

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #57, Issue 10

Since 1958

October, 2015

Meeting:

October 24, 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.,



IHOP

**{Int'l House of
Pancakes}**

2575 Highland Ave.
Highland, 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

Happy (Star) Trails

We are honored to have local photographer **Bruce Herwig** this month. Bruce will discuss various techniques for creating beautiful star-trail astrophotos. From “point ‘n shoots” to big DSLR’s, anyone is capable of getting great shots.



SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 10, Star Party, Johnson Valley

October 24, Club Meeting

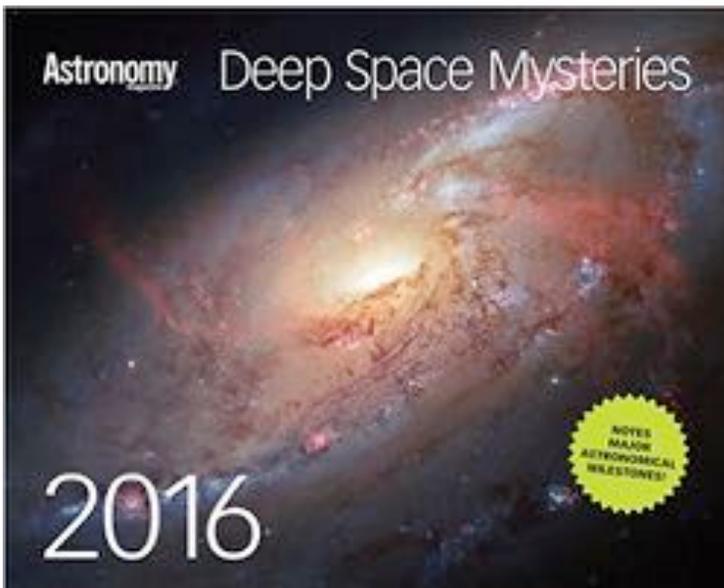
November 1, (Sunday) DST ends

November 14, Star Party, Johnson Valley

November 21, Club Meeting

December 5, Annual Holiday Get-together
Shakey's Pizza, Redlands. Time = TBA

December 12, Star Party, Johnson Valley



The 2016 "Deep Space Mysteries" calendars from Astronomy Magazine are here. They will be available for sale starting with the club meeting in September (hopefully on the 19th). We have 30 for sale on a first come first served basis. The retail for this calendar is \$12.99 plus tax or over \$14 altogether. Your cost, through the club this year, is \$10 a savings of \$4. See Fidel, the club treasurer, at the back of the room to make your purchase. "Reservations are accepted."

This calendar is filled with stunning images of stars, planets, galaxies, and other deep space wonders. A highly informative essay accompanies each inspiring photograph. For each month, celestial viewing opportunities, historical events, and national holidays are listed. . A highly informative essay accompanies each inspiring photograph. For each month, celestial viewing opportunities, historical events, and national holidays are listed.

Upcoming Outreaches

By Megan Huynh

October 16 - Outreach - Joshua Tree: Sky's The Limit Observatory

October 31 - Outreach - Pioneertown Mountain Preserve

November 19 - Outreach - Emmerton School

December 15 - Outreach - Wilson School

Letters From Grandview, September, 2015

By Steve Peeters

On Thursday the 10th of September I departed for the drive up to Grandview around 9:30 A.M. On my way up I visited the Lone Pine Film History Museum. If you have any interest in western movies this is a great place to go. I was there for about three hours and enjoyed learning more about the many films that were made just outside of town in the Alabama Hills. All together, starting in 1920 and up into the 60's more than 150 movies were filmed there. The museum also has some really neat western exhibits including a beautifully restored 1862 Butterfield Stagecoach.

Arriving at Grandview at about 6:00 P.M. I found Rue & Megan holding down our site. I was pooped after a long day so that night, even though clear, I did not observe. The next day I set up my big binoculars and planned for a night of observing. As I planned to travel more after the GV star party I did not bring my Dob. Besides I knew I could get some fine views through Megan's 25 and Martin's 20." On Friday I took a day trip up the the Bristlecone Pine Trees. There I ran into an interesting group of college students from UC Davis. They were just beginning their graduate work in ecology and were a fun group. Their attire really captivated my interest.



I asked them why they were wearing costumes and one of them said, "the question is, why aren't you."

The Bristlecones are really neat, they are the oldest living things on earth, as old as 4,000 years. The first grove you come to is the Schulman grove, and it is just five miles up the hill from the campground; and, the road is paved to that point. After a great one mile loop hike to see the grove I decided to drive twelve miles further on a rough dirt road to see the Patriarch grove at about 11,000' elevation. The drive up there and the grove was really nice, you get a much better feel of the bristlecones by visiting both groves. These trees produce some purple pine cones each year about this time, see photo below. Unfortunately, one of my tires got shredded to pieces on the way down from the upper grove. If you go there do two things that I didn't: drive slowly and let some air out of your tires.

Upon return to Grandview I met, John, a fellow astronomer that Rue & Megan know from Pioneertown outreaches. Also, having arrived while I was out were Chris Clark and Tom Lawson. A bit later Mike Ratcliff rolled in and, lastly Martin Carey. This night I enjoyed some views through my 20 X 90mm Big Binoculars, but I spent most of my time looking through Megan's 25. With the big binoculars the show stoppers were the open cluster the Pleiades, complete with reflection nebulosity surrounding the stars, and, the Great Andromeda Galaxy with its companions M110 & M32. Along with Megan Huynh and Mike Ratcliff I enjoyed some wondrous views through her 25. A mirror of this size gathers nearly three times as much light as my 15." So, viewing through it pulls the stars in brighter and allows for greater detail and more use of high magnification. Megan has a Bader Hyperion 36mm which yields about 75X and a very pleasant field of view. Using that eyepiece we looked at numerous deep sky objects. We continued to use Megan's 36mm eyepiece and also a 7mm Nagler of Mike's, for increased magnification of

454X, moving in close for detail. The conditions were pretty good and we got some great views. We got a close in view of M1, the Crab nebula in Taurus. Mike's favorite for the night was a splendid view of M15, the globular cluster in Pegasus. We also got a very nice look at NGC 253, the Silver Coin galaxy in Sculptor. My favorite view for the night was easily seeing (no averted vision needed) the dust lane on NGC 891, an edge-on galaxy in Andromeda. In Aquarius we had nice views of NGC 7293, the Helix nebula, and NGC 7009, the Saturn nebula; both very different planetaries.

So, what were the other fellow members doing on Friday night? Tom was using his 12.5" Parks reflector for some great views. John was using 5" aperture vixen binoculars with some impressive results. Rue was getting some cool images with a DSLR camera paired up to her 8" Orion astrograph on a solid Atlas mount. Chris was hanging out with Rue, the images coming up on her screen were impressive and kept Chris captivated for most of the evening. I went over to check on them and was amazed at her results with M31 and NGC 253. Tom and Martin were over there for a while too, and of course Megan. Megan did some time lapse images too. I asked Martin to provide me with his recollections of what we viewed through his 20" scope. [See letter below.]

On Saturday morning we had a fine breakfast thanks to the cooking of Megan, John, and, Tom. Tom Lawson is quite the cook. In addition to cooking hash browns and pancakes for breakfast he made a good pasta salad and a mixed greens salad for dinner.



Saturday was mostly cloudy and the weather forecast for the night was not promising, in fact it was poor with a good chance of a shower and mostly cloudy. Scott Freeman arrived late in the day and told me he was hoping it would clear up, I told him to watch for a nice sunset. But, Scott was very optimistic and set up his scope, after many of us had already put our gear away. He told me, "I didn't come 250 miles for nothing." I figured the night was a wash out and went to my trailer to work on a jigsaw puzzle. Around 9:00 P.M. Martin came up to my trailer and complained about the bright light. Initially I closed the curtains and he wasn't real happy about that and I then realized that they must be observing. So, I turned off my lights and went out to see a clear and transparent sky, Scott's optimism was spot on! We got in three hours of some very nice views. Martin had a young couple come over to look through his scope and while he was showing them around the sky I went to visit some astronomers I know that were camped nearby. When I returned one of them, Gary Chock, from San Jose joined me. He admired Martins's new rig and knew it to be a Hubble Telescope. For a while the three of us and Tom enjoyed some wonderful views through Martins 20." Besides having a fine optics to look through the condition of steady seeing and excellent transparency added to our view. When we looked at M13 Gary said something poetic about the view, not using his exact words my version is we saw pinpoints of diamond on black velvet.

As for departing Grandview most of our group left on Sunday morning. Mike, thinking Saturday night was doomed, left around 5:00 P.M. Sunday night was clouded-in but happy campers still present were myself, Rue & Megan. I got off shortly before Megan & Rue on Monday morning. Upon leaving Grandview I went to Bishop and got a new tire put on my van. On my way home I spent about four hours visiting the Manzanar National Historic site, just south of Independence. They have very good exhibits there that really

explain what the Japanese (the second generation being US citizens) went through while held there during WW2. I recommend visiting this site.

Being at Grandview under a dark sky is a real treat. It is even more special when shared with fellow club members who add so much to the joy of the trip, that's why we call it a star party!

"Hi Steve,

Here is a brief chronicle of our observations with the 20" on Friday and Saturday nights. The clouds in the south finally cleared away both nights, but the seeing was extremely mushy on Friday night. However, on Saturday night, the forecast turned out to be wrong; it was very steady, clear and calm. Our first object was M22, the big globular in

Sagittarius. The new aluminum structure for the 20" allows faster cooling of the primary mirror, and when the system was finally collimated, the star images really came into focus, and I was not prepared for what I saw. M22 was even more amazing, rivaling M13 in magnificence with its stars resolved into thousands of tiny pinpoints, right to the core. The view was overwhelming.

Next, we slewed a few degrees over to M28, another fine globular, further away. Again, a spherical swarm resolved right to the core. We were using the 13mm Ethos eyepiece at 195x, which works well for most objects in the 20" scope. A young couple came to view with us, both climbers on tour. They were from Washington state, although the woman was originally from Lithuania. They were pleasant company, eager nature lovers, and ever happy to see more. Chris asked to look at the Cat's Eye nebula in Draco, and fortunately it popped into view instantly, unlike last year's search! The Cat's Eye glowed with a very intense blue-green, and when we bumped the power to 254x, some fine structure became visible. We switched over to a 17mm Delos, giving us 147x for a look at our friendly neighbor giant, M31. The arms of that galaxy

have wide, deep dust lanes that provide a good test for the transparency of the sky, and of the cleanliness of your optics. We saw two darker lanes that appeared like someone had dragged two fingers through chalk dust on a black board. There is also a star cluster in M31's arm, NGC 206, discovered by William Herschel in 1786. When we slewed the scope around, the small galaxies M32 and M110 hovered nearby, staying close the mother galaxies big spiral's arms. We viewed many more things until nearly 2:00am when our minds and eyes started to shut down. One thing I am sure of, next June's Grand View trip is too far away.

Martin Carey"

