



# The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

August, 2020

Meeting:

August 8, 2020

Location:

Program

*Summer BBQ*

*Cancelled*

Chris, has confirmed that the park where we normally have our annual club BBQ has been closed. So this weekend grab some “dogs,” burgers and beans and fire up your backyard fire pit. Your patio is still open!



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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug. 12–16, Grandview *Cancelled*

Aug. 29, Outreach, S.B. Cty. Museum



Sept. 19, Star Party/Outreach,  
Oak Glen



Sept. 26, Club Meeting



Oct. 17, Outreach, Oak Glen



Oct. 24, Club Meeting



## Grandview in June and August Cancelled

Alas, Megan has received word from the Park Service that the campgrounds in and around Grandview remain closed. Since the last newsletter was published, she has been notified by the NPS that the park will remain closed in August.



Think good thoughts for our friends at the Wildlands Conservancy locations. The Apple Fire is threatening all three of them. So if COVID19 wasn't bad enough, the fire has the potential to scrub events scheduled there in the near future.

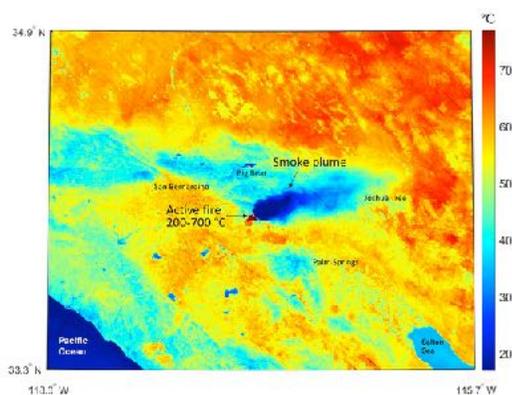
## Miscellaneous Stuff

NGC 2899 (the Butterfly Nebula) taken August 5, by ESA's Very Large Telescope.



The first helicopter designed to fly on another planet is now on its way to Mars.

NASA's Mars helicopter, called Ingenuity, is hitching a ride to the Red Planet with the agency's [Mars 2020 Perseverance rover](#), which lifted off from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on July 30.



NASA's Ecosystem Spaceborne Thermal Radiometer Experiment on Space Station (ECOSTRESS) captured a birds-eye view of the vast Apple fire raging in Southern California. ECOSTRESS's primary mission is to measure the temperature of plants heating up as they run out of water. But it can also measure and track heat-related phenomena like fires, heat waves, and volcanoes.

## Things to See While in “Quarantine”



August 8; around midnight when the Moon rises it will join Mars in your view. You will likely be able to observe Mars right up to dawn.

August 11, will see the Moon rise about midnight in its last quarter phase. This phase also allows us to view it during the morning of the 12th.

August 11 - 12; the Perseid meteor shower peaks after midnight. One never knows how dense the shower will be but it can fire off up to 100 bright fireballs per hour.

August 13; Venus will reach its greatest separation 46\* west of the Sun. You will have to be a night owl to see its -4.43 brilliance since it won't be in a great position until about 0245 PDT.

August 14; Ganymede's shadow and the Great Red Spot will cross the face of Jupiter. The event will begin about 1930 PDT (0230 GMT)

August 15, will have a triple treat if you can get in the right spot. The GRS and the shadows of Io and Ganymede will transit Jupiter about 2106 PDT (0406 GMT). Also on this night Uranus “stands still” i.e. its eastward motion will stop, then commence its retrograde loop. The planet will be about 11\* southward of Hamal, Aries' brightest star.

August 22; we'll have the potential to see another double shadow transit of Jupiter. Io and Ganymede will again put on a show beginning about 2332 PDT (0632 GMT).

At various times during August, some very early and some very late, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune will be visible. Check your star guides.