



# SVAS

Vol.74 No.5\* Sept-Oct, 2017



# OBSERVER

Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society

Founded in 1945

# *The Great American Eclipse!*

**Teton Sunset**  
**by Ross Gorman**

Amid predictions of massive traffic jams, gas and food shortages, extraordinarily expensive lodging and campgrounds, these astronomers at Madras, Oregon, proceeded against all odds. This scenario was repeated all across America, making this a Great American Total Eclipse!



**Madras, Oregon**  
**August 21, 2017**

# SVAS Current Event Calendar



## Sept 15, Friday, 8:00pm, SVAS General Meeting

Sac City College, Room T- 12, 3835 Freeport Boulevard, Sacramento, CA.

SVAS Board meeting at JR's BBQ, 6:00-7:30pm, 180 Otto Circle, Sacramento, CA



## Sept 16, Sat, Star Party at Blue Canyon

Weather permitting.



## Sept 23, Star Party at Blue Canyon

This is the second for Sept, weather permitting.



## Sept 24, Sunday Funday, Rusch Park, Citrus Heights, 11am to 3pm.

The SVAS has a booth, come join us and help out with this great public Solar Viewing.



## Oct 20 , Friday, 8:00pm, SVAS General Meeting

Sac City College, Room T-12, 3835 Freeport Boulevard, Sacramento, CA.

SVAS Board meeting at JR's BBQ, 6:00-7:30pm, 180 Otto Circle, Sacramento, CA



## Oct 21, Sat, Star Party at Blue Canyon

Weather permitting.

**A Second SVAS Meeting Location Change!**  
**Different Parking Lot, Expect a Fee!**

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# More About Upcoming Star Parties



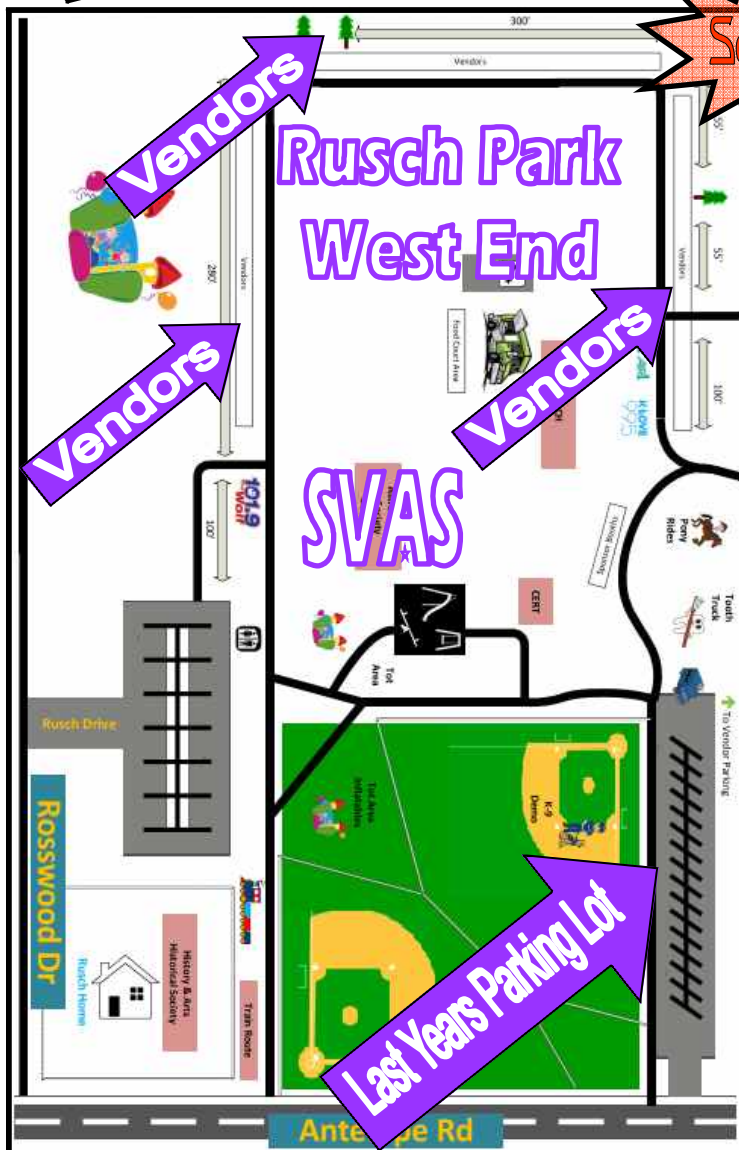
Sunday, September 24th  
Rusch Park  
11:00am - 3:00pm

Come join in the fun! The SVAS will be observing our star, and sharing it with the public. Your help would be most appreciated, come with or without a scope, and share your knowledge with the public. This is a very special day, lots of events going on, a great food court, music, and lots of families from all around the area.

## New location, same park!

This years entire event will be held on the west end of Rusch park, towards the free-way side. Enter either in last years parking lot, or the lot off Rosswood Dr. You will be able to drive in on the pathways, drop off your equipment, and return your car to the parking areas. There will be several reserved parking areas, the details to be finalized soon by the city.

Contact Walt Heiges or Lonnie Robinson



**\*\*Please visit [SVAS.Org](http://SVAS.Org) for contact Information\*\***

# SVAS Guest Speakers

**Speaker Seeker**  
**Fera Zamani**  
**SVAS Board member**



**Sept 15, 2017, Friday 8pm**  
**Sacramento City College**

**Raj Dixit**  
 will present on;

## **Hubble vs. Your Scope**

Raj will discuss the difference between the beautiful images you see on TV, in books & magazines, and on the internet, compared to what you actually see through a telescope! He has prepared an elaborate PowerPoint Presentation that will be very interactive!



**October 20, 2017, Friday 8pm**  
**Sacramento City College**

**Dirk Verdoorn**  
 Will present on:

## **Idaho Eclipse Experience & Space Weather**

Come see Dirk in person, he is the meteorologist for KCRA Channel 3.



# SVAS Solar Eclipse



**“Good Grief, I am in so much trouble” Walt Heiges said!** The event was featured on KCRA channel 3, a few days earlier. He was worried no-one from the SVAS would be here to help, and all of Sacramento could possibly show up! Raj Dixit estimated about 750 guests attended!

**Overall it was a resounding success!**

Supporting SVAS members were: Walt Heiges, Raj Dixit, Charles Jones, Perry P. Porter, Roza Calderon, Les Lockrem, and Jerald Carter! Kevin Heider monitored the Sun Spotter.

Scopes: 90 mm Orion StarBlast f/7.3 achromatic (Raj); Lunt 50 mm H-alpha solar (Walt's); Meade Coronado 90 mm Solar Max II H-alpha (also Walt's), and Orion XT10i IntelliScope Dob (Jerald Carter).



**Special thanks for SVAS members support, most all members were Eclipse traveling!**



Sending a heartfelt THANK YOU to all our 2017 Solar Eclipse Celebration guests and community partners! Watching the eclipse with this incredible crowd of science enthusiasts was nothing short of thrilling for all of us here at Powerhouse Science Center. A memorable day for visitors of all ages!



# SVAS Solar Eclipse







# SVAS Solar Eclipse





# Solar Eclipse

by Ross Gorman

Grand Teton, Woming  
August 21, 2017





I originally decided to use the Madras eclipse parking photo for the first page, but when Ross sent his magical photo of the Sun setting behind the Tetons I couldn't resist it being a cover shot as well! Not being able to decide which one to use, my wife Jan suggested using both.

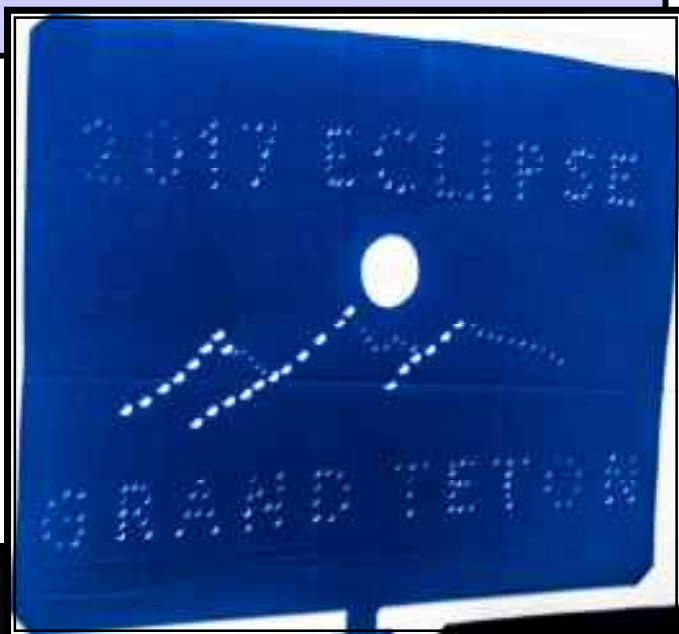
Ross gave me the inspiration to make my Weiser Idaho sun pinhole mask projector. it worked really well, but in retrospect some of my drilled holes should have been larger with less wording to spread out the letters better.

His eclipse setup included: A white sheet for shadow band projection, white light filter on an opaque panel for camera photography, a SolarMax 40 Ha scope on a Alt-Azimuth mount, and a white light filtered 90mm Mak-sutov-Cassegrain telescope on German EQ mount.

The beautiful Crepuscular Rays coming off the Teton Peaks, at sunset, were due to smoke from Montana wildfires drifting into the Jackson Hole area. Simply Stunning!

Check out Ross's YouTube recording of the eclipse events, including shadow bands, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?edit=vd&v=rcDJMmsZwxg> . Note: there was a change in band direction before vs. after totality.

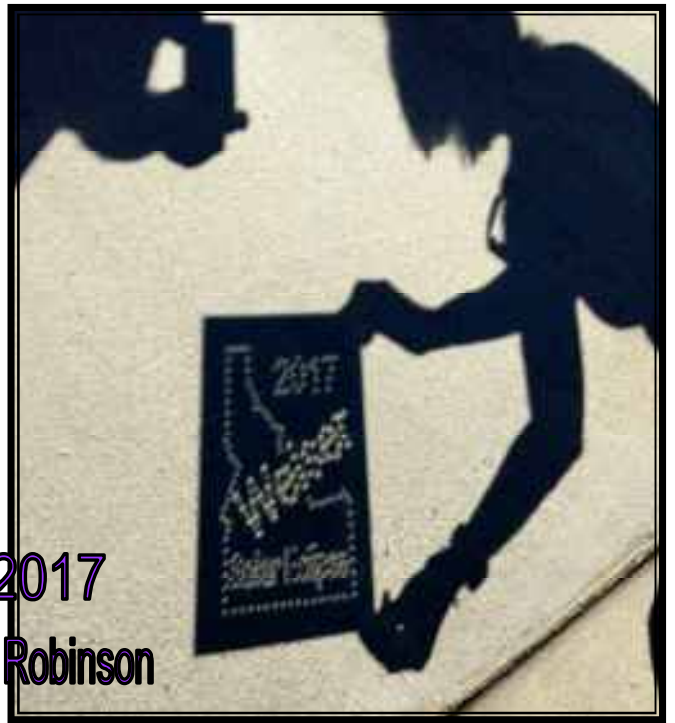
Special thanks goes out to Ross for contributing informative pre-eclipse articles, and his great photos of this event!  
Observer Editor





# Solar Eclipse

## Weiser, Idaho



Aug 21, 2017  
by Lonnie Robinson



My wife Jan and I had a great time in Weiser! The experience just couldn't have been better, having favorite relatives living there and willing to put up with us for a few days. We dodged all the traffic, and viewed the eclipse from their driveway. Then to top off the experience, cousin Bonnie headed up an eclipse oil painting party right afterwards, with the eclipse fresh in our minds eye. This is only my second painting, but it couldn't have been more memorable!

I have no claim to fame as an astrophotographer, and followed the great advice from Dave Buchla and Ross Gorman putting to-

gether a camera with a 500mm f/8 Opteka mirror lens and a homemade Baader Astrozap solar filter. Getting the exposure correct took some prior experimenting, and I used a 2 second shutter delay to eliminate any camera shake. Everyone advised me not to get too technical and just enjoy the eclipse, so I used a simple non-tracking tripod. The one thing that worked really well was a right angle viewfinder I made, allowing me to look down into the camera without twisting my neck! The early contact photos went as planned, keeping the ASA at 400 and gradually decreasing the shutter speed from 1/1600 to about 1/1200 before removing the filter for totality. Then panic struck, I couldn't find the "dark" eclipsed sun in the camera! After fiddling around (pun intended, Weiser is home to the annual Fiddlers convention) for about 20 seconds, I finally found it. The photo at right was taken at 1/80 second, 500mm lens,

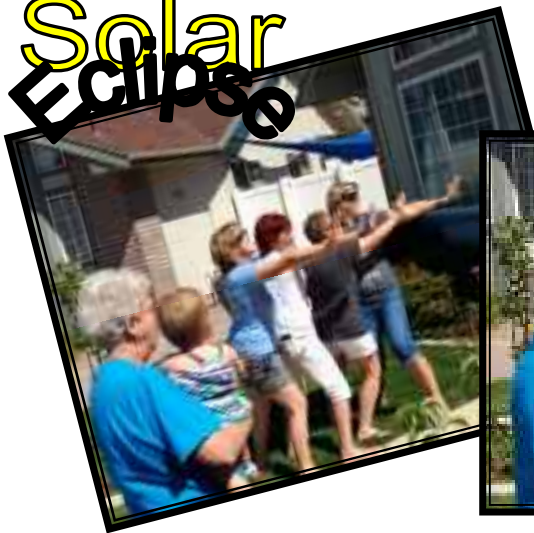
and no filter. I was shocked at the great results!





# Solar Eclipse

## Weiser, Idaho, Eclipse Continued



We had an eclipse party! Everyone enjoyed themselves as the Moon progressed across the sun. We watched the shadows become more crescent like from our pinhole mask, and checked out the shadows projected between the tree leaves. Everything became surreal as totality approached; the street lights came on, crickets began to creak, and it got very cool. However, I didn't notice the dogs acting differently. A stranger remarked he was disappointed it didn't get really dark, but I only expected a twilight darkness. Venus popped out right away, but I didn't see Mars, Regulus, Mercury, or Jupiter which could have been behind the house. There were suggestions to use a patch over one eye, to get it dark adapted, and that may have helped.

The traffic leaving Weiser was fairly heavy, and thankfully we stayed on as guests for another evening enjoying our family get-together immensely. It was such great fun cooking our favorite recipes together, and catching up on life's stories.

After saying goodbye, Jan and I travelled on across Idaho to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for a couple days, visited Teton National Park, and then drove down past Bear Lake, through Logan, to Ogden, Utah, where my two brothers live. My brother said we must stop in Bear Lake for a fresh strawberry shake, suggesting a family owned Dairy Queen like fast food restaurant. We spotted their strawberry shake sign, but looking around there were four or five more leaving us to wonder if we picked the right one? It was a great shake! Ogden was the perfect final destination of a spectacular once in a lifetime solar eclipse experience.





# Great American Eclipse

## Madras, Oregon



I made a last minute decision to head up to Madras on Sunday morning, encouraged by the lack of traffic heading to Oregon. I arrived that evening in Madras and set up camp in my car. The City was pretty generous and allowed people to camp out in parks and in their cars. The next morning I got up quite early to scope out a good spot. Luckily I spotted a nice hill overlooking the city. After a quick 15 minute hike up, I joined a big crowd of others, some local, some semi-local and even a few international travelers. The air was crisp with excitement. I'll never forget the first 'bite' as you see the moon start to slowly overtake the sun. From there it only gets better until you reach the zenith of Totality.

It is magnificent, and something I encourage everyone to try to experience at least once in their lifetime. A truly ethereal experience to say the least (and for a brief second it seemed like you're on a different planet perhaps). The crowd cheered, and some got pretty emotional.

The drive home was pretty clogged up. But, I think with the Eclipse still fresh on everyone's minds, most mustn't have minded too much, for it was a truly magical experience.



**Fera  
Zamani**







## Catfish Junction RV Park Near Weiser ID



**Fran & Bill Thomas**

It was happening at Catfish Junction, just across the Idaho boarder in Oregon! The RV park was full, but the outlying campgrounds did not fill up as expected. Nevertheless, there were more than enough folks to celebrate the eclipse. I did notice several roadside campers between Catfish and Weiser. Bill mentioned the park owners were super friendly, and made their stay most enjoyable. They even had a group dining area.

We (Jan & Lonnie) didn't plan on being so close to Bill and Fran Thomas, but Catfish Junction RV was only about 30 minutes from Weiser and near the center of totality. We invited them over for Jan's famous turkey tacos, Saturday evening before the eclipse. We had a great time! This outstanding eclipse photo was taken by Fran Thomas.

Observer Editor





# Great American Eclipse

## Near Idaho Falls, ID.



by Kevin Normington



A selfie of the author with equipment: Canon EOS Rebel T4i, Tamron 18-270mm lens.

As a first timer, I went into this not expecting much. Of course, I've seen the pictures. I've sat through Dave Buchla's and Ralph Merletti's presentations...with pictures. I've heard the hype and thought, "Well, yeah, it's a total eclipse. What's not to get? Moon blocks Sun, corona revealed! Just show me the pictures." I figured I knew all I needed to know about how one works. But since it was the Great American one, I decided I should see for myself. So I did, and...should I just stop and eat my words now? Because it IS as they say (with words) that NO WORDS (nor pictures) CAN DESCRIBE the spectacle of a Total Solar Eclipse.

Planning for this started when my wife suggested I get busy and book my flights and hotels. But when the time came, many months in advance, to get hotels at reasonable rates, I chose the Procrastination Inn a few months later, and three hours from the center line.

I first examined locations in Oregon along the path, but I was worried about the crowds and the difficulty of driving around trying to find other locations at the last minute. I ended up Google Earthing some farm land in Idaho, 21 miles NNE of Idaho Falls, which gave me several options – four rural roads that intersected the center line, within four miles of each other. I loaded up my GPS with these locations and it was good that I had several to choose from. One road was gravel, and frequent trucks would kick up a wall of dust. Another site that I drove to a couple of hours before first contact was looking good until a local land owner threw me and a few others out. The site that I ended up in worked out great. Only three other cars with families shared the road, and the rural farm setting gave me an unobstructed, 360° horizon. At this site, I had 2 minutes 18 seconds of totality with Maximum at 11:34:12 am (local).



Four points on rural roads to choose from, I ended up at the red dot. A gravel road and an Eclipse Denier eliminated two of the sites. The farm land provided a great open horizon to enjoy the 360° "sunset" during totality. (map image from 2017 Total Eclipse Interactive Google Map by Xavier Jubier)

So then the show started. After more than an hour of it getting darker and darker, it got REALLY DARK and there it was...just like in the pictures... but instead of a high definition monitor with an LED backlight, this was in the middle of a HUGE SKY, and backlit by THE SUN...

...ok, I'll leave it at that. A few words and a couple of pictures are all I can offer. But know this: you haven't seen one until you've SEEN ONE !!



I guess you could say that there were two awesome things to experience that day...the Total Solar Eclipse AND the mass of humanity trying to get home after seeing the Awesome Total Solar Eclipse. I had driven up to check out my sites the day before and people were setting up tents on mowed farm land that had hand-scribbled "\$25 per day" signs posted. Church parking lots had similar signs. Wal-Mart parking lots were full. It "only" took me three hours to get there the morning of the eclipse, but when I left the farm land around an hour after totality, it took me 14 hours to get back to my hotel. I listened to astronomy podcasts.

In spite of the traffic, it was a great experience. In 2024, the path includes my niece's house, so that should be a lot easier. I did pretty good for a first timer, but I learned a few things...

- \* Book EARLY to get as close to the path as you can.
- \* Arrive a day or two early, stay a day or two late.
- \* Taking pictures should be lower priority. Everyone else will be taking better pictures than me, so just keep looking up and taking it all in. In 2024, I hope to bring a tracking mount and will video the event, along with any other automation I can do for my DSLR.



End of Totality: f/6.3, 1/40sec, ISO800, 11:35:18am MDT, processed with Lightroom.



Totality over Idaho: f/3.5, 1/10sec, ISO800, 11:34:44am, processed with Lightroom.

\*TOTALITY LOOKS LIKE CRAP THROUGH A VIEW FINDER.

\* It's good to avoid the crowds / it's bad to avoid the crowds. I would have liked to have been with a bunch of people as we all got blown away. For \$25, I might pitch a tent with everyone else.

\* Google Maps might be trying to kill us all.

So, the bottom line for me is: It was worth it? I recommend spending the money and taking the time. I'm sorry I didn't understand what Dave and Ralph were trying to tell us. Forget the big words: awesome, fantastic, fabulous, incredible, unbelievable...all I can come up with is: It was really, really cool.

Kevin Normington is the Treasurer of the SVAS. You can reach him at [treasurer@svas.org](mailto:treasurer@svas.org)

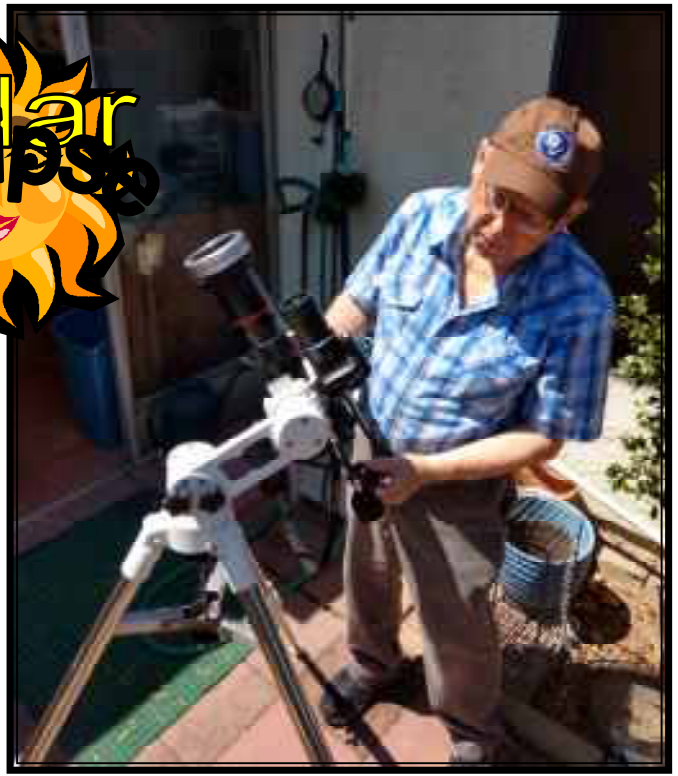


# Great American Eclipse

## Madras, Oregon



*The IDA booth, Lassen Dark Sky Festival.*



by Jack Sales

Beverly and I were in Madras, Oregon, for the eclipse, 4,900ft south of centerline, and stayed in Redmond about 35 miles south of Madras. It was quite a ride for us, we were on the road for two weeks. Our first stop was to support the 3-day Lassen Dark Sky Festival with our IDA information booth, then north to Klamath Falls for two nights.

After 4 days in Redmond we were off to the Solar Town Daytripper Parking at about 2:00pm Sunday. We setup the Sales Family Compound, and spent the night in the back of the trucks.

I had two cameras on the same tripod which worked very well, the Canon SX50 HS with zoom set at 600-1200mm for video (also used as a finder) and a Canon 20D with 400mm for stills. My primary goal was to record video of the event, which for the most part was a success.

After the event the roads were instant TRAFFIC JAM, so we used back roads around the airport until forced back to gridlocked US-97. Then it was going to take us 4 hours to go the 30 miles back to our condo, so we saved 3 hours by going SE on US-26 then west to Redmond.

The Eclipse was a very moving experience for all. Our family WILL be at the next US eclipse. I would not be surprised if my son books a flight to South America in 2019.



**Totality with my Cannon 20D and 400mm**

Continued from previous page




**War-birds Flyover,  
from Erickson Aircraft Collection.**



**Finding Perfect Focus**



**Smoke from Milli Fire near Sisters,  
created a fabulous fire ball.**



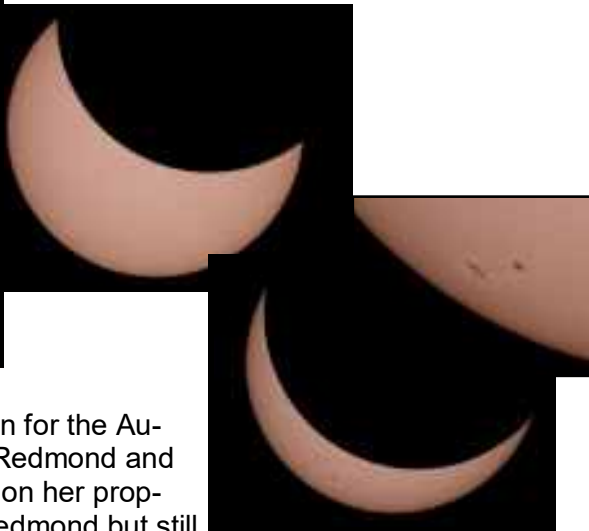
**Rita & Mark, Jack & Bernie & Jay Sales waiting for  
first contact.**





# Great American Eclipse Redmond, Oregon

Wayne Lord



I traveled up to Redmond, Oregon for the August 21st eclipse. My sister lives in Redmond and had arranged with a friend to set up on her property, which is a few miles north of Redmond but still south of Terrebonne. At that location we had about 1 minute 10 seconds of totality, not as much as around Madras but also not the madhouse that surrounded Madras either.

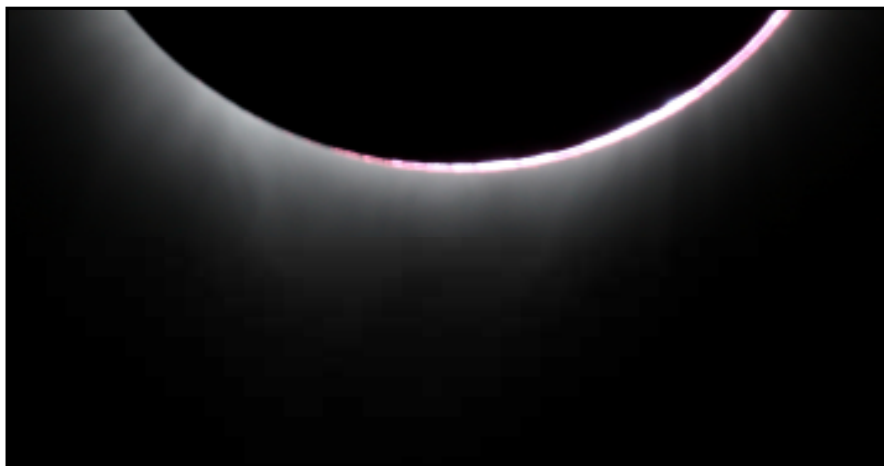
We left my sister's house about 7:30 that morning and found almost no traffic on the back roads we took, although the traffic increased quite a bit as it got closer to totality. The area we were in was pretty much surrounded by trees so there was no chance of seeing the approach of the shadow.

After considering what equipment to take, from the complex to the simple, and on recommendations from others to not be so engrossed in trying to capture it and not enjoying it, I opted for my Canon EOS-50D on a tripod with my 70-200mm zoom lens, a 2x doubler, and my 127mm Mak-Cas on an EZ-Go alt-az mount. The camera had a DIY filter and the scope had a commercial filter. I used the "Lonnie Special" sun finder on the scope and it worked great. I soon had other members of our group, including kids, keeping the sun centered in the eyepiece. I aimed the DSLR by minimal shadow, which worked fine since the sun wasn't as large in the relatively low magnification.

The sun cooperated by providing a couple of sunspot groups to provide interest before the main attraction. I took the first few "bite" photos with the telephoto lens but then decided to switch the camera to the 5-inch scope to get some larger images. It got a bit tricky as totality approached as the sun was climbing higher and I was having difficulty bending to look through the viewfinder upside down. I finally grabbed a chair to sit down, which was where I was when totality happened. I had to jump up to take the filter off and managed to lose it in doing so. Fortunately it didn't appear to be harmed by its fall onto volcanic cinders.

The magnification provided by the telescope made it possible to fit the whole sun into the FOV, but with things moving so rapidly I had problems getting the scope aimed properly to do so, so a lot of my images show only portions of the sun at totality. But what a view! I had never expected to see so much of the prominences and the striations in the corona without special equipment. Was I surprised!

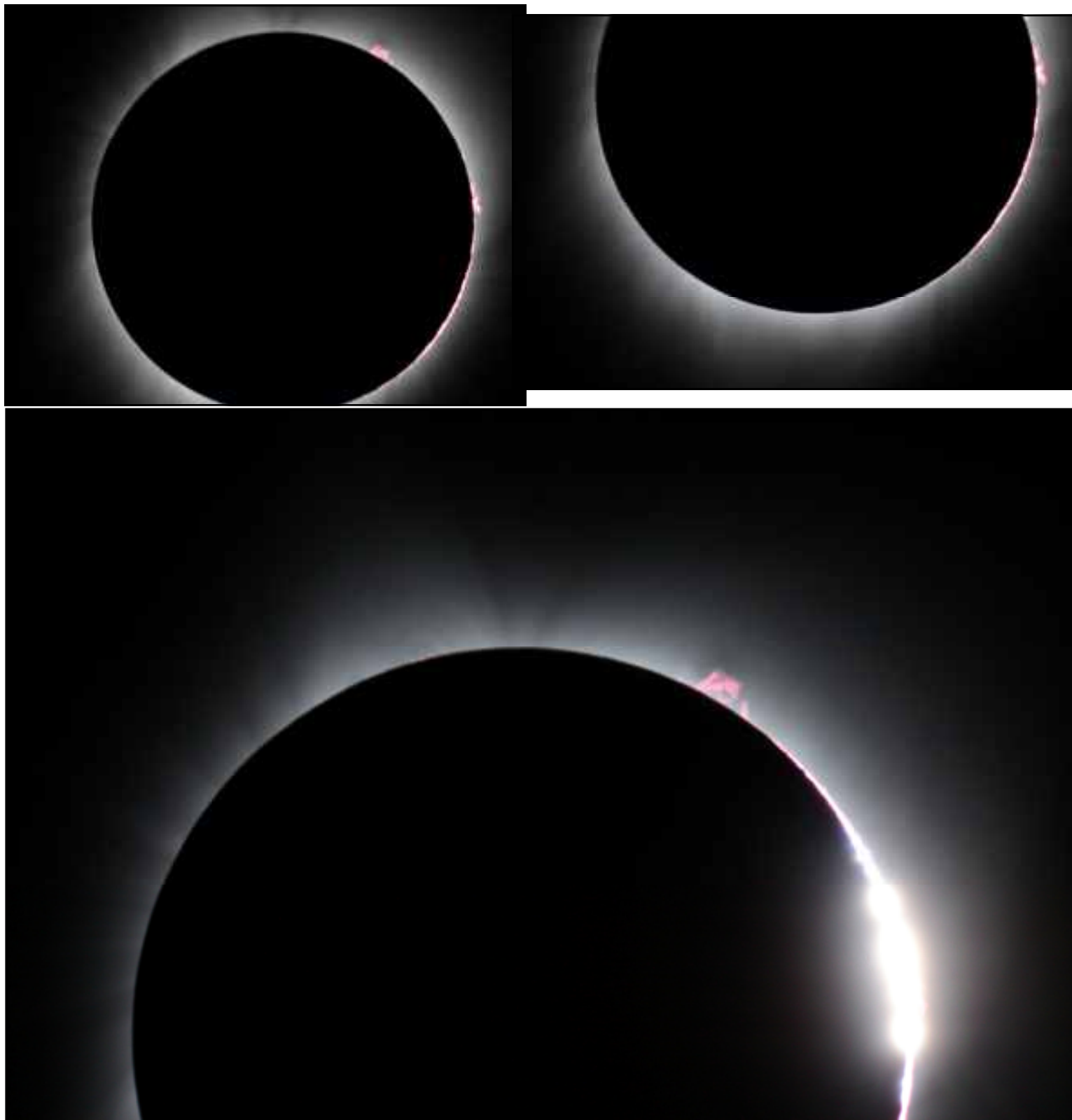
In the interim, I had a chance to notice how quiet it got, with crickets chirping and roosters crowing off in the distance, and the oohs and aahs of the group I was with.



Totality passed all too soon, but I was able to capture a last image showing Baily's Beads. The moment of serenity passed with the return of light. I took the camera off the scope to show some of the images I had captured to the group, and had to promise to send some of them to the folks. After that, I lost interest in capturing the remainder of the eclipse, especially since we had no restroom access, so packed up and headed back to Bend.

I was glad that I had made the effort to go 460 some odd miles to see this event, and will remember it always as one of the foremost experiences of my life. Some folks are already asking if I would plan to go east in 2024 for the next total solar eclipse. My answer, I would like to but I'm not sure my body is up for it. I will be 82 then and may not be able to get my body up for the longer trip.

Wayne Lord/Star\_Geezer Citrus Heights, CA





July, 2017

# SVAS Star BQ

Terry Dietz Photo

Every year I tell you how great Star-BQ was, and here I go again. It's the showcase event of the SVAS, and you the membership makes it great! This year the weather cooperated with some clear skies and great views! We had lots of help getting ready, many hands make lite work. The BBQ was started about 4:00pm, we still have issues with half the burners and will get them fixed soon, but the remaining burners kept up without delay. Lots of side dishes and dessert to share, and everyone seemed quite satisfied with dinner. The raffle began about 6:00, a little later than usual so our speaker would be presenting at twilight. Ticked sales were slow at first, but picked up a lot about half way making it a very successful raffle. The final main raffle items were an 8" Celestron on a German equatorial mount, two 3" Meade solar telescopes, and a 4" Orion Dob.

Dave Buchla was our featured speaker, talking about photographing a solar eclipse. He shared some of his secrets, and showed us some very cool pinhole projection boards. They were carefully drilled to project different images on the ground, using the crescent eclipsing sun's shadows. Great timely talk and enjoyed by everyone!

An enjoyable evening of viewing was in store, and we had a great time sharing views and visiting with friends.

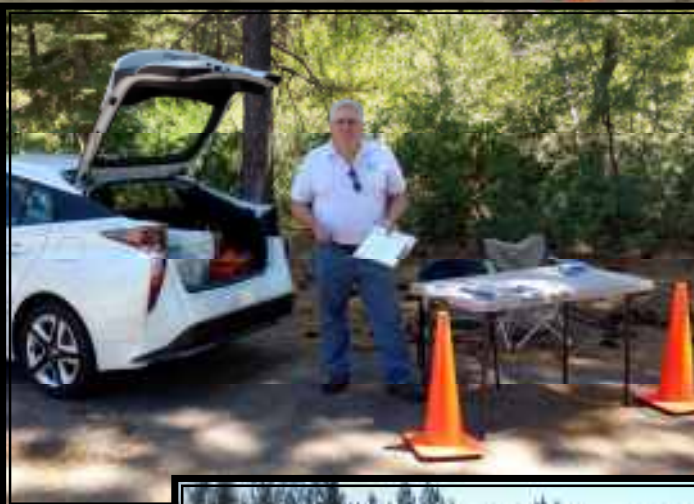
Sunday morning marks a new tradition, one of an Astro breakfast! Tom and Lisa Braun, and Charles Jones were the cooks. Eggs, sausage, and pancakes tasted great, with fresh coffee from HGO's break room.

It was tough getting started on the canopy takedown, right after breakfast, but we had lots of help!

**Thank you everyone for making  
Star BQ 2017 an Astronomical Success!**  
Observer Editor

















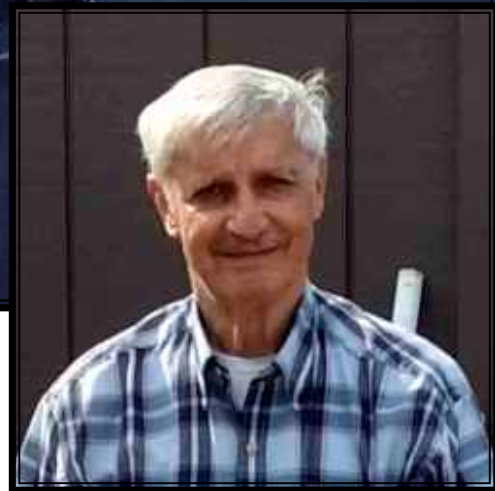
# SVAS<sup>star</sup> BBQ The BBQ











## Solar Eclipse Photography

I really enjoy outdoor talks in the evening twilight, it's just dark enough to see the projection screen and feel the cooler night air moving in. Our own Dave Buchla really knows his eclipses, has a lot of photography experience, and he is a captivating speaker. The timing for his eclipse talk was perfect for the upcoming Great American Eclipse! Thank you

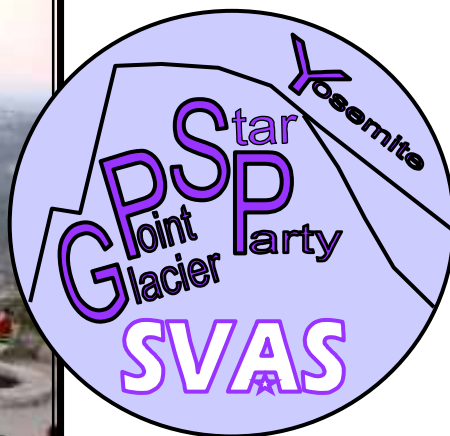






Special Thanks to Terry Dietz and Raj Dixit for composing and sharing some great SBQ photos!  
The photo at right is the greatly appreciated Sunday morning cleanup crew.  
THANK YOU ALL!





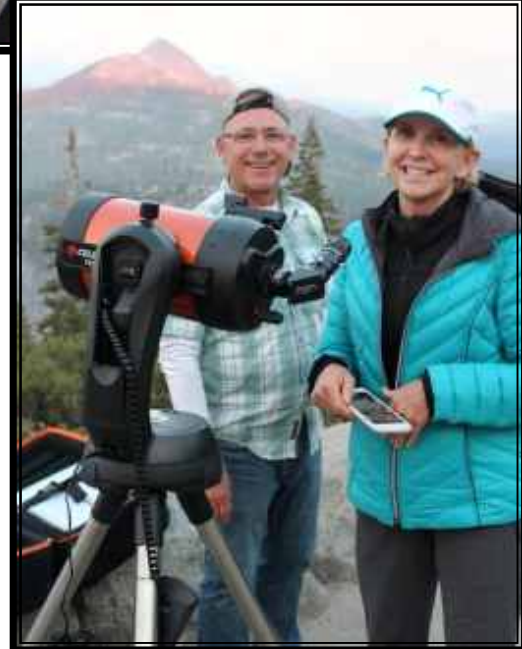
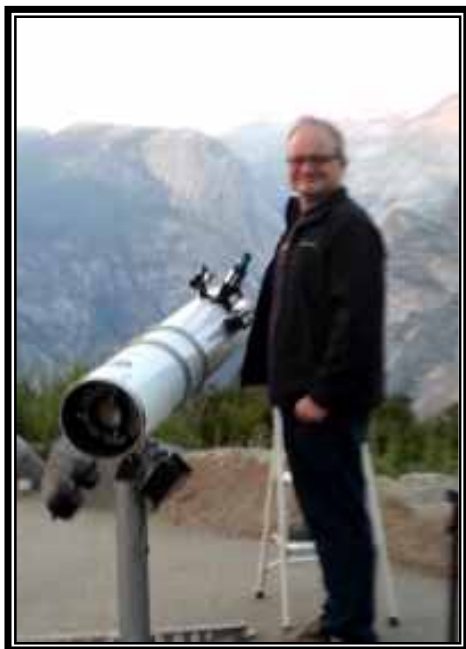
Tom & Lisa Braun

The Glacier Point star party went off fantastic, and with a great Sunday morning breakfast. Friday night we arrived late due to traffic on 99, however just in time to set up our scopes and enjoy the dark night skies with a good crowd.

On Saturday, prior to set-up around 7pm, the Ranger gave an inspiring 45 minute talk on astronomy. Then Michael Warzecha of SVAS introduced all of the SVAS members to the guests, and gave a detailed description of the types of telescopes being used. The event was heavily attended with groups from various countries. There were also large commercial touring groups from all over California. Everyone was very polite, exercised white light control, and they all were very patient. We had a chance to observe Saturn, Jupiter, various nebula, and the Andromeda Galaxy.

Sunday morning we prepared a pancake, sausage, and egg breakfast for the group prior to packing up. I want to thank Bill Gilmour, Vishal Kathuria, Jon Roberts, Randy Hellewell, Michelle Thomas and Michal Warzecha for their help in volunteering for this fantastic event.

Until next year, Tom and Lisa Braun







Walt Heiges, Lonnie Robinson, Kevin Normington, Nick Johonie, Wayne Lord, and Jerry Hilburn, were there with their scopes to share with all the Barnes & Noble customers. Estimates were 900—1000 people, but it was a lite day with closer to 300 customers walking past or looking in our scopes. The event lasted from 3-10pm. Lots of solar viewing during daylight, and bright Astro objects in the evening. Lonnie gets an award for finding Jupiter at 6:22pm, 2 hours before sunset!

This is a great event for the SVAS, there are always lots of folks showing great interest in the skies and our club. Thanks again guys! Next year; Mars and Venus will be added to the show for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Many thanks to Kevin Normington for organizing this great outreach event!





# SVAS

## Community Star Parties



# SVAS

## Rusch Park

## Family Camp Out



Citrus Heights held their annual Picnic in the Park, July 22, at Rusch Park. I arrived around 7:15 PM and was just trying to decide where to set up when Nick Johonie arrived. We agreed that I would set up to cover Jupiter in the southwest and Nick, with his larger 11-inch, would take Saturn in the southeast. Mr. Borovansky, the on-site representative, greeted us and told us that there were about 200 people registered for the event. He agreed to start sending folks to visit our scope around 9 PM, after the music entertainment finished. A few people showed up early, but since I was able to spot Jupiter around 8:45 I was able to show it to them although the heat and smoke in the atmosphere made it pretty fuzzy. Soon after we spotted Saturn so Nick got on it before too many more people arrived. After that it was a pretty constant stream of people without a break until after 10 PM. Due to the ambient light and poor seeing, we were pretty much stuck on the two planets throughout the evening, but folks didn't seem to mind, quite a few coming back with other family members for second looks. We are guessing around 100 to 125 visitors, including several Citrus Heights Police on patrol in the area. One young man showed up with a small reflector in a wagon and set it up near us. He sounded somewhat knowledgeable so I answered a couple of his questions and let him be. Later he showed up with his parents and I found out he hadn't used it before and none of them were familiar with it. I gave them some suggestions for getting it sorted out (they hadn't aligned the finder scope so couldn't find anything) but with the constant stream of visitors I wasn't able to provide much guidance. Another gentleman said he had a scope but everything was fuzzy in it. I guessed that it needed collimation but again could only recommend he find a knowledgeable astronomer who might assist him.



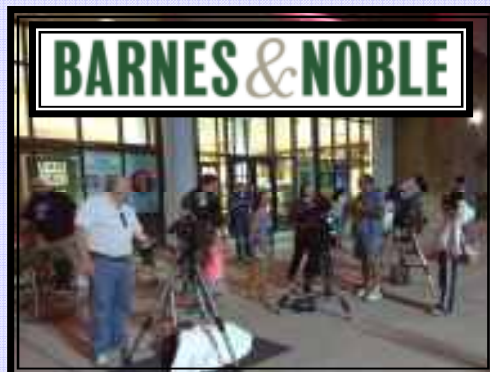
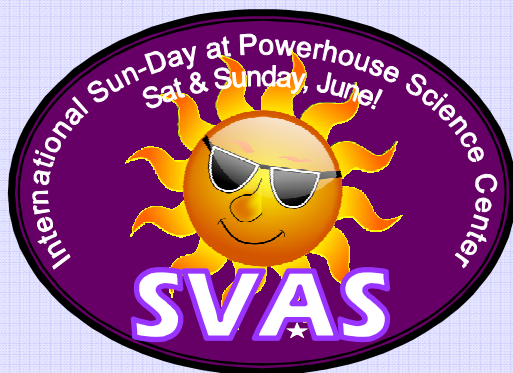
It turns out a lot of people have telescopes that are sitting idle because they are either out of adjustment or the owners don't know how to use them. SVAS might consider offering a public telescope workshop where folks could bring their scopes for SVAS members to evaluate and help get them working, or recommend alternatives. I know at least one other group that does this regularly with good success.

Visitors tapered off between 10 and 10:30 so I packed up and left about 10:45. No problems getting in or out as the gate was left open for us at the Antelope exit.

Wayne Lord/Star\_Geezer Citrus Heights, CA

**Special thanks to Wayne Lord & Nick Johonie, for bravely facing this star party alone!  
The SVAS was enjoying Star BQ that weekend!**

# SVAS Main Events & Sponsors



## SVAS Sponsors!





# Classifieds

## ***Large Aperture Aluminum Telescopes with SlipStream GoTo Drive System***

These all metal telescopes offer extreme durability, precision of movement, ease of use and a pleasing low profile aerospace look. They feature:

- \* Highest quality optics
- \* *Feathertouch* focuser
- \* Argo Navis DSC's
- \* SlipStream Drive with slip clutches on both axes
- \* Rigid welded structure
- \* Durable powder coating and black anodizing
- \* Available in sizes from 16" to 40" and f/ratios from f2.8 to f4.

This is a complete telescope system. It will automatically GoTo and then track any object you bring up on the Argo Navis. Or you can move the scope by hand at any time with no clutches to engage or disengage. A wireless hand control also gives you a 3-speed slew for both axes, allowing you to center objects or do fine guiding. Check our website for pricing and details.



### **EQUATORIAL PLATFORMS**

**15736 McQuiston Lane Grass Valley, CA 95945**

**530-274-9113 tomosy@nccn.net**

***www.equatorialplatforms.com***

**Check out  
Cloudy Nights Classifieds  
for Used Astro Stuff**



# SVAS Officers

**President** *Walt Heiges* **Vice President** *Lonnie Robinson*

**Secretary** *Kevin Heider* **Treasurer** *Kevin Normington* **Past President** *Ross Gorman*

## SVAS Board of Directors

~ Even Year Term ~

*Tom Braun* *Fera Zamani* *Chuck Real* *Charles Jones*  
*Gary Shuluk* *Raj Dixit* *David Macho*

~ Odd Year Term ~

**\*\*Please visit SVAS.Org for contact Information\*\***

## Committees

<b>Membership / New Members</b>	<b>Walt Heiges / Kevin Normington</b>
<b>Star-B-Q &amp; Resources</b>	<b>Walt Heiges</b>
<b>Yosemite Star Party</b>	<b>Tom Braun</b>
<b>Newsletter Editors</b>	<b>Lonnie Robinson / Walt Heiges</b>
<b>Speaker Seeker</b>	<b>Fera Zamani</b>
<b>SVAS Web Site</b>	<b>Gary Shuluk / Walt Heiges</b>
<b>Public Outreach Director</b>	<b>Walt Heiges</b>
<b>Community Star Parties</b>	<b>Wayne Lord</b>
<b>Observatory Director</b>	<b>Stuart Schulz</b>
<b>Help for Beginners</b>	<b>Lonnie Robinson</b>
<b>Amateur Telescope Making</b>	<b>Lonnie Robinson / Bill Thomas</b>
<b>Scholarships</b>	<b>Chuck Real / Kevin Normington</b>

## Where We Meet

**General Meetings** The third Friday of each month beginning at 8:00pm.

**Board Meetings** 6:00pm on the same day at JR's BBQ. All members are welcome.

**Star Parties** On weekends nearest the new Moon.

Sacramento City College  
Room T-12  
3835 Freeport Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA. 95822

## SVAS Observer - Newsletter

**To Subscribe-** First send in your membership application form below, with your dues, and upon approval by the Board of Directors the Observer newsletter (published bi-monthly beginning January) will be sent to your supplied email address in .pdf format. Second, request to join the SVAS Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/svas-members>. This group will keep you informed with the day to day current events and discussions.

**Articles-** Manuscripts and letters are welcome in MS Word, MS Publisher, or plain text format, and emailed to the SVAS Editor. Submission deadline is the 15th of the newsletter release month.

**Advertising-** Commercial, non-personal advertising, business card, and full page are available. Classified advertising is free to SVAS members.

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### Observatory Membership

Observatory Membership offers the benefits of a regular membership plus unsupervised access to Henry Grieb Observatory (HGO), and Robert J. Mathews Observatory (RJMO). **To apply, you must have been a general member for six months or longer, be trained and approved by the Observatory Director, send in your application with the additional dues, and then be approved by the SVAS Board of Directors.**

### Please allow 30 Days Or More for Application Approval

By signing your application, you acknowledge that you have accessed the SVAS website **SVAS.org**, read and understand the SVAS bylaws and the rules governing the USFS Special Use Permit. In doing so, agree to abide by the respective "terms and conditions" of each as they relate to using the SVAS property and facilities. I further understand and acknowledge that failure to abide by these "terms and conditions" can result in revocation of use privileges and/or your SVAS membership.



Membership Applications

Contact Information

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