



GENERAL MEETING E-NEWSLETTER

-April 9, 2013-

Location: [Proctor Terrace Elementary School](#)

1711 Bryden Lane. Santa Rosa, CA 95404

(7:30PM - 9:30PM)

“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.”

~ Galileo Galilei ~

Hello fellow Stargazers,

Many thanks again to both Laura Sparks and Keith Waxman for their excellent presentation of astronomy course opportunities at Santa Rosa Junior College. Their enthusiastic experience and some past images of prior (Labs) in the Sierra was wonderful. We hope to have you both back again soon.

APRIL MEETING AGENDA:

7:30pm - Meeting Starts

- Welcome and General Business – Mike Dranginis
- Welcome new Members and Guests – Jim DeManche
- ‘What’s Up’ Segment – Len Nelson
- Member observations and news – Mike Dranginis

7:50pm – Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation!

8:05pm – STRIKING SPARKS AWARDS PROGRAM

9:00pm - Meeting Ends

STRIKING SPARKS AWARDS PROGRAM!

Wednesday evening’s program will be solely dedicated to the announcement of our Striking Sparks winners, and the presentation of their telescopes!

The program's name comes from the experience of one of our members: He and his son built a telescope and this struck a "spark" of interest that contributed to the son's ultimately graduating with a Ph.D. in Astrophysics.

Our goal is to strike other sparks of interest in Sonoma County students. During the 28 years of the program we have awarded 251 6-inch reflector telescopes to Sonoma County students.

Winners automatically become members of SCAS Young Astronomers (YAs) for a full year; receive our monthly newsletter *Sonoma Skies* and the Astronomical League's quarterly publication, *Reflector*. YA's are encouraged to join us for stargazing events and SCAS meetings.

This is a very special event where winners and their families all join together with the membership of SCAS, to celebrate the effort and time that our winning applicants put into their quest for knowledge and experience in astronomy.



2013 Striking Sparks Winners left to right: Hunter Ward, Kade Crandall, Devon Bolt, Colton Rowe and Estella Zea (Photo by Len Nelson)

Many thanks to the individuals and organizations that donate the funds which place these wonderful telescopes into the hands of these children, and future astronomers! The door is wide open...

DONATIONS –

SCAS exists because of the consistent and faithful dues that our membership donates each year. Also, your generous monthly donations at the ‘Snack & Coffee Table’ help to continue the flow of goodies for each meeting. All contributions are greatly appreciated.



Thank you!

Want to contact us or help at a future SCAS Meeting or Community Activity?

- Mike Dranginis, President: mike880@comcast.net
- Jim DeManche, Vice President: vicepresident@sonomaskies.org
- Laura Sparks, Membership Director: lsparks@santarosa.edu
- Lynn Anderson, Community Activities Director: penumbra@sonic.net

Our membership consists of men, women, and families! We all encourage each other in the pursuit of astronomy, and public outreach, and fellowship in our community.



Events this month at the Robert Ferguson Observatory:

Monday – April 14th
Mars and Total Lunar Eclipse (9:00pm)

Saturday – April 26th
Solar Observing (11:00am - 3:00pm)
Public Star Party (9:00pm)

Night Sky Spring Series – Tuesdays - Contact Jack Welch at: nightsky@rfo.org

Tuesday, April 1st: Class #5 (7:30 pm)
Tuesday, April 22nd: Class #6 (7:30pm)

New Docent Training Begins – Wednesday, April 30th
'New Docent Training' classes are held during the Spring and Fall.
To register for the next training class, contact Steve Smith at ssmith@rfo.org

Other upcoming events:

Recruiting volunteers for the **Tolay Fall Festival** begins now! Contact either Jim DeManche vicepresident@sonomaskies.org or Dickson Yeager at deep6@sonic.net

[Ukiah Latitude Observatory Park Dedication](#) – Saturday April 26th (2:00pm – 4:00pm)

[SRJC DAY UNDER THE OAKS](#) - Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Both SCAS & RFO will be represented. If you're interested in helping out please contact Jim DeManche.

[California Map Society's Northern California Annual Conference](#) in Mountain View, California

On the Internet –

[SCAS STORE](#)
[SCAS BLOG](#)
[SCAS Membership Application](#)
[SCAS on Facebook](#)
[SCAS on Yahoo Groups](#)
[SCAS - 'Young Astronomers'](#)
[SRJC Planetarium](#)
[April 2014 Star Chart courtesy of Orion.](#)

SCAS Program for MAY 2014:

Our Guest Speaker will be Travis Job, physics student and planetarium narrator at SRJC.



Travis is the friendly soft voice in the dark that narrates the Santa Rosa Junior College Planetarium Shows. Have you ever been to one of the planetarium shows? Are you curious as to what goes into producing these fun, educational, and family orientated astronomy events? Travis and Ed Megill have been the masterminds for the past several years.

We hope to see you there!

Jim DeManche ~