

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #56, Issue 10

Since 1958

October, 2014

Meeting:

October 4, 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

The Russian Meteor Fall of 2013

“A meteorite shower has crash landed across Russia's Ural region, injuring over [1,000] people and damaging buildings in six cities. Residents in Chelyabinsk reported shaking ground, windows shattering and car alarms going off as the rocks fell to Earth.”



I don't think any of us who read the news in February, 2013 will forget the above quoted story intro.

Our program this month is the excellent PBS NOVA presentation “Meteor Strike” which documents the story of this remarkable near-miss.

It's really a great video and shows how they were able to determine the object's approximate size, density, speed and orbit. We were sure lucky that it didn't come straight in or there really would've been a horrible disaster!

SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1, Outreach, Dunlap School,
Yucaipa

October 4, Club meeting, Grove School

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

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)



Keep looking up!

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.



Grandview Vista



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.

Ten of our club members threw caution in the face of weather forecasts and went up for the September Grandview star party at Ferguson Campground. Friday night was DARK with outstanding viewing. But on Saturday, clouds began to move in and by night time the area was clouded out. About 0400 Sunday morning a good rain washed the dust & dirt off the hearty campers. No one seemed to be the worse for wear though. Ahhh... adventures in observing. Thanks to Megan Huynh for the photos below.



Big or small, we love them all!



Gourmet astronomy?



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 (4mm, 10mm & 25mm) &
3x Barlow lens, 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

Lunar Eclipse

The night of October 7 & 8, will see the second lunar eclipse of 2014. The Moon will start moving through the Earth’s shadow about 0215 PDT, Oct. 8, with totality beginning at 0325 and ending at 0424. The Moon’s track will be slightly off-center through the Earth’s shadow which may result in the northern half of the Moon being darker. It’s likely we will again see the spooky “blood” color at the peak. Will we be bombarded with internet hoaxes? Will extremist religious cults proclaim the end of the world? Will the ghost of Orson Wells re-broadcast “War of The Worlds?” Who knows?

Restoration of the 24” Clark Telescope at Lowell Observatory Restoration Near Half-way Point

After over 117 years of constant use the great 24” Alvin Clark refractor, its mount and protective dome were taken out of service for a long needed restoration.

The massive optical tube was disassembled and is being carefully cleaned and brought back to better than original spec.

The shutter doors of the dome are being replaced along with many other poorly working parts.



The Clark was built by the preeminent [telescope](#) makers of their time, the Alvan Clark & Sons firm of Cambridgeport, Massachusetts. The instrument saw first light on July 23, 1896, and Percival Lowell initially used it to study Mars in support of his controversial theories about life on that planet. Significant research with the Clark included V. M. Slipher's revolutionary discovery of the first evidence of the expanding nature of the universe, the confirmation of Pluto's discovery in 1930 (made by Clyde Tombaugh with another telescope at Lowell Observatory), and creation of lunar maps in the 1960s in support of the Apollo program that sent astronauts to the Moon.

The Observatory is a non-profit organization and seeks public donations for its continuing research.

Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2013-12-lowell-observatory-clark-telescope-renovation.html#jCp>