

# 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.*

### Officers and Board of Directors

**Pres** (acting Pres is Rich N.)  
**VP** Rich Neuschaefer  
**Sec** (open)  
**Tres** Robert Armstrong  
**Dir** Lee Hoglan  
**Dir** Gordon Reade  
**Dir** Greg Claytor  
**Dir** Mark Wagner  
**Dir** Rod Norden  
**Dir** Kevin Roberts

### Ephemeris Staff

**Editors** Paul & Mary Kohlmeier  
**Circulation** Gordon Reade  
**Printing** Accuprint (408) 287-7200

### School Star Party Chairman

Jim Van Nuland (408) 371-1307

### SJAA Email Addresses

Board of Directors [board@sjaa.net](mailto:board@sjaa.net)  
 Membership ?'s [membership@sjaa.net](mailto:membership@sjaa.net)  
 Astronomy ?'s [questions@sjaa.net](mailto:questions@sjaa.net)  
 President [president@sjaa.net](mailto:president@sjaa.net)  
 Treasurer [treasurer@sjaa.net](mailto:treasurer@sjaa.net)  
 Announce [sjaa-announce@sjaa.net](mailto:sjaa-announce@sjaa.net)  
 Secretary [secretary@sjaa.net](mailto:secretary@sjaa.net)  
 School Star Parties [schools@sjaa.net](mailto:schools@sjaa.net)  
 Ephemeris [ephemeris@sjaa.net](mailto:ephemeris@sjaa.net)  
 Web Page [webmaster@sjaa.net](mailto:webmaster@sjaa.net)  
 Circulation [circulation@sjaa.net](mailto:circulation@sjaa.net)  
 Telescope Loaners [loaner@sjaa.net](mailto:loaner@sjaa.net)  
 Members Email Lists: <http://www.sjaa.net/majordomo.html>

### Publication Statement

SJAA *Ephemeris*, newsletter of the San Jose Astronomical Association, is published monthly.

San Jose Astronomical Association,  
 P.O. Box 28243  
 San Jose, CA 95159-8243

The SJAA *Ephemeris* is published in three formats: hardcopy, Adobe Acrobat PDF, and HTML. The PDF and HTML versions are found at <http://ephemeris.sjaa.net>.

Articles for publication should be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. The PDF version is generally available by the 24<sup>th</sup> of the previous month and the HTML version by the last day of the previous month.