

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #56, Issue 1

Since 1958

January, 2014

Meeting:

January 11, 2013

Location:

Grove (Farm) School
Corner of Iowa & Orange
Redlands, CA

6:00 p.m.

From I-10, take Alabama exit and go south to Orange, turn right, just past Iowa the entrance will be on your left.

Pre-meeting Dinner, **4:30**
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!

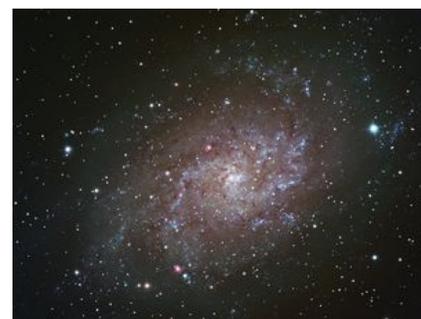
Program

Fall & Winter Skies

Last month, as most of you know, we weren't able to have our Fall sky talk because the man who was to open up the building never arrived! Found out later that he had a dead battery and couldn't get there. While we stood outside and waited, we all had a nice visit and then went to dessert at Coco's. (You know us, we can take anything in stride, especially if there's food at the end of the evening!) And so Martin and Chris will combine their Fall and Winter sky talks for January's program.

With the Milky Way arching high overhead, we have the opportunity to see many wonderful sights within our own galactic arms, plus vast numbers of galaxies visible above and below our own galaxy's bright starry profile.

Great mythical figures, like the brave hero Perseus, and the beautiful princess he saved, Andromeda, reveal many a celestial jewel ready for the taking. Scattered throughout this stellar season are many wonderful clusters, nebulae and a wide variety of galaxies that all present themselves to the earnest observer.



Look for "The Silver Dollar", "The Helix", "The Pinwheel", and other fun-named fascinating objects that are scattered about the heavens like windblown leaves on a cold winter's night.

Join us as we see what wonders can be found and enjoyed during this time of year, winter!

SBVAA Officers

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Vice President:

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 4, Star Party, Johnson Valley

January 11, Club meeting, Grove School

February 1, Star Party, Johnson Valley

February 8, Club meeting, Grove School

March 1, Star Party, Johnson Valley

March 8, Club meeting, Grove School

March 29, Star Party, Johnson Valley

DUES REMINDER

A reminder to all club members. All club dues are payable in January. Send your check for \$30 to:

Fidel Hernandez
27799 21st Street
Highland, CA 92346

Make checks payable to: SBVAA

Thanks,
Fidel Hernandez, club treasurer

P. S. Those of you that paid your dues in advance need not pay anything until January of 2015.

Flashlights at the Meeting
Members are encouraged to bring a light to help find the way across the rough ground at our new meeting site. It's quite dark at the site unlike the Museum.



Where your newsletter editor was observing during the third week of last November. Temp was 12* F.

Club Activity Dates for 2014

January 4, Star Party, Johnson Valley
January 11, Club meeting, Grove School
February 1, Star Party, Johnson Valley
February 8, Club meeting, Grove School
March 1, Star Party, Johnson Valley
March 8, Club meeting, Grove School
March 29, Star Party, Johnson Valley
April 12, Club meeting, Grove School
April 26, Star Party, Johnson Valley
May 10, Club meeting, Grove School
May 23 - 26, RTMC, Lake Williams, Big Bear
May 31, Star Party, Johnson Valley
June 7, Club meeting, Grove School
June 27 - 29, **GRAND VIEW**
July 12 (**NO MEETING** but dinner as usual)
July 26, Star Party, Johnson Valley
August 9, Club summer BBQ & picnic
August 23, Star Party, Johnson Valley
September 13, Club meeting, Grove School
September 19 - 21, **GRANDVIEW**

More info after we get the school's calendar dates for Fall of 2014

Thank you SBVAA

By Rue Countryman

It's been a year now since Megan and I joined this little group, the SBVAA. We'd like to thank all of you for accepting us into your club, into your lives. For sharing your knowledge, for sharing your experiences, your companionship and for the doors you've opened for us.

Knowing Megan had an interest in astronomy I purchased a telescope for her. My intent was to encourage her interest, and too, to give us something to do, a way of getting out of the house! Though we very much so enjoyed our little trips out to dark sky sites, we soon discovered that we both had this uneasy feeling about being out there by ourselves. It was then that we started thinking about joining a club, and not long after that, we found all of you.



Little did we realize all the wonderful things that lay in store for us then. For as much as we love to go out to the dark sky sites, we've come to learn that we really enjoy the public outreaches and working with the kids. Also we're grateful for the opportunity to come to know the Wildlands Conservancy, and to be able to work with them. Most of all, we are very happy to have made so many wonderful friends.

Megan and I look forward to all that the coming year may have to offer.

As for me, well... I'm especially glad I found something to keep me out of trouble ;)

Again, Thank You!

Outreaches and Star Party Possibilities

As discussed during the October club meeting, we will likely see more outreach activities and “alternate” star parties for 2014. While Johnson Valley remains an excellent dark sky site, the near-two hour drive is not for everyone. The Wildlands Conservancy in Oak Glen, White Water and even Pioneer Town, may serve as an alternate for those whose want to observe but don’t want to drive to a more remote location. Also there has been an increasing interest in outreaches by other than schools. Watch for upcoming opportunities as 2014 progresses.

Second Annual Arizona Science and Astronomy Expo a Great Success

Top notch speakers and a huge vendor sale made for an exciting time in Tucson over the November 16th and 17th weekend. The lead-off speaker on Saturday was world renown cosmologist and astro-physicist Alexei Filippenko. His topic was “Dark Energy and The Runaway Universe.” Dr. F. is an exciting and engaging speaker who makes complex subjects understandable. Saturday also had a science discussion panel emceed by “Meteorite Man” Geoff Notkin. Panel members included retired astronaut Story Musgrave, biologist Carin Bondar, spaceflight historian Amy Teitel, Planetary Society senior editor Emily Lakdawalla, futurist Michael Belfort, NASA press secretary Lauren Worley and founder of The Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project Steve Ramsden. Story Musgrave returned as the last speaker on Saturday talking about “Design a Life for Yourself.” Story is quite a character and an inspiring speaker.

Sunday’s speakers were led by Emily Lakdawalla. Emily gave a vibrant presentation on “The Golden Age of Planetary Exploration”

Gear For Sale

Please remember folks, you can “advertise” gear you want to sell right here in your club’s newsletter. It’s free and your ad will be read by fellow astronomy enthusiasts.

So, taking my own advice, I’m selling three of my TV Radian EP’s. They are 6mm, 10mm and 12mm in focal length. Radians have a 60* AFOV and eye relief of about 20mm making them ideal for planetary viewing and for those of us who have to observe while wearing glasses. They are in excellent condition, with two in their original boxes. Call your newsletter editor if interested.

Price new was \$240. I’m selling at \$125 each.



and why we need to continue it, not cut back now. She was followed by a comet discussion Panel which included author and comet discoverer David Levy, Spacewatch researcher Jim Scotti, editor of Astronomy Magazine David Eicher and founder of the Catalina Sky Survey Steve Larson. Wrapping up Sunday’s program was prolific author, professor emeritus and blues musician Timothy Ferris whose topic was “The State of The Universe. Alas, he was cut short when the convention center’s emergency alarm went off.

One of the best things about the programs at ASAE was that all the speakers were accessible to the audience both before and after their talks or panel discussions. I was able to talk with Timothy Ferris, Geoff Notkin, David Levy and Alexei Filippenko. Amazing!

Here are some photos which give an idea of the event.



Science Panel

Standing, left to right are Lauren Worley, Michael Belfori, Steve Ramsden, Carin Bondar, Emily Lakdawalla, Amy Teitel, Robert Reeves ASAE Emcee, in front are Story Musgrave (left) and Geoff Notkin.



Dr. Alexei Filippenko (center) talking with attendees in the hall after his talk.



Timothy Ferris (left) talks with Dr. & Mrs. Filippenko



Starlight Express had a nice display of their astrophotography equipment.

Big crowd at the OPT booth. Craig & his crew had some amazing deals.

