December Chapter Meeting

Speaker: Charlie Kaminski
NASA’s SOFIA Flying Observatory

Wednesday, the 12th of December, We will be meeting at our usual location: Michael’s at Shoreline
2960 Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, CA 94043; 650-962-1014

5:30 pm Social/Networking..........................6:15 pm Dinner..............................7:30 pm Speaker
Buffet Dinner Cost: ASM Members $25........ Students $10........ Guests $30
Reservations: Contact Al Kwong at (408) 248-1916 or al_kwong_41@yahoo.com

It is recommended to pay in advance at the ASMI website to help speed the sign-in process. ASMI-SCV Monthly Meeting Sign-up
Students should still sign in at the door to receive their discount

Abstract
Charlie Kaminski will talk about SOFIA, NASA’s 747 airborne observatory project where he works as a
mission director and the mission engineering and maintenance manager. SOFIA, which stands for
“Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy”, is a 2.5-meter (100”) infrared telescope housed in
the side of a modified 747SP, flying above 99% of the earth’s water vapor at 41,000 to 43,000 feet. He
will talk about the engineering that went into placing a large 7-ton telescope inside the refurbished 747,
and how it can fly around at over 500 miles an hour with a 10-foot hole in the side of it causing no
concerns while closely tracking stars in flight. He’ll explain the complicated flight paths they fly, and talk
about the science they are studying in simple terms everyone should be able to understand.

Biosketch
Charlie holds a Masters degree in Astronomy from the University of Virginia and Bachelor of Science in
Astronomy and Physics from the University of Arizona. He has been involved in astronomy since early in
high school when he built his own 6-inch telescope and operated the 16-inch telescope at Foothill Jr.
College on public nights in the summer. He operated the 3-meter NASA Infrared Telescope on Mauna
Kea for 20 years before being offered a job to winter over and operate another infra telescope at the
South Pole called SPIREX. He spent the next 10 years in the Antarctic program before joining up with the
SOFIA project in 2009.

Chapter Social Events
We are planning a tour of the David Salazar Glass, 703 Pacheco Ave., Santa Cruz 95065, 831-429-
6840. It will be held on Sun., Dec 16, 2012 from 10 to 2 p.m. Children are encouraged to attend. Contact
Bob Wallace at 408-867-4576 for RSVP’s so that he has a headcount for David Salazar’s preparation.