

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #56, Issue 5

Since 1958

May, 2014

Meeting:

May 10, 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!

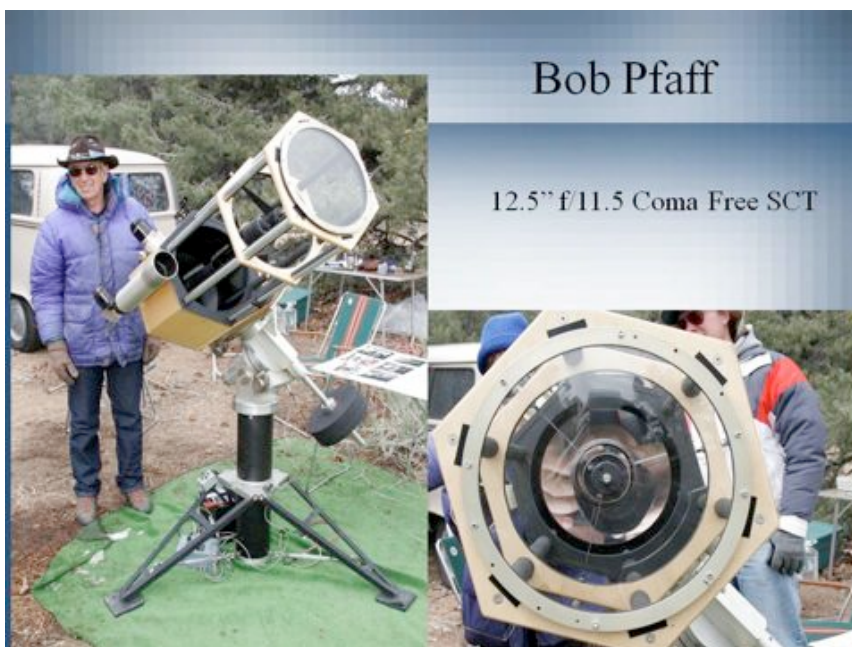
Program

RTMC: Remodeled

Our own Martin Carey will bring us an update on the “remodeled” RTMC. What’s old, what’s new, talks and workshops, who’s coming, vendors participating -- this year promises to be a really good one!

You never know what you will see on the telescope field. For instance, Bob Pfaff’s home built 12.5 inch Schmidt Cassegrain (from 2007 if I remember correctly).

From classic to extreme, amateur builders are still very much alive and well.



(Photos from RTMC archives)

SBVAA Officers

President:

Vice President:

Treasurer: Fidel Hernandez 909-864-0615

Secretary - Educational Outreach: Chris Clarke
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Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson
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SBVAA Webmaster: Steve Miller 626-859-7776

Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer 909-792-3587

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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
Watch for announcement of which
campground we will use.

July 12, No meeting, just dinner @ Sizzler

July 26, Star Party, Johnson Valley

Aug. 9, Annual club BBQ, location TBA



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.



Your editor has 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 will be from 4:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. The date is July 9. If you would like to help, contact Marianne Shuster at marianne.s@twc-ca.org I'm going, I hope you are too.

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.

Shorter Newsletter

Your newsletter will be a bit abbreviated for the month of June. The reason -- your editor is going to pull a "Fidel" and go traveling and therefore must set up the issue in advance.

Which brings up the question of who will do the newsletter if your current editor cannot. After all, I'm not getting any younger.

Seriously, the club really does need an alternate newsletter editor. It is not a difficult job -- really. If you have access to the internet, a printer, and maybe four hours or so a month you can do it.



If you think you might be interested, please contact your newsletter editor and we can discuss it.

SBVAA "Dark" for July and August

Grove School will be closed for the summer so there will be no regular meetings during that time.

This "dark" period might be a good time to take advantage of the club's website features to set up your own star party with other members.

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 Carol Hall at (909) 798-1188



Setting up. The view is toward the SW



Dawn Boatman, our host at Whitewater



Mike's beautiful light bucket

On Saturday night, April 19, a small group of us went out to the Wildlands Conservancy location at Whitewater Canyon. As before when we have gone out there, we had a relatively small (46) but enthusiastic group which included a local Girl Scout Troop. A good time was had by all except your editor who brought all his gear EXCEPT the mount for his refractor. Doh!!!
(Photo credit: Robin Hennen)



Mike's hi-tech observing chair. A Lumber Liquidators special.



Some of the locals came to check us out



Girl Scouts brightened our evening



Every scope had a lot of action