



The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS
Member of The Astronomical League
<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

January 2019

Meeting:

January 19, 2019

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.,

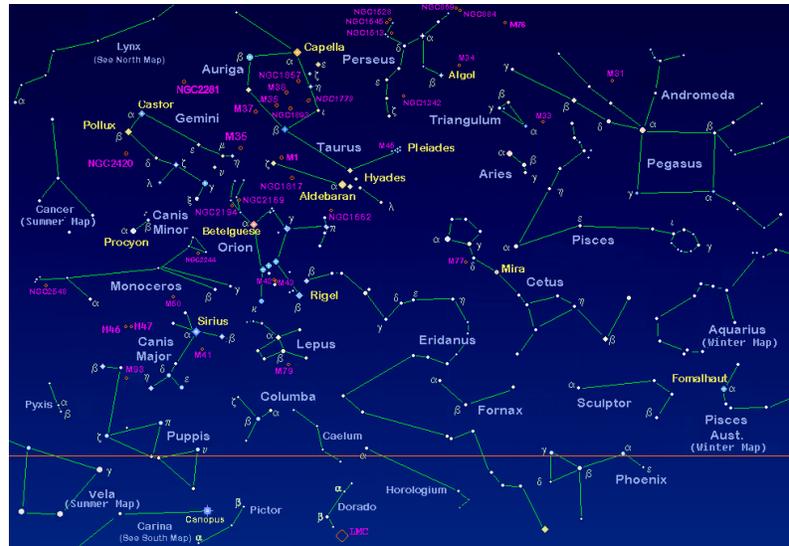
**Jenny's Family
Resturant
7750 Palm Ave.
Highland, CA**

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 Winter Skies (or "What's Up Doc?")

The program for the meeting will be a winter sky talk delivered by our own Martin and Chris.



In a power point presentation they will show us the best observing targets for a winter's night of observing. They have given this talk for the past several years and, as always, it serves as a good reminder for us.

This is the best time of year. Lets take advantage of it!

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Jan 20, Outreach, County Museum

Feb 2, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Feb 16, Club Meeting

Mar 2, Star Party, Oak Glen

*Mar 12, Outreach, Arroyo Grande
Elemen. Sch., Highland*

*Mar 14, Outreach, Wildwood School,
Yucaipa*

Mar 23, Club Meeting

Apr 6, Outreach, White Water

2019 Membership Dues



It's **January** and that means it's **time to renew your club membership** if you haven't already done so. Dues are still only \$30 per person or \$30 for an entire family.

Treasurer Fidel will happily accept cash or check.

New Horizons' flyby of Ultima Thule

As billions of people across the world ushered in the new year, the New Horizons spacecraft whizzed by a far-flung space rock named Ultima Thule, making it the most distant object ever visited by humanity. Traveling at a speed of nearly 9 miles (14.5 kilometers) per second, New Horizons' didn't take long to zip past Ultima Thule, which is only about 20 miles (30 km) long and 10 miles (15 km) wide.

During its closest approach at 12:33 a.m. EST on January 1, New Horizons passed within just 2,200 miles (3,500 km) of the mysterious bowling-pin-shaped rock, collecting data all the while. Within just 10 hours, at 10:28 a.m. EST, the spacecraft successfully "phoned home," confirming to NASA scientists that it had survived its close encounter with the distant object.

Lunar Eclipse Event at the Museum!

By Chris Clarke



On Sunday, January 20, we'll be treated to a total lunar eclipse! It will also be our first outreach of the year at the County Museum. Fortunately, the eclipse will occur in the early evening as opposed to previous eclipses, which were only visible from here in the "wee hours" of the night. There will probably be a large turnout by the public, so we hope to have lots of scopes and binos set up for viewing. In addition to the moon, M42, the Pleiades and a few other celestial goodies may lie within our reach as the brilliant moon slowly fades from view.

Depending on the clarity of the earth's atmosphere, the color and brightness of the completely eclipsed moon may either be bright and coppery orange or dark and brownish in shade. That's part of the fun and beauty of a lunar eclipse, you never know what to expect until totality occurs! In December 1982, the moon actually disappeared from view and only a faint sliver of light was visible along one edge when seen through binoculars. That extremely dark eclipse was caused by the massive eruption of a volcano in Mexico a few months earlier, causing all manner of dust, ash and aerosols to be placed high in the atmosphere. This effectively dimmed the sunlight passing through the thin shell of air around the earth's disk and let very little light into the earth's shadow to reach the moon. The total eclipse that happened six months earlier was a very bright reddish orange, since the atmosphere was relatively clear. It was certainly an amazing pair of eclipses to witness!

For viewing the eclipse, low power is essential, to see the full disk throughout the eclipse. It is neat to watch the moon slowly glide into the earth's shadow and to see the various lunar features disappear into the darkness. If you don't happen to have a scope, it is still beautiful to the unaided eye or through a pair of small binoculars. The moon will enter the umbra (the darker part of the shadow) at 7:34 pm. At 8:41 pm, the moon will be fully inside the shadow and that will last until 9:43. Deepest coverage will be at 9:12. The moon will be out of the umbra by 10:51. The outreach is scheduled from 8:00 to 10:00 and we'll set up in the same area that we were in the last time. Set up will be around 7:30 or so.

Hope to see you there and let's all keep our fingers crossed for clear weather, too!



F4.5 Classic Obsession, \$2,950.00

Ready to use and in very good condition. I am the original owner and bought it in August of 2005. Included are the installed Argo Navis digital setting circles, a Telrad, nylon light shroud, Astro systems heavy vinyl cover for the Upper Tube assembly, a total scope Astro Systems Cloth Cover with a drawstring at the bottom, a homemade truss tube case and battery box w/motorcycle battery, all instruction manuals and info sheets, wheel barrel handles and counter weight balancing tubes with lead shot mounted at the bottom of the mirror box. The mirror was made by Omni Torus and it doesn't disappoint. The DSC help you see more stuff and provide for a lot of fun. **Phone Steve Peeters at (909) 557-3112**

Add-On Options for you to consider:

A great 20 x 80mm optical finder by Stellarvue with a diagonal and mounting rings. You can see the dovetail for it on the UTA next to the Telrad. I loved this finder in addition to the DSC because I do some star hopping and enjoyed splendid views of large objects like the Pleiades. I bought this new about 7 years ago, my total cost was \$373.00. Yours for \$200.00.

An Astrocrumb Filter Slide made especially for this scope by Roger Green. It holds three filters at a time and comes with a second slide for a total of six filter options. It has one blank spot so you just slide back and forth from no filter to whatever filter you want! It comes with a wooden case to boot. My cost was \$244.00. Yours for \$125.00.

I've got a few other goodies that are included but not worth mentioning, so you'll be surprised.