

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

March, 2014

Meeting:

March 8, 2013

Location:

Grove (Farm) School
Corner of Iowa & Orange
Redlands, CA

6:00 p.m.

From I-10, take Alabama exit and go south to Orange, turn right, just past Iowa the entrance will be on your left.

Pre-meeting Dinner, **4:30**
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!

Program

Hubble

Rationale for a Space Telescope

This will be the first in a series of DVD lectures on understanding the greatest images of the universe. Delivered by Dr. David M. Meyer, Professor of Physics & Astronomy at Northwestern University, the lecture will discuss the advantages of a space based telescope vs. one on the ground. Also discussed are the basics of light, telescopes and the Earth's atmospheric. This first lecture sets the stage for succeeding lectures which move outward through our solar system and into the deep space. Dr. Meyer has selected ten of Hubble's incredible images to serve as a basis for each of these lectures.



In addition to teaching physics and astronomy, Dr. Meyer is also director of Dearborn Observatory and co-director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics at Northwestern.

SBVAA Officers

President:

Vice President: "Everyone"

Treasurer: Fidel Hernandez 909-864-0615

Secretary - Educational Outreach: Chris Clarke
909-384-8539 Work
909-875-6694 Home

Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson
909-8828198

SBVAA Webmaster: Steve Miller 626-859-7776

Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer 909-792-3587

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 29, Star Party, Johnson Valley

April 12, Club meeting, Grove School

April 19, Solar outreach, Veterans' Park,
Colton

April 28, Star Party, Johnson Valley

May 10, Club meeting, Grove School

May 23 - 26, RTMC, Big Bear

May 24 - 25, Star Light Festival, Big Bear



The 45th annual RTMC Astronomy Expo will take place from **Thursday, May 22 through Monday, May 26, 2014**. Observing, workshops, vendor show deals, swap meet early on Saturday morning -- all the traditional events.

For detailed information, go to their website at:

[www.rtmcastronomyexpo.org/
generalp.htm](http://www.rtmcastronomyexpo.org/generalp.htm)



RTMC weekend will also see the Star Light Festival in Big Bear Lake Village. This event is separate but held in conjunction with RTMC. The festival will feature:

Sidewalk astronomers,

Exhibits by the Big Bear Solar Observatory,
US Forest Service, and others,

Commercial exhibits of science instruments,
games and activities,

And presentations on the current state of
astronomy and space science.

Flashlights at the Meeting

Members are encouraged to bring a light to help find the way across the rough ground at our new meeting site. It's quite dark at the site unlike the Museum.

Club Outreach

Our club has been asked to do a solar viewing event as a part of the Earth Day celebration at Veteran's Park in Colton on Saturday, April 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Dust off your white light and Ha filters and come out for a morning of fun. Many people don't believe that you can safely look at the Sun. Here's our chance to prove them wrong and show them the wonders of our nearest star.



"Unofficial" Club Outreach

After a morning of solar viewing on April 19, you have an opportunity to do some night time outreach as well at the Wildlands Conservancy in White Water Canyon. The folks at White Water are allied with our Wildlands Conservancy friends in Oak Glen and look to put on four to six outreaches a year, depending on program schedules and weather.

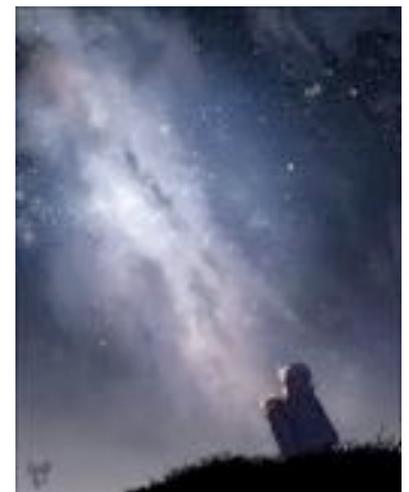


A number of your fellow club members have signed up to be on their contact list and respond to outreach requests whenever possible.

The site is north of the I-10, and situated in a fairly narrow canyon which shields much of the light from the low desert communities. Like the Oak Glen location, this is a good, dark spot for being so near to major urban areas. The time is 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Come early and bring a picnic dinner.

Summer Stars by Carl Sandburg

BEND low again, night of summer stars.
So near you are, sky of summer stars,
So near, a long arm man can pick off stars,
Pick off what he wants in the sky bowl,
So near you are, summer stars,
So near, strumming, strumming,
So lazy and hum-strumming.



New Cosmos to premier March 9, 2014



Cosmos was first broadcast by PBS in 1980 and became the most widely watched series in the history of American PBS. It remained so until Ken Burns' *The Civil War* aired in 1990. Interestingly, as late as 2009, it held its spot as the most widely watched PBS production in the world. It has been broadcast in over sixty countries and viewed by over 500 million people!

A book (your editor still has his) was published to accompany the series.

Carl Sagan died in 1996. His widow, Ann Druyan, wanted to keep the series alive. Working with the original producer, Steven Soter, and famed astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson she sought create a new version of Cosmos aimed at the widest audience as possible. As stunningly popular as the original series was, the major networks were reluctant to pick up the series, failing completely to see the great potential of the show.

Finally, in 2011, after years of hard work the show was officially announced for its “first light” broadcast in 2014. Oddly it was FOX that decided to take the risk. Cosmos would clearly be outside of their typical programming but a FOX executive was quoted as saying “we believe this can have the same massive cultural impact that the original series delivered.” If you miss the premier on FOX, the program is supposed to be re-aired the same night on the National Geographic Channel. (The National Geographic Channel is one of the co-producers of the series.)

The new host, Neil deGrasse Tyson, has emerged over the past several years as a popular speaker on many television science shows and at science and astronomy events. In several interviews Tyson stressed the goal of capturing the “spirit of the original Cosmos” which presented “uplifting themes that called people to action.”



Ann Druyan in interviews discussed the themes of wonder and skepticism that are in the scripts. She is also quoted as saying “In order for it to qualify on our show it has to touch you. It still has to be rigorously good science -- no cutting corners on that. But then it also has to be... equal part skepticism and wonder both.

Tyson reflected that what most people who remember the original Cosmos remember most is the way it strove to present science in a way that had meaning for you... “that could have an influence on your conduct as a citizen of the nation and of the world...” Tyson states that the new series will contain both new material and updated versions of topics in the original series, but primarily, will service the “needs of today’s population.” “We want to make a program that is not simply a sequel to the first, but issues forth from the times in which we are making it, so that it matters to those who [are] this emergent 21st century audience.”