



The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS
Member of The Astronomical League
<http://sbvaa.org/>



Volume #62, Issue 9

Since 1958

September, 2020

Meeting:

September 26, 2020

Location:

Program

0

Alas, no regular meeting again this month.



This is a good time for those of you who take astro-photos to get some good shots — if the smoke ever clears!

Backyards are still open so don't let your astro-equipment gather dust. Visual or photographic, the sky is still yours.



SBVAA Officers

President: Jamie Countryman

jamie.countryman63@gmail.com

Treasurer: Fidel Hernandez 909-864-0615

*Secretary - Educational Outreach Coordinator
Chris Clarke 909-341-3090 (Cell)*

Star Party: Tom Lawson
tlawson777@charter.net

SBVAA Webmaster: Gerald Rezes
geraldrezes@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor: Jim Sommer
k75jim@aol.com

*Assoc. Editor, Photographer & Tech Whiz:
Megan Huynh*
megan.huynh@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Oct. 17, Outreach, Oak Glen



Oct. 24, Club Meeting



Nov. 1, Daylight Savings Time ends

Nov. 9, Veterans Day



Nov. 14, Star Party/Outreach,
Pioneer Town



Nov. 21, Club Meeting



Dec. 12, Annual Holiday Party



Whitewater Preserve Seeking Help/Donations

The wild fires of early August devastated the beautiful preserve. While the visitor center was saved, a good deal of the infrastructure and most of the willow forest were destroyed. They are seeking donations and volunteers to help restore their idyllic location. Whitewater has been a wonderful site for us for both star parties and outreaches. If you are able to help in any way, be sure to let them know that you are a member of SBVAA.

To learn more, their website is: <https://getinvolved.wildlandsconservancy.org/campaign/help-restore-whitewater-preserve-from-the-water-fire/c297131>

For contributions, go to info@twc-ca.org

For general information, and how to volunteer, call their Oak Glen office (909) 797-8507.



Miscellaneous Stuff

In most years, the **September** full moon is the Harvest Moon — but October's full moon will happen closest to the equinox so you will have to wait one more month.



Globular Cluster, NGC 1805

(Image credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, J. Kalirai)

Gravitational waves: Do they suggest a bang at the end of the universe? By [All About Space magazine](#), [Colin Stuart](#)

Our universe could have had quite a different origin, according to recent observations of the ripples in space-time. To read about this controversial new theory, click on the above link or go to [space.com](#) and read it there.

Planetary nebula NGC 2899, taken by ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT), shows the "space butterfly." The nebula's gases stretch out to a maximum of two light-years from its center.



Things to See While in “Quarantine”



Sept. 3, the southern polar axis of Mars will reach its maximum tilt of 24 degrees towards the sun, triggering the solstice, and the beginning of winter in Mars' Northern Hemisphere. Mars' longer year means that its seasons are longer, too — slightly more than five months. Viewed in amateur telescopes from our vantage point on Earth, Mars' southern polar cap will shine as a bright, white spot on the red planet.

Sept. 5, when the bright, waning gibbous moon rises in the east at about 9:45 p.m. local time on Saturday, Sept. 5, it will be positioned only a finger's width to the right (or 1 degree to the celestial southwest) of Mars. That's close enough to appear together in binoculars and telescopes at low magnification. As the duo crosses the sky together during the night, the diurnal rotation of the sky, and the moon's eastward orbital motion, will combine to shift the moon clockwise around Mars.

Sept. 11, Neptune will be directly opposite the sun in the sky. At opposition, Neptune will be closest to us for this year. It will shine at about magnitude 7.8, and will be visible all night long in good binoculars and backyard telescopes in a dark sky. Throughout September, Neptune will be located among the stars of northeastern Aquarius.

Sept. 14, commencing a few minutes before midnight on Sunday night, and continuing during the wee hours of Monday, Sept. 14, observers on the west coast can witness the rare event of a double shadow transit along with the Great Red Spot! At 11:57 p.m. PDT Ganymede's larger shadow and the Great Red Spot will join Io's smaller shadow already progressing across Jupiter's disk. The trio will remain visible until Io's shadow moves off Jupiter at about 1:30 a.m. PDT.

Sept. 29, Earth's faster orbit will cause Saturn to appear to stop moving with respect to the distant stars. The temporary pause in motion marks the end of a westward retrograde loop that began on May 11. After dusk, look for the yellowish, magnitude 0.46 planet in the lower part of the southern sky among the stars of northeastern Sagittarius

As always, check your star guides.