

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #58, Issue 5

Since 1958

May, 2016

Meeting:

May 21, 2016

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.,

Pepper Steak
Restaurant
26589 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

Grandview Skies

This month's program will be presented by our own Martin Carey and Chris Clarke. They have put together another one of their excellent Power Point presentations featuring what we can expect to see at Grandview in June. Highlighted will be the Spring and early Summer sky constellations and deep sky objects. As always, lots of very cool pics and diagrams.

Grandview campgrounds are some of the darkest areas in California from which to observe. Small scopes used there seem to have acquired an extra bit of aperture and the big scopes... well you might just have to duct tape your socks on.



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 21, Club Meeting

May 26-29, RTMC, Camp Oaks, Big Bear

Jun. 3-5, **Grandview**, dark and starry!

June 18, Club Meeting

July 2, Star Party, Johnson Valley

July 16, Club Meeting

Aug. 6, Star Party, Johnson Valley

***Other star parties, outreaches and events for
2016, TBA***

2016 Outreaches Scheduled (so far)

May 12----Dunlap School in Yucaipa

August 10—Hermosa School in Alta Loma

Transit of Mercury

Monday, May 9, saw the first transit of Mercury in a roughly a decade. Many websites featured live streaming action of the event. Your editor was able to observe it in Ha using a Lunt 60.

The morning was overcast over my hi-tech backyard observing spot. But a little after 1000, the sky cleared fairly well and I was able to watch for a little over an hour until Mercury's tiny dot disappeared outside the solar limb. Ten years ago I watched it through a white light filter which gave a very nice view. This time the view through Ha gave so much more. While there was not so much activity around the limb, the face of the solar disc showed a lot of magnetic action with whorles 'n sworles, threads and some curious white spots. (I really need to bone up on my solar terminology!)

All in all it was a great show and I hope you, gentle reader, got to see it too.

National Astronomy Day

May 14, is National Astronomy Day. How are you going to celebrate and share the sky? There are a lot of sidewalks available as are school parking lots and playgrounds.

Share the sky and give an inspiration for tomorrow.

Rudy Rodriguez Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund has been set up in the name of our former colleague, Rudy Rodriguez. As many of you may remember, Rudy was very generous every year at A.B. Miller High School, providing telescopes and scholarship funds from his own pocket to deserving students.

Ideally, A.B. Miller High would like for this scholarship fund to continue on as time goes by. The fund would help offset the cost of continuing education for at least one (if not more) deserving senior. Rudy's sister, Sandy, and his niece, Jacquie (an A.B. Miller graduate) are in conversation with some close friends and will be directly involved with the selection process. It gives them great joy to know that Rudy's legacy might live on in this way.



If you would like to contribute to this fund, the school would welcome your support. Checks should be made out to A.B. Miller High School, making sure to designate this fund in the memo section.

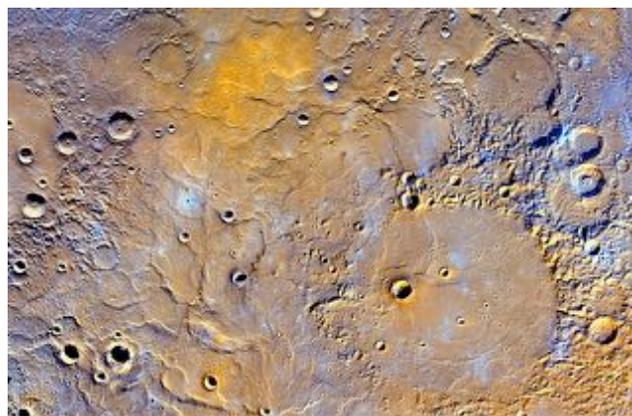
If you have any questions, feel free to call Kent E. Moore at the school, extension 10153.

Your editor does not know if this is (or will be) a registered 501 3(c) non-profit fund. However, it is in support of a public school and therefore likely to be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor to clarify.

More on Mercury

This enhanced map of Mercury's northern pole exaggerates the colors to reveal insights about the different types of rocks on the planet's surface. The 181-mile-wide (291 kilometers) Mendelssohn impact basin shown at the bottom right may have once been nearly filled with lava. The bright orange region at the top shows the location of a newly identified volcanic vent.

- See more at: <http://www.space.com/32832-new-mercury-maps-highs-and-lows.html#sthash.oKoeJzW9.dpuf>



(Credit: NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Carnegie Institution of Washington)



(Credit: NASA)

Space Available for Mt Wilson Viewing

This just in from Ron Hoekwater and our friends in the Pomona Valley club. If you aren't going to Grandview, this will be a great opportunity to "play with the 'big guns'"

"If you missed our nights with the big telescopes on Mount Wilson in 2014 and 2015 this is your chance to remedy that omission. **PVAA has reserved the 100-inch telescope at Mount Wilson Observatory on Friday, June 3, 2016. We have the 60-inch telescope the next night, Saturday, June 4, 2016.** Having the telescopes on consecutive nights will allow those who wish, to compare the two. In early June the planets Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn will all be near opposition. Early June also gives us the best chance of having a perfect night; that is a night with a dense marine layer to hold down the city lights and very steady seeing. Late summer might be better for steady seeing, but not for a marine layer to block the city light.

On a night with steady seeing both telescopes are great for observing planets. When it comes to deep sky objects both telescopes are best at showing small, high surface brightness objects, such as planetary nebulae, globular clusters, and unusual stars. I am hoping that we might see the Einstein Cross. The Einstein Cross is a gravitationally lensed quasar about 8-9 billion light-years from Earth. To see it will require a near perfect night but, June 3-4 give us a chance for such a night.

We are allowed a maximum of 25 people in the 60-inch dome and a maximum of 18 in the 100-inch dome. The minimum age permitted by the observatory is 12 years. The price for the 60-inch scope is \$100.00 (\$25.00 non-refundable after May 4) and the price for the 100-inch is \$330.00 (\$80.00 non-refundable after May 3). For questions or to reserve a spot contact Ron Hoekwater at astro4ron@gmail.com."

