

The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

April, 2016

Meeting:

April 23, 2016

Location:

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

7:00 p.m.

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

Pepper Steak
Restaurant
26589 Highland
Ave.
Highland, 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.

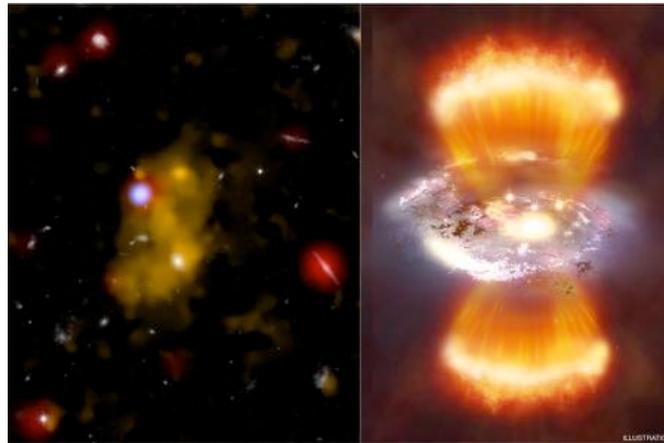
*No telescope is too humble,
and beginners are always
made welcome!*

Program

The Biggest Things in Space

We are fortunate this month to have a two-part program. First, another excellent DVD from “The Universe” series discussing some of the largest known objects in space.

From the Lyman Alpha blob (pictured below), a bubble-like structure containing countless galaxies, to radio lobes and super galaxy clusters, to the largest black hole in space, explore the greatest galactic division heavyweights in the cosmos!



Also, new member **Bob Wright** will speak about an interesting discussion he once had with a native of North Africa about the belief of an “Earth-Centered Universe” vs. “The Sun-Centered Solar System”. He will also describe some unusual aurora phenomena he observed in Alaska some years ago.

SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Apr. 9, Star Party, Johnson Valley

May 7, Star Party, Johnson Valley

May 21, Club Meeting

May 26-29, RTMC, Camp Oaks, Big Bear

June 18, Club Meeting

Jun. 3-5, **Grandview**, dark and starry!

***Other star parties, outreaches and events for
2016, TBA***

2016 Outreaches Scheduled (so far)

April 12----Mentone School in Mentone

April 14---Redlands “E” Academy in Redlands
held at Franklin School, Redlands

April 20---Lincoln School in Colton

April 30---Pioneertown

May 7-----Wildlands Conservancy in Oak Glen

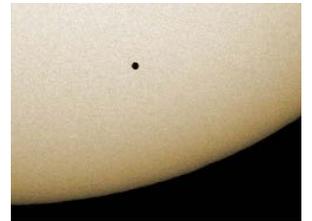
May 12----Dunlap School in Yucaipa

August 10—Hermosa School in Alta Loma

Transit of Mercury Coming in May

Start preparing now for one of the [major](#) astronomical events of 2016: On May 9, Mercury will pass across the face of the sun in a rare sight.

Transits of Mercury occur about 12 or 13 times in a century.



The transit of Mercury on May 9 will begin just after 7 a.m. EDT and will end just before 3 p.m. The exact times for any location will vary slightly because of parallax effects. Use a planetarium program like [Starry Night](#) to get more exact times and to [learn](#) the position angle on the sun's face where Mercury will first appear.

Only part of the transit will be visible from the western U.S.

- See more at: <http://www.space.com/32476>

Rudy Rodriguez Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund has been set up in the name of our former colleague, Rudy Rodriguez. As many of you may remember, Rudy was very generous every year at A.B. Miller High School, providing telescopes and scholarship funds from his own pocket to deserving students.

Ideally, A.B. Miller High would like for this scholarship fund to continue on as time goes by. The fund would help offset the cost of continuing education for at least one (if not more) deserving senior. Rudy's sister, Sandyt, and his niece, Jacquie (an A.B. Miller graduate) are in conversation with some close friends and will be directly involved with the selection process. It gives them great joy to know that Rudy's legacy might live on in this way.



If you would like to contribute to this fund, the school would welcome your support. Checks should be made out to A.B. Miller High School, making sure to designate this fund in the memo section.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Kent E. Moore at the school, extension 10153.

Your editor does not know if this is (or will be) a registered 501 3(c) non-profit fund. However, it is in support of a public school and therefore likely to be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor to clarify.

Jupiter Hit Again?

Amateur and professional planet watchers around the world are trying to pin down the specifics of an apparent impact on Jupiter back on March 17th. Only within the past few days have two videos emerged showing a brief flash of light right on the edge of Jupiter's disk, near the boundary of the planet's bright Equatorial Zone and its tawny North Equatorial Belt.



If the evidence holds up it will be the fifth such event in the past decade. The largest of these occurred July 19, 2009, and it left a distinctly [dark "powder burn" in Jupiter's upper atmosphere](#) first spotted by Australian astro-imager Anthony Wesley.

That was followed by three lesser strikes on [June 3, 2010](#) (recorded independently by Wesley and Christopher Go); on [August 10, 2010](#) (independently seen by Masayuki Tachikawa and Kazuo Aoki); and on [September 10, 2012](#) (seen visually by Dan Petersen and independently recorded by George Hall).

Counting the historic multiple-hit crash of [Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 in July 1994](#), that's a grand total of six impacts on Jupiter in the past 22 years.

- See more at: <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/observing-news/another-impact-on-jupiter-032920161/#>

Photos From April 2, Outreach: Whitewater

