

# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #54, Issue 10

Since 1958

October, 2012

## Meeting:

October 20, 2012

### Location:

San Bernardino County  
Museum, 7:00 p.m.  
Redlands, CA. California  
St. exit, I-10 Fwy.

Pre-meeting Dinner, 5:00  
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!*

After viewing the group will  
head for Coco's in Redlands,  
Tennessee exit, I-10 Fwy.

## Program

### Science Fiction & Science Fact



Another interesting episode of the highly regarded "Universe" series presents the premise of what is real and not real in science fiction movies and TV series.

Everything from 'transporters' to wormholes will be explored. See how the ideas and elements that are popularized in science fiction could really exist!



## 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: Steve Miller 626-859-7776

Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer 909-792-3587

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 13, Star Party at Afton Canyon  
and  
Star Party/Outreach, Wildlands Conservancy  
Oak Glen

October 20, Club meeting at the Museum

October 23, annual outreach at the Asistencia

November 10, Star Part at Johnson Valley

November 17, Club meeting at the Museum

December 1, Annual "end of year" club party.  
(More info to follow)

## October Outreaches

By Chris Clarke

We have two fun-filled, action-packed outreaches scheduled for this month! First off, we will be at the **The Wildlands Conservancy in Oak Glen on Saturday, Oct. 13**. We'll set up around 6:00 and share the wonders of the heavens with folks from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. The night skies are darker out there and we can show people all kinds of neat deep sky objects.

On **Tuesday, Oct. 23**, we'll be at the **Redlands Asistencia on Barton Road**, sharing views of a nice waxing gibbous moon. Sunset is at 6:00, so be sure to get there early to set up. Viewing is from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. As usual, we'll be set up on the front lawn (and sidewalk, if necessary!).



We usually see lots of folks at these events, so the more scopes, the better. Everyone has a wonderful time, so come on down and enjoy the fun!

## FOR SALE

Like new Televue Nagler 9mm Type 6  
Eyepiece in excellent condition that has  
only been used three times.  
Asking price only \$180.00.

If you have any questions please contact:

Trae Schneider

909 496 2534

[traeschneider17@gmail.com](mailto:traeschneider17@gmail.com)

[TraeSchneider@yahoo.com](mailto:TraeSchneider@yahoo.com)



## In Broad Daylight

By Cliff Saucier

Sometimes things are such an unexpected surprise! Most of my astronomy is done in the darkest skies that are available to us in our local deserts. This was a blue sky event from my driveway in San Bernardino, and the single best thing I've yet to see through a telescope!

Bob Noss, a friend of the club from LA, clued me in about a daylight occultation of Venus by a waning crescent Moon. Monday, August 13, and I had some free time to check it out. Sky and Telescope magazine had an article with the timing, but opined that the slim crescent would be hard to find in the bright sky. I went out to see for myself around ten in the morning and the moon difficult at first, but clearly visible once found. Arming myself with binoculars revealed Venus in the same field of view. a white hot diamond in the daylight blue sky. My neighbor was coming down the driveway right then, so I had to make sure she saw it as well. The actual event wasn't till one-thirty, giving me time to call a few of the guys that may have the opportunity to observe and give them a head's up.

Now it's twelve thirty and I'm setting up a six-inch dob in the shade on my driveway. Align the finderscope...difficult, as this is the first use since loaning it out for two months to an interested friend. They just come back different from when they left you. Putting a low power eyepiece in the focuser, then focusing, what I saw totally shocked me! A slightly hazy sky had smeared the crescent's surface features to invisibility, rendering our familiar Moon an airbrushed gas giant, accompanied by Venus masquerading as a brilliant first quarter moon. As alien a skyscape as seen in any sci-fi movie, and right in my very own eyepiece! Filling the low power view with wonder. Wow! When the Moon finally crossed in front of Venus it was a little anticlimactic. Forty seconds and it was over. The reappearance a little

over an hour later was blocked by the building thunderheads, but I was more than satisfied.

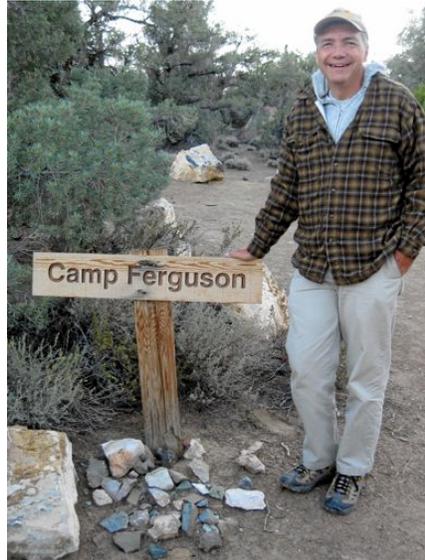
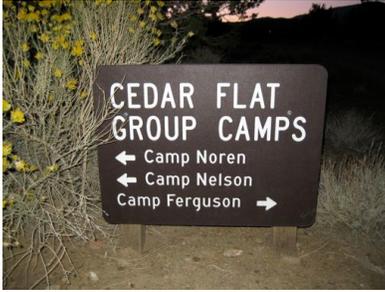
Checking out upcoming events of a like nature, there was found one with Jupiter and the Moon dancing in the morning sky. Saturday, September 8. They will be at less than a degree apart around three in the morning, and I may peek out of a window for a quick look before heading back to bed, but when the sun comes up the plan is to set up a telescope and check out the show. The Moon will be in her third quarter phase, and will be due south at sunrise, ninety degrees from the Sun, and if the skies are clear, easily visible. Jupiter and her moons should be to the right, and hopefully in the same field. It's said that Venus and Jupiter are both visible to the unaided eye in broad daylight if you know just where to look. The proximity to the Moon should aid in finding the bright planet. Use your binoculars and set up a scope. I've never seen a planet naked eye during the day, and only caught Jupiter one time through Fidel's good graces up at Grandview one year. The club meeting will be that same evening. Let's compare what we were able to see!



*(Photo credit: Tom Fleming, Photo Research)*

*[Editor's note: Cliff sent his own very excellent photo with his article but, alas, I couldn't open it. It looked very similar to the above pic but was a larger scale.]*

# A GRAND VIEW CEDAR FLAT, CAMP FERGUSON, SEPTEMBER, 2012



Thanks to Robin Hennen for once again taking pictures that capture the feeling of the event.

