

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #56, Issue 2

Since 1958

February, 2014

Meeting:

February 8, 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

Will the third time be it? As most of you know, we weren't able to have our Fall sky talk because of various glitches. And so Martin and Chris will try again this month.

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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Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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 28, Star Party, Johnson Valley

May 10, Club meeting, Grove School

May 23 - 26, RTMC, Big Bear

DUES REMINDER

A reminder to all club members. All club dues were payable in January. If you haven't already, 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.

RTMC

The 45th annual RTMC Astronomy Expo will take place from **Thursday, May 22 through Monday, May 26, 2014.**

Observing, workshops, vendor show deals, swap meet early on Saturday morning -- all the traditional events.

For detailed information, go to their website at:

[www.rtmcastronomyexpo.org/
generalp.htm](http://www.rtmcastronomyexpo.org/generalp.htm)



John L. Dobson: 09-14-1915; 01-15-2014

By now the news of the death of John Dobson has probably reached you. Inventor of the eponymous mount for reflector telescopes John was also a Vedantist monk, author, visionary, lecturer, rebel cosmologist -- a man of many talents. He was also one of the principal founders of the San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers whose goal of showing the public "their universe" has spread around the world.

I had the pleasure of meeting John at RTMC over a decade ago. We had an extended conversation about many things astronomical and cosmological. I found him to be kind, terse, irascible, open, and never, ever dull!

His ideas for building a telescope out of common lumber, plywood, cardboard tubing and cabinet hardware have stayed with us and will likely be still used a century from now.



90 Day Mission 10 Years Later

On the night of January 24, 2004, the Mars rover Opportunity landed to begin what was planned as a ninety day mission. Ten years later the plucky little "planetary golf cart" is still plodding across the martian surface, still sending back important data. Opportunity's continued productivity at such an advanced age has surprised the mission team.

"I never expected this to happen, but it's so much fun," said Ray Arvidson of Washington University in St. Louis in an interview with SPACE.com. "It's important science, and it's exploration and discovery. I'm having the time of my life," he continued.



NASA's baseline mission requirements called for the solar-powered Spirit and Opportunity to drive about 0.6 miles (1 kilometer). But both rovers shattered that ceiling, just as they made a mockery of the 90-day lifespan. Spirit logged 4.8 miles (7.7 km) during its operational life, while Opportunity's odometer reads 24.07 miles (38.73 km) and counting. In fact, Opportunity holds the American distance record for off-planet driving and is creeping up on the overall champ, the Soviet Union's remote-controlled [Lunokhod 2 rover](#), which racked up 26 miles (42 km) on the moon in 1973.



(Photo credit, NASA/JPL/Cornell) For more info go to [Space.com](#)

Outreaches & Star Parties



Outreach at Lincoln School, Colton, Ca., November, 2013

(Photo credit, Robin Hennen)



Even aliens like to
come to our outreaches



Johnson Valley Star Party, Dec. 29, 2013

(Photo Credit: Megan Huynh)

