



Issue Number 2

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2001

Southern California Observers

Star Party Photos...



From high above the marine layer of Ventura County, the Southern California Observers have found an excellent private local observing site. Driving through an Avocado orchard, is only half the fun!

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We can't wait till sunset....

Where is the Moon!



The members of the Southern California Observers pose for a relaxing photo prior to a friendly observing session.... There is room for more! Come on out!

Alberio... Did you Know?

Common Name
Alberio

Scientific Name
Beta Cygni

SAO catalog number
87301

Henry Draper Catalog
183912

Fifth Fundamental Catalog Number
732

Visual Brightness
3

Spectral Class
K3II+B9.5V

Right Ascension
19h 30.722m

Declination
27° 57.583'

Highlighted Web Page

" Lets Talk Astronomy"

For those of you that want to **hear** more about astronomy on the internet, then this is the site for you. Presented by Starizona, and hosted by Comet discoverer David Levy, these unique programs are entertaining and informative.

All you need is a computer with sound, internet access, and the RealAudio plug-in for your web browser. I highly suggest you visit and enjoy "Lets Talk Astronomy" every day!

Visit the web page at: <http://www.letstalkstars.com/>

SCO Section Leaders Wanted

Do you specialize in an area of astronomy that you would like to help others with?

Why not volunteer to become a Section Leader in the SCO.

We have developed Observing Sections for members to

"Volunteer to be a Section Leader in the SCO"

join and have their observations posted on the SCO's web page for the world to see.

There are openings for lead-

ers in Solar, Lunar, Venus, Jupiter, Mars, Saturn. Comets, Meteor, Minor Planet, and Deep Sky. Join us, and help promote your hobby!

Fall Star Parties

This Fall, Mars is setting and the giant planets are rising. Our monthly Star Parties will highlight these and other wonderful events.

September 15, Mt Pinos

September 22, Local Star Party at Santa Paula Location

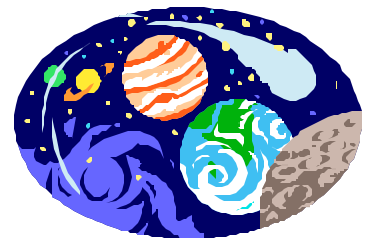
October 13, Mt Pinos

October 20, Local Star Party at Santa Paula Location

November 10, Local Star Party at Santa Paula Location

November 17, Mt. Pinos

Everyone is invited to the Star Parties and car pooling is suggested! Bring a friend or co-worker and teach them to love the night sky as much as you do!



Product Review- Portable Battery Power for Astronomy



Those of you that have seen my telescope setup, you know that it takes a little bit of electrical power to run everything. Last year I purchased from Solar Sense, the PowerPAC Rechargeable DC and AC Power Source. Statpower's PowerPAC provides portable 115V AC or 12V DC power anytime, anywhere. You can enjoy household 115V AC power from the built in inverter, or run 12V DC accessories from the DC power socket. This handy, portable package includes emergency jump-start cables, a DC charging cable for your vehicle, and an AC wall charger.

Here is an example of the average runtimes advertised with the PowerPAC:

115 Volt AC Household Run Time

| Electrical Appliance | Watts | Hours |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| 40 watt light bulb | 40 | 3 |
| Laptop + printer | 22 | 6 |

Power requirements vary greatly among amateurs, but a typical observer with a computer-slewed telescope and laptop computer will likely have enough juice in a fully charged PowerPAC to make it through a full night. Add a single-frame CCD camera to the mix and the time will probably be cut to a half night or less.

I have ran my computer controlled telescope, and my laptop for 4 hours and the battery still had time on it. With just the telescope, I can run it all night long.

The complete system is rugged, easy to use, and especially convenient for people using portable telescopes and imaging equipment. Anyone contemplating a small backyard observatory might consider a PowerPAC as a permanent power source instead of taking the time and expense to install underground lines to bring in electricity.

The best thing is, I paid over \$200 for the unit last November, and you can now get it at Brookstone at the Thousand Oaks Mall for \$189!



What is your most memorable astronomical experience? Send it in and I will publish the top 10!

Send to: cometman@cometman.net

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▶ Observing for
everyone



Benefits of Membership in the SCO:

- No membership fees- This is an on-line organization
- Online Newsletter- downloadable
- Open to anyone interested in furthering their knowledge and experience of astronomical observing techniques
- Nightly Chat sessions to share ideas, and observing experience
- Immediate notification of new comets, asteroids, nova, or other astronomical events
- Observing Partner Program
- Observing Sections with specialists in every area of observing

Sky & Telescope Discount Plan



Sky & Telescope, the Essential Magazine of Astronomy, has been the #1 source for astronomical news and information since 1941. We're pleased to offer discounted subscriptions to our most loyal and dedicated readers: members of astronomy clubs. Members who subscribe to S&T through the **Southern California Observers** also qualify for a discount on any of the 200+ fine astronomy books and products offered for sale in our Sky Publishing Catalog and online store.

PLAN BENEFITS

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|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| ----- | | |
| United States and Possessions | \$39.95 | \$29.95 |

10% Discount on Books and Products: Order books, star atlases, slide sets, photographic prints, software, calendars, posters, videos, and other products from the Sky Publishing Catalog or S&T's Online Store and save 10% off the published price. To get the 10% discount, club subscribers should mention the Club Plan and give their club's name. Sky Publishing will verify participation in the Plan. Contact the SCO for details!

This is just ONE MORE benefit of being a member of the **Southern California Observers** that you might get from another club, but with NO DUES!