

Sonoma County Astronomical Society

February 2015 E-Bulletin



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Hello Members,

Let me first express my thanks again for a wonderful presentation at the Santa Rosa Junior College Planetarium, courtesy of Director Ed Megill and his terrific staff. Our attendance was up and we also had new members join us. We look forward to doing this again in 2016!

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## Next SCAS General Meeting

Wednesday February 11, 2015

7:30pm - 9:00pm

Location:

**Proctor Terrace Elementary School Multipurpose Room**

1711 Bryden Lane

Santa Rosa, California

[\(Map Link\)](#)

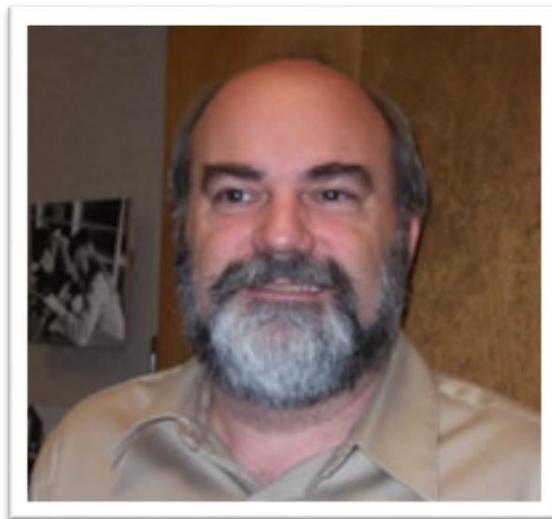
Parking entrance is off of Grosse Ave. through a chain link fence gate. The SCAS banner will be visible.

# EVENINGS PROGRAM

7:30pm - Meeting starts, SCAS business  
8:00pm - Coffee, Snacks, and Conversation  
8:15pm - Speaker Program Begins  
9:00pm - Meeting Concludes

## GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING

Mr. Keith Payea



Former SCAS President, Radio Astronomer, and Robert Ferguson  
Observatory Docent (Solar Astronomy)

### Lecture Topic:

## 'A Brief History of the Sun'

This presentation will start with the formation of the sun and progress quickly through the ways our understanding of the sun has changed over time. It will then move into our current model of the sun and the instruments we use to study it, both from space and from the ground. I will wrap up with a few words about the ways that amateurs can observe the sun and contribute scientifically.

# FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday February 10, 2015

7:00pm

**Night Sky Spring Series, Class #2**

[\(RFO Link\)](#)

Wednesday February 11, 2015

**SCAS General Monthly Meeting**

7:30pm

Proctor Terrace Elementary School Multipurpose Room

(See Page One)

Saturday February 14, 2015

**Public Solar Observing and Public Star Party**

Robert Ferguson Observatory

[\(RFO Link\)](#)

Sunday February 22, 2015

**Conjunction of Venus and Mars**

Conjunctions are rare events where two or more objects will appear extremely close together in the night sky. The two bright planets will be visible within only half a degree of each other in the evening sky. Look to the west just after sunset.

Wednesday February 25, 2015

**SCAS Star Academy**

7:00pm

Robert Ferguson Observatory Parking Lot

[\(Map Link\)](#)

# SCAS STAR ACADEMY

For

Wednesday February 25, 2015

7:00pm - 10:00pm



Hello friends,

We are going to have our second 'SCAS Star Academy' for 2015 this month at the Robert Ferguson Observatory in Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. All SCAS members, SCAS Young Astronomers, and RFO Docents are welcome to attend. Our emphasis is on using personal telescopes, astrophotography, learning the night sky and special celestial events that evening, along with sharing our experiences with those who are new to our society, have questions, or are looking into a future telescope purchase.

6:30pm - Those with scopes should arrive to set up at the observatory.

7:00pm - Program begins with a handout of the night's constellations.

10:00pm - Pack up and head home.

Should the weather prevent stargazing, we will use the classroom for instruction on collimating a reflector telescope. Wear appropriate clothing and bring your favorite snack and or beverage (No Alcohol or Smoking).

**RED LIGHTS ONLY** around the telescopes!

PARKING PERMITS will be provided at the observatory. Please park in the lot by the White Barn, if you don't have a scope. ([Map Link](#))

# SONOMA COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## 2015 MEETING CALENDAR



**February 2015 - Keith Payea (A Brief History of the Sun) - Confirmed**

**March 2015 - 'Striking Sparks Awards Program' - Annual Event**

**April 2015 – Professor Michelle Silvans, Planetary Geophysicist - Confirmed**

**May 2015 - Jose Eduardo Alatorre, Taylor Observatory - Confirmed**

**June 2015 – Mr. Martin Bradley, Ukiah Latitude Observatory**

**July 2015 – Mr. Paul Lynam, staff astronomer at the Lick Observatory - Confirmed**

**August 2015 - SCAS Star-B-Que - Annual Event**

**September 2015 – Dr. Adrienne Cool, San Francisco State University - Confirmed**

**October 2015 – Kurt Kruger, Piner High School Observatory - Confirmed**

**November 2015 – Popcorn & Movie Night - Annual Event (Video to be announced)**

**December 2015 – John Whitehouse, Speaking on the Lick Observatory – Pending**

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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

On Monday January 19, 2015 I and fellow SCAS member Jim Goodenough were honored to be invited for a personal tour, stargazing through the Lick 36" Refractor, and dinner at the Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton, east of San Jose, CA. This was a 'Thank You' event for the \$5000.00 that SCAS raised and donated in October for the Save the Lick effort with Professor Alex Filippenko. Below are some images I took of the event. (Jim DeManche, SCAS Vice President)



Prof. Alex Filippenko



Lick 36" Refractor Base



Lick 36" Refractor Lens Portion



James Lick is buried underneath his 36" Refractor Telescope



~MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & BENEFITS~

- *Monthly public meetings with interesting professional and amateur guest speakers.*
- *Social interaction and sharing astronomy interests and experience.*
- *Outreach to our community and individuals through astronomy education, SCAS Star Academy, Striking Sparks, Young Astronomers, Field Trips and our annual public Yosemite Park Star Camp.*
- *Annual August Star-B-Que at the [Robert Ferguson Observatory](#).*
- *Membership in the [Astronomical League](#), and quarterly REFLECTOR magazine.*
- *Discount subscriptions to [Astronomy Magazine](#) and [Sky & Telescope Magazine](#).*
- *Up to date SCAS news and information through our [SCAS Blog](#) & monthly E-Bulletin*

~How to Join~

- *Annual Membership & Renewals \$25.00 each June 1st. \$12.50 after December 1st.*
- *New Memberships after December 1st are \$12.50*
- *Student Membership with copy of student ID card \$10.00 annually each June 1st.*

~Print Clearly~

Name/s

Home Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone# _____

Email Address (for monthly e-bulletin and updates on events)

*Please make your check payable to:
Sonoma County Astronomical Society
(Attn: Membership Dues)
P.O. Box 183
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0183*

HELP WANTED!

If you are a member of the Sonoma County Astronomical Society you might consider helping us in our mission to introduce our community to the wonders of the Universe.

SCAS Needs Your Help! A small contribution of your time will go a long way in helping us out.

Special Events Coordinator

Occasionally we get requests from various organizations to provide astronomical events like star parties, and other presentations. We're looking for someone who would be willing to "coordinate" these events. That person would not be in charge of the event but would help SCAS review the potential participation, work with the person requesting the event to see if we could find a SCAS volunteer to be the point person for SCAS for the event and to provide the SCAS Board with short reports on the event.

This would be a good position for someone interested in finding out what our community is doing to promote astronomy.

Membership

We need someone to help our current Membership Chairperson. She could use help in representing the Membership Committee at some of the General Meetings, and help during the annual membership drive.

This would be a good position for someone who is interested in meeting more of our members and willing to welcome new people to our Monthly General Meetings.

Hospitality

Jim DeManche has hospitality running like a clock. It's been greatly improved and simplified. He'd be happy to show someone how it works and could use the help in setting up and taking down before and after the meetings.

This would be a good position for someone who wants to be involved in helping provide one of the most popular services that our club offers. Oh, did I mention free cookies?

SCAS Yosemite Star Party Campground Host

Each year SCAS participates in a Weekend Glacier Point Star Party Event. We won't find out the actual dates this year until March. This year we will need a Campground Host to get

there a bit early and identify the campsites designated for SCAS and mark them assign them to SCAS participants. This is a fun weekend in one of the most beautiful areas you'll ever see. This is a good position for someone who would enjoy FREE CAMPING in Yosemite National Park and wants to help SCAS in a way that would commit him or her to only one weekend.

Young Astronomers Coordinator

Our current Coordinator, Len Nelson, has done a great job developing this group of Young Astronomers into a well-run, dynamic group of youngsters into accomplished astronomers and program presenters. He's looking to step down in May so this would be a great time for an interested party to get involved and benefit from his expertise.

It's easy and rewarding to get involved, just email me,

Mike Dranginis, President, Sonoma County Astronomical Society.

My email is mjd880@att.net

Thank You,

Mike Dranginis

