

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

August, 2012

Meeting:

August 11, 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

Annual Club BBQ



As in years past, we don't have a regular club meeting in August, instead having a social get-together. On Saturday, August 11, we'll meet outside the Museum under the trees out front (not in the back as in previous years). ***Set up will begin at 5:30 pm and eating will commence after 6:00 pm.*** We're usually there until at least 9:00 or 9:30, so you can show up a little later if you like.

Our esteemed treasurer, Fidel, has agreed to bring his portable BBQ so that we can cook and heat things on a hot grill. 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.

There are plenty of chairs and lots of shade, so it is a most pleasant place to be. Above all, it's a nice opportunity to simply chat and hang out with the members.

Good food and great companionship reign supreme at this club function---hope to see everyone there!

SBVAA Officers

President:

Vice President:

Treasurer: Fidel Hernandez 909-864-0615

Secretary - Educational Outreach: Chris Clarke
909-384-8539 Work
909-875-6694 Home

Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson
909-8828198

SBVAA Webmaster: Steve Miller 626-859-7776

Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer 909-792-3587

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 18, Star party, Johnson Valley

August 25, Moon Party, at the Museum

September 8, Club meeting at the Museum

September 14-16, GRANDVIEW

September 22, Moon Party at the Museum

October 13, Star Party at Afton Canyon
and
Star Party/Outreach, Wildlands Conservancy
Oak Glen

October 20, Club meeting at the Museum

Transit of Venus Outreach

By Jim Sommer

Our club outreaches touch so many people in so many ways. Who knows what effect this will have in the future. Young or old, we give our visitors a glimpse of the magic of the Cosmos.



eclipses and planetary transits are often only read about by the public.

Photos by Rudy Rodriguez

Outreaches make the news stories come alive!



Moon Party Outreach

Chris wants to remind all that we will be hosting another Moon party at the Museum on August 25. Setup will be at about 7:30 pm with observing from 8:00 to about 9:30 pm. We should have a beautiful first quarter Moon to show off.

FOR SALE

Like new Televue Nagler 9mm Type 6 Eyepiece in excellent condition that has only been used three times. Asking price only \$180.00.

If you have any questions please contact:
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Editor Checks Out World's Largest Amateur Built Telescope.

By Jim Sommer

In late June my wife and I journeyed to Ireland for a wonderful stay of two and a half weeks. The first week was spent in the northwest in Counties Sligo and Mayo where we visited many ancient sites, some of them pre-Celtic and dating back nearly 10,000 years. At the end of the first week, and before we returned to Dublin for the second leg of our trip, we drove down to Birr in central Ireland. Birr is the home of Birr Castle, still the home of the Parsons family. A small part of the old castle are open to the public but as it is still an actual residence most is not. The grounds are spectacular and kilometers of paths criss-cross and wind their way through them. One section of the grounds is home for the Leviathan of Parsonstown -- the great 72-inch reflector built in the mid-1840's by William Parsons, the Third Earl of Rosse. For 72 years, one year for every inch of its primary mirror's diameter, it was the largest telescope in the world.



In the photo above you can see a figure at the far left. This gives you an idea of the scale of this instrument and its mounting. (By the way, that figure is your humble editor.) There is a small museum at the castle entrance in which the Parsons family's interest in mechanical things is delightfully documented. (One of William's sons invented the steam turbine.)

If you ever take a trip to Ireland I would highly recommend taking the time to see this lovely place.

After staying overnight in a B&B near Birr we drove back to Dublin where we partook in its vibrant city life for several days. Dublin is the home of Trinity College which in turn is the home of the fabulous Book of Kells. While the Book of Kells is indeed beautiful, there is also an astonishing array of other works in the College's collection. Of course no visit to Dublin (or Ireland for that matter) in complete without visiting the pub scene. The pubs are the gathering places for young and old where friends and families meet and catch up on one another's days. Pubs are also some of the best places to eat as the locals do which is VERY well!

After several days in Dublin we boarded Irish Rail for a trip down to Killarney. Killarney's main industry is tourism but not so much that it has ruined it. It is still quaint and friendly and with the Killarney National Park right on the city limit. It is a beautiful park with many winding paths, three large lakes and, of course, a castle.

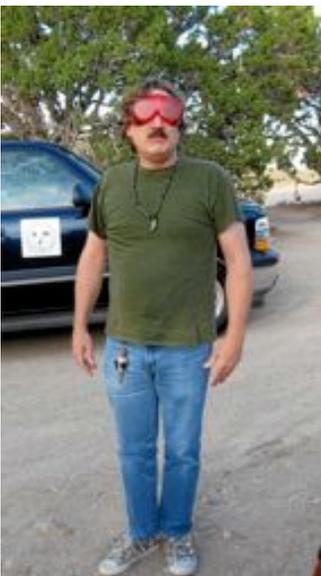
In the city stands St. Mary's Cathedral where there is a poignant and sobering memorial to the Great Famine. A huge redwood tree stands atop a mass grave of an estimated 300+ children who died from starvation. Memories run deep there.

Visiting Ireland is less like visiting a foreign country and more like taking a trip to visit some favorite relatives and/or friends. The Irish are a warm and welcoming people who glow with a zest for life!



Memories of Grandview, June, 2012

With the next Grandview star party coming up in September, this photo collage may serve as a reminder of the fun and fellowship of the event. Hiking, kite flying, fine tuning equipment, or just lolling in the shade, it's a great event for all!



Photos by Robin Hennen

