



# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

October 2019

## Meeting:

October 12, 2019

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

### “RTMC Show & Tell”

### + General Roundtable Discussion

Moderated by our club prez Jamie, we will hear from the RTMC participants about their experiences over a very eventful weekend. Plus: New piece of equipment? Bring it & tell us about it. Recent observing high-light? Share it with us. Have a helpful hint? Pass it on. How about updates on a project? (I think the other name for this is “kick’n tripods and tell’n lies)



Join with your fellow club members as we discuss these and many other subjects about our favorite hobby.

***And don't forget to bring a scope for after meeting viewing!***

## SBVAA Officers

President: Jamie Countryman

[jamie.countryman63@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.countryman63@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Fidel Hernandez 909-864-0615

Secretary - Educational Outreach: Chris Clarke  
909-341-3090 Home

Star Party Coordinator: Tom Lawson  
[tlawson777@charter.net](mailto:tlawson777@charter.net)

SBVAA Webmaster: Gerald Rezes  
[geraldrezes@verizon.net](mailto:geraldrezes@verizon.net)

Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer  
[k75jim@aol.com](mailto:k75jim@aol.com)

Assoc. Editor: Megan Huynh  
[megan.huynh@gmail.com](mailto:megan.huynh@gmail.com)

Club Website: [SBVAA.org](http://SBVAA.org)



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct. 1, Outreach, Alice Birney School,  
Colton

Oct. 5, Star Party/Outreach Pioneer Tn.

Oct. 12, Club Meeting

Oct 26, Star Party, Pioneer Town

Nov 2, Outreach, S.B. County Museum

Nov. 9, Club Meeting

Nov. 11, Veterans Day (*fly your flag!*)

Nov. 23, Star Party, Whitewater (**or  
if the road is not fixed yet,  
loc. TBA**)

Dec. 7, Annual Holiday Party

## Transit of Mercury Coming

Sunrise in SoCal on November 11, will see Mercury in transit across the face of the Sun. The next opportunity to witness a Mercury transit event won't occur for another 32 years so see it while you can.

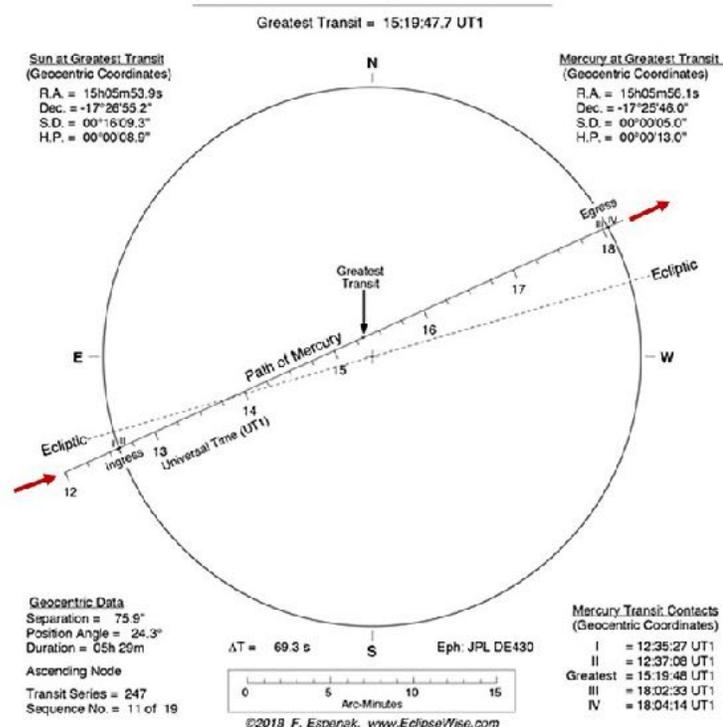
Sunrise on the 11th, will occur about 0619 PST. Because the Sun will be low on the horizon you may need to be on a relatively high point to see the event that early.

About 0720 PST, Mercury should be about half way across its transit path.

About 1003 PST, the planet should be just beginning to complete its path. Look for the "black drop effect."

About 1004 PST, the transit should be complete and Mercury lost in the sun's glare.

## Transit of Mercury: 2019 Nov 11



## SBVAA President Receives Major Honor

During this year's RTMC weekend, our club president, Jamie Countryman, received the prestigious Clifford W. Holmes award for her outstanding work in raising public awareness of astronomy — not just here in the U.S. but internationally.

(**The Clifford W. Holmes Award** is given to an individual for a "Major Contribution to Popularizing Astronomy." Originally established by Richard Poremba in 1978 as the Astronomy for America Award, it was renamed in 1980 for the founder of the RTMC.)



Jamie joins a distinguished list of prior recipients which includes Dennis di Cicco, John Dobson, Clyde Tombaugh, David Levy, Don Machholz Tom Cave, Scott Roberts, and Ed Krupp just to name a few.

Some of the activities that Jamie has spearheaded have been live feeds of astronomical events, public outreaches, and the rebuilding and donation of telescopes and related equipment which was in turn donated to a deserving young person. One of her restorations went to an aspiring child in Brazil!

Our own Martin Carey, who serves on the RTMC committee, did the presentation honors.

## More Recognition is Due

How many of you visit the Club's website? If you don't regularly go there you should consider doing so. Our web-master, Gerald Rezes, has done a remarkable job over the past several years in bringing our site up to a very high standard. In addition to listing the club's activities and providing an electronic sign up sheet for events, he has also included astro news, weather links and Moon phases, et al.

Another reason to check the website is to find out who's going to our outreaches, star parties and other events. And if you are going, please use the electronic sign up page. It's a great help in coordinating these events. The more names are signed up, the more likely that others who may not have thought of going will sign up too.

So a big shout out to Gerald!



## SBVAA Photo Gallery Under Beta Testing

Speaking of our hard working web master, he and president Jamie are working on adding a photo gallery to the club's website. The gallery will allow members who are not able to attend some of our events the opportunity to see who was there and what it was like. The gallery will have info on the event subject, date and location. The plan is to eventually offer individual member galleries for those who wish to have one.



The galleries will also offer non-members who visit the site the opportunity to see what goes on at our events.

## September = Outreach Month

Last month was “the month that was” for outreaches — three in about a week's time! The club put on three outreaches; Dominguez (200+) and Norton (60+) elementary schools in San Bernardino and Smiley elementary in Redlands (150+).



Some members were able to attend some of the outreaches and some were able to attend all. Thanks go to Bob White, Jamie & Megan, Gerald, Cliff, Martin, Chris, Fidel, Pam and Tom for helping to make successful events. (If I missed anyone, I apologize!).

## 2020 Calendars

Fidel has a supply of Astronomy Magazine's 2020 calendars for sale — discounted from what you can buy them for elsewhere. See Fidel before or after the meeting. These make great gifts for the astro-minded person or for anyone who enjoys the beauty and wonder of the universe.



## Get Out There!

