

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #54, Issue 11

Since 1958

November, 2013

Meeting:

November 16, 2013

Location:

**Grove (Farm) School
Corner of Iowa & Orange
Redlands, CA**

**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

Under Autumn Skies

A presentation by Martin Carey & Chris Clarke

As we slowly segue from warm summer evenings to frigid winter nights, we embrace the cool star filled nights of fall. With the Milky Way arching high overhead, we have the opportunity to see many wonderful sights within our own galactic arms, plus vast numbers of galaxies visible above and below our own galaxy's bright starry profile.

Great mythical figures, like the brave hero Perseus, and the beautiful princess he saved, Andromeda, reveal many a celestial jewel ready for the taking. Scattered throughout this stellar season are many wonderful clusters, nebulae and a wide variety of galaxies that all present themselves to the earnest observer.



Look for "The Silver Dollar", "The Helix", "The Pinwheel", and other fun-named fascinating objects that are scattered about the heavens like windblown leaves on an autumn night.

Join us as we see what wonders can be found and enjoyed during this time of year, neatly wedged between the stellar glories of summer and winter!

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Nov 7, Outreach, Kendall School, San Bernardino

Nov 13, Outreach, Lincoln School, Colton

Nov 16, Club Meeting, Grove School

Nov 28, Thanksgiving

Nov 30, Star Party, Johnson Valley

Dec 7, Annual Club Holiday Get Together,
Shakey's Pizza, Redlands

November School Outreaches

By Chris Clarke

Well, we finally got a couple of schools asking for outreaches! The weather had been bad earlier in the year and no one wanted to try anything, so we'll make up for lost time before the year ends.

Our first event is on **Thursday, November 7, at Kendall School in San Bernardino (4951 State St)** from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Setup will begin at 4:30, with sunset at 4:50 pm. We'll have a nice crescent moon and Venus at quarter phase---being half full in appearance.



Flashlights at the Meeting

Members are encouraged to bring a light to help find the way across the rough ground at our new meeting site. It's quite dark at the site unlike the Museum.

The next outing is on **Wednesday, November 13 at Lincoln School in Colton (444 E. Olive St)**. We'll view from 5:30 to 7:30, with setup anywhere from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. The moon will be a nice gibbous and Venus still half full. This school usually has a tremendous turnout (one year there was about 400 people), so we can use all the scopes and help we can get! This is an "inner-city school" and these folks really enjoy and appreciate the opportunity to look through a telescope, so know that the sharing of your time and instruments is very significant.

Everyone has a great time, so I hope to see you there!!

Club Activity Dates for 2014

January 4, Star Party, Johnson Valley
January 11, Club meeting, Grove School
February 1, Star Party, Johnson Valley
February 8, Club meeting, Grove School
March 1, Star Party, Johnson Valley
March 8, Club meeting, Grove School
March 29, Star Party, Johnson Valley
April 12, Club meeting, Grove School
April 26, Star Party, Johnson Valley
May 10, Club meeting, Grove School
May 23 - 26, RTMC, Lake Williams, Big Bear
May 31, Star Party, Johnson Valley
June 7, Club meeting, Grove School
June 27 - 29, **GRAND VIEW**
July 12 (**NO MEETING** but dinner as usual)
July 26, Star Party, Johnson Valley
August 9, Club summer BBQ & picnic
August 23, Star Party, Johnson Valley
September 13, Club meeting, Grove School
September 19 - 21, **GRANDVIEW**

More info after we get the school's calendar dates for Fall of 2014

2014 ASTRONOMY CALENDARS

The 2014 "Deep Space Mysteries" calendars from Astronomy Magazine are here. they will be available for sale starting with the club meeting in October.



We have 30 for sale on a first come first served basis. The retail 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.

Outreaches and Star Party Possibilities

As discussed during the October club meeting, we will likely see more outreach activities and "alternate" star parties for 2014. While Johnson Valley remains an excellent dark sky site, the near-two hour drive is not for everyone. The Wildlands Conservancy in Oak Glen, White Water and even Pioneer Town, may serve as an alternate for those whose want to observe but don't want to drive to a more remote location. Also there has been an increasing interest in outreaches by other than schools. Watch for upcoming opportunities as 2014 progresses.

Oct. 25th Owl Canyon Star Party For Two

by Cliff Bullock

On Saturday the 25th, Mike Ratcliff and I decided to go to Owl Canyon. The moon wasn't rising till after midnight and this is a place I haven't been to before. The sky was cloudy, but clearing was predicted. By 8p.m. the sky was clearing North and East.



Mike was picking out hard to find Galaxies and Nebulas in his 14-incher, while I was off in Cassiopeia looking at clusters with my C8. Andromeda came up with M31 easily visible with the naked eye, M110 was even clear. I found M33 for the first time along with M34 near Perseus and later when Taurus was up M1, the "Crab Nebula." There was a scout troop from Etiwanda there so we invited them over for a look. They enjoyed looking at all the Galaxies, Nebulas and other deep sky objects.



Mike and I ended with a clear sky all around except to the South. There were very few campers and the spot we picked was secluded with only a small glare out of Barstow to the South. Finding those small hard to see objects was pretty easy from there.

Just for a note, Owl Canyon is only 9 miles farther from my house than Johnson Valley, but the view from Owl Canyon is better.

[Editor's note: Per Cliff, the off-roaders that previously created problems for observers must now remain on the desert "flats." Owl Canyon may again be a viable alternative for star parties.]

Gear For Sale

Please remember folks, you can "advertise" gear you want to sell right here in your club's newsletter. It's free and your ad will be read by fellow astronomy enthusiasts.

So, taking my own advice, I'm selling three of my TV Radian EP's. They are 6mm, 10mm and 12mm in focal length. Radians have a 60* AFOV and eye relief of about 20mm making them ideal for those of us who have to observe while wearing glasses. They are in excellent condition, with two in their original boxes. Call your newsletter editor if interested.

Price new was \$240. I'm selling at \$125 each.



Plan Ahead

2nd Annual Arizona Science & Astronomy Expo

November 16 & 17, 2013, Tucson, Arizona.

Last year's inaugural expo was outstanding with top speakers and a massive vendor hall. For 2013, three stellar speakers have already signed: **Alex Filippenko**, world renowned astrophysicist and professor of astronomy, **Timothy Ferris**, astronomer and author of twelve best selling books, retired astronaut **Story Musgrave** and **Emily Lakdawalla**, Senior Editor & planetary evangelist.

Tickets are only \$10 per day plus \$1 for parking. Children under 12 enter for free. Ticket price includes all activities and presentations.

November 16th and November 17th 2013. Being held at the Tucson Convention Center Tucson AZ.

www.scienceandastronomy.com/

or if you are on Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/ASAExpo/

Events

- [Southwest Astrophotography Seminar](#)
- [Comet Discussion Panel](#)
- [University of Arizona, mirror lab tours](#)
- [Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter "SkyNights" Program with Adam Block](#)
- [Visit The Challenger Space Center Arizona](#)
- [Visit Kitt Peak National Observatory](#)
- [Digital Planetarium Shows throughout the day](#)
- [Daily Solar Observing](#) with **CBSAP** Director Stephen Ramsden, Randy Shivak, Roger Kennedy and Lunt Solar Systems.
- "Mighty Sky Night" at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum concert with [Beth Nielsen Chapman!](#) **[Details and ticket information here!](#)**
- Visit the Gallery of International Association of Astronomical Artists while at the show!
[IAAA](#)

**HUGE vendor display and sale area
downstairs in the Convention Center.**