



The Observer

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



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Since 1958

October, 2020

Meeting:

October 24, 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

(See note below)

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

Program Restoration and
Upgrade of a Historic Telescope

The program will be presented by our own Chris Clarke, Jamie Countryman and Bob White. The telescope is the 16-inch Bailey modified reflecting telescope located at the N.A. Richardson Observatory at San Bernardino Valley College.

At the time of its installation in 1931, it was the largest telescope at any junior college in the nation and it was specially constructed as a model for the proposed telescope at Mt. Palomar. It was built and donated by H.P. Page Bailey, a Riverside dentist, and has been in use at the college for decades.

It was recently decided to completely refurbish, restore and upgrade the antique instrument so that it can better serve students and the public for another century.

Face masks and "social distancing" are required!



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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. 5, Annual Holiday Get-together,
Shakey's, Redlands 

Dec. 12, Star Party, Pioneer Town 

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 for October

Important note about the pre-meeting dinner: Fidel has arranged space for about 12 people at Jenny's. Masks are required and tables will have been set up to assure "social distancing."

Fidel has the new (2021) calendars available. He will bring some to the dinner and have some available at the meeting. The cost is \$8.00

On Oct. 1, 1958, [NASA](#) was born! The space agency officially opened for business on this day. President Eisenhower had signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act into law two months earlier in response to the Soviet Union's launch of [Sputnik](#). The U.S. didn't want to get left behind in the space race, so Congress created NASA as an organized effort to advance space research and technology.

NASA absorbed the [National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics](#) (NACA) along with its 8,000 employees and three laboratories.

Each year, the first week of October kicks off the United Nation's [World Space Week](#), which celebrates the world's achievements in space since the dawn of the Space Age on Oct. 4, 1957 with the launch of [Sputnik](#), the world's first artificial satellite. [Find out how to celebrate World Space Week 2020 here.](#)

If you are interested in obtaining a pristine Celestron C9.25 including a JMI EV1 2" diagonal focuser and T.V. 2" adapter for it, contact your newsletter editor.



Things to See While in “Quarantine”



On the night of September 26, your editor took advantage of the first really clear night he's had since the local fires began. Jupiter, Saturn and the waxing, slightly gibbous Moon were well placed for viewing. Alas, the seeing did not allow more than 100x and transparency was not the best, but it was the “best” in a long time. Using my SV80L atop a CG4 manual mount I was able to obtain crisp views of Saturn's Cassini division and the planet's shadow on the rings. Jupiter was especially nice with the NEB and SEB very distinct and four moons spread out — three on one side and one on the other. I kept switching from Jupiter to Saturn and back when, suddenly, I noticed what appeared to be a “black drop” on the limb of Jupiter. Huh?! It was an unexpected treat; a shadow transit of Ganymede. I hope I can have another night like that in October.

I hope you were able to get out on the night of October 5-6, to see Mars at its closest approach in quite a while. (The next time it's this close will be 15 years from now.)

October 13, will show Mars at opposition all night.

October 23, for a few hours near its first quarter phase, a feature on the moon called the Lunar X becomes visible in strong binoculars and backyard telescopes. When the rims of the craters Parbach, la Caille, and Blanchinus are illuminated from a particular angle of sunlight, they form a small, but very obvious X-shape. The event should peak about 1900 PDT, but be visible for several hours before and after.

October 31,

The full moon of October, traditionally called the Hunter's Moon, Blood Moon, or Sanguine Moon, always shines in or near the stars of Cetus and Pisces. Since it's opposite the sun on this day of the lunar month, the full moon rises at sunset and sets at sunrise. As this is the second full Moon of the month it called a “Blue Moon.” Also on this evening, Uranus is at opposition. It will be closest to Earth for this year at a distance of 1.75 billion miles, 2.81 billion km, or 156 light-minutes. Its minimal distance from Earth will cause it to shine at a peak brightness of magnitude 5.7 and to appear slightly larger in telescopes for a few weeks.

As always, check your star guides.