

# Prime Focus October 2001

## TVS Presents

**Where:** Unitarian Universalist Church,  
1893 N. Vasco Rd, Livermore Ca

**When:** October 12, 2001 Room set-up and  
conversation at 7 PM Meeting begins at 7:30 PM

**What / Who:** Projects by TVS Members.

Several TVS members will give brief descriptions of astronomical equipment projects which they are or have been involved with recently. Come and find out what the more active members are working on, and if you have a project going on, share what you are up to.

Some of the member projects to be presented include:

**Gert Gottschalk:** the apartment balcony CCD observatory, building an H-alpha filter out of calcite crystals, eight inch Netwonians with metal tubes.

**Brinton "Jonesy" Jones:** one of our most recent members, will be showing a 10 inch Dobsonian telescope he has masterfully repackaged. He has added several innovated enhancements to his design that are quite interesting. He will also bring an 18 inch Dobsonian telescope that is currently under construction. Brinton is a semi-retired tool and die maker that has many interesting ideas when it comes to building your own telescope.

Bring your project and tell us about it.

## TVS Logo Wear

You may have noticed your TVS officers and board of directors sporting TVS logo wear at the past few general meetings. The items include polo shirts, sweatshirts, and jackets. How would you like to show off these distinctive items at the next star party and help identify yourself as a TVS member? If so, you can **submit your order to club treasurer Mike Anderson at any of the club meetings or via email to [andersonm@prodigy.net](mailto:andersonm@prodigy.net)**. Due to the nature of the TVS embroidered logo, it is recommended that only dark colors be selected. Of course, avoid red colors if you want the logo to show up under a red light. If you would like to view the items on the web, go to [www.landsend.com/corpsales](http://www.landsend.com/corpsales). To view the polo shirts, type in the number 5675 in the search box, select 'go'. You will see a list of 2 solid hearty mesh polo shirts, for Men's regular sizes and Men's Big sizes. Select the item number to a picture and get a list of sizes and colors.

(Note; Debbie Dyke point out; chose your colors knowing your lighting -will it show up- as you



Gert with 16" F4 at Hidden Hills Obs  
His 13" F4 +CCD at the balcony Obs.

wanted, in for instance red light?)

For the sweatshirt, search for 7367. You will see a list of three different size classes of sweatshirt. Again select the item number to get the item details.

For squall jackets, search for 'squall'. You will get a list of the different size classes, as well as the different types of jackets, Classic squall, Sport squall, and the squall parka.

Please remember, the item prices do not include \$5.50 per item logo application fee and approximately \$2.00 for shipping/handling. Also, if I order less than 6 of any class of item, the logo application fee doubles. For example, if I only order 4 polo shirts, the application fee would be \$11 per item. Therefore, I will normally wait until I have at least 6 item requests before placing the orders.

Lastly, I will be collecting payment for orders IN ADVANCE, so please remember to add \$7.50 to each item's price to cover the logo application fee and S/H.

If you have any questions, **please contact treasurer Mike Anderson** at the general or planning meetings, or via email at **andersonm@prodigy.net**.

### **AANC president Jane Houston Jones on What's up in October;**

It's time to get out the Milky Way and Mars candy bars. And time again to fill the candy jar with Moon pies and Starburst chews. It's October and it's time for halloween. While the kiddies will be out trick or treating on October 31 some of you, no doubt, will be showing starry or lunar views to them through your telescopes before handing out your astronomically correct treats. Well good for you. But save some scary treats for yourself, too. Here is a list of scary nuggets to savor and devour some dark clear night. Try some now, and save some, just like you save your favorite halloween candy, for later.

Mirach's Ghost, NGC 404 in AND, r.a 01 09.33, dec +35 43', mag 10.3, 4.3 x 3.9' gxy

The Phantom Streak NGC 6741 in AQL, r.a. 19 02.42, dec. -00° 26', mag 12, 9" x 7" pn

Ghost of the Moon Nebula NGC 6781 AQL, r.a. 19 18.31, dec +06° 33' mag 11.8, 1.9' x 1.8' pn

The Spider Galaxy in NGC5829 in BOO, r.a. 15 02.45, dec. +23° 20', mag 13.4, 1.7' x 1.5' gxy

The Skull Nebula NGC 246 in CET, r.a. 00 47.6, dec -11° 52', mag 8.5, 4' x 3' pn

The Witch Head Nebula. IC 2118 in ERI, r.a.05 06.9, dec -07° 13' bright neb

The Ghost Ring IC 5148 in GRU, r.a.21 59.38, dec -39° 22', mag 11, 2' pn

Little Ghost Nebula NGC 6369 in OPH, r.a. 17 29.3, dec. -23° 46', mag 10.4 pn

Red Spider Nebula NGC 6537 in SAG, r.a. 18 05.18, dec. -19° 50' mag 12, 5" pn

Phobos and Deimos (Fear and Terror) - the moons of Mars

Hell, Rukl's Atlas of the Moon, chart 64. 33 km crater near Deslandres 32.4° S, 17.7°W

Lacus Doloris (Lake of Suffering), Rukl chart 23, 110 km mare 17° N, 9° E

Lacus Mortis (Lake of Death), Rukl chart 14, 150 km diameter flooded crater, 45° N, 27° E

Lacus Timoris (Lake of Fear), Rukl chart 63, 130 km long mare, 39° S, 28° W

Palus Putrendis (Marsh of Rot), Rukl chart 22, 180 km small plain on the prime meridian, near Hadley Rille and Apollo 15 site, 27°N , 0°

Epsilon (36) BOO, r.a.14 45.01, dec +27° 04.20, double star, mag 2.5 and 4.9, yellow/orange and blue/green double

Mu (51) BOO, r.a.15 24.32, dec. +37° 22, triple star, mag 4.3 and 7 and 7.6 triple, yellow primary, yellow/orange pair

Xi (37) BOO, r.a 14 51.26, dec. +19° 6', quadruple star, mag 4.7 and 7.0, with a 9.6 and 12.6 companion, yellow and reddish/orange

Happy Halloween from PK 164+31.1 ( Jones 1)

Jane Houston Jones

San Rafael, CA

jane@whiteoaks.com

<http://www.whiteoaks.com>

**TVS Member Bill Faatz** recently purchased an Oberwerk 25x100 binocular (<http://www.oberwerk.com/bigbinos/25100.htm>). Check out his reviews posted on the TVS e-group.

*If you come to TVS meetings in from Hayward or Castro Valley please consider giving a ride to Warren Phillips, he is 87 and can not drive at night on 580. For more information, contact any club officer..*

**TVS WEBCAST** of August meeting <http://sunmil1.uml.edu/cgi-bin/nt-s.ram>

**Board of DIRECTORS MEETING:** is held at the Round Table Pizza (925) 443-7374 1024 E Stanley Blvd; Livermore, CA at 7-9 PM the following Monday night after the general meeting. Anyone interested in the clubs event planning is invited to attend.

### **STAR PARTIES AND EVENTS:**

School star party October 3 and 13(Rich Green has the details.)

Recent star parties reports:

August 16-19, 2001: White Mountains - problems with lights, windy and cold.

August 17-18, 2001: Grandview - Lots of astronomers camping there, weather warm, smoky skies.

**H2O work party** took place to paint the out houses Sep 29 or (rain date Oct 6).

**Observers Handbooks and calendars:** Your club treasurer, Mike Anderson, has ordered a supply of the Observer's Handbook 2002 by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. They are usually shipped sometime in November, so look for them at either the November or December general meeting. The cost for the handbook this year will be \$15 each, a bargain considering the cover price is \$22.95. Also, several copies of the Observer's Calendar 2002 have also been ordered and will be available for \$10, saving you \$5.95 off the cover price. The calendar contains pictures taken by fellow amateur astronomers and are suitable for framing. Again, look for the calendars at an upcoming general meeting., will soon (next month) be available, Mike Anderson <andersonm@prodigy.net>

**Newsletter deadlines:**

Submit articles/info: within 4-5 days after board meetings, email to rushford@eyes-on-the-skies.org. Printing: weekend following a board meeting Folding and labeling Party: one week after a board meeting The newsletter is scheduled to be in the mail at least one week prior to the next General Meeting.

Currently we have no **program director**. If you have a program idea let a board member know and we will put it into the que. You might like to team up with another person and tell us about your project(s).

**Tri-Valley Stargazers** Membership: 232

Web site; [HTTP://www.trivalleystargazers.org](http://www.trivalleystargazers.org) E-MAIL; tvs@trivalleystargazers.org

Meeting Location; Unitarian Universalist Church, 1893 M. Vasco Rd. Livermore Ca. Is 3/4 mile north of I-580.

**President, Web-admin, Observatory Director** Chuck Grant charleswgrant@home.net 925-422-7278

**Vice-President** Gary Steinhour <garyjane@jps.net>

**Secretary** Marilyn Halberg

**Treasurer** Mike Anderson <andersonm@prodigy.net>

**Librarian** Jim Alves <jim\_alves\_engr@yahoo.com> 925-634-6220

**http://Eyes-on-the-Skies.org** Robotics solar telescope and “- acting as -” **News letter editor**

Mike Rushford <rushford@eyes-on-the-skies.org>

**Directors;** Alane Alchorn, Jim Alves, Dave Anderson, Dennis Beckley, Paul Caswell, Rich Combs, Debbie Dyke, Gert Gottschalk, Kathleen Kelley, Signe McIntire, Dave Rodrigues, Frank Rogue, Mike Rushford, Debbie Scherrer, Al stern, John Swenson, Norm Thomas, Phil Waide.

# Tri-Valley Stargazers Astronomy Club Membership Application/Renewal Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  \$20 Single Membership  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  \$25 Family Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_  \$5 Student Membership  
(under 18)  
Phone (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_  \$40 Patron Membership  
(in addition to above)  
E-Mail (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$20 Refundable Key DEP  
 \$29.95 Sky & Telescope  
Discount Subscription  
 \$29 Astronomy Mag  
Discount Subscription  
 Other Tax Deductible  
Contribution to TVS  
\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Membership Options (check those you want)

Do not release my address, phone number, or e-mail to other TVS members

Notify me via e-mail each month when the newest newsletter is available on the world wide web

Don't send me the newsletter via US mail, I'll just read and/or print it out from the web (this option saves the club a substantial amount of money).

The term of membership is one calendar year - January through December.

All members agree to hold the Tri-Valley Stargazers, and any cooperating organizations or landowners, harmless from all claims of liability for any injury or loss sustained at a TVS function.

Return this form, with payment to:

Tri-Valley Stargazers  
P.O. Box 2476  
Livermore, CA 94551-2476

Notes:

Discount magazine subscriptions are available only near the beginning of each year. Sky & Telescope is normally \$36, club price \$29.95. Astronomy is normally \$35, club price \$29. Contact the Treasurer for questions about subscriptions

The patron membership fee is in addition to the regular membership fees. After one year of membership, those in good standing may apply for patron membership (subject to the approval of the board of directors) to have access to the observatory with the 17.5" telescope. The number of patron memberships is limited; first priority is given to active patron members.

For more details contact the Observatory Director.

2001 is the 13th year that a questionnaire will be used to improve the quality of the club programs and activities. The details of your response will be kept confidential. Summary results will be published in the April Issue of Prime Focus. Please answer all questions that apply. Attach an extra sheet of paper if necessary.

How did you learn about the club? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why did you join? \_\_\_\_\_  
Are we meeting your expectations ? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Comments \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been interested in astronomy? \_\_\_\_\_ years.

How long have you been a member?  
\_\_\_ <1 year \_\_\_ 1-3 years \_\_\_ 3-5 years \_\_\_ over 5 years

How often do you attend the monthly meetings?  
Almost always \_\_\_ About half the time \_\_\_ Occasionally \_\_\_ Never \_\_\_

How often do you go to our dark site?  
Several times a month \_\_\_ Once a month \_\_\_ Every 2-3 months \_\_\_ 1-3  
times a year \_\_\_ Never \_\_\_

Rate the following activities for their importance to you (1=very important, 5=no interest)

\_\_\_ Monthly meetings/speakers  
\_\_\_ Star parties at our dark site  
\_\_\_ Public star parties  
\_\_\_ Field trips to Yosemite, White Mtns, etc.  
\_\_\_ Using the 30" telescope at Fremont Peak  
\_\_\_ Telescope making  
\_\_\_ CCD imaging  
\_\_\_ Astrophotography (film)  
\_\_\_ Deep-sky observing (faint objects)  
\_\_\_ School programs/presentations  
\_\_\_ Computer programs, Internet, bulletin boards

What kind of instrument do you use most for observing?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What program topics would you like us to cover at the meetings?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a computer? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Type: \_\_\_ Macintosh \_\_\_ IBM or Clone  
Does your computer have a modem? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Do you have access to the Internet? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
e-mail? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Have you visited the TVS web page? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Do you use your computer for astronomy related purposes? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever borrowed books from the TVS library? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  
Books you would like us to have: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in helping with a school program? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

How is the newsletter format? \_\_\_\_\_

How is the newsletter content ? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any activities that you would like us to provide?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Can you suggest any improvements to the club?  
\_\_\_\_\_

