



The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #62, Issue 4

Since 1958

April, 2020

Meeting:

April 4, 2020

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

No Meeting This Month

Thanks to the possibility of the COVID19 contagion, there will be no club meeting this month.

A good way to follow the CDC's recommendation of "social distancing" is to practice a little "backyard astronomy." Between rainstorms there have been some remarkably still nights — nights of near perfect seeing and transparency (at least from my location in Redlands). Light pollution remains a problem.



And remember the late Jack Horkheimer's admonishment to "keep looking up."

Also, in these times of unreasonable panic, be a helper not a hoarder.

SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

~~Mar. 28, Outreach, Whitewater~~

~~Apr. 3, Outreach, Grand Terrace-
Elementary School~~

~~Apr. 4, Club Meeting~~

Apr. 25, Star Party/Outreach, Oak Glen

May 2, Club Meeting

June 6, Club Meeting

June 17 -21, Grandview

June 26, Outreach, S.B. Cty. Museum

Dues Are Due

Yes, it's that time again when club dues are due.

The dues for 2020 are \$40, for either individual or family.

Make check payable to SBVAA and send to:

Fidel Hernandez
27799 21st street
Highland, CA 92346

Tom has sent the membership a pdf file with the renewal form. If you have had any changes please use it note them and help us keep our files current.



Currently Wildlands Conservancy locations are closed but I, for one, am hopeful that the COVID19 closures will have ended by April 25, when we have an outreach scheduled at Oak Glen. It's a remarkably dark location considering its semi-urban location.



Famous Past Glories

On March 22, 1997, comet Hale-Bopp gave us a spectacular show as it sped through the heavens. Your editor had the honor to meet Thomas Bopp at RTMC that same year. He struck me as being a modest, really nice guy.



And Speaking of Comets...

Comet Borisov, discovered in late August, 2019, may be breaking up as it passes through our solar system. One of the unusual items of note about Comet Borisov is that it apparently did not come from our own Oort Cloud but from beyond our system. Astronomers studying the comet have noted several brightening incidents which are considered indicative of a cometary fragmentation.

Comet Borisov is only the second known inter-stellar object that has/is visiting our solar system. The odd Oumuamua was the first but was discovered late with little time to study it. Borisov, on the other hand will be visible for at least a year from various sites which will give much more time for detailed study.



Things to See While in “Quarantine”



Late March and into April will be a great time to see Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in the early morning hours. Venus is shining brightly high in the evening western sky. On April 8, we will have a full “super Moon” and April 16-25, will bring the Lyrids meteor shower which should peak on the night of April 22-23.

The Striking Beauty of Jupiter

NASA's Juno mission captured this look at the southern hemisphere of Jupiter on Feb. 17, 2020, during the spacecraft's most recent close approach to the giant planet.

This high-resolution view is a composite of four images captured by the JunoCam imager and assembled by citizen scientist Kevin M. Gill. The images were taken on Feb. 17, 2020, between 10:31 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. PST (1:31 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. EST). During that time, the spacecraft was between about 30,700 and 62,400 miles (49,500 and 100,400 kilometers) from the tops of the planet's clouds, at latitudes between about 50 and 68 degrees South.

