

SONOMA SKIES

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



501(c)(3) Scientific and Charitable Organization



Hello members and friends,

Well last month we had another successful presentation from Dr. Adrienne Cool, from the astronomy department at San Francisco State University. Although the temperature that day was tipping over 100 degrees, members did come out to enjoy the program on the latest research involving Globular Clusters. We hope to have Dr. Cool visit us again sometime in the future.



Next SCAS General Meeting

Wednesday October 14, 2015
7:30pm – 9:30pm

Location:

Piner High School

1700 Fulton Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Kurt Kruger, Instructor



We are privileged to have Kurt Kruger host our meeting at Piner High School. He will provide a tour and explanation of the new SPARQ center. Construction on the 4,000-square-foot building — officially known as the Science Position Astronomy Research Quest Center, or SPARQ — began in May 2012. A state grant covered \$1.6 million of the cost, while local matching funds were culled from an array of sources, including redevelopment fees, developer fees, a 1991 bond and career technical grants. No general fund dollars were used, according to district officials.

A nonprofit foundation led by parents has been established to help keep equipment up to date and to link Piner's students and teachers with industry leaders and local scientists.

SONOMA COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

2015 MEETING CALENDAR



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

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

Hello members,

It's only **2-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. **It's time to seriously consider nominees!**

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

Here are the SCAS Board 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

Also; the various other hospitality duties that Jim DeManche has done over the years such as opening and closing the building, Greeter, Snack Table & Coffee, ID Badges, Facebook Adm., SCAS E-Newsletter, Set up & take down, will be open and available as well for you to choose from. There are plenty of opportunities to help out.

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

It's your SCAS.

## October Events ~

**Special Note:** Due to the lack of interest from both the Robert Ferguson Observatory and the Sonoma County Astronomical Society, neither group will be represented at this year's TOLAY FALL FESTIVAL. Eric Swanson will be contacting the appropriate TOLAY individuals on behalf of SCAS to inform them of our absence.

### **Astronomy Day 2015 – Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>.**

Astronomy Day is a world-wide event observed each spring and fall. The next Astronomy Day this year is October 24, 2015; Astronomy Day next spring will be May 14, 2016. Local astronomical societies, planetariums, museums, and observatories will be sponsoring public viewing sessions, presentations, workshops, and other activities to increase public awareness about astronomy and our wonderful universe.

### **Conjunction between the Moon and Venus**

Thursday, 08 Oct 2015 at 13:08 PDT. The Moon and Venus will make a close approach, passing within 0°39' of each other.

From Santa Rosa, the pair will be visible in the dawn sky. They will rise at 03:33 (PDT), 3 hours and 40 minutes before the Sun, and attain an altitude of 37° above the eastern horizon before fading from view as dawn breaks at around 06:55.

At the moment of closest approach, the Moon will be at mag -10.5, and Venus at mag -5.3, both in the constellation Leo.