

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #53, Issue 3

Since 1958

March, 2011

Meeting:

March 19, 2011

Location:

San Bernardino County
Museum, 7:00 p.m.
Redlands, CA. California
St. exit, I-10 Fwy.

Pre-meeting Dinner, 5:00
p.m.,

The Sizzler
1800 So. Waterman
Ave.
San Bernardino, CA

After the meeting telescopes
will be set up for viewing
and members will be
available to answer
questions. Bring your
telescope to observe with us.

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

After viewing the group will
head for Coco's in Redlands,
Tennessee exit, I-10 Fwy.

Program

Hawaiian Starlight Touring the Universe from Mauna Kea

The video was done by the Canadian-France-Hawaiian Telescope atop Mauna Kea. It is filled with beautiful astro-imagery, including time-lapse videos showing the heavenly motions. It has a musical soundtrack by Halo to accompany it.

Excerpt from notes by the director, Jean-Charles Cuillandre: "It took seven years to create this film which I made to be enjoyed by all ages, by non-scientists and scientists alike. It is the representation of the realization of a dream I had as a teenager; becoming astronomer at the leading astronomical facility Canada - France - Hawaii Telescope (CFHT) atop Mauna Kea in Hawaii..."

"Mauna Kea is a very special place, I felt is the second I set foot on the mountain in 1993. I was, however, struck by how time seemed to stand still. And so did burgeon the idea of time accelerated cinematography, coupled with highly sensitive digital cameras capturing the starlight and nighttime landscape. This film technique reveals the magic of the place through cinematic beauty."

For more on Hawaiian Starlight, go to:

www.cfht.hawaii.edu/HawaiianStarlight





www.rtmcastronomyexpo.org/general.html

Date

The 43rd annual RTMC Astronomy Expo will take place from Wednesday, May 25 through Monday, May 30, 2011.

Location

YMCA Camp Oakes, five miles southeast of Big Bear City on State Route 38 at Lake Williams Road between mileposts 44 and 45. This location is about 50 miles northeast of Riverside in the San Bernardino mountains.

Longitude 116° 45' 15" West

Latitude 34° 13' 50" North

Altitude 7250 feet (2210 meters)

Since its inception in 1969, the RTMC has expanded to encompass all aspects of amateur astronomy from beginning to advanced topics and from telescope making to "armchair" astronomy. Recently, the RTMC has included events for the whole family with horseback riding, hikes, activities for spouses and activities for the young kids. In 2000, the official name of the conference was changed to the "RTMC Astronomy Expo."

The camping is fun but the primary reason for attending is because it offers a chance to rub shoulders with a large number of people who know telescopes and like to talk about them. What is offered is a chance to see and look through a large variety of telescopes (with relatively dark skies and high altitude), attend talks by professional and amateur astronomers on different aspects of telescope construction and use, see some astronomical equipment and software in use, and buy astronomical equipment and software (often at reduced prices). The vendors contribute door prizes

Club Discount on Subscriptions

Attention **Sky & Telescope** magazine subscribers.

As of now you can re-subscribe to the magazine on your own. When you receive your renewal notice, just send in the proper paperwork along with a check for \$32.95. They said you don't have to go through the club treasurer to get the club discount.

Astronomy subscribers, you still need to send your renewal monies to Fidel, the club treasurer.

SBVAA
7799 21st Street,
Highland, CA 92346

S&T subscribers can still send their renewals through the club if they prefer. The cost is \$33.00.

for Saturday and Sunday evenings. We don't know exactly what prizes we'll have in advance, but in the past there have been telescopes of 8 to 12 inches in aperture.

General admission includes entry to the conference grounds for five days (Wednesday through Sunday) and camping for four nights (Wednesday through Saturday nights). Meals and dormitory lodging are not included but may be purchased separately.

People coming for a single day (or any part thereof) may pay for a Single Day Admission. **Single Day Admission does not include camping, meals, or dorm lodging.** Day Users arriving after 9 AM Saturday will be directed to special parking areas.

Questions about registration should be directed to:

Robert Stephens
8300 Utica Avenue, Suite 105
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
registrar@rtmcastronomyexpo.org
(909) 948-2205

Editor's Gleanings

By Jim Sommer

As your newsletter editor I'm always on the lookout for interesting bits to include each month. Items to give you information, give you something to ponder and to entertain. Every so often I find what I consider a gem. And so, since we astronomers like the dark, I give you this thought from Rita Nakashima Brock, author, theologian & poet.

Blessed are dark things

Chocolate

Coffee

Red wine

Molasses

Blackberries

Blessed are the dark places

The slow ebbing into long, dreaming sleep

The languid snuggling in warm darkness under cover

The buried seeds gathering strength for the struggle of light-filled days

The moist earth below a rock

The inky depths of a womb nourishing life within it

The moonless night sky of infinite possibility

Dark is a gift

*The relief of a place to hide, to watch, to observe, to wait, to think, to dream,
and to be restored*

*The murky bottom where something is growing but we don't know what or
when or how*

Life needs the storehouse of darkness for all its beginnings.



What a lovely sight -- calm, serene, peaceful.
It's too bad that conditions on the surface
don't match the view from space.

*Photo credit: Reto Stöckli, Nazmi El Saleous,
and Marit Jentoft-Nilsen, NASA GSFC*