



The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

July 2019

Meeting:

July 20, 2019

Location:

The Sizzler

1800 S. Waterman

*(S. Waterman at
Vanderbilt Way in San
Bernardino)*

from 5:00 to 7:00

Program Sizzling Summer Social

Friends

Fellowship

Food &

Folderol



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

July 20, Summer Social at Sizzlers

July 27, Star Party, Oak Glen

Aug. 17, Club BBQ

Aug. 22-25, Grandview

Sept. 14, Club Meeting

Sept. 28, Star Party/Outreach. Oak Glen

Oct. 5, Star Party/Outreach Pioneer Tn.

Oct. 12, Club Meeting



Dark, dark skies, beautiful scenery, and good friends make for a great weekend!

Looking forward to reports from our intrepid Grandview observers



CampsitePhotos.com

Only on "Social" Media

I hurt myself only slightly when I fell off my chair because I was laughing so hard at this article I found at space.com. I guess the internet needed something new since the great Mars hoax seems to have died off. (You remember don't you? At a certain time of year Mars was supposed to appear as large as the full Moon.). Well, now I guess we'll see if there are aliens at Area 51 after all. The following was "clipped from a July 9, article at space.com.

Nearly 200K People Have Signed Up to Steal Alien Secrets from Area 51 in Late-Summer Raid

Pack your shades, your sunscreen and your coziest tinfoil hat, because the late-summer event of the season is happening in Nevada's scenic [Area 51](#), and you're invited.

According to a [tongue-in-cheek Facebook event](#) called "Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us," a ragtag army of alien hunters will meet up near the top-secret Air Force base in the predawn hours of Sept. 20, coordinate a plan of attack, then raid the grounds in search of captive aliens. Per the event's hosts (a page that posts memes and a guy who streams video games on Twitch), the delicate operation will involve running supernaturally fast — faster than the guards' bullets can fly — but will be worth it to "[see them aliens](#)."

So far, nearly 200,000 Facebook users have signed up to attend, with another 200,000 "interested" in the affair.

(So...
Are any of you going?)



Delta Aquariids Are Coming

Late July 2019 – around July 28 – presents the nominal peak of the Delta Aquariid meteor shower, but this long and rambling shower is officially active from about July 12 to August 23 each year. The new moon in early August 2019 means lovely waning crescent moons in the optimum predawn hours in late July, and dark skies throughout most of the night all through the first week of August 2019.



The best viewing hours are after midnight and before dawn, centered around 2 a.m. (3 a.m. daylight-saving time) for all time zones around the world. This shower overlaps with the more [famous Perseid meteor shower](#), which in early August is rising to its peak (this year on the mornings of August 11, 12 and 13). Those who observe the Perseids are likely to see some Delta Aquariid meteors flying on the same nights



(For more info, go to: EarthSky.com)

Apollo 11, Celebrating 50 Years

The night of July 20, 1969, is forever etched in my memory. That night the entire world was one! No matter who you were or where you were, if you had access to a radio or television, you stood or sat spell bound as the the astronauts approached, landed and finally stepped onto another world. It is a night I, for one, shall never forget!



File Under Astonishing

With careful planning and dashes of creativity, engineers have been able to keep NASA's Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft flying for nearly 42 years - longer than any other spacecraft in history. To ensure that these vintage robots continue to return the best science data possible from the frontiers of space, mission engineers are implementing a new plan to manage them. And that involves making difficult choices, particularly about instruments and thrusters.



After extensive discussions with the science team, mission managers recently turned off a heater for the cosmic ray subsystem instrument (CRS) on Voyager 2 as part of the new power management plan. The cosmic ray instrument played a crucial role last November in determining that Voyager 2 **had exited the heliosphere**, the protective bubble created by a constant outflow (or wind) of ionized particles from the Sun. Ever since, the two Voyagers have been sending back details of how our heliosphere interacts with the wind flowing in interstellar space, the space between stars.

Not only are Voyager mission findings providing humanity with observations of truly uncharted territory, but they help us understand the very nature of energy and radiation in space - key information for protecting NASA's missions and astronauts even when closer to home.

The engineers' plan to manage power and aging parts should ensure that Voyager 1 and 2 can continue to collect data from interstellar space for several years to come. Data from the Voyagers continue to provide scientists with never-before-seen observations of our boundary with interstellar space, complementing NASA's Interstellar Boundary Explorer (**IBEX**), a mission that is remotely sensing that boundary. NASA is also preparing the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (**IMAP**), due to launch in 2024, to capitalize on the Voyagers' observations.

(For more details, go to JPLNASA.gov)