

# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

June, 2013

## Meeting:

**June 22, 2013**

### 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

### History of the Optical Telescope (Part 2)

Last February our own newsletter editor, Jim Sommer, presented Part 1 which covered the telescope's history from man's development of glass to the Herschels, William, Caroline and John, and the construction of the 72" Rosse telescope in Birr, Ireland. This month, in Part 2, he will cover from the Rosse instrument to the 200" Hale Telescope on Mt. Palomar. The presentation ends with the Hale instrument because it is the last great telescope built which provided for "manual" viewing with a human eye at the eye piece.



You will "meet" some old familiar names (Fraunhofer, Petzval, Abbe, Schott, Zeiss, and Clark) and maybe learn some new ones like Foucault, Grubb, Nasmythe and Richey.

## 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

June 7 - 9, "**GRAND VIEW**" at Cedar Flats,  
Camp Ferguson

June 15, Moon Party outreach at the Museum

June 22, Club meeting at the Museum

July 6, Star party at Johnson Valley

July 13, Club meeting at the Museum

July 13, So Calif Astronomy Expo at OPT

August 3, Star party at Johnson Valley (or)  
August 3, Star party at Wildlands Conservancy  
Oak Glen.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASTRONOMY EXPO

Once again our friends at OPT are hosting their big astro-party on Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be dozens of vendors, a variety of speakers and, of course, drawings for some great door prizes. And as they have done in the past, they will offer some special one-day only pricing on all astro-equipment. If your astro-budget is still in the black this might be a good time to check out the deals.

Then drive back a little early and come to the Club meeting at 7 p.m. that evening.



## *Plan Ahead*

### 2nd Annual Arizona Science & Astronomy Expo

November 16 & 17, 2013, Tucson, Arizona.

Last year's inaugural expo was outstanding with top speakers and a massive vendor hall. For 2013, two stellar speakers have already signed: **Alex Filippenko**, world renowned astrophysicist and professor of astronomy, and **Timothy Ferris**, astronomer and author of twelve best selling books.

November 16th and November 17th  
2013. Being held at the Tucson  
Convention Center Tucson AZ.

# “Grand View” Report

The weekend of June 7, 8 & 9, saw yet another pilgrimage to one of our favorite dark sky sites in the White Mountains east of Bishop, CA. Camp Ferguson in the Cedar Flats area sits in a shallow bowl at just a little under 8,000 ft. The camp is “dry” but does have pit toilets in permanent buildings. There are a lot of trees in the campground, some as high as 30 feet so after finding a shady spot for your camp site, you need to carefully site your observing equipment for the desired view. (This writer had an excellent view to the east and south.) The transparency was virtually perfect and the seeing was excellent. Scopes present ranged from a 70 mm refractor to a 20 inch Dob. Conditions were so good that I doubt that anyone had a bad viewing night. Naturally there was a lot of wandering around to check out each other’s gear after dark.

And then, of course, there was the food. People went overboard in bringing all sorts of comestibles and willingly and graciously shared with all. No one went hungry!

The pics below are just a sample of all those taken and I hope they will give you an idea of the weekend.



*The plush accommodations of our staff photographer Robin Hennen* ↗



