

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

April, 2014

Meeting:

April 12, 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

The Day the Moon Was Gone

This excellent DVD from *The Universe* TV series explains what would happen if the moon was suddenly taken away from the earth.

Everything from the tides to climate would go crazy and our world would be a very difficult place to life to survive. The show also describes the moon's formation and evolution, along with the earth's development and evolution as a world.



This is an incredible look at the unique “double planetary” system we share with the moon!

SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 19, Solar outreach, Veteran's Park
Colton, 10:00 a.m.

April 26, Star Party, Johnson Valley

May 10, Club meeting, Grove School

May 23 - 26, **RTMC**, Big Bear

May 31, Star Party, Johnson Valley

June 7, Club meeting, Grove School

June 27 - 29, **Grand View** star party



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

Flashlights at the Meeting
Members are encouraged to bring a light to help find the way across the rough ground between the meeting room and the parking lot.

Warm days and clear nights at RTMC make for a great weekend. Vendor show deals, the swap meet and a good line up of speakers point to another stellar event. Below is a picture of the vendor field.



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 (safely) 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.

I have had two requests for help with a public outreach; one from the Oak Glen location and the other from their Pioneer Town location (in the mountains above Yucca Valley). Oak Glen is looking to put on a solar outreach in conjunction with their summer family programs. The time would be from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The dates under consideration are July 9, or 16 or 23. If you would like to help, contact Marianne Shuster at marianne.s@twc-ca.org

Caroline Conway at the Pioneer Town location is trying to set up either a "Moon Walk" on May 17, or a dark sky star party on Saturday, May 31. (That is the same night that our club has a scheduled star party in Johnson Valley.) If enough amateur astronomers respond, she may schedule both. Contact Caroline at caroline@wildlandsconservancy.org. So there you are folks... lots of opportunities for some quality "star time" as well as outreach.

Great Observatories of the World

Large Binocular Telescope

The Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) is located on 10,700-foot Mount Graham in the Pinaleno Mountains of southeastern Arizona and is a part of the Mount Graham International Observatory. The LBT is one of the world's highest resolution and most technologically advanced optical telescopes.

The Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) is a collaboration between the Italian astronomical community (represented by the Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF)), The University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, the LBT Beteiligungsgesellschaft in Germany (Max-Planck-Institut for Astronomie in Heidelberg, Landessternwarte in Heidelberg, Astrophysikalisches Institut in Potsdam, Max-Planck-Institut for Extraterrestrische Physik in Munich, and Max-Planck-Institut for Radioastronomie in Bonn), The Ohio State University, Research Corporation in Tucson, and the University of Notre Dame.

The LBT uses an elevation over an azimuth mounting. The elevation optical support structure moves on two large C-shaped rings and the compact azimuth platform transmits the loads directly down to the pier. The two 8.4 meter (331 inch) diameter primary mirrors are mounted with a 14.4 meter center-center separation. By using swing arms to rotate the secondary mirrors and their supports, it is possible to switch the telescope from one mode of observation to another very quickly. The short focal length of the primary mirrors (F/1.142) permits a compact, and therefore quite stiff telescope structure.

The LBT can be use in binocular mode or either mirror can be used individually. Either way, the resolution is astonishing but especially so in binocular mode.



Estate Sale

Meade LX200 8" SCT with 2" visual back, wedge, Celestron 2" mirror diagonal, Telrad, Meade 1.25" 26mm Super Plossl, Celestron 1.25" 2X Barlow and 5mm TV Radian. Scope, diagonal, Barlow and EP's are in original boxes. Also included is the Telrad catalog of Messier objects (Vol. 1) highlighting M1 through M55.

\$1,200

If interested, contact Mrs. Hall at
(909) 798-1188