

SONOMA SKIES

July 2015 E-Newsletter of the
[Sonoma County Astronomical Society](#)



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Hello everyone,

Many thanks again to Martin Bradley and his wife for sharing with us the uniqueness and history of the [Ukiah Latitude Observatory](#). Please take some time this summer to take the drive to Ukiah and stop by for a visit.



Next SCAS General Meeting

Wednesday July 8, 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 at the gate entrance.

~ Special Guest Speaker ~

Mr. Paul Lynam, Staff Astronomer

Lick Observatory



Paul Lynam is an astronomer and Morrison fellow at Lick Observatory, a multi-campus research unit of the University of California, providing astronomers with a state-of-the-art research facility. Opened in 1888 as part of the legacy of James Lick, this historic observatory is located 4200 feet above sea-level on the summit of Mount Hamilton³ in the Diablo range East of San Jose, with administrative headquarters on the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) campus.

JULY 2015 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday June 30th through Wednesday morning July 1st

CONJUNCTION OF JUPITER AND VENUS!

Venus will pass Jupiter in late June/early July, 2015. At that time – especially on the nights of June 30 and July 1 – you can witness the closest Venus-Jupiter conjunction until August 27, 2016.

Tuesday July 7th and 14th

[NIGHT SKY SUMMER SERIES](#) - Robert Ferguson Observatory

7:30pm until?

Wednesday July 8th

[SCAS GENERAL MEETING](#)

7:30pm – 9:00pm

Tuesday July 14th

[NEW HORIZONS PROBE REACHES PLUTO!](#)



Saturday July 18th dusk

NEAR CONJUNCTION OF VENUS AND REGULUS

Be sure to circle July 18, 2015 on your calendar as well. Venus will be almost in conjunction with Regulus, a slight bit ahead of Jupiter in the great race to the constellation Leo's brightest star. On July 18, the crescent moon, Venus and Jupiter will all fit within a circle sporting a diameter of less than four degrees.

To: All 'SCAS' Members & 'RFO' Docents

From: Mike Dranginis, President of SCAS
Jim DeManche, Vice President of SCAS

Re: Tolay Fall Festival in Petaluma: October 17th & 18th - 24th & 25th

SCAS and RFO volunteers have supported this event for the past few years by providing Solar Viewing, interpretation, and information on both organizations to those attending this annual and popular October Event. Just last year it was estimated that over 3,000 people took a look at, and learned about our nearest star. Thanks to the volunteers from SCAS and RFO.

This year the event will again be held at (Tolay) Petaluma, and SCAS would like to participate. In order to do so we need to have committed members step up and take charge of the coordination and our participation. We have not yet been able to find any member willing to take on this responsibility. It may seem like a daunting task but I can assure you that you will get a lot of support and participation from SCAS and RFO members who have past experience with this event.

This would be a good opportunity for someone who wants experience with a community outreach event. On the job training would include an introduction to the people at Sonoma County Parks (Tolay) who run this event, and access to SCAS and RFO members who have participated in the past, along with support from the SCAS Board of Directors.

I hope there is at least one member out there willing to take on the challenge of Tolay Coordinator, or even better if we can get several volunteers, as it will make the task easier for everyone. Please contact us and let us know if you are willing to participate before our next General Meeting on Wednesday, July 8th. At 7:30pm

Thank you,

Mike Dranginis
President, Sonoma County Astronomical Society
mjd880@att.net

Jim DeManche
Vice President, Sonoma County Astronomical Society
jimdemanche@hotmail.com

SONOMA COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

2015 MEETING CALENDAR



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 - **Confirmed**

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### Contact us

President – Mike Dranginis  
[President@sonomaskies.org](mailto:President@sonomaskies.org)

Vice President & Program Director – Jim DeManche  
[VicePresident@sonomaskies.org](mailto:VicePresident@sonomaskies.org)

Membership Director – Laura Sparks  
[Membership@sonomaskies.org](mailto:Membership@sonomaskies.org)

Director of Community Activities – Lynn Anderson  
[Activities@sonomaskies.org](mailto:Activities@sonomaskies.org)

[SCAS Young Astronomers Advisor – Len Nelson lennelsn@comcast.net](mailto:SCAS%20Young%20Astronomers%20Advisor%20-%20Len%20Nelson%20lennelsn@comcast.net)

## Annual Elections for SCAS Board Members Coming this December 2015








Hello members,

It's only 6-months until the December 2015 'General Meeting' when you (the dues paying SCAS members) will be electing a new SCAS Board of Directors for 2016.

Mike Dranginis – SCAS President, has fulfilled his two years and will be stepping down from the Board completely.

Jim DeManche – SCAS Vice President & Program Director, has fulfilled his two years as well, and will also be stepping down from the SCAS Board completely. Also the various other hospitality duties that Jim has done such as Greeter, Snack Table & Coffee, ID Badges, Set up & take down, will be available as well.

Here are the positions that will be open for nominations:

-  President
-  Vice President & Program Director
-  Treasurer
-  Secretary
-  Membership Director
-  Member at Large (Tech. Director)
-  Director of Community Activities

Now is the time to start giving serious thought to what your part in SCAS will be. Going into 2016 with a new SCAS Board of Directors is the first step in a successful direction. Please feel free to discuss your interests with anyone on the SCAS Board of Directors.

## ***~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 1<sup>st</sup>. \$12.50 after December 1<sup>st</sup>.*
- *New Memberships after December 1<sup>st</sup> are \$12.50*
- *Student Membership with copy of student ID card \$10.00 annually each June 1<sup>st</sup>.*

### ***~Print Clearly~***

*Name/s*

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*Home Address*

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*City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *Zip* \_\_\_\_\_

*Home Phone #* \_\_\_\_\_ *Cell Phone#* \_\_\_\_\_

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

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