

SONOMA SKIES

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



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Hello everyone,

Many thanks again to Dr. Michelle Selvans for her very engaging topic “4 Billion Years of Deformation on Mercury”. We had many great questions for Dr. Selvans and lots of conversation with her after the program. We would very much like to have her back in the future!



Dr. Michelle Selvans online:
<http://airandspace.si.edu/staff/michelle-selvans>

Next SCAS General Meeting

Wednesday May 13, 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.

Eduardo Alatorre, Taylor Observatory-Norton Planetarium



Taylor Observatory-Norton Planetarium

Beneath Lake County's coal black skies, where stars shine like precious gems, lies Taylor Observatory. As a program of the Lake County Office of Education for the past 35 years this remarkable facility has thrilled thousands of students and families with entertaining and educational astronomy programs. In recent years Taylor has expanded in robotics and other sciences to help the students of Lake County jump into STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Eduardo Alatorre' Biography

Eduardo had a strong interest in astronomy and physics from a young age. In high school he volunteered as high school docent for Taylor Observatory for over 1 and half years. Since November 2013 he has been working for Taylor Observatory as an Observatory Assistant. He is also on the Friends of Taylor Observatory Board of Directors and in charge of Spanish programs. He is currently studying for an AA degree in Mathematics for transfer.

May 2015 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday May 12th

[NIGHT SKY SPRING SERIES](#) at the Robert Ferguson Observatory
7:30pm until?

Wednesday May 13th

[SCAS GENERAL MEETING](#)

7:30pm – 9:00pm

Friday & Saturday, May 15/16 - [Star Gazing Field Trip to the Liberty Glen Campground](#) at Lake Sonoma! Contact Jim Goodenough at jimg@sonic.net or at (707) 823-3631 for details and information.

Saturday May 16th

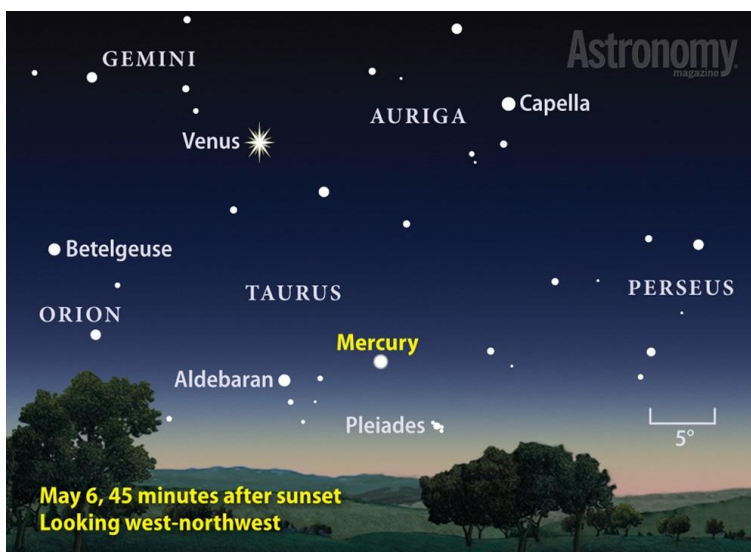
[Public Solar Observing and Public Star Party](#) at the Robert Ferguson Observatory
Solar: 11:00am – 3:00pm, Public Star Party 9:00pm - ?

Tuesday May 19th

[NIGHT SKY SPRING SERIES](#) at the Robert Ferguson Observatory
7:30pm until?

Wednesday May 27th [SCAS STAR ACADEMY](#) at Robert Ferguson Observatory
7:30pm – 10:00pm

May Moon Phases at <http://www.moonconnection.com/moon-may-2015.phtml>



SONOMA COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

2015 MEETING CALENDAR



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 - 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:lennelsn@comcast.net)



**~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  
501(c)(3) educational and charitable organization

# 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 & Greeters**

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.

It's easy and rewarding.

Mike Dranginis, President, Sonoma County Astronomical Society.  
My email is [mjd880@att.net](mailto:mjd880@att.net)

Thank You,

*Mike Dranginis*



*Nova Sagittarii 2015*