

# SONOMA SKIES

March 2016 E-Newsletter of the  
[Sonoma County Astronomical Society](#)



*501(c)(3) Scientific and Charitable Organization  
Established in 1974*



Hello members and friends,

Thanks again for attending last month's meeting. I enjoyed offering 'Meteors, Meteoroids, and Meteorites to the group. If this topic is of personal interest to you, please visit the NASA website: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/asteroidwatch/asteroids-comets.php> I will be offering a program on Mars later on this year.

Clear Skies,

*Jim DeManche*

President – SCAS

# GENERAL MEETING PROGRAM

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

7:30PM – 9:00PM

Proctor Terrace Elementary School  
(Multipurpose Auditorium)  
1711 Bryden Ln  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**MARCH 9, 2016**

**WEDNESDAY, 7:30PM – 9:00PM**



## **‘STRIKING SPARKS TELESCOPE AWARDS PROGRAM’**

Come join us for this annual presentation of ‘Striking Sparks’ telescopes to our lucky and deserving young astronomers. Larry McCune is the Director of the SCAS Striking Sparks programs each year, along with tremendous support and assistance from Len Nelson the SCAS Young Astronomers Adult Adviser.

Please visit the ‘Striking Sparks’ link at: [http://www.sonomaskies.org/Striking\\_Sparks.shtml](http://www.sonomaskies.org/Striking_Sparks.shtml) for a complete history of our program and a brief video featuring Robert Ferguson in the early days! You won’t want to miss the fun and excitement that will be shared.

## SCAS 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SCAS GENERAL MEETING – April 13<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7:30PM – 9:00PM  
(Project 40 – A Visit to the Robert Ferguson Observatory)

We will not be meeting at Proctor Terrace Elementary School in April, but at the Robert Ferguson Observatory in Kenwood. The RFO has graciously agreed to open its door for us that evening for an introduction talk and viewing through the brand new 40-inch reflector in the West Wing.

Visit [www.rfo.org](http://www.rfo.org) for complete directions to the observatory. SCAS members who are also RFO docents have free access to parking. Non-docents may need to pay an \$8.00 parking fee. We are still at this time working to provide free parking for all, so stay tuned!

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SCAS GENERAL MEETING – May 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7:30PM – 9:00PM  
(The Planet Mars) Presentation by Jim DeManche

We will be back at the Proctor Terrace MPR for this month's meeting.

The Planet Mars is a mystery. What was it like millions or billions of years ago? Why is it so sterile today? What happened to its atmosphere and why go to Mars in the first place? Is there really water there? I will share these and some other interesting facts on our neighboring planet.



## CONTACT US

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## USEFUL LINKS

[Observing highlights from Robert Ferguson Observatory](#)

[Heavens Above](#)

[SpaceWeather.com](#) – Solar Observations

[Clear Sky Chart](#) – Santa Rosa

[Getting started in astronomy](#) – SCAS article