

It Must Be Astronomical ...

Loaners

The loaner program offers members a means to try scopes of various sizes and technologies before you buy. It is one of the real jewels of being a member of the club. Scopes are available for all experience levels. The inventory is constantly changing. The following list is a sample. For more information please see the loaner program web page: <http://www.sjaa.net/loaners>

Hot Dates

March 4 - Steven Beckwith on "The Dawn of Creation: The First Two Billion Years" at 7 p.m. Foothill College, Free, \$2 parking.

March 16 - Sandra Faber will tour the Universe using the most beautiful images from the Hubble Space Telescope - California Academy of Sciences, \$10, <http://www.calacademy.org/events>

March 21 - Dan Werthimer on "Is Anybody Out There? Searching for ET with Help from 8 Million Volunteers" - in Genetics and Plant Biology Building, Room 100, <http://astro.berkeley.edu/iya>

June 20-24 - Golden State Star Party - <http://www.goldenstatestarparty.blogspot.com/>

Deep Sky Objects

Here are three recommendations for deep sky objects in March. For more information see <http://www.resource-intl.com/Observing.Lists/Deep.Sky.Feb.09.html>

Difficulty	Name	RA	Dec
Easy	NGC 2683	08h 52m 41s	33° 25' 03"
Very bright nearly edge-on galaxy in Lyx. Mag. 10.6			
Medium	NGC 2509	08h 00m 48s	-19° 03' 00"
Beautiful open cluster in Puppis >80 stars. Mag. 9.3			
Difficult	N 2525	08h 05m 38s	-11° 25' 41"
Slightly elongated galaxy in Puppis. Mag. 12.3			

Q: What's the closest galaxy to the Milky Way?

A: According to page 331 of the 2009 RASC Observer's Handbook, it's the Sagittarius dwarf galaxy. It is even closer than the LMC and SMC.

"Study as if you were going to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow." - Maria Mitchell, first American woman professional astronomer.

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