



The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

November, 2018

Meeting:

November 3, 2018

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.,

Jenny's Family
Resturant
7750 Palm 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

Building & Restoring Scopes

Our own esteemed president Jamie Countryman will present a program describing some of the instruments she has built or restored over time. She is a machinist first class and her works shows it. After all, any one who can get an EQ1 mount to operate without wobble has got to be good! She restored the former club's dob which is now owned by Scott Freeman.



A start-from-scratch project was a beautiful 6" refractor using a Jaegers lens. She custom machined the tube and rings with astonishing accuracy.



SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Nov. 10, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Dec 1, Annual Holiday Party

Jan 5, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Jan 19, Club Meeting

Feb 2, Star Party? Location TBD

Feb 16, Club Meeting

Mar 2, Star Party, Oak Glen

Mar 23, Club Meeting

Apr 6, Outreach, White Water



20129 Astronomy Calendars

The new calendars are available now!

Fidel will have them for sale from



October 6, until he runs out of them. The cost is \$10, which is a \$4 savings over the normal retail price.

Meetings, Scheduled Outreaches & Star Parties. 2019

Jan 5, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Jan 19, Club Meeting

Feb 2, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Feb 16, Club Meeting

Mar 2, Star Party, Oak Glen

March 23, Club Meeting

Apr 6, Outreach, White Water

Apr 20, Club Meeting

May 4, Outreach, Oak Glen

May 11, Outreach, Pioneer Town

May 18, Club Meeting

Jun 1, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Jun 15, Club Meeting

Jun 27 - 30, Star Party, **Grand View**

Jul 20, Club's Summer Social at the Sizzler

Jul 27, Star Party, Oak Glen

Aug 17, Annual Club BBQ

Aug 22 - 25, Star Party, **Grand View**

Sep 14, Club Meeting

Sep 28, Outreach, Oak Glen

Oct 5, Outreach, Pioneer Town

Oct 12, Club Meeting

Oct 26, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Nov 16, Club Meeting

Nov 23, Outreach, White Water

Dec 7, Club's Annual Holiday Party

Dec 28, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Mini-Product Review: Kokusai Kokhi Control Handle for Vixen Porta II

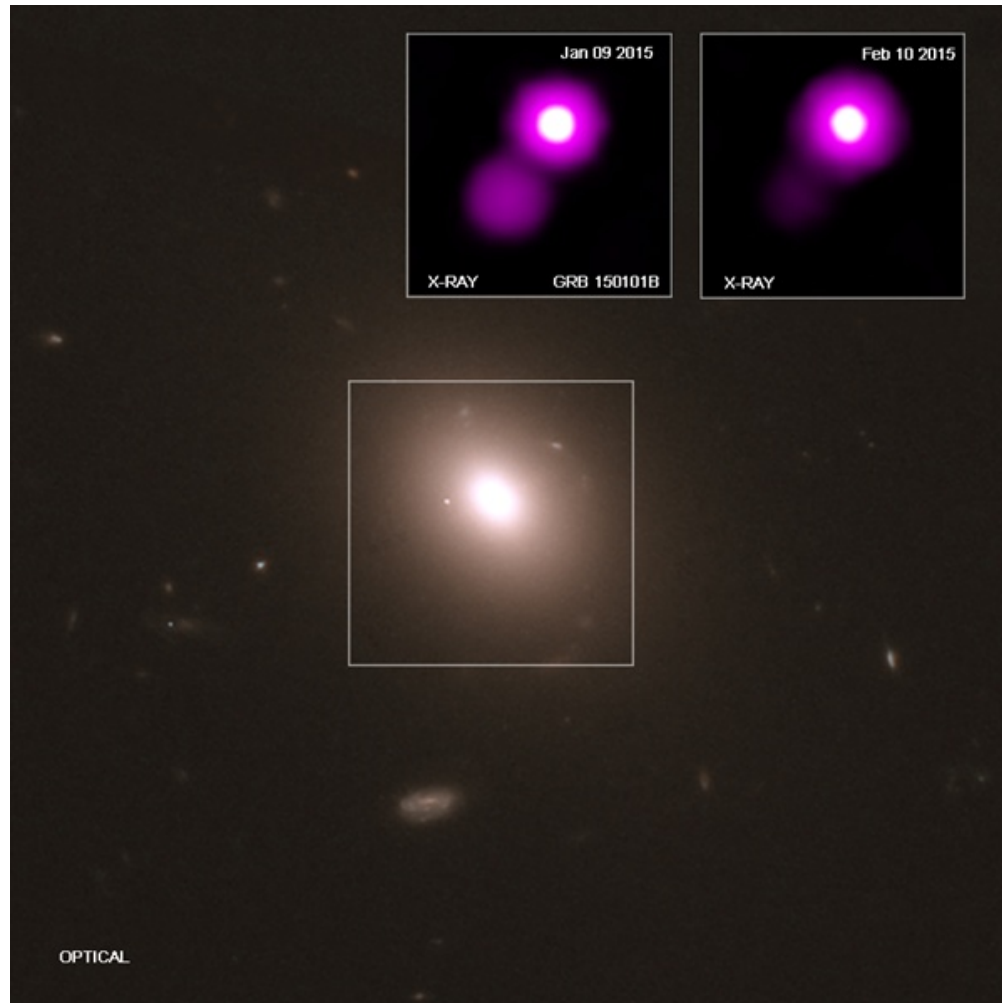
Your editor was looking for an easier and more reliable way to control his Porta II mount than using the standard floppy control cables. I considered making my own or trying to bribe our club prez into making one for me but then I discovered this little gem. It's an off-set arm that bolts between the dovetail jaws and the mount body. It is powder coated in the same color as the Porta II and comes with the proper sized bolts with extended reach. It took about 5 minutes to install. I tested it for fit and operating balance with my tiny SV70ED and my heavy SV80L triplet. Both were easy to balance and the alt/az movements were very smooth. I ordered mine from Agena Astro who is, as far as I know, the only western U.S. dealer. BTW, the shipping was free.



Another neutron star merger may have been spotted

(From [astronomy.com](https://www.astronomy.com), Alison Klesman, Oct. 17, 2018)

An event that looks suspiciously like the one that produced gravitational waves in 2017 hints that mergers between neutron stars and other exotic objects may be easier to find than we'd thought. In 2017, gravitational waves and light were observed coming from the merger of a pair of neutron stars. The discovery proved that gravitational wave sources could also be viewed at visible, X-ray, and even gamma-ray wavelengths, but has remained the only such event observed to date. Now, researchers have identified a “cosmic look-alike” — an event they believe came from the same type of system as the one that produced the gravitational waves.



Such a discovery would double the number of known events of this type. “It’s a big step to go from one detected object to two,” said Eleonora Troja of NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, and lead author of the [study](#) published October 16 in *Nature Communications*, in a [press release](#). The paper focuses on a gamma-ray burst, called GRB 150101B, seen by NASA’s Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory in 2015. Troja’s team followed up using NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory, Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope, Hubble Space Telescope, and the Discovery Channel Telescope to determine that GRB 150101B appears similar to the [2017 gravitational wave event](#) GW170817, which was produced by a kilonova that occurred when two inspiralling neutron stars collided. Shortly after that event’s gravitational waves reached Earth, astronomers also spotted a gamma-ray burst and light at several wavelengths associated with the merger, proving that neutron star mergers are capable of producing all these signals.