

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

April, 2015

Meeting:

April 25, 2015

Location:

First Christian Church
2102 E. Foothill Dr.
San Bernardino, CA

7:00 p.m.

Pre-meeting Dinner,
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.,

Coco's in Highland has
closed

Denny's ← **NEW!**
702 E. Highland 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

Lunar Fun-damentals

Since we're having a perfect first-quarter Moon the evening of our meeting, Chris Clarke has put together a Moon slide & talk show followed by telescope viewing. In Chris' words, "it will be a presentation and Moon party."

Members are encouraged to bring their telescopes and a Moon chart if they have one!



SBVAA Officers

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Vice President:

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Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 18, Star Party, Johnson Valley

May 16, Star Party, Johnson Valley

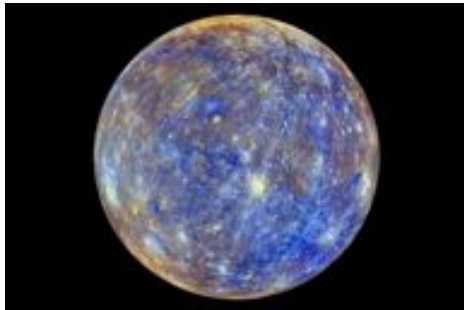
May 23 -26, RTMC. Camp Oaks,
Big Bear City, CA

May 30, Club meeting

June 11-14, Grandview Star Party

June 27, Club Meeting

Early Earth Hit by Object The Size of Mercury?



The early Earth absorbed a planetary body similar to Mercury (seen here in a NASA photo from the MESSENGER spacecraft), according to a new [study](#) in Nature released on April 15, 2015. The collision would explain the amounts of some elements in Earth's core and solve a mystery of Earth's magnetic field, scientists say.

(For more info, go the [Space.com](#))

Club Meeting Dates for 2015

Mark your calendars:

May 30

June 27

July 25, (dinner only, no regular meeting)

August 22, outdoor BBQ

September 19

October 24

November 21

December 5, (To be confirmed later)

White Water Nature Conservancy Outreach By Megan Huynh

The evening of April 11, started out a bit windy, but the wind did die down. We had about 35 guests, less than the original 70 RSVP. But we also had some locals stop by to visit us. We had a clear sky, but the transparency wasn't that good. The view Jupiter was great with the transit of IO casting its shadow, the guests just loved it. We also had some views of Venus, Orion nebula, M41, M35, Comet Lovejoy, the Double Cluster, the Crab nebula, M81, M81, The Leo trio, the Whirlpool galaxy, M101, M109. and the Pleiades.

(Some photos below from the event.)

Dawn Discoveries About Vesta

* Vesta is more closely related to the terrestrial planets (including Earth) than to typical asteroids. Like planets, it has a dense core, surrounded by a mantle and a crust.

* Vesta has a crater more than 300 miles in diameter. In the center is a mountain more than twice the height of Mount Everest.

* Vesta has a network of more than 90 chasms -- some with dimensions rivaling those of the Grand Canyon -- that are scars from two giant impacts hundreds of miles away.

* Vesta is the source of more meteorites on Earth than Mars or the moon.

Location: YMCA Camp Oakes, five miles southeast of Big Bear City, California on State Route 38 at Lake Williams Road between mileposts 44 and 45. This location is about 50 miles northeast of Riverside in the San Bernardino mountains.

Club Star Party Dates (Updated)



May 16, Johnson Valley

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

June 11 - 14, Grandview

July 18, Johnson Valley

August 8, Wildlands Cons., Oak Glen

August 15, Johnson Valley

September 11 - 13, Grandview

October 10, Johnson Valley

November 14, Johnson Valley

December 12, Johnson Valley



Photos from recent star parties and outreaches

(Thanks again to Robin & Megan for the photos)

