

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #57, Issue 3

Since 1958

March, 2015

Meeting:

March 28, 2015

Location: **NEW!**



First Christian Church
2102 E. Foothill Dr.
San Bernardino, CA

7:00 p.m.

Pre-meeting Dinner,
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.,



NEW!

Coco's
2442 Highland Ave,
Highland

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

Spring Skies Realm of the Galaxies

Our own Chris Clarke and Martin Carey will bring us a Power Point presentation outlining the coming great season of galaxies. The constellation Leo leads the way with its amazing collection of galactic wonders. What else might we see? Come and find out!



Left to right: NGC3628, M65 & M66

(Image Credit: [ESO](#), [INAF-VST](#), [OmegaCAM](#))

SBVAA Officers

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Vice President:

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Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson
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Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 14, Club Star Party, Wildlands
Conservancy, Oak Glen

March 21, Messier Marathon @ RAS's
GMARS site in Landers, CA

March 25, Outreach, Kingsbury School,
Redlands

March 28, Club Meeting

April 11, Public Outreach, Wildlands
Conservancy, Oak Glen

April 18, Star Party, Johnson Valley

Outreaches

Kingsbury Elementary in Redlands (600 Cajon St.)
on Wednesday, March 25. Set up is 7:00 to 7:30,
viewing 7:30 to 9:00

Hermosa School, Alta Loma, details TBA

Woodrow Wilson School, Colton, details TBA



Club Meeting Dates for 2015

Mark your calendars:

April 25

May 30

June 27

July 25, (dinner only, no regular meeting)

August 22, outdoor BBQ

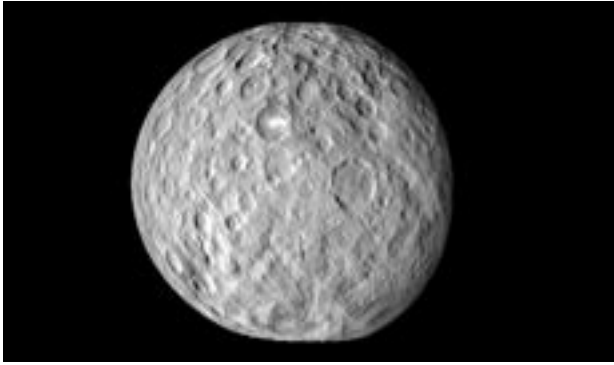
September 19

October 24

November 21

December 5, (To be confirmed later)

Dawn Arrives!



After a journey of 3.1 billion miles and 7.5 years the Dawn space probe arrived at Ceres in the late afternoon of March 6. NASA has referred this mission as a “journey to the beginnings of our solar system.

Marc Rayman, Chief Engineer/ Mission Director, JPL, writes: “While there are countless questions about Ceres, the most popular now seems to be what the bright spots are. It is impossible not to be mesmerized by what appear to be glowing beacons, shining out across the cosmic seas from the uncharted lands ahead. But the answer hasn’t changed: we don’t know. There are many intriguing speculations, but we need more data, and Dawn will take photos and myriad other measurements as it spirals closer and closer during the year. For now, we simply know too little.”

For more info, go to:

<http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Club Star Party Dates (Updated)



March 21, Messier Marathon, GMARS

April 18, Johnson Valley

May 16, Johnson Valley

May 23-26, **RTMC**, Big Bear, CA

June 11 - 14, Grandview

July 18, Johnson Valley

August 8, Wildlands Cons., Oak Glen

August 15, Johnson Valley

September 11 - 13, Grandview

October 10, Johnson Valley

November 14, Johnson Valley

December 12, Johnson Valley



Dawn

Boldly going where no one
has gone before!

RTMC Would Like Your Help

This year RTMC is starting up demonstrations of “Education focused Amateur Telescope Making (ATM).”

The purpose is: To teach telescope making with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education components. Astro clubs without an ATM program, teachers, parks/rec personnel, and parents/families will get to see the whole process. They can then go back home and make a scope or start their own programs.

They are doing demonstrations this year and will be offering ATM classes next year.

They could benefit from SBVAA members’ participation and are asking if we could provide 1 or 2 persons to:

- Be on the **coordination team**. (High Priority)
- Volunteer at RTMC? Each for ½ of one day? They can be ATM skilled or not.
- Donate used or new components or mirror making supplies or some funds.
- Be on a STEM lesson/project development Yahoo group. We will need amateur astronomers, teachers, science/math coaches, and persons with mathematics, engineering, manufacturing, technology, and science knowledge.

We welcome all the persons with ATM experience to come to RTMC and show their techniques for ATM and mirror making. We can then find the techniques that we will standardize for next year’s classes.

If interested, please contact:

Len Vorhis, RTMC Community Education Director, Cell 424 376-8021, RTMCLen@gmail.com



And you thought you
had collimation problems!
(Photo credit, Gary A. Becker)