

# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #56, Issue 11

Since 1958

November, 2014

## Meeting:

November 8, 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

### Russell W. Porter

A Modern Renaissance Man



Russell Porter is well known to amateur astronomers around the world as the man who made telescope-making possible for the average person. Much less known are the dramatic events in his life that shaped him into the versatile genius that he became. (He was also an artist, an engineer and an adventurer.) We will also examine how his unique way of seeing the world, along with his philosophy and methods, are so relevant for us nearly a century later



*The Porter Turret Telescope, near the Stellafane Clubhouse*

## 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

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

November 4, Outreach at Norton School,  
747 No. Mt View, San Bernardino.

November 8, Club meeting, Grove School

November 22, Star Party, Johnson Valley

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

## Outreach

Grab your scope and your teaching cap and come to the outreach at Norton School on November 4. Once again we will have the opportunity to fire the minds of young people (and maybe some older folks too) about our amazing universe.

The address is: 747 No. Mt. View, San Bernardino



*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.

## ASAE

The first of November will see the 3rd annual Arizona Science & Astronomy Expo in Tucson, Arizona. If you can take a long weekend, it is worth your while to go. Top notch speakers, and a budget shaking vendor displays will keep you enthused, enthralled and engaged for the expo's two days. Your humble editor attended the first two and gives it an unqualified recommendaton. And... Tucson also has some great restaurants!

(I wish I could go to this one but I will be recovering from major back surgery -bummer!)

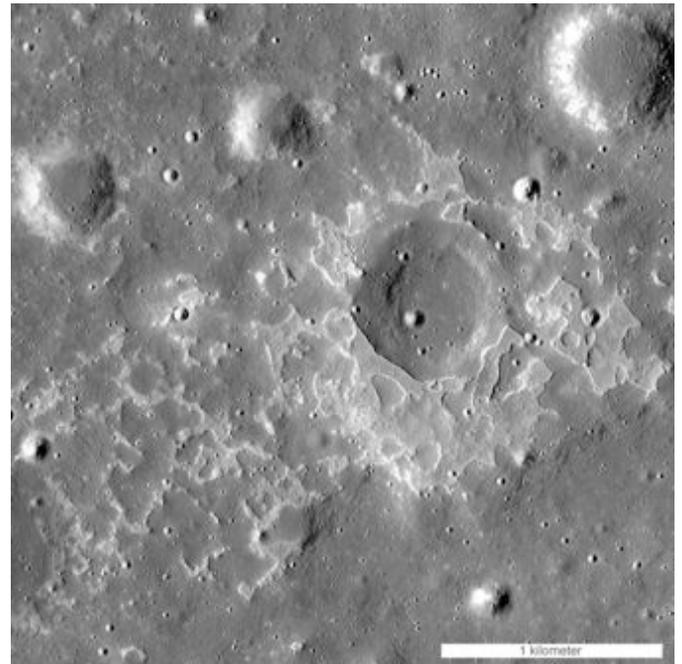


© click to enlarge

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.

### **NASA Mission Finds Widespread Evidence of Young Lunar Volcanism**

NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) has provided researchers strong evidence the moon’s volcanic activity slowed gradually instead of stopping abruptly a billion years ago. Scores of distinctive rock deposits observed by LRO are estimated to be less than 100 million years old. This time period corresponds to Earth’s Cretaceous period, the hey-day of dinosaurs. Some areas may be less than 50 million years old. Details of the study are published online in Sunday’s edition of Nature Geoscience. “This finding is the kind of science that is literally going to make geologists rewrite the textbooks about the moon,” said John Keller, LRO project scientist at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The deposits are scattered across the moon’s dark volcanic plains and are characterized by a mixture of smooth, rounded, shallow mounds next to patches of rough, blocky terrain. Because of this combination of textures, the researchers refer to these unusual areas as irregular mare patches. The features are too small to be seen from Earth, averaging less than a third of a mile (500 meters) across in their largest dimension. One of the largest, a well-studied area called Ina, was imaged from lunar orbit by Apollo 15 astronauts.



Ina appeared to be a one-of-a-kind feature until researchers from Arizona State University in Tempe and Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster in Germany spotted many similar regions in high-resolution images taken by the two Narrow Angle Cameras that are part of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera, or LROC. The team identified a total of 70 irregular mare patches on the near side of the moon. The large number of these features and their wide distribution strongly suggest that late-stage volcanic activity was not an anomaly but an important part of the moon's geologic history.

# For Sale

Venture Reflector Telescope  
"LNIB"  
Great "starter scope"

114mm primary, 900mm focal length  
Equatorial mount, 6 x 30 finder scope



3, 1.25" EP's )4. 10 & 25mm)  
3x Barlow, Moon filter & erecting lens

Original list price was \$360.

Asking \$250 but open to any  
reasonable offer.

Contact Deborah Reynolds,

{H} 909-797-1373, (C) 951-965-1444

## ARIZONA SCIENCE & ASTRONOMY EXPO !

# SOMETHING BIG IS COMING

TO TUCSON ARIZONA NOV. 1st & 2nd, 2014

Thousands of star struck amateur astronomers will descend upon the Tucson Convention Center and experience the event of a lifetime at the best of the west astronomy expo!  
You won't want to miss it!

- **Hundreds of vendors from around the world**
- **World renowned keynote speakers!**  
Astronaut Dr. John Grunsfeld, Dr. Mark Clampin, Dr. Phil Plait, Lauren Worley, Michael Paolucci, Mark Shoveller & Dante Lauretta
- **Sci-Fi Panel moderated by none other than the Meteorite Man Geoff Notkin!**
- **Daily Solar Observing hosted by The Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project!**
- **Planetarium display for the kids!**
- **Amazing Astrophotography Exhibit**



SHOW HOURS: SAT 8:30-6 PM, SUN 10-5 PM  
TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER  
200 South Church Street - Tucson, AZ 85701  
<http://www.scienceandastronomy.com/>

