

# The Refractor

The Bulletin of the Eastbay Astronomical Society  
Founded in 1924 at Chabot Observatory, Oakland, California

Volume 88  
Number 01  
November 2011

## November EAS Lecture

**Title:** "Amateur Solar Observation  
What To See And How To See It"

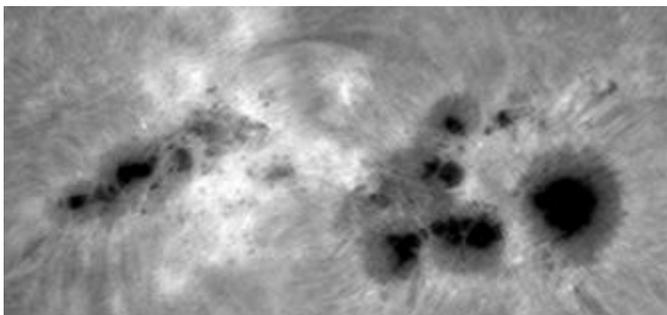
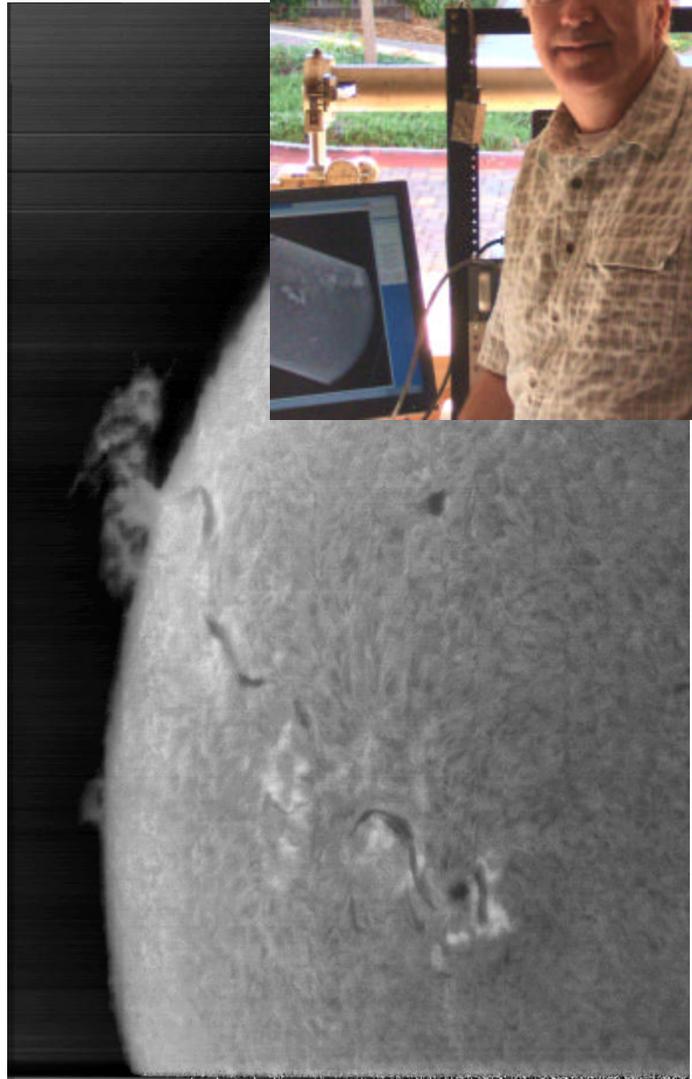
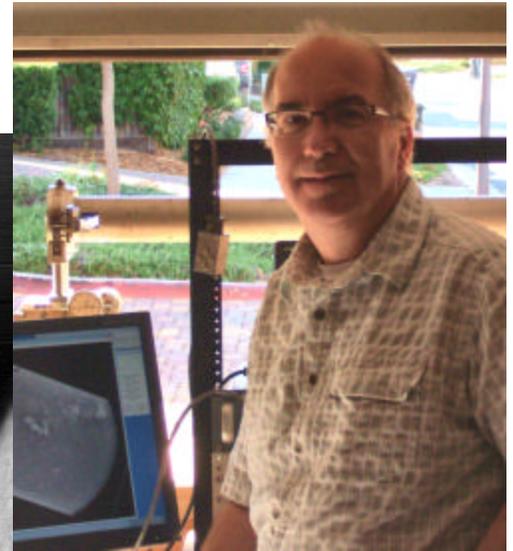
**Speakers:** Joseph Bartolick, Scientist  
Lawrence Livermore National Lab

**When:** Saturday, November 19th, 7:30pm

**Location:** Hauben Resource Center Room  
2nd Floor, Dellums Building  
Chabot Space & Science Center

Since the introduction of low cost packaged solar telescopes there has been an explosion of interest in observing the Sun, but what can you actually see with these instruments? And how was the Sun observed by amateurs before the age of Coronado? I will give a description of solar features, the types of instruments needed to observe them and a detailed report on the construction and use of a digital spectroheliograph, the modern descendant of an instrument first developed in 1890.

Joe is an explosives experiment coordinator ("Ramrod") at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He has also worked in high speed imaging and laser system design at LLNL. Prior to 1997, he designed and built spectroscopic and laser systems at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. Joe has been an amateur solar astronomer since 1966, and in his "quiet time" enjoys building ever more complex solar imaging systems.



### See Sunspots at Chabot!

Live and video viewing of the sun on the observing deck every clear Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Photo: Jim Ferreira

#### DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

5:30, Sat, Oct 15  
**Hunan Yuan**  
4100 Redwood Rd.  
(next to Safeway)  
No need to confirm,  
Just show up!

#### Inside this issue:

- Pinwheel Galaxy Supernova      page 2
- EAS Loaner Scopes                      page 2
- CSSC Volunteers                        page 2



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The “CARMA Array and the Milky Way” (Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-wave Astronomy) was chosen as one of the greatest 100 pictures of the year and published on page 62 in the November 2011 issue of Astronomy Magazine.

### **FUTURE CONJUNCTIONS—2011**

Nov19 General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm  
 10 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Room, 7:30pm  
 13 EAS MOVN, 7pm-10pm, Wightman Plaza  
 Dec17 General Meeting, Chabot, Physics Lab, 7:30pm  
 8 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Room, 7:30pm  
 4 EAS MOVN, 7pm-10pm, Wightman Plaza

For questions or if you are uncertain about the weather, call (925)926-0853 before 6pm, or check Chabot's weather page at <http://www.chabotspace.org/forms/weather.aspx>

### **WANTED: PHOTOS OF OLD CHABOT**

Do you have photographs of the Mountain Boulevard Chabot Observatory? If you do, pick out the best of the best and send a scanned image to the Newsletter editor. A new image will be posted in the newsletter each month.

**EAS Loaner Scope Program** has telescopes available for rental by EAS members. Scopes include 60mm and 80mm refractors, a C-90, two 10 inch Dobsonians, and ; 4 and 8 inch Schmidt-Cassegrains. Scope rental is \$15 a month, with a \$50 deposit. For information, contact Barry Leska by E-mail at [b.leska@comcast.net](mailto:b.leska@comcast.net)

### **Chabot Space & Science Center Invites EAS Members to Volunteer with Us!**

- Share your knowledge of and passion for astronomy with thousands of CSSC visitors
- Experience the unique opportunity to operate Chabot's historical telescopes
- Share your own telescope at Chabot\*
- Inspire young astronomers and future scientists by assisting students in our astronomy education programs

**Explore these opportunities And find out about our next Volunteer Orientation!**

<http://www.chabotspace.org/adult-volunteers.htm>

*\*EAS members who are only interested in sharing their own telescope at Chabot (not a full volunteer commitment) are required to attend a volunteer orientation. After completion, you may join us on deck and share your own telescope any Friday or Saturday night! Chabot Volunteers must make the regular volunteer commitment and pursue official placement through the Volunteer Manager.*



## News & Views

Volunteer telescope operators of the EAS have been doing public astronomy in conjunction with the Oakland/Fukuoka Sister City Association for more than a decade, since before 2000. This year's event, held the evening of Sunday Oct 9,

had a much larger than usual crowd looking through our scopes. Fortunately, we happened to have a much larger group of volunteers. That, plus the nice weather, made for a perfect event! We looked at the Moon, the Ring Nebula, Albireo, pointed out constellations, and munched on FREE Japanese dinners (provided by the event coordinators for the volunteers). How nice!

Via email survey, I've assembled a list of 41 EAS members who are willing to help out at outreach events such as this. If you'd like to join our ranks, please let me know. My email address is: don-saito@comcast.net.



Also...

EAS members attending (L-R): Rollen Maski, Sanjay Virkar, Barry Leska, Ray Wong, Caroline Scolari, Rich Ozer. Camera shy: Bart Paugh, Gerald McKeegan, Vidya Raman, Don Saito.

Here's a funny story: I recently bought some property up in the Calaveras County Sierra foothills to build a house on, and went up on Wed Nov 2 to spend the day watching the well drillers install my water pump (it's now installed and operational - yippee!) Anyways, on my way back to the Bay Area, I stopped in Linden at Rinaldi's Market to get something to eat (I only had a banana for breakfast, and it was now late afternoon). I got some vegetarian chow mein and was munching away at a table outside, and who should I see walking through the parking lot: TMW Instructor, Dave Barosso! I said, "Dave?!" He turned and said, "Don?!"



It turns out, this is where Dave calls home. We chatted a bit while I continued munching my noodles, and he invited me to see his house and backyard rolling roof observatory, all just around the corner. We went, and out in the middle of vast fields of crops, there was a nice, compact neighborhood, with neat streets lined with neat houses, many with Halloween decorations still up. I got the \$0.25 tour of his very nice house, and then on to his cool "Scrapwood Observatory" (guess what it's made out of - see photo). It just goes to show: you never know who you're going to run into in the most unlikely places.

Cheerios! <crunch, crunch!>  
;~Don

Dave and his home reconfigured 8" Celestron.



# Eastbay Astronomical Society

At Chabot Space & Science Center  
10000 Skyline Boulevard • Oakland, CA 94619

**November 2011**  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Eastbay Astronomical Society

President: Barry Leska b.leska@comcast.net

Treas: Richard Ozer (510) 532-5477 rozer@pacbell.net

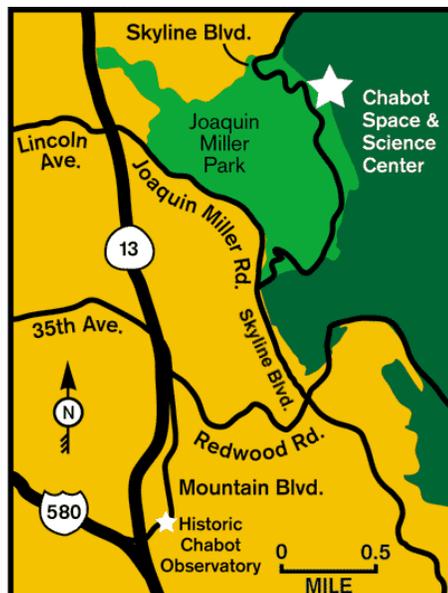
Secretary: Linda Lazzaretti (510) 633-2488

Articles and photos for *The Refractor* are encouraged. Deadline for the Dec. 2011 issue is Dec. 1, 2011. Items may be submitted by snail-mail or E-mail to: Editor - Jim Ferreira, 753 Oriole Avenue, Livermore CA 94551 bakerst@comcast.net (925) 449-0107

Vice President: Paul Hoy ahoy@aol.com

Membership Reg: Bruce Skelly EastbayAstro@gmail.com

Events Coord: Gene Weber (925) 963-1165 gene.weber@gmail.com



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### Join the Eastbay Astronomical Society

- Regular, \$24/year  Family, \$36/year
- Contributing, \$40/year  Student, \$15/year (digital news-letter, only)
- Sustaining, \$60/year or more

Contact: Richard Ozer, EAS Treasurer  
Phone: (510) 532-5477 Email: rozer@pacbell.net

Sign up online at <http://www.eastbayastro.org/>