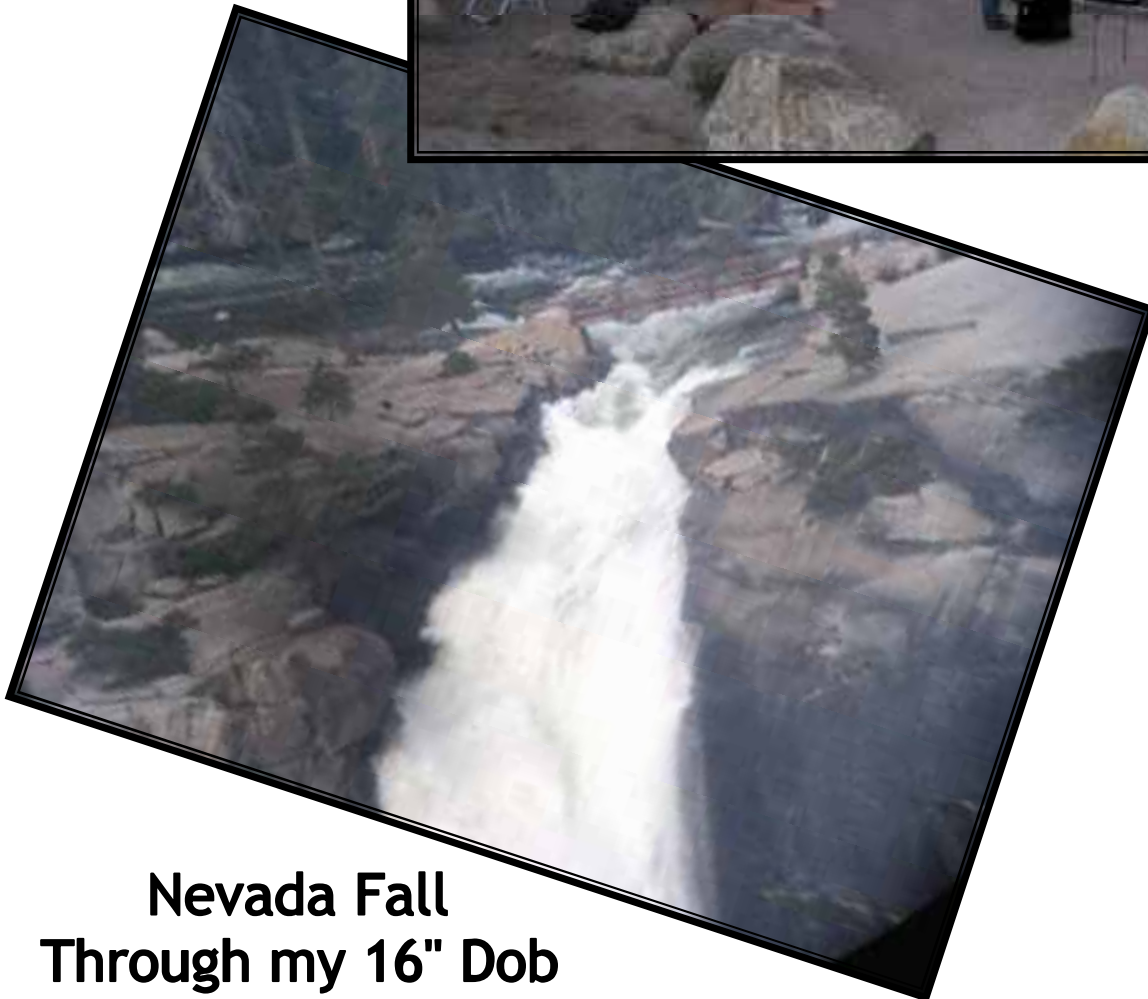


Glacier Point Star Party Labor Day Weekend Aug 31 - Sept 2

Glacier Point at Yosemite offers one of the worlds best scenic vistas, and we are again invited to share our telescopes with the public and enjoy free entrance to the park plus free camping at Bridal Veil campgrounds. AT 7214' elevation, no



**Nevada Fall
Through my 16" Dob**

city lights, and crystal clear air, this destination is breathtaking to say the least! If the Astro Gods were to pick a place to hang out, this would be it. It is great fun to share the views with tourists from all around the world. Many couldn't speak English, but Astronomy is a universal language. We set up about an hour before dark, and immediately folks were interested in sharing views of climbers on

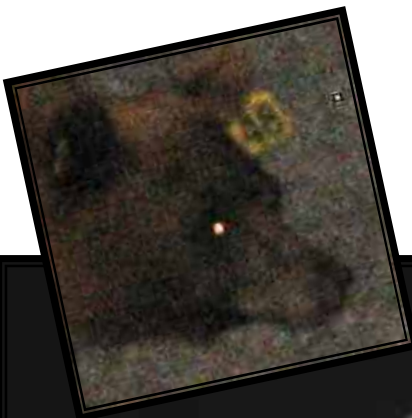
Nevada Fall from Glacier Point



Half Dome or the beautiful Nevada and Vernal falls across the valley to the south. We could literally see their colors of the climbers hats and jackets, standing on Half Dome about two and a half miles away! One evening we watched the climbers as they settled in for the night hanging in a sling on Half Domes face. As the sun set, the cool of the evening set in, we got down to the business of stargazing. I was worried that my knowledge and observing skills would be lacking, but almost every guest was delighted to simply look at Saturn or other very easy to find objects. The seeing and clarity were su-

perb, M51 and the Sombrero displayed detail I had never seen before. Just couldn't get enough!

A bit of excitement just before midnight, when a bear dropped in for a visit. We had a bag of chips laying on the ground and he insisted we share. Only proper to share with our guests don't you think? He was very polite for the most part, besides a being a bit persistent, but he finally sauntered off in the dark after overstaying his welcome. We later heard stories about how he would wait in the parking lot for folks to put their food in the bear boxes. There was one box that he knew how to open, so he would patiently wait for that one to be used. Old number 48, the tag on his ear, was a regular visitor to the guests at Glacier Point. Romona and I decided to name him Ursa Major!



Ursa Major

Last year, because Bridal Veil campground was closed, we stayed at the ranger station just a couple blocks from the amphitheater. That was a real treat, and the rangers were great hosts sharing their stories of rescue and identifying local plants and birds. During the day we hiked out to the point for some really breathtaking vistas of the Yosemite Valley. Even the hot dog from the small eatery near the parking lot tasted great while taking in the views.

Romona Glasgo

I took a drive to the valley the next day, **Your Host for 2012**



and missed Romona playing the flute. I pondered, is it possible to hear the flute all the way to the valley floor? She had a deer wander close and seemed to really enjoy the music.

Yosemite calls me back every year! This is a world class destination. Join us if you can, and you will come away with some life-long memories.

SVAS Editor



Current Events

I had the pleasure of listening to the highly regarded Mary Youngblood & our very own SVAS Director Romona Glasgow playing the flute at last years August Star Party at HGO. The presentation was a perfect mix of short sets of inspirational flute music with quiet times for observing in-between. The flute must surely be the favorite choice of the Astro Gods! It seems to reach out and carry one to the heavens with the gentle wispy airy sounds.

We are hoping to invite Mary and Romona for a repeat performance, perhaps at the September HGO Star Party?



Native American Flute Music

Under the Stars

