

# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #56, Issue 9

Since 1958

September, 2014

## Meeting:

September 13, 2014

### 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

# Lasers

This month we welcome back inventor, innovator and fellow SBVAA member, David Ho. David has had an interest in astronomy since he was in first grade but it wasn't until the appearance of Comet Hale Bopp in 1995, that he was finally and completely hooked.

David started his observing with a set of binoculars. Five years later he picked up Kmart 2" refractor with a non-standard EP (which he still has). It took another 25 years until he got, as he says, "a real telescope." That scope was a 10" LightBridge. Then came a 102ED refractor, a Comet Hunter and finally a C9.25 EdgeHD.

As most of you know, David has developed and manufactures a superb laser collimator for reflectors and the Advanced CT Laser Collimator (which he demonstrated in a program for us a year or so ago). Most of his R&D for the collimators on a borrowed Nexstar C8.

Regarding his company, HOTECH, David says: "My partner and I founded HOTECH with special interest in designing and producing commercial and military laser products. I am particularly proud of the rescue beacon lasers I developed for servicemen, pilots and seafarers. That my products actually help save lives is special to me." He goes on to say: "For the amateur astronomer, I also produce the Astro Aimer, SCA Collimator, ACT Collimator, and have more products in the works."

HOTECH products, and often David himself, can be found in many of the major observatories of the world. In 2013 David was awarded the Clyde Tombaugh Award for creative innovation in astronomy for telescope collimation.

(For a full article by David, see Amateur Astronomy.com, Sept. 2014)

## SBVAA Officers

President:

Vice President:

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: Gerald Rezes 909-810-7217  
Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer 909-792-3587

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 12, Outreach, Smiley School,  
Redlands.

September 13, Club Meeting, Grove School

September 19-22, **Grand View** Star Party  
At Camp Ferguson.

October 25, Star Party (1), Johnson Valley  
Star Party (2) Wildlands Cons.

November 22, Star Party, Johnson Valley

December 6, Holiday Get Together at Shakey's  
in Redlands. (Date to be confirmed)

## First Outreach Set

**Friday, Sept. 12 at Smiley School in Redlands,**  
from 7:30 to 9:30, with setup at 7:00. The school  
kids will be having a giant campout at the school,  
with 300 to 400 there, so a lot of scopes will be  
desired!

**Address: 1210 W. Cypress Ave.,**



## Special Raffle

*David Ho has donated one of his laser  
collimators for a raffle.  
One adult per family is  
eligible to participate. [Your editor owns one  
and it is a work of art as well as precision.]*

### *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.*

"Astronomy compels the soul to  
Look upwards and leads us from  
this world to another"

Plato



⊕ click to enlarge

The 2015 “Deep Space Mysteries” calendars from Astronomy Magazine are here. they will be available for sale starting with the club meeting on September 13th . We have 30 for sale on a first come first served basis. The retail cost for this calendar is \$12.95 plus \$1.00 tax or \$13.95 altogether. Your cost, through the club this year, is \$8 -- a savings of \$6. See Fidel, the club treasurer, at the back of the room to make your purchase. Reservations are accepted.

On Saturday evening, August 23, several of our members went out and up to the Wildlands Conservancy’s Pioneer Town location to help with a public outreach. Working this way with several of the Conservancy’s locations helps make people aware of these great wildlands resources, and also gives us a venue to talk about all things celestial and do some soapbox oration on the evils of light pollution. We now have three of their locations that invite us to help share the sky with the public. The three are Oak Glen, White Water Canyon and PioneerTown. They all express their sincerest thanks for our participation. (And there are often cookies!)



Above photo is of “The Belt of Venus.” This is an atmospheric phenomenon seen shortly after sunset or before sunrise. The pinkish glow that extends roughly above the horizon, separated from the horizon’s dark layer, Earth Shadow. The Pinkish glow is due to back scattering of the reddened light from the rising or setting Sun.



I guess this was some sort of sacrificial offering to keep any wild animals away.



A little solar viewing was done via reflected image



Pioneer Town skies are remarkably dark for our area

