

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

June, 2012

Meeting:

June 9, 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

A Walk Under the Summer Stars

Martin Carey and Chris Clarke will present a sky program via powerpoint to illustrate and share the delights of the summer season of stars.



Highlighting the constellations and the fascinating deep sky objects that reside within them, the program will prepare you for the wonders to be viewed at Grandview and even from your own backyard. Trail along the beautiful Milky Way and see why this season's sky is so fascinating, where incredible objects abound just waiting to be seen!

SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 23-28, RTMC

June 9, Club meeting at the Museum

June 15-17, GRANDVIEW Star Party

June 30, Outreach, Moon Party

July 14, Club meeting at the Museum

July 21, Two star parties:

(1) Afton Canyon

(2) Wildlands Conservancy, Oak Glen

August 11, Annual club BBQ at the Museum

Museum Moon Party!

By Chris Clarke

On Saturday, June 30, we'll set up our scopes at the Museum to share views of the beautiful waxing gibbous moon and lovely Saturn with the public. Setup is from 7:30 to 8:00 pm and viewing begins right after 8:00. We'll be there until 10:00. As usual, we'll be located at the south end of the parking lot.



Bring your scope and be prepared to have a good time! Afterwards, several members usually go down to Coco's for a little dessert and further conversation. All in all, a most pleasant way to spend a Saturday night in the good ol' summertime!

Partial Solar Eclipse

By Jim Sommer

I hope all of you were able to get out and see the partial solar eclipse on Sunday, May 20. I got out in time to see the Moon's shadow begin to move across the face of the Sun and was able to watch it until the Sun dropped behind some neighboring trees. I used my 80 mm triplet refractor with a 17 mm Hyperion eyepiece and an Orion white light solar filter. The combination worked beautifully while the sun remained in view. By the time the trees obscured the view the Moon had pretty well covered the Sun leaving only a small crescent of the solar face. The solar crescent was also evident in the shadows of leaves on my hedge. A very interesting effect seeing all those tiny crescents.



Club Meeting Dates for 2012

~~February 11~~

~~March 10~~

~~April 14~~

~~May 12~~

June 9

June 15-17 **Grandview**

July 14

August 11 (ann. BBQ)

September 8

October 20

November 17

December (tbd) ann. holiday dinner

Partial Lunar Eclipse Visible June 4

By Chris Clarke

On the early morning of Monday, June 4, the full moon will pass into the earth's shadow, creating a partial lunar eclipse. Beginning at 3:00 am PDT, the moon will contact the umbra, or darker inner shadow. From then on, the moon will slowly pass through the umbra, with the lower part of the moon's disk noticeably darkened.

At 4:03 am PDT, the moon will be deepest in the shadow, with about 37% of moon obscured by the shadow. The moon will appear as if a large bite had been taken out of it. From then on, the moon will slowly move out of the shadow and the eclipse will end at 5:06 am PDT.

Local sunrise is at 5:38 am and twilight will be underway as the moon passes out of the shadow and the eclipse ends. The moon will be low in the southwest, in the head of Scorpius, during the eclipse. Unlike solar eclipses, observing a lunar eclipse poses no hazard. To enjoy it best, just use a pair of binoculars.

RARE Transit of Venus to Occur on June 5

By Chris Clarke

On Tuesday, June 5, we will be treated to an extremely rare sight, the transit of Venus across the solar disk. From S. California, we will be able to observe the start (ingress) and middle part of the transit before the sun sets at 7:00 pm. Venus touches the sun's edge at 3:09 PDT. From then on, we can watch Venus traverse across most of the sun, until it sets, still in progress. Mid-transit is 6:30 pm PDT.

Transits of Venus only happen with a frequency of about once a century and in pairs, separated by eight years. The last transit was in June 2004, and prior to that, happened in 1874 and 1882. The next pair of transits will occur in December, 2117, and December, 2125, *so be sure to catch this one!*

Venus is large enough to be seen with the naked eye, using proper solar filters. It will appear as a tiny dot, like a sunspot. Through a telescope, it will be very noticeable. Please exercise extreme caution when doing any viewing of the sun. Use only proper filters for naked eye or telescope viewing! Do not risk your eyesight, unless you know exactly what you are doing!



(Image from the 2004 transit of Venus)

Get Ready For Grandview!

By Chris Clarke

Well, it's almost here—our annual June visit to the wonderful stellar and terrestrial vistas of Grandview! Beginning Friday, June 15 and lasting through Sunday, the 17th, we'll be enjoying the star-filled skies over our favorite deep-sky observing site.

Located in the White Mountains east of Bishop, the campground is a great place to enjoy nature and the heavens together. We usually set up in a couple of the big campsite areas that are located on the north side of the campground. There's always plenty of room for vehicles, scopes and tents.

The club has a pot-luck breakfast on Saturday morning, where everyone adds something to the table and one or two will usually cook up eggs, bacon, pancakes and the like. On Saturday night, the club will provide pizza for dinner—a few members will go down the mountain to Bishop for that! However, for other meals, you're strictly on your own. Be sure to bring all the water you will need as this is a 'dry' campground, with no water available. However, there are nice pit toilet 'outhouses' available for that other 'creature comfort.'

The temperatures are usually most comfortable, with highs ranging in the 70s to 80s and lows down into the 40s and 50s. There are pinon pines for shade and the air is dry, so dewing is not an issue. At 8600 feet elevation, the viewing conditions are usually very nice to exceptional. Deep sky objects will jump out at you through the eyepiece because of the great transparency! Even if you don't have a telescope, members will share the views through theirs.

During the day, you can hike, go visit the Bristlecone Forest, nap, or just 'shoot the breeze' with fellow members. Pleasant fellowship abounds! Grandview is a comfortable, relaxing getaway that will ultimately refresh your body and soul!

