

THE OBSERVER

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

Celebrating Forty-Nine Years of Amateur Astronomy

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Since 1958

November, 2007

MEETING:

November 10, 2007

Program: "Jewels of the Winter Sky"

Location:

San Bernardino County
Museum, 7:00 p.m.
California St. Exit, Hwy 10

Pre-Meeting Dinner

5:00 PM

Hometown Buffet,
Loma Linda

After the Meeting:

Telescopes will be set up
for viewing. Bring your
telescope to observe with
us.

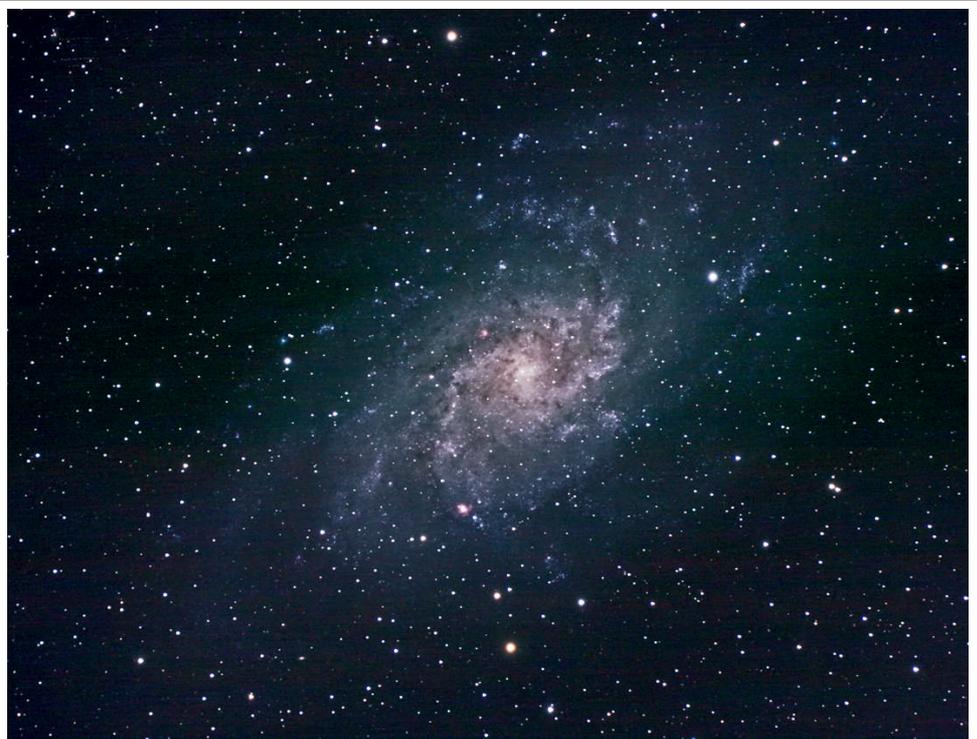
*No telescope is too humble,
and beginners are always
made welcome!*

After viewing at the
museum, the group will
head for Coco's
restaurant, Redlands, off
Hwy. 10, Tennessee Exit.

Jewels of the November Sky

Chris Clarke and Martin Carey

The fall sky appears nearly empty of bright stars, but offers a rich hunting ground for a great variety of deep sky objects. In this presentation we will tour a selection of objects that make this season unique and challenging for all observers. We will also examine some of the deep sky objects within two of our neighboring galaxies M31 and M33, along with helps on finding these objects. Our aim is to make finding deepsky objects a pleasure, not a chore.



*** Public viewing after the meeting ***

Calendar of Events

- Nov 10 Club Meeting
- Nov 17 Moon Party, Martin Carey's house, Grand Terrace
- Dec 1 Holiday Get Together at Roberto's
- Dec 8 Star Party, Angeles Oaks Helipad

SBVAA OFFICERS

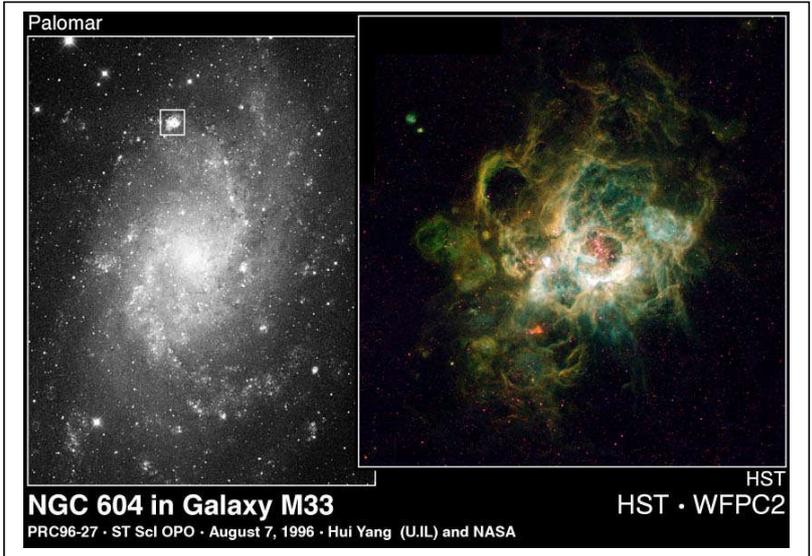
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Trustee's Message

By Martin L. Carey
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If you haven't seen Comet Holmes yet, step outside with a pair of binoculars and look towards Perseus. This is the easiest comet since Hale Bopp, and it is growing in size every day. As it recedes away from us, it will fade, but probably remain large and diffuse until springtime. We were able to see a hint of a tail on Saturday night at Afton Canyon.

Before meeting, I plan to get an SQM reading at the Angeles Oaks Helipad. We are hoping that we can return to that site for close-by observing so that more members can attend our star parties. I expect that the Helipad is still quite acceptable for the brighter deepsky objects and can often have very good seeing conditions.



The Great Nebula in M33

NGC 604 can be seen in the Palomar photo above within the small square, and enlarged by Hubble in the right image. It is 1500 light years wide, the distance of M42 from earth. Now that is a great nebula!

Probably discovered by Hodierna before 1654. Independently discovered by Charles Messier 1764. M33 was later found and described by William Herschel on September 11, 1784 with his 7" f/12 telescope.

This is a Hubble Space Telescope image (right) of a vast nebula NGC 604 in the Triangulum galaxy M33.

This is a site where new stars are being born in a spiral arm of the galaxy. Though such nebulae are common in galaxies, this one is particularly large, nearly 1,500 light-years across. The nebula is so vast it is easily seen in ground-based telescopic images (left).

At the heart of NGC 604 are over 200 hot stars, much more massive than our Sun (15 to 60 solar masses). They heat the gaseous walls of the nebula making the gas fluoresce. Their light also highlights the nebula's three-dimensional shape, like a lantern in a cavern. By studying the physical structure of a giant nebula, astronomers may determine how clusters of massive stars affect the evolution of the interstellar medium of the galaxy. The nebula also yields clues to its star formation history and will improve understanding of the starburst process when a galaxy undergoes a "firestorm" of star formation.

Credits: *Hui Yang* (University of Illinois), *Jeff J. Hester* (Arizona State University), and NASA.



Comet Holmes a Winner

From Sky and Telescope Magazine

Alan MacRoberts

On October 24th, periodic Comet Holmes ([17P](#)) brightened dramatically — by nearly a million times — virtually overnight. For no apparent reason, the comet erupted from a very dim magnitude 17 to about magnitude 2½. Within a day its starlike nucleus had expanded into a perfectly round, bright little disk visible in binoculars and telescopes. It looked like no comet ever seen.

Future prospects. The comet is likely to stay visible to the naked eye until at least mid-November, when evening moonlight returns. The yellow color is dust reflecting sunlight, as confirmed by spectra. Dust is what keeps a comet bright, and it hangs around — as opposed to gas (comet gas is green and blue), which blows away more quickly in the solar wind.

The gas tail will probably remain short and wide, due to our perspective on it. The tail is pointing nearly away from us in space, we're looking down its length.

Photo by Michael Jaeger and Gerald Rhemann



G1 – The Brightest Globular in Andromeda Galaxy; the Hubble telescope has captured a view of a globular cluster called G1, a large, bright ball of light in the center of the photograph. G1, also known as Mayall II, orbits the Andromeda galaxy (M31), the nearest major spiral galaxy to our Milky Way. Located 130,000 light-years from Andromeda's center, G1 is the brightest globular cluster in the Local Group of galaxies, containing at least 300,000 old stars. The Local Group consists of about 20 nearby galaxies, including the Milky Way. NASA

Telescopes for Sale:

Celestron C8 classic orange SCT. Bought in 1977, Immaculate and works good. Comes with finder, diagonal, eyepiece, wedge, tripod and drive corrector. Great astrophotography starter. \$1,000.00 firm

Celestron C6 RFT orange f-4 newtonian reflector. Also in mint condition and includes finder, eyepiece, pedestal mount and clock drive. \$500.00

Paul at (909) 585-4459

ngc_7293@yahoo.com



Left: Celestron 8" SCT

Right: Celestron 6" RFT

Gallery of Lunar Images

By Paul Littlecoyote

Total Lunar Eclipse of August 28, 2007.

Celestron Nexstar 8" SCT, Canon XTi, Prime Focus and Piggyback



Paul Littlecoyote is a member of SBVAA and lives in Big Bear, CA.

