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Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 18, club meeting at the Museum

July 1-4, **Grandview Star Party**

July 9, public outreach at the Museum
CANCELLED

July 16, club meeting at the Museum

August 6, public outreach at the Museum

August 13, annual club BBQ at the Museum

August 27, star party, Johnson Valley

Want to sell some gear?

Don't forget that you can advertise it here for free. Scopes, eye pieces, photography equipment, tripods, mounts -- whatever you have it might be of interest to a fellow member.



I will serve this world of His devising,
Out of a dream in my quiet mind,
I shall find the crystal of peace, -- above me
Stars I shall find.

Sara Teasdale, alt.

Editor's Notes

By Jim Sommer

It's that time again when Grandview beckons. Ultra dark skies with magical seeing and transparency. I've heard it said that a really dark sky site is like having an extra inch of aperture. Having been to Grandview with a 4 inch refractor I have to say it's true. I was able to see some NGC and IC objects there that were difficult even from Joshua Tree or Johnson Valley.

If you have a bit of camping gear or a small trailer pack up and try to get to Grandview. It's worth the trip.

Our next public outreach at the Museum is on Saturday, August 6. Mark the date on your calendar. Outreaches are a great way to raise public awareness of the joys of astronomy and of issues such as light pollution. Seeing to look of wonder on the faces of our guests is very fulfilling. August promises warm nights and large crowds in attendance.

Come on out and join the fun!

Summer Skies Over Grandview!

By Chris Clarke

Well, the gloomy gray of spring will soon fade away into the bright sunshine of summer as we prepare for our “road trip” to Grandview. Slated for Friday, July 1 through Sunday, July 3, we’ll be up at our favorite remote site for some great deep sky observing.



Situated at 8600 feet in the White Mountains east of Bishop, this site offers some of the best viewing conditions in the western U.S. Large open campsites are available and our group usually takes two or three. Temps during the day can be in the 70s to 80s and down to around 40 at night; not too bad considering the altitude. The campground is “dry,” so bring all the water you’ll need. Nice ‘outhouse’ style restrooms are available too. Lots of pinon pines make shade and day hikes are fun for many.

Enjoy the beautiful clean clear air and see some of nature’s denizens cavorting about. Everything from jays to bats can be seen in the air, while chipmunks will often be seen scurrying around looking for food scraps. Speaking of food, the group usually has a potluck breakfast on Saturday morning, so bring a few goodies to share. For meals, everyone should bring all the food and beverages they need, but on Saturday night, there will probably be a run down to Bishop for pizza to bring back to camp for all to enjoy. If you have anything else to add to the table, so much the better!

As to the viewing, be prepared for some stunning sights! In the early evening, the summer Milky Way will be rising in the east, while the splendors of the spring sky will be overhead. Distant galaxies in Virgo and Coma will be waiting for you and you can find “gobs of globs,” the awesome globular clusters, like M13 and M22 and many, many more. See stars that are dying out, with M57, the famous “Ring” nebula and M27, the “Dumbbell.” See delicate gossamer supernova remnants, like the awesome “Veil,” and beautiful bright nebulae, like the “Lagoon,” Trifid,” and “Swan.”



(M13 photo courtesy of Jon Talbot; SV102ED with a Starlight Xpress SXV-H9)

No matter what instrument you bring, you’ll see a lot! And remember, everyone usually shares the views through their telescopes, so if you don’t have one, you can still do a lot of observing. Grandview is all about great companionship under the stars. Make it your ultimate summer getaway and enjoy the universe with like-minded friends!



(M27 photo courtesy of Jon Talbot; SV102ED with a Starlight Xpress SXV-h9)

Gigantic Star Shines Brightly But is a Loner



(Photo credit:ESO/M.-R. Cioni/VISTA Magellanic Cloud survey/Cambridge Astronomical Survey Unit)

For more information, go to Space.com

Super-bright stars are normally found in the jam-packed centers of star clusters, but scientists have now discovered that one of the most luminous stars known is actually a lone wolf. This discovery might change how astronomers think stars are born and end up on their own.

The gigantic star, called VFTS 682, is approximately 150 times the mass of the sun. It lies in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a small galaxy neighboring the Milky Way. An international team of astronomers detected the star using the European Southern Observatory's [Very Large Telescope](#). It makes its home in a stellar nursery, a giant patch of gas, dust and young stars that is the most active star-forming region in the Local Group of galaxies we call home.

Researchers calculated it was far more luminous than before thought, ranking among the brightest stars known. This super-bright star is also extraordinarily hot, with a surface temperature of about 90,000 degrees Fahrenheit (50,000 degrees Celsius). In comparison, our sun only has a surface temperature of about 10,000 degrees F (5,500 degrees C).

Super-massive stars like VFTS 682 often do not live a relatively long time. What will be its fate -- supernova, long duration GRB or a quiet collapse into a black hole?