

Sonoma County Astronomical Society

August 2014 E-Newsletter



501(c)(3) Scientific and Charitable Organization



Hello Members,

Many thanks again to Dr. Mandeep S.S. Gill for his interesting and thought provoking lecture on 'Cosmology & Gravitational Lensing'. The 'House' was packed! As Dr. Gill's research continues, he will return again to update all of us.

SCAS will not have our regularly scheduled meeting this August. We will be having our annual (Members Only) safe solar observing and Star-B-Que party at the [Robert Ferguson Observatory](#).

Date: Saturday August 16, 2014

Time: Begins at 4:00pm – Overnight camping is welcome

Member feedback is very important. SCAS now has a 'Suggestion Box' on the Greeters Table. All comments are confidential and will be shared with the SCAS Board at the next scheduled monthly Board meeting.



SCAS STAR ACADEMY

SCAS is proud to present to our members and RFO docents this month, a unique opportunity to gain a little more experience with your own telescope, learn the night sky, along with a little more time on either the 24" or 8" telescope.

This is not a 'Pot Lick' or 'Star Party' type of event. It is designed to be private time for SCAS, Young Astronomers, and RFO members to meet, practice with their scopes, share astrophotography, alignment, night time etiquette, and the awesomeness of astronomy.

Date: Wednesday August 27th

Time: 8:00pm-11:00pm

Where: Robert Ferguson Observatory

This is a trial event that will be reviewed by the RFO Board at their next meeting to see if future dates can be scheduled. Our hope is to offer this on a quarterly basis.



[Alkaid](#) and comet by Len Nelson (2014)

September 2014 SCAS General Meeting

Wednesday September 10, 2014

Guest Speaker: Al Stern

RFO Docent, SCAS Member & Amateur Astronomer



Demonstration Topic: Personal Portable Planetariums

For many years now, Al has traveled around giving planetarium shows to both children and adults. This is a uniquely interesting method for bring astronomy and science to both schools and the public.

7:00pm – Doors open

7:30pm – Meeting begins

8:00pm – Presentation begins

9:00pm – Meeting ends

October 2014 - SCAS Special Anniversary Event

[Sonoma Academy](#) – Black Box Theater

'An Evening with Prof. Alex Filippenko'

A Charitable Benefit for Save Lick Observatory

Lecture Topic: **The Frontiers of Astronomy and the Lick Observatory**

\$30.00 preferred seating – going fast!

\$25.00 regular/bleacher seating



Contact us:

President – Mike Dranginis
President@sonomaskies.org

Vice President & Program Director – Jim DeManche
VicePresident@sonomaskies.org

Membership Director – Laura Sparks
Membership@sonomaskies.org

Community Activities – Lynn Anderson
Activities@sonomaskies.org



Photo credit: © Jim Goodenough, SCAS Member/RFO Docent (2014)

[The Lagoon Nebula](#), M8/NGC6523