webpage of the host institution: <http://upso.ernet.in/~asi05/>. The second circular will have the details of the scientific programme. In case of any queries, please contact: *Dr. M. Singh, LOC-ASI2005, Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Manora Peak, Nainital (e-mail - asi05@upso.ernet.in)*.

**Awards to be given during the Meeting of the ASI:** ASI gives “*Best Poster Paper*” award for the posters presented in each of the following four categories: Sun and the Solar System (S), Stars and the Galaxy (G), Extragalactic astronomy and cosmology (E), Instrumentation (I). Another feature of the ASI meetings is the “*Best presentation of thesis*” award constituted by the Society to encourage the participation of young astronomers, who have completed their theses during the last two years preceding the ASI meeting.

**ASI-SOC constituted for the period 2004-06:** The scientific organizing committee of the ASI has been reconstituted, and is chaired by Dr. Kandaswamy Subramanian, IUCAA, Pune. The other members of the new SOC are: Jasjeet Singh Bagla, HRI, Allahabad; Narayan Banerjee, Jadavpur University, Kolkata; Dipankar Bhattacharya, RRI, Bangalore; T. Chandrashekar, PRL, Ahmedabad; Yashwant Gupta, NCRA-TIFR, Pune; S. N. Hassan, Osmania University, Hyderabad; D. K. Ojha, TIFR, Mumbai; A. K. Pandey, ARIES, Nainital; M. Parthasarathy, IIA, Bangalore; T. R. Seshadri, Delhi University, Delhi; P. Sreekumar, ISAC, Bangalore; and P. Venkatakrishnan, USO-PRL, Udaipur. We thank the members of the outgoing SOC for their good work.

**Ashok Ambastha**  
Secretary

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(\*) Please read “*The ARIES (formerly known as the UP State Observatory)...*” in the place of “*The ARIES ...*”, in this column of the September 2004 issue of the Bull. A.S.I. (Vol 32, page 267).