

# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #54, Issue 3

Since 1958

March, 2012

## Meeting:

March 10, 2012

### Location:

San Bernardino County  
Museum, 7:00 p.m.  
Redlands, CA. California  
St. exit, I-10 Fwy.

Pre-meeting Dinner, 5:00  
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!*

After viewing the group will  
head for Coco's in Redlands,  
Tennessee exit, I-10 Fwy.

## Program

### The Wildest Weather in The Cosmos



This fascinating video program will describe and illustrate the incredible weather found within our solar system and beyond. Featuring awesome visual effects, you will experience the strange and truly unbelievable temperature ranges, winds, rains, and major storms found beyond our rather calm earth. There is also a look at the weird weather-like effects created by stars. This is an episode from the renowned "Universe" series that airs on the History Channel.



*Images credit: NASA/JPL-  
Caltech/University of Arizona/  
CNRS/LPGNantes*

## SBVAA Officers

President:

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Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson  
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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 24, Messier Marathon at GMARS or,  
at the Wildlands Conservancy, Oak Glen

March 25, (during the day) Dark Skies Presentation  
at the Museum

April 14, club meeting at the Museum

April 21, star party, Afton Canyon or star party/public  
outreach, Wildlands Conservancy, Oak Glen

May 12, club meeting at the Museum

May 19, star party, Johnson Valley

May 23-28, RTMC

## New Venue for March Star Party

By Chris Clarke

The SBVAA will commence use of a new location for our **March 24** star party---**The Wildlands Conservancy** in Oak Glen. We are now "allied" with that group and will be having some star parties and outreaches throughout the year at this location. This site is intended to be an alternate location for the more remote sites that are also visited each month by the club. Take the I10 Freeway to the Oak Glen Rd off-ramp and follow it to 39611 Oak Glen at Los Rios Rancho. Signs will be up at the driveway.

Sunset is at 7:05 pm and we will be on the site for several hours, so take note that this will not be an "all-nighter" star party. Note also that this 'party' is for club members, their relatives and friends; the public will not be there for this one. There will be a public outreach April 21, however. That will be a great opportunity to show more than just the moon and planets to excited, wide-eyed kids and their folks!

**Also on March 24**, the club is invited to be at the Riverside Astronomical Society's GMARS site in Landers for the **annual Messier Marathon**. For

those who wish to stay "closer to home," the "Wildlands" location is being utilized. It is simple to get to, has both a paved and dirt area for parking and observing, plus restrooms. The altitude is around 5000 ft and the sky is quite dark, enabling good views of deep sky objects.

## Looking for Someone to do Astronomy with Kids

By Chris Clarke

Matthew Douglas, Recreation Coordinator for the City of San Bernardino, wants to know if anyone in our club would be interested in volunteering with their new mobile astronomy program -- someone who would like to work with kids and share astronomy with them at various places in the area.

The individual needs only basic astronomical knowledge and the ability to operate a telescope. They have acquired a new telescope and equipment to do this, so you wouldn't be using your own.

The frequency of doing it would be about twice a month. If you are interested, please contact Matthew at (909) 384-5233. If you have the time, work well with children and have a desire to share astronomy, this is a nice opportunity.

## Special “Dark Sky” Program at the Museum

On Sunday, March 25, there will be a presentation of the new documentary movie, “The City Dark” at the County Museum. This film is all about the awful impact of light pollution and the loss of our once dark, star filled skies.

Featuring stunning astrophotography, watch a cast of scientists, philosophers and historians discuss the detrimental effects of obliterating the night sky. Learn about what is being lost by humanity and nature and also about what is being done to try to preserve our view of the heavens in select locations.

There will also be a talk by Dr. Tyler Nordgren, Professor of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Redlands, who recently published a book, “Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks.” He will also have a book signing. The movie starts at 1:00 pm and the talk and book signing is at 2:20 pm.

This event is being sponsored by our club. However, unlike other ‘outreach’ events, this program requires the usual museum admission: \$8.00/adult, \$6/senior, \$5/student with ID, and \$4 for children age 5 to 12.



## March Outreaches!

By Chris Clarke

On **Thursday, March 1**, we’ll be visiting Yucaipa Elementary School in Yucaipa. The address is 12375 California St. Sunset is 5:45 pm, so setup is around 6:00 with viewing going on from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Lots of excited kiddies and parents will be attending. We’ll view a first-quarter moon, Jupiter and Venus.

On **Thursday, March 8**, we’ll be setting up our scopes at Lincoln Elementary School in Colton. This venue usually brings in a few hundred children and parents, so the more telescopes, the better! The school is located on Olive St., just off Mount Vernon Ave. in Colton. The address is 444 E. Olive. We set up on the playground and there is a side street off Olive that turns into the back of the school for access.

We’ll have the full moon, Jupiter and Venus to view. Sunset is at 5:53 p.m., so setup is around “6:00-ish,”p.m. with viewing from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It’s always fun, so come on down and share the wonders of the universe with our Colton neighbors!

## Club Meeting Dates for 2012

February 11  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9  
July 14  
August 11 (ann. BBQ)  
September 8  
October 20  
November 17  
December (tbd) ann. holiday dinner

# Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory

Mount Wilson Solar Observatory was founded in 1904 by George Ellery Hale under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution of Washington (the word "Solar" was dropped from the name in 1919 soon after the completion of the 100-inch telescope). In that year, Hale brought the Snow Solar Telescope from Yerkes Observatory in southern Wisconsin to the sunnier and steadier skies of Mount Wilson to continue his studies of the Sun. With a small cadre of Yerkes scientists and engineers accompanying him, Hale started what would become the world's foremost astronomical research facility.

Founding the new field of astrophysics -- referred to at the time as the "New Astronomy" -- Hale sought to understand the physical processes that took place in the Sun and other more distant stars. Hale and his colleagues developed new technologies to extract the information encoded in the light from distant astronomical objects. Combined with an earthbound laboratories where cosmic conditions could be duplicated, this small group of pioneering scientists began the long process of deciphering the light from objects that only new, powerful telescopes and instruments could detect, unlocking the secrets of life and death among the stars. Each new answer brought new questions, and each victory brought new challenges.



**150 Ft. Solar Tower** ↑

**60 Ft. Solar Tower** →



**Mt. Wilson  
Observatory  
Complex**

