

The Ephemeris

December 2013

Volume 24 Number 12 - The Official Publication of the San Jose Astronomical Association



Houge Park December Events

01 December

Solar observing: 2-4PM

Fix-It Day: 2-4PM

14 December

Board of Directors Meeting: 6-7:30PM

General Meeting: Cancelled due to floor replacement

20 December

In-Town Star party (Houge):
7:00-10:00PM

03 January

In-Town Star party (Houge):
7:00-10:00PM

SJAA Contacts

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Secretary: Teruo Utsumi
Director: Rich Neuschaefer
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From the President Rob Jaworski

Dear SJAA Members and Friends,

As we wrap up another year, we like to take a look back to see what we've accomplished, where we have been, and take stock of the year.

In March of this year, I was humbled to receive the honor of accepting the president's role within the SJAA. I am happy to report that the SJAA has recommitted itself to bringing astronomy and science to the public, with an eye towards future astronomers, the youth of our community. Our beginner classes were solidly targeted toward younger members, our in-town public star parties continued to be well attended by young and old alike, the school star party program remains very much in demand, and we've secured a new dark sky site that's reasonably close by and accessible.

Throughout year, we have hosted a variety of interesting speakers, such as Dr. Mark Showalter discussing newly discovered moons of Pluto, Dr. Steven Beckwith relating the first two billion years of the universe, and the always entertaining Dr. Chris McKay, who provided a fascinating update on searching for life on other planets and the Mars Curiosity rover. We continue to reach out to members of the professional astronomy community to come and share their research with the SJAA.

In July, we hosted the first-ever movie night, which was very well attended. The selections were put up to a vote for both nominations as well as for the final decision. Fresh popped popcorn and refreshing lemonade added to our cinematic ambiance. The event was very well received, and we plan to do it again soon.

Our base camp, Houge Park, received an unexpected refresh in October. The City of San Jose moved forward with a new coat of paint, inside and out, for the building at the Park.

(cont. on page 2)

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Swap Meet rescheduled to a TBD date in either January or February
- Calendars and Observer's Handbooks available
- Board Elections in February 2014
- One Board seat remains open. Contact any Board member if interested

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Articles for publication should be submitted by the 10th of the previous month.

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(President's message...cont. from page 1)

While they were at it, they discovered that the floor in our Building 1 had water damage, so the plans call for replacing the floor, including the removal of the raised floor. That will have an added benefit of eliminating the tripping hazard caused by the ramps at each of the entries. At the time of this writing, the painting is done, but we are waiting for the flooring job to be completed.

Board member Ed Wong began bringing astronomy back to Coyote Lake County Park, east of Gilroy. While there, he spotted a potential new dark sky site at Mendoza Ranch, part of the same park. He worked with the park administration and learned that they could make the area available after dark for organized astronomical observing sessions. The SJAA funded the \$100 permit fee, and now there is yet another dark sky site in the south bay available to SJAA members and the local amateur astronomy community. The solar program and its attendant FixIt days both continued with good attendance. The FixIt crew sees a range of two to five scopes brought in at each session, for both repair guidance as well as beginner-level usage tips. The monthly solar viewing session at Houge Park includes not just the SJAA's h-alpha solar scope, but also brings out other volunteers with a variety of equipment, such as projection systems and white light filters. Thanks go to Ed Wong, Dave Ittner and Phil Chambers for the FixIt success, as well as to Michael Packer who continues to be the SJAA's solar promoter.

The SJAA abruptly lost the editors of the club newsletter, the Ephemeris, so the November edition was a significantly pared down version. But the call for volunteers was quickly answered and we are now able to ramp the production back up to its former levels. The direction of the newsletter will remain unchanged from the perspective of it being the official communications vehicle of the SJAA. But it will also premier a new section that's geared for our younger members, with astronomy related content such as jokes and riddles, quizzes and a timely list of objects to view in the evening sky. We are always on the lookout for new material, and content submitted by members will always rank a higher priority, so please do consider contributing to the SJAA's Ephemeris. And certainly, a huge thank you to long time member Sandy Mohan who is our new editor, and another huge thank you to Tom Piller, who is taking on the production role for the

Ephemeris.

The SJAA is a volunteer run organization, and we can't provide all these terrific programs and events for the community without them. There is always a lot more than needs to be done while peoples' time is always short. If you would like to contribute, give back to the community and bring astronomy to the public, we welcome you! Please see me or any one of the board members and let's see how we can help!

Now, onwards to 2014!

Respectfully,
Rob Jaworski

Shallow Sky

by Akkana Peck

Did ISON survive?

Comet C/2012 S1 ISON turned out to be a heartbreaker. Hopes were so high for it -- but on Thanksgiving, in its closest approach to the sun, Twitter was all afire with reports of its demise. Looked like it had totally broken up and there was going to be no comet show at all in December. But then, a day later -- hold on, there's still something there, and brightening. Maybe there still is a comet there!

As I write this, we still don't know for sure what state ISON is in following its perihelion pass. It's pretty clear it's not going to be a spectacular naked-eye comet. Will it have multiple nuclei visible, or any other interesting remnants of its Icarus-like pass too close to the sun? Or will it just be a faint fuzzy smear? No one knows yet ... so follow the news, or turn your telescope or binocular on the comet to find out. That's assuming you wake up fairly early. As it was last month, in the first few weeks of December ISON is almost entirely a dawn comet. So to see it at its best, you'll have to get up early or stay up all night. And since comets are very sensitive to light pollution, and most of us have either city lights or mountains east of us, you'll probably have to get up even earlier and drive to a site with a good, dark eastern horizon.

As December opens, the predawn sky presents a beautiful tableau, with Mars high in the sky, a slim crescent moon hanging between Saturn and Mercury. You'll find ISON about ten degrees off to the left (north) with its tail rising from the horizon. (Remember that a comet's tail always points away from the sun, since

it's created by gases and dust blown away from the comet's nucleus by the solar wind.) On December 1 ISON rises about an hour before the sun -- a little after 6 am versus the Sun's 7:07 -- and it will rise earlier as December progresses. But if ISON is also up in the evening sky, it will be very low, and at the beginning of December it will certainly be invisible in the twilight glow. But some time between the 5th and the 10th it's possible that it may become visible, down near the horizon with its tail pointing off to the right, setting about 20 minutes after the sun. By the last week of December the moon is out of the way and Comet ISON has moved far enough north to be circumpolar, visible all night from sites with a good northern horizon. But by then it will be quite a bit fainter and may take a sizeable scope to find it.

So ISON is a disappointment. But hey, it's better than no comet at all, right? And we have something a little better than a faint comet: two faint comets! Because there's another circumpolar comet in the sky: Comet Lovejoy, just off the end of the handle of the Big Dipper. Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle about a third of the way to Arcturus, then go down toward Corona Borealis. At the end of November it's around 5th magnitude, so it should be visible to the naked eye, but it's already receding from the sun so its brightness will decrease fast in December.

What else is up?

I've already mentioned the planets sharing the morning sky with ISON: Saturn, Mars, and Mercury.

In the early evening sky is a brilliant crescent Venus, continuing the lovely show it gave us all last month.

Uranus is also visible, in a tricky star-poor field near the border between Pisces and Cetus; use Pegasus and go from the horse's chest star (Scheat, or Beta Persei) to its tail star (Algenib, Gamma Per) and you won't be too far off. It sets around 1:30 am. Neptune sets earlier, around 10:30; it's in Aquarius but it might be easier to find from the left horn of Capricornus.

And brilliant Jupiter is visible nearly all night, rising around 7 pm. Amazingly, it goes the entire month without a single multiple moon or shadow transit. But don't let that stop you from looking-- there's still plenty to see on Jupiter!

Guest Speaker (November 2013): **Dr. Junwei Zhao**

Topic: Solar Cycle and Helioseismology



Dr. Zhao pictured above listening to one of the many questions he received during his presentation

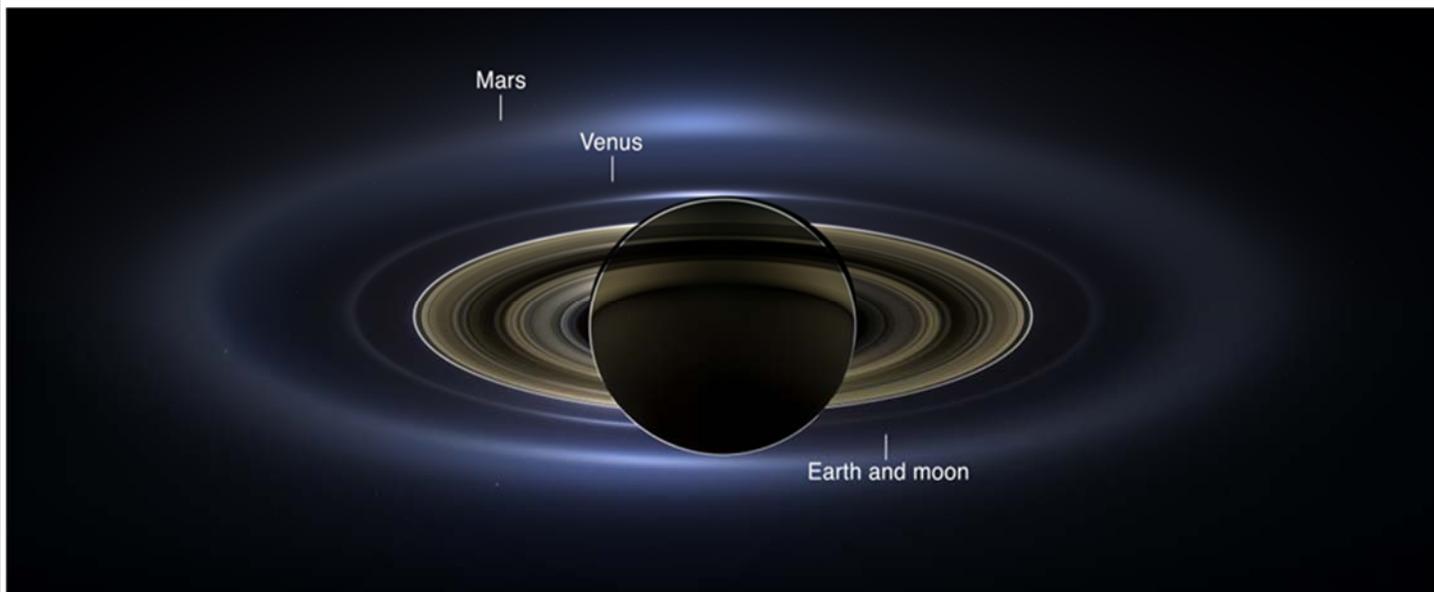
Dr. Zhao's presentation on his area of research, solar cycles and helioseismology, was fascinating. Part of the program included video clips of the Sun obtained from satellites Dr. Zhao's Stanford team track; views not generally seen by the public.

Solar cycles, which last approximately 11 years, are ranked according to the number of sunspots per year. Solar cycle 24 (2009-2020) is the weakest solar cycle in the last 100 years. The number of sunspots per cycle has been tapering for several decades and while there is speculation as to why, no one knows for sure.

Amazing New View of Saturn: NASA has released a natural color image of Saturn taken from Cassini spacecraft in which Saturn, its moons, rings, Earth, Venus and Mars are all visible". In this one magnificent view, Cassini has delivered to us a universe of marvels," said Carolyn Porco, Cassini's imaging team lead at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo. "And it did so on a day people all over the world, in unison, smiled in celebration at the sheer joy of being alive on a pale blue dot." "With a long, intricate dance around the Saturn system, Cassini aims to study the Saturn system from as many angles as possible," said Linda Spilker, Cassini project scientist based at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "Beyond showing us the beauty of the Ringed Planet, data like these also improve our understanding of the history of the faint rings around Saturn and the way disks around planets form -- clues to how our own solar system formed around the sun."

Launched in 1997, Cassini has explored the Saturn system for more than nine years. NASA plans to continue the mission through 2017, with the anticipation of many more images of Saturn, its rings and moons, as well as other scientific data.

Credit: Tony Philips, Science@NASA



Two Missions to Mars – MAVEN and Mangalyaan

On Nov 18, 2013 NASA launched the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) to Mars from Cape Canaveral, Florida, US. MAVEN will travel 10 months to reach the Red Planet. It is scheduled to insert into Mars orbit on Sept 22, 2014. The probe is designed to study the Martian atmosphere while orbiting Mars.



Meanwhile, India launched its first mission to Mars, the Mars Orbiter the Mangalyaan. The Mars Orbiter will study the planet's surface, atmosphere, its two satellites



– Phobos and Deimos, and look for signs of life. It is scheduled to reach the Martian orbit in Sept 2014, around the same time as MAVEN. It has sent its first pictures of the Indian subcontinent from space. Notice “Cyclone Helen” off the east coast of India.

“If NASA's orbiter Maven and ISRO's Mars Orbiter are successful, they will complement each other in findings and help understand the red planet better. We will coordinate with NASA once both our missions get there. Right now our focus is to get the Orbiter there,” the Indian Space Agency ISRO said. Explaining the differences between both missions, they said that unlike the American NASA orbiter, MOM is a “small and modest” attempt by India.

Credit: NASA and ISRO

Ice Cube Neutrino Observatory – Bert, Ernie & Big Bird

The largest neutrino telescope buried under ice in Antarctica has observed high energy cosmic neutrinos. Neutrinos are subatomic particles that travel at the speed of light, have no mass, no electric charge and are not affected by magnetic fields. Neutrinos maintain their speed and direction and enter and go right through planets. Every time a neutrino strikes a particle it gives off a flash of light. Where they come from has been a mystery for hundreds of years. In November 2013, sensors placed in the cubic kilometer of ice block below the icy surface in Antarctica revealed the discovery of 28 very high energy neutrinos on Earth which had originated from beyond our solar system. These are the most high energy neutrinos ever observed. Scientists have named some of these neutrinos Bert, Ernie and Big Bird. These findings have pushed neutrino research to the forefront of astronomy.



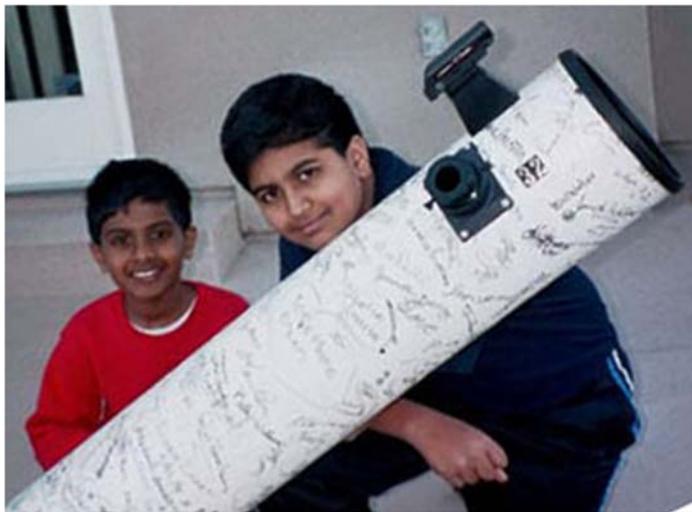
Source: npr.org



The 6" Dob by Vivek Mohan

It was a clear Friday night, perfect for sky watching. The moon was in its last quarter, a mere silver crescent in the sky. Our family piled into our car and drove to Houge Park, enticed at the prospect of renting a telescope from the SJAA. Upon arriving at the star party, we gazed at the multitude of telescopes, from small 2" telescopes to gigantic 18" dobsonian monsters.

We strolled over to the end of the long line of scopes, and came upon the SJAA representative, who had been waiting for our family. We had reserved a 14" dob, and we saw the huge telescope, painted in a dark shade of brown. Immediately, we thought to ourselves, "No way that's going to fit in our car!" Luckily for us, there was another unreserved scope. It was a 6" dob, the most special of all the loaners the SJAA had. On the cardboard shell of the scope were hundreds of signatures in black marker. Volunteers at SJAA had built this telescope during a all-day telescope making session.



We brought the 6" Dob home, and immediately put it on our deck, searching for familiar stars such as Alberio, Vega, and Deneb. We all were impressed with the telescope's ease of transportability as we expected moving it to be a pain. Over the following days, my family and I got acquainted with the Deep Sky 600 map, and my Mom could find the Andromeda Galaxy at will. As our house is situated on a hill, we had great, unobstructed views of Jupiter, of which we could make out the equatorial belts and the Galilean moons, Saturn, of which we could see the rings and various moons; and the Moon, of which craters, seas, and many other magnificent surface features were visible.

The loaner program is going strong today, with lots of newer equipment. Contact Dave Ittner for availability.

My dad's favorite was the Orion Nebula, which we see as a luminous cloud lit up by the stars of the Trapezium. As the weather grew progressively colder we stayed inside, and looked through the windows, occasionally spotting a cluster of interest and looking at it through the scope. The laser dot-scope (finder scope) made it amazingly easy to focus on objects, and the dob mount was fine to track them, as long as you moved it a fraction of an inch every 5 minutes. One of my favorite things to do was to track moving planes and satellites. My parents, however, preferred to stick with more stationary, astronomical objects. In the end, this scope was one of the best astronomy related things that ever happened to us.



Vivek Mohan and loaner scope #32 - dubbed "The Signature Scope". Vivek is in his observing stance, locating a celestial object through the scope.

(Editor's Note: Vivek is Sandy Mohan's son, now 26 years old and a lawyer in Washington DC.)



Loaner scope #32 being signed by one of the visitors to the SJAA event at The Tech Museum where it was constructed.

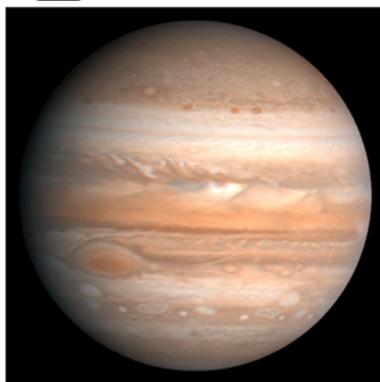


Kid Spot Jokes:

- Why couldn't the astronaut book a room on the moon?
Because it was full.
- What do you think of the new restaurant on the moon?
The food was great but it had no atmosphere.

Kid Spot Quiz: (answers below)

1. How long does it take for light from the Sun to reach the Earth?
2. What is the name for the point on the sky that is directly overhead?



Kid Spot Night Sky Challenge: Dec 2013

See if you can spot the following objects in the sky

- Venus – brilliant in the evening sky
- Jupiter – near the Gemini twins, Castor and Pollux
- Orion (The Hunter) constellation
- Cassiopeia (inverted W)
- Pleiades – The seven Sisters
- Aldebaran – Eye of the Taurus

<http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/ataglance>

Constellations

Cepheus

In Greek mythology, **Cepheus son of Agenor** is the grandson of Cepheus the elder. He is featured in the Perseus legend as the husband of lovely Cassiopeia and father of Princess Andromeda, and whose brother Phineus expected to marry Andromeda.

When Poseidon sent the sea monster Cetus to attack Aethiopia after his wife boasted that Andromeda was more beautiful than the Nereids, Cepheus and Cassiopeia consulted with a wise oracle who told them to sacrifice Andromeda to Cetus. Cepheus and Cassiopeia had Andromeda chained to a rock near the ocean so that Cetus could devour her. Andromeda was saved from this fate when Perseus, on his way home from killing Medusa, arrived and killed Cetus.

Cepheus and Cassiopeia allowed Perseus to become Andromeda's husband after he used Medusa's head to turn Phineus and his men to stone. Cassiopeia and Cepheus were also caught in Medusa's gaze and were turned to stone as well.

Poseidon is said to have placed both Cassiopeia and Cepheus amongst the stars.

The constellation Cepheus lies between Cassiopeia and Draco and is a circumpolar constellation, meaning it can be seen throughout the year. It is best viewed from August through January.

Delta Cephei is a famous variable star discovered in 1784. It changes in brightness over a period of about 5 days. Because it was the first variable star of its kind discovered, other similar stars are now called Cepheid variables. The period of a Cepheid variable is directly related to its brightness. This relationship permits Cepheids to be used to measure the distances to external galaxies.

Part of the Milky Way passes through Cepheus and the constellation is rich in clusters and nebulae. There are several open star clusters in Cepheus brighter than tenth magnitude. Ninth magnitude NGC 188 is one of the oldest clusters known with an estimated age of 5 billion years. Others include NGC 7160, a cluster of about 25 stars, the brightest of about seventh magnitude and NGC 7023 an open star cluster associated with a reflection nebula, sometimes called the Iris Nebula.³

Source: Wikipedia

Kid Spot Quiz Answers

1. About 8 minutes.
2. The zenith

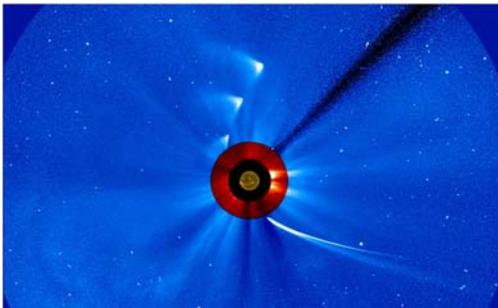
Solar Observing at Houge Park

Michael Packer

Observe The Sun Safely! Never look at the Sun without a proper filter!

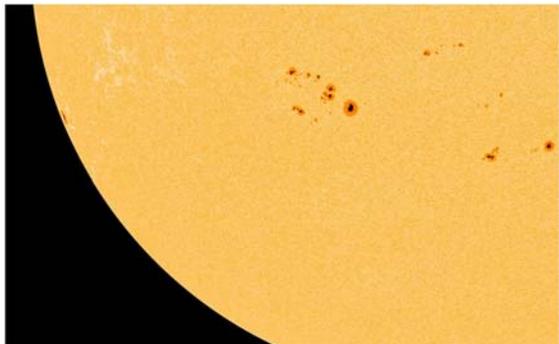
Solar Programs are held 1st Sunday of every Month 2:00-4:00 PM at Houge Park weather permitting.

Knowing the Sun just sucked in Comet ISON, chewed it into a Thanksgiving gravy of dirty ice melt clods and spat it out into a field of dust offered a little more respectable view of the



El Sol than usual. And the Sun did deliver.

The Sunspot count was 104 (NOAA) in a smashing array with a large lone one at the edge exhibiting the Wilson Effect (the spot appears as a slight depression or cavity).



The seeing was particularly fair this session and my personal 80mm Refractor with a Hershel

Wedge and Continuum Filter showed the solar granularity beautifully as well as plage and faculae. Solar Prominences or H-Alpha Flares were particularly nice with a not-to-often seen Helix Prominence.

We had a small but dedicated crowd for this solar party – impressive because of the “Black Friday”-Thanksgiving-Football-Weekend.

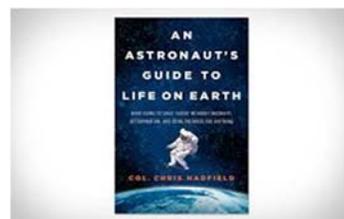


Susan and Bill O'Neil showed up with their C5 scope. New member Paul Summers showed up and took some images, along with member Dwight Shackelford, and Santa Cruz Astronomy Club President Jeff Gose. And of course we had members of the public deliberately stop by – or stroll up on their visit to Houge Park. Finally Solar veteran Terry Kahl stopped by for the fix it day. She reported a huge 1x power sunspot and huge prom just a few days ago. A perfect example of why El Sol is so dynamically hot to check out everyday now.

Holiday Gift Book Ideas

An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth by Chris Hadfield

The accomplished Canadian astronaut, Chris Hadfield talks about how to survive in space and Earth and discusses everything in between including parenting.



Collins Gem: Stars by Ridpath, Ian and Tirion, Wil

This compact pocket sized book is great for amateur astronomers with nicely marked Constellations, Deep Sky Objects, and Messier Objects. Fits neatly in a shirt pocket.



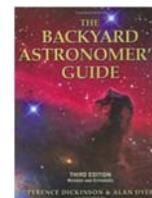
Turn Left at Orion by Consolmagna Guy and Dan Davis

An all-time favorite. Contains tips and instructions for learning the night sky.



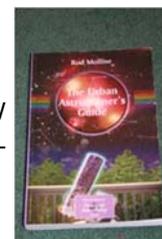
The Backyard Astronomer's Guide by Terence Dickinson and Alan Dyer

For beginners to serious astronomers this beautiful and user-friendly book contains more than 500 pictures.



The Urban Astronomer's Guide by Rod Mollise

Covers the why, how and what of astronomy in urban skies. For beginners and intermediate level astronomers.



Exploratory Trip to Pinnacles National Park

Posted on November 27, 2013 by Ed Wong (SJAA Blog)

This is my report of a trip to Pinnacles National Park. I have been interested in exploring this park as a potential site that club members could visit for dark sky viewing and imaging. My friend Nhan Nguyen had told me about the location since he has been there a few times for imaging.

On Sun 11/24 Nhan, Bill & Susan O'Neil and I met at the Pinnacles to explore the location and do some imaging and viewing. The Pinnacles is location in a fairly remote location south of Paicines on Hwy 25. From my place located in the south bay, the drive was pleasant, no remote or off road excursions needed and no excessive winding mountain roads. It took me 1 hour to get there. From the club's home base at Houge Park, it should take about 1.5 to 1.7 hours to get there depending on traffic. The city of Hollister is about halfway and has gas and other stores if you need to get food or other stuff on your way down.

As I drove around the park, I noticed there are a lot of mountains and trees so the horizons are somewhat limited. On my way to the visitor's center to meet the others, I noticed a somewhat open area with pretty good horizons. We talked with the Rangers about having access to that location which is an overflow camping area which also includes a flushable toilet.

As we were setting up, I noticed there were some cars leaving the park on a road next to the campground. Nhan had said once it got dark, that really would not be a problem and it was not. Once it got dark there were no cars after we were set up. I was amazed at how quickly it got dark once the sun had gone down. I had my mount polar aligned and ready to go by 6pm.

This was my first time to a true dark site and it was a new experience. Venus was so bright in the night sky in the west, it was almost seemed like the moon was up on that side of the sky!! But, as Venus went down it did get dark, really dark. I was able to see the Milky Way in great detail like I had never seen before from RCDO or Coyote Lake. I could easily see all the stars in the little dipper, naked eye. The Andromeda Galaxy, Double Cluster, M33 Pinwheel galaxy were also visible to naked eye. The view of the Double Cluster in my 20x80 binoculars was spectacular!!! so much more detail and contrast.

For those into imaging, I was imaging IC342 with a F7 scope. I was able to shoot 12min. sub frames at ISO1600 with no light pollution filter with no skyglow.

I did take some measurements of the location. Most of the horizon are between 15-18 degrees high except for the north which is slightly lower. I took some SQM meter readings with my iPhone app and the readings taken several times through the night were 21.6-21.8 and the highest rating. For comparison RCDO is 20.5. I've been told by TAC observers Lake San Antonio is about 21.5. Granted, my iPhone app most likely is not as accurate as a dedicated meter but, it does give a rough reference point.

I enjoyed my time at the Pinnacles with Nhan, Bill and Susan. I think there is a possibility for this location for club members who want to view at a dark site within 2 hours of home base. I'm planning to go back again when I have the opportunity.
-Ed Wong

Mendoza Ranch

Posted on December 2, 2013 by Ed Wong (SJAA Blog)

This is my report on the SJAA's first official new moon viewing/imaging night at Mendoza Ranch. Mendoza Ranch is a new location that the SJAA has been granted access by the Santa Clara County Parks to use on the new moon Saturday night. Access to the ranch requires one of the permit holders to be present, currently Ed Wong or Dave Ittner. The nights it will be opened are the new moon nights on the SJAA calendar which coincide the Henry Coe nights which will give people an option on alternate dark sites to which they can go to view or image. The event was held on Saturday, November 30th. We had a pretty good turn out, ten people total. For eight of those, it was their first time at Mendoza Ranch. We started at 6pm, there was about an equal mix of people viewing and imaging, five and five. As the sun was setting, I was able to get my mount aligned to do some imaging. I noticed that I was able to see the handle of the Big Dipper in the north. Mendoza Ranch has pretty low horizons. About 10 degrees in the north and the east, approx. 12 degrees in the south and west. Overall the total visibility of the entire night sky is the best of all the places I have been able to view from so far.

As it got dark, the north, east and south views were pretty dark. The west had some glow from Gilroy and Morgan Hill but Mendoza Ranch has some hills on the west blocking some of it, so it's not as bad as some other sites I've been too. By 8pm the sky seemed pretty dark so I took a SQM meter reading using my app on my phone. It read 21.2 for comparison to other sites SJAA uses around the Bay Area, RCDO is 20.5. Pinnacles is 21.7.

Overall, it was a pretty good night, people seemed happy to be able to get out to view and image. I heard people say they like the site and were planning to come back. I think it was a successful first night. The next planned opening of Mendoza Ranch will be Saturday, January 4th, 2014. Come out and join us!

Tips for observing

- Dress warm and bring extra layers
- bring hats and mitts (gloves are useful for when tearing down)
- bring a chair to sit in (if you can't get into your car cause of the interior lights)
- back into each spot as close to the person next to you, to fit in as many cars as possible
- folks are to set up behind their cars on the gravel, also to fit in as many cars as possible
- bring one or more red flashlights
- make a list of items you need to bring (reduce the chances of forgetting something critical)

◇ **Advanced Loaner Telescope Program**

◇ **Quick STArT Program Report**

◇ **SJAA Library**

From Dave Ittner

These programs are on hold for the month of December and possibly January due to Clubhouse construction.

Observers Handbook and calendars now available

The RASC Handbooks and Calendars are available for sale, \$25 and \$20 each, respectively. From the RASC's website, "The Observer's Handbook is a 352-page guide published annually since 1907 by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada."

<http://www.rasc.ca/observers-handbook>

As for the calendar: "Designed with the observer in mind, the calendar contains comprehensive astronomical data such as daily Moon rise and set times, significant lunar and planetary conjunctions, eclipses, and meteor showers."

<http://www.rasc.ca/observers-calendar>

The SJAA pre-ordered a batch of each, quantities are limited, be sure to get yours today, or at the next General Meeting on Saturday, 14 December.

General Notices

From the Board of Directors

- February 2014 is the annual meeting for Board elections.
- Board positions to be determined this February 2014:
 - Greg Claytor** (term ending Feb 2014)
 - Dave Ittner** (term ending Feb 2014)
 - open board seat**
- qualified directorial candidates will be nominated at the February 2014 meeting

Announcements

From the Board of Directors

- Board members Greg Claytor and Dave Ittner have expressed their intention to run for re-election to their respective board positions in February 2014.
- There is currently one (1) board seat open that needs to be filled. See Lee Hoglan or any board member if you are interested.
- Due to the construction, the swap meet will probably be held in February and not January.
- The Beginner Class Instructor position is still open. See any board member if you are interested.

Excerpts—Board Meeting November 16, 2013

In attendance: Rob Jaworski, Lee Hoglan, Ed Wong, Greg Claytor, Teruo Utsumi

Excused absence: Dave Ittner, Michael Packer, Rich Neuschaefer

Guests: Robert Armstrong

Facilities – Rob

Discussed on-going hall renovation by the City of San Jose and the need for volunteers to put the place back together. We will discuss a backup plan in the event Houge Park is not completed by end of November.

Club Organization – Greg

discussed the need for repository for essential club documents/info (e.g., material for programs, e.g., Beginner's Class. Greg to compile list/frame work of various roles/tasks/programs to start organization of repository.

Open Positions - Rob

Discussed the need to fill Mina's board seat Board

Seat, *Ephemeris* newsletter, and Beginner Class Instructor. Rob reported we have two potential editors to co-edit the newsletter.

Swap Meet Reschedule – Rob

Rescheduled for 2nd half January 2014. Exact date TBD. (see announcements)

Recognition Program – Greg

Greg Claytor is heading up the formation of a recognition program so the SJAA has a way to formally thank volunteers and other contributors.

T-shirts – Rob

The club has sold all of the previously purchased t-shirts w/ the SJAA logo. The board will look into getting shirts or other wearable paraphernalia.

Clubhouse Renovation Houge Park Facilities

From Rob Jaworski; Dec 2

I had a telephone conversation with the facilities manager, Anthony, of Houge Park.

He apologized for the delay in the project, but the project manager got called away to deal with about 20 roof repair jobs at other sites, all due to the recent heavy rains.

Anthony has a call into the project manager to see what a new schedule would look like, but in the meantime, he was asking what our important event dates are so he can work around them. I'll be sending him all our indoor Houge Park events through December and into January, based on what I see in the Events and Board calendars.

I also mentioned the water pooling up on the south side of the building after rains, and the location of the downspout next to the main entrance from the parking lot. He said he will inspect them to see if he can have them moved easily without re-guttering the entire building. I also mentioned that the door needs to be more secure, with a blocking plate over the latch, and possibly a deadbolt. And to further the wish list, I asked for AC and better ventilation, but he said that's very much out of the question, and after this project, the building probably won't be touched again for many years.

In any event, he said that the floor project is funded and it will happen for sure. It's just a matter of when.

Thanks

Rob

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