



The Refractor

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

Volume 90
Number 1
November 2013

November 2013 Talk:

Mission: Mars

When:

Saturday, November 16, 2013, 7:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Pascal Lee

Where:

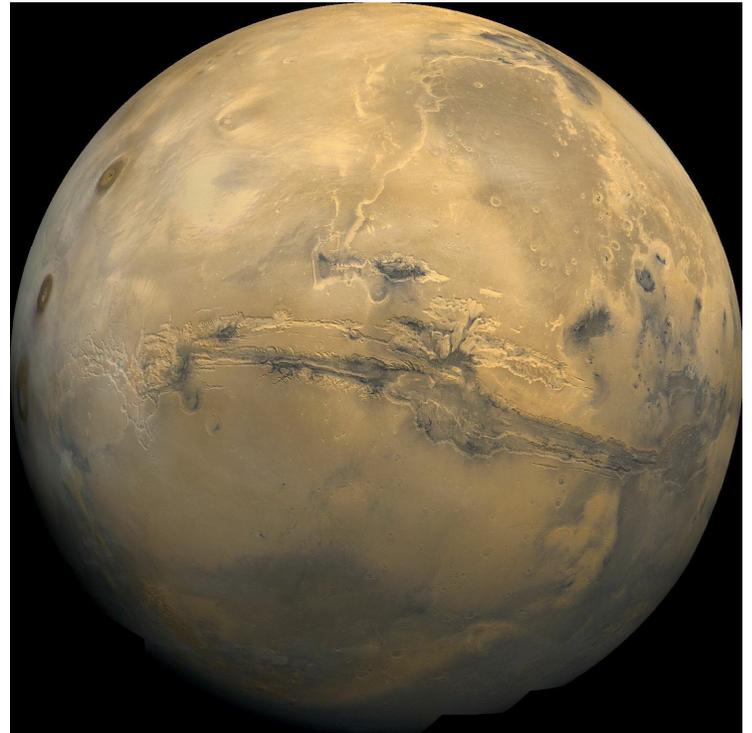
Chabot Space & Science Center
Hauben Room, 2nd Floor, Spees Building

Subzero temperatures, killer rays, raging dust storms...Mars is a hostile planet. Could anything survive there? One job for Future Mars Explorers: Stay alive and help search for alien life.

Guided by renowned Mars expert Pascal Lee, we will get a behind-the-scenes look at what it will take to send humans to the Red Planet. Discover how to gear up for survival, navigate a spaceship, search for alien life, and so much more. Get a sneak peek at the latest designs for future mars ships, spacesuits, and exploration rovers. The future of space exploration starts now!

This will be an event for all ages, as Pascal Lee has also released the book *Mission: Mars* under Scholastic for ages 9-12 and will be signing copies for fans of all ages.

Dr. Pascal Lee is chairman of the Mars Institute and a planetary scientist at the SETI Institute. He is also director of the NASA Haughton-Mars Project at NASA Ames Research Center. The project helps plan future human missions to Mars. When not researching ways to advance space exploration, Pascal likes to play with his three dogs and paint space art. He is also a helicopter pilot and flight instructor. ★



Holiday Party comes early this year:
Saturday, December 14
6pm - 10pm

We decided to try having our holiday get-together during the actual holiday season, this year. We're not sure exactly where it's going to be held, but we *will* have it, wherever it might be. Details to come. ★



DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER

5:30pm

Saturday, Nov 16

Hunan Yuan

4100 Redwood Rd

(next to Safeway)

No need to confirm.

Just show up!

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Don's News 'n Views

Howdy Astro Fans! The great news is: Daylight Squandering Time is over, and we can get to observing earlier and longer from here until next Spring - how nice! Comet C/2012-S1 "ISON" is approaching perihelion (closest approach to the Sun in its thin elliptical orbit from the Oort Cloud), and will hopefully become visible to the naked-eye by mid-to-late November and through most of December in the easterly pre-dawn hours. Keep a weather eye out for it, if you can.

Not that I particularly *want* to toot my own horn, but it *is* news so I'm kind of forced to: EAS members **myself** and **Faride Khalaf** were chosen by Chabot's



Visitor Engagement Manger **Liz Austerman** and Executive Director **Alex Zwissler** as this year's Chabot volunteers to receive the first YMCA "You Are The Difference" awards to be given to non-YMCA persons (from Chabot). (Long sentence, sorry.) Liz, Alex, Faride and I went to the Marriott Hotel

in downtown Oakland and enjoyed all kinds of delicious free food and drink (I love free food and drink), got to meet and greet **Robert Wilkins**, President and CEO of the East Bay YMCA, listened to a wonderful jazz choir, and Faride and I eventually went up on stage to receive our awards. Faride produces and presents programs about NASA, the ISS, Apollo Moon Program, etc., and I do the same for their Star Stories program, all of which provides Chabot's visitors with interesting content and added value to their overall experience, so that's why we were selected. It's great to know that Chabot does recognize and appreciate the EAS' contribution to their cause. After all, our mission statement, as displayed on our club's home web page, declares:

To increase our own knowledge and appreciation of space, to promote the space sciences to the public, to support the Chabot Space & Science Center, and to have as much fun as possible doing it!

Gorsh! I don't think I've mentioned it yet - a HUGE oversight on my part. I'm now the newsletter editor for the Western Amateur Astronomers quarterly newsletter, *The New Pacific Stargazer*, which you can go see at their website <http://www.waa.av.org/INSIDE.html> (scroll down until you see the banner with two links under it for the first two issues). I imagine most EAS members don't know this, but the our club is one of 8 other west-U.S. astronomy groups who make up the WAA membership. It's a "club of clubs," so to speak, and it's where the annual G. Bruce Blair awards come from. Go! Take a look at them. They're pretty interesting, because they give you a wider view of amateur astronomy groups, and introduce you to the other clubs.

Breaking news: As of this writing (Fri Nov 8), a handful of EAS members have formed a work party to fix the Compass Rose at Chabot's Wightman Telescope Plaza. The history of that rose is quite, ahh, "colorful," and was rather a bit of a problem for years before EAS members **Terry Galloway**, **Carter Roberts**, **Fred Johnson** and (designer) **Debbie Dyke** came up with and installed the Compass Rose with its USGS geodetic marker, "Wightman," one of the most accurately placed markers ever set. It was first supposed to be a flower bed, but with no fence around it, got pretty quickly trampled - mostly by kids. A sprinkler system was installed in it, and the first time we noticed it was at 10pm when it came on automatically, spraying the portable telescopes and their operators during public viewing! Eventually, it became a plain dirt pit, that kids would like to go in and kick up dust, again while portable scopes were nearby (yeeks!) Eventually and finally, the EAS installed the Compass Rose, and it's been there for many years, now. Unfortunately, it got run over by a crane, and became warped and uneven, so, we need to fix it. By the next newsletter, I'll have pics and a story to tell all about it. Wheee!

And finally, November is the beginning of the new EAS membership cycle. THANK YOU for being a member this past year! Your support helps us keep our astronomy outreach programs alive and well, and also helps us provide support to Chabot, who in turn supports us with meeting space, Telescope Makers' Workshop space, and of course, access to their three large telescopes - something I would venture to guess no other club in the world has.

That's it for this month! ☆

Spare Shots

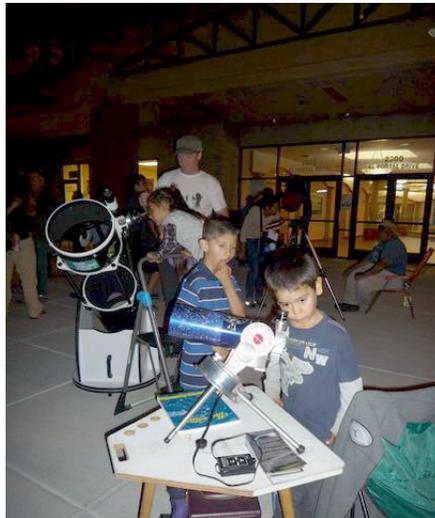
All photos taken by Don Saito



Sather Tower on the UC Berkeley campus shows a bit of fog which cleared off for an hour to allow telescoping at the Second Annual Astronomy Class Star Party. Nate McKenna shows off the Moon with his red Dob.



Gerald McKeegan showing public a deep-sky object to an attendee at this year's Otsukimi Japanese Moon Festival. Bart Trickel shares his view of the Moon at the Washington Elementary Star Party.



BZ also shares telescopic views to the kids and parents at Washington Elementary. David Prosper shows kids the Moon at the San Pablo Library Star Party, while another kid looks through Don Saito's 3.5" Questar at the planet Venus. Rich Ozer hacks another inch deeper in the EAS project to restore the badly warped Compass Rose in the Wightman Telescope Plaza at Chabot



John Currie gives this little kid his first telescopic view of Venus at the Otsukimi Japanese Moon Festival

That's it for this month!





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

November 2013
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

It's (still) Renewal Time!

If you've enjoyed being a part of the Eastbay Astronomical Society and supporting our mission to bring our love of astronomy to the public, please consider continuing your membership into 2014 and/or beyond! Thanks for being with us this year, and we hope to see you again, next year.

Eastbay Astronomical Society

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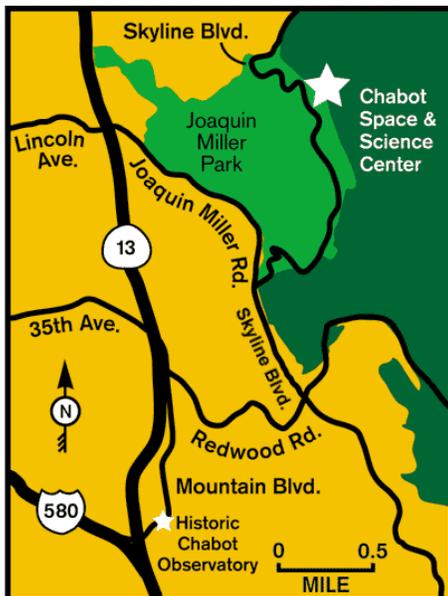
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Articles and photos for *The Refractor* are encouraged. Deadline for the October 2013 issue is November 30, 2013. Items may be submitted to:

Editor - Don Saito, 2676 Poplarwood Way, San Jose, CA 95132. Email address: donsaito@yahoo.com Ph: (510)-301-2570



FUTURE CONJUNCTIONS

- Nov 10 EAS MOVN, Wightman Plaza 7:30pm—10pm*
- 14 Board Meeting, Chabot, Soda Board Rm, 7:30pm
- 16 EAS General Meeting, Hauben Rm, 7:30pm - 10pm
- Dec 12 Board Meeting, Chabot, Library, 7:30pm
- 8 EAS MOVN, Wightman Plaza 7:30pm—10pm*
- 14 EAS Holiday Party, TBA, 7:30pm - 10pm

*Always call Gerald McKeegan (925) 926-0853 to confirm

Join the Eastbay Astronomical Society

- Regular, \$24/year Family, \$36/year
- Contributing, \$40/year Student, \$15/year
- Sustaining, \$60/year or more

Contact: Richard Ozer, EAS Treasurer
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