

# ★ SONOMA SKIES ★

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



*501(c)(3) Scientific and Charitable Organization*



Hello friends,

Well last month we had another successful SCAS Star-B-Que at the Robert Ferguson Observatory. Our thanks to those of you who came out, and to the RFO for their gracious accommodations to us. This is always a great opportunity to meet and talk with fellow members, and share the star filled skies of Sonoma County.



## Next SCAS General Meeting

Wednesday September 9, 2015  
7:30pm – 9:30pm

Location:  
Proctor Terrace Elementary School Auditorium  
1711 Bryden Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER



We are very privileged to have Dr. Adrienne Cool, San Francisco State University Astronomy Department visit with us! It is always a great time.

*"I am a native of New York City, and received my undergraduate degree in physics at Yale University. After brief stints in medical imaging and Electrical Engineering, I happened on astronomy and haven't looked back. I completed my PhD at Harvard, and came to California for a postdoc at UC Berkeley. I am now at San Francisco State University, where my students and I have been studying ordinary and extraordinary stars in globular clusters since 1996. Other recent activities include a collaboration with UC Berkeley to refurbish the 30-inch telescope at Leuschner Observatory, helping to create a new Masters in Physics with a Concentration in Astronomy at SFSU, and collaborating with SFSU's Center for Science and Mathematics Education to improve the pathway to K-12 teaching for our undergraduate students".*

# SONOMA COUNTY ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

## 2015 MEETING CALENDAR



**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

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

Hello members,

It's only 3-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.

# September Events

## SCAS Young Astronomers Update: from Len Nelson

"It's time that I updated you concerning a number of matters that have to do with the SCAS Young Astronomers.

First, we will continue to be at Dunham Elementary located at 4111 Roblar Rd. Petaluma where the YA has met since 2012. Siobhan Wilde, our wonderful teacher at Dunham Elementary, is again giving us her time and class room to accommodate us.

We will restart the YA monthly meetings on Friday, September 18th at 7:00 PM. Here is the meeting schedule going forward. Each is on the 3rd Friday of the month:

September 18    October 16    November 20    December 18    January 15    February 19  
March 18    April 15

## Total Lunar Eclipse: September 27, 2015

Santa Rosa: Total Lunar Eclipse

Begins: Sun, Sep 27, 2015 at 5:11 PM  
Maximum: Sun, Sep 27, 2015 at 7:47 PM  
Ends: Sun, Sep 27, 2015 at 10:22 PM

In the Americas, the eclipse will begin on the evening of September 27, 2015. The eclipse will last for 3 hrs and 20 mins from beginning to end. The Moon will be totally eclipsed (totality) for about 1 hr and 12 mins.

This eclipse is the fourth and last in a tetrad, a series of four consecutive total lunar eclipses in 2014 – 2015.

The term Blood Moon has recently become popular when referring to the total lunar eclipses in the 2014 – 2015 lunar tetrad. While the term has no technical or astronomical basis, many people believe that it comes from the Bible, and that the occurrence of the lunar tetrad is a fulfillment of a biblical prophecy.

Jim DeManche will be offering free 'Sidewalk Astronomy' from the Lucky's parking lot in Santa Rosa beginning around 5:00pm. All are welcome to attend or bring their own scopes!

Directions Link

# **TOLAY FALL FESTIVAL IN CLOSING IN!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**

Hello all.

The Tolay Fall Festival is coming again. This will be our fourth year. A big change this time. Instead of having our Solar booth open for the grueling full nine days of the Festival, we will only be there for a leisurely four days, two weekends; October 17 and 18 and 24 and 25. Set up time will be 10 AM and all four days will be from 11 AM to 5 PM. Each Saturday morning we will put up the tent and display and each Sunday afternoon we will take them down.

We need volunteers to help the public understand our nearest star, both at the telescope and also with the literature. You don't have to have a solar friendly scope to be of great service, but one would ease the crunch. You don't have to be there all four days, whatever time you can come will be appreciated.

If you have any questions and want to sign up, please call me at 762.3118.

Thanks.

Eric Swanson

call Eric at 762.3118 with any questions.