



# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #59, Issue 8

Since 1958

August, 2017

## Meeting:

August 5, 2017

## Location:

**Pico Park  
21950 Pico St.  
Grand Terrace,  
CA**

**5:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

There won't be time for evening viewing but, if you have some solar equipment you might try for a bit of late afternoon "sun fun."

## Program Annual Club BBQ

### It's On!



As in years past, we don't have a regular club meeting in August, instead we have a social get-together. **On Saturday, August 5, we'll meet at Pico Park in Grand Terrace.**

*Set up will begin about 4:00 pm or so and eating will commence after 5:00 pm.* Our reservation ends at 8:00 p.m.

Bring any kind of food you like, and everyone usually shares what they have. If you can't bring food, we always need napkins, plasticware, paper plates and beverages too.

It's a nice opportunity to simply chat and hang out with your fellow members.

## SBVAA Officers

President: Jamie "Rue" Countryman  
[jamie.countryman63@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.countryman63@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Fidel Hernandez 909-864-0615

Secretary - Educational Outreach: Chris Clarke  
909-754-3894 Home

Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson  
[tlawson777@charter.net](mailto:tlawson777@charter.net)

SBVAA Webmaster: Gerald Rezes  
[geraldrezes@verizon.net](mailto:geraldrezes@verizon.net)

Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer  
909-792-3587

Assoc. Editor: Megan Huynh  
[megan.huynh@gmail.com](mailto:megan.huynh@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 5, Annual Club BBQ

August 19, Star Party, loc. TBD

August 12/13, Perseid Meteor Shower

August 21, Solar Eclipse

Sept. 9, Club Meeting

Sept. 22 24, *Star Party, Grand View*

Oct. 7, Club Meeting

Oct. 8, Draconid Meteor Shower

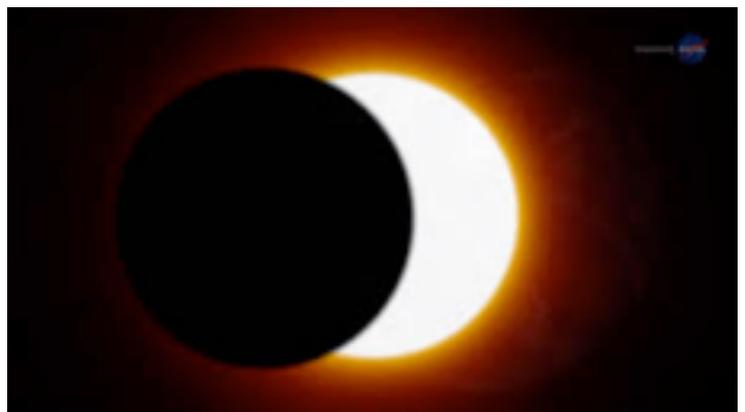
Oct. 21, Star Party, loc. TBA

## Solar Eclipse Info

I'm sure all of you are aware of the "Great American Solar Eclipse" coming on August 21. It's time to dust off the solar filters, Herschel wedges, and other assorted gear for viewing our nearest star. If you are one of those lucky enough to have reservation for a spot under the umbra, excellent! For those of us who are going to be staying close to home, all is not lost. Our SoCal area should experience about a 60% eclipse. The only problem is that the event will begin and end on a work-day, Monday. If you can get the time off or are retired, you will have a wonderful opportunity for viewing and/or photographing a great partial eclipse.

For the greater L.A. Basin and the San Bernardino Valley areas, the show should begin about 9:05 a.m. and max out at about 10:21 a.m. About 11:44 a.m. the show will be over.

Be sure to see this event if you can. There are three partial solar eclipses in 2018, but they will not be visible from No. America. The next total solar eclipse visible from the U.S. will not be until 2024.



## The Perseids Are Coming (we hope!)

After midnight on August 12, will be the best time to catch the peak of the Perseid meteor activity, Up to sixty meteors per hour is expected but we all know that it can be much better (or worse) than that. Light from a waning gibbous moon may obscure some of the fainter meteors this year but there is always a chance of a big bolide putting on a show.



## Life on Mars: A Dead Issue?

*Astronomy*, July 7, 2017, by Nathaniel Scharping

Hopes of finding life on Mars seems to be waning in light of the results of new studies done at the United Kingdom Centre for Astrobiology at the University of Edinburgh. It seems that martian soil has a special kind of salt which interacts with ultraviolet radiation there causing it to be laced with toxic perchlorates. Researchers exposed a strain of bacteria commonly found on spacecraft to levels of perchlorates and UV light found on the Red Planet and found that nearly all of them were dead within a minute. They tried this with several different kinds of perchlorate, and found similar results every time. Adding in additional environmental factors found on Mars like low temperatures, additional minerals found on Mars and a lack of oxygen also failed to keep the bacteria alive.

This was a bit surprising for the researchers because the strain of bacteria used, *Bacillus subtilis*, belongs to a genus that actually does fine in the presence of perchlorates on Earth. Will we discover a new life form... or nothing?

# Vignettes of Grand View

June, 2017



(Photo credits: Megan Huynh & Jim Sommer)  
[mostly Megan]