

Getting Started In Astronomy

The hobby of Amateur Astronomy is fun and awe-inspiring. It is fascinating to gaze up into the night sky, recognize the constellations, and which planets are visible. The beauty of the night sky is there for anyone who wants to explore it...but how do you get started?


The easiest way is to stop by the next meeting of the Antelope Valley Astronomy Club on the second Friday of every month at the SAGE Planetarium on the corner of 20th E. and Avenue R in Palmdale. You'll meet many amateur astronomers from the Antelope Valley. There's nothing like a chance to ask your questions of other amateurs face to face! Our Youth Group is perfect for young Astronomers!

An enjoyable way to start out in astronomy is with a clear evening and your own eyes. No telescope is required! Go out in the evening with a small light and a copy of your favorite astronomy magazine turned to the section that identifies the visible constellations.

With a little practice over several evenings, you will be able to quickly find your way among the stars, and probably know the names of a few of them. After this, it's time to borrow a pair of binoculars. What a difference even a little magnification can make! It can be overwhelming to see so much detail. Here's a tip if you get 'lost' - just take your view away from the binoculars and use your eyes like you did when you started out, and then use the binoculars once more. Many long time amateurs prefer the view through binoculars and use them exclusively. You may want to read **Astronomy Magazine** or **Sky & Telescope Magazine**. Both are great sources of information and can guide your learning.

If you have decided at this point that a telescope is in your future, it's definitely time to ask the opinion of experts. Come to an AVAC meeting, stop by and talk with club members, or visit our club's website BEFORE you buy!! If you get the wrong telescope for what you want to do with it, you will be unhappy each and every time you go out and use it. Talking with an expert first can really make the difference. It's your money—don't waste it on a cheap telescope with a flimsy tripod.

If you already have a telescope, it may need a 'tune-up'. If you have a reflecting telescope (with mirrors) the optics have to be aligned precisely and often for good views of the sky. It's easy to do and members of the AVAC will be glad to tell you how to do this. If you have a refractor telescope (with lenses) no alignment is usually necessary. As always, Ask Questions and Have Fun!



ANTELOPE VALLEY
ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC.

A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit
Organization

On the web at:
www.avastronomyclub.org

Tel: (661) 724-1623
Or (661) 822-4580

ANTELOPE VALLEY
ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC.

More Information:

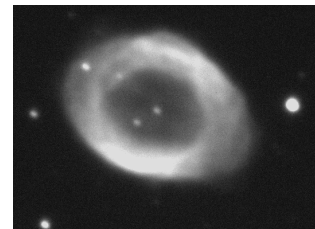
Phone: 661-724-1623
or (661) 822-4580

Antelope Valley Astronomy Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 8545
Lancaster, CA 93539



Horsehead Nebulae



M57 – Ring Nebulae



We're on the web! <http://www.avastronomyclub.org>

You Are Invited to Join the Antelope Valley Astronomy Club!



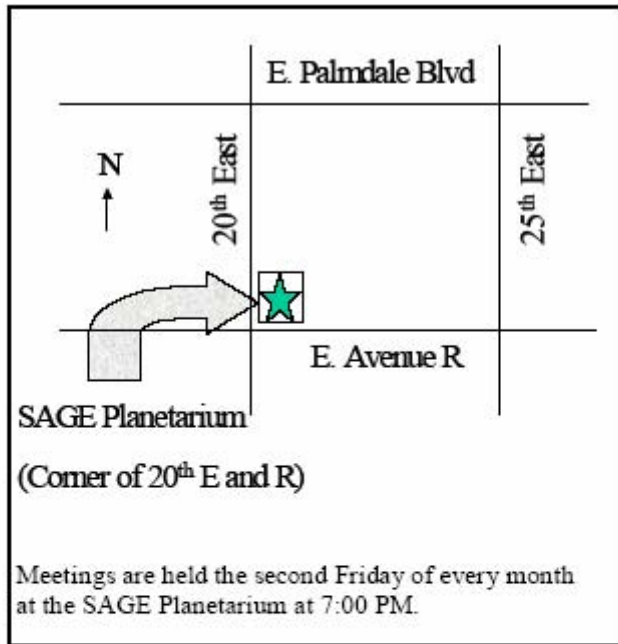
ANTELOPE VALLEY
ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC.

A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

Monthly Meetings and Activities

The AVAC holds monthly meetings the second Friday of every month at the SAGE Planetarium, 38060 20th Street East, (located on the northeast corner of East Avenue R and 20th East) at 7:00 PM. The meetings include guest speakers and monthly programs about the fascinating night sky, while giving members and guests a chance to get together to talk about the stars or other topics of interest. We hold monthly public star parties and frequent 'deep sky' observing sessions as weather permits. We offer our members resources to help you learn more about astronomy including classes, telescopes and books.

Directions to the Meeting



AVAC Membership Application

AVAC Offers A Variety Of Membership Options:

- Family Membership Cost _____ (See Below)
- Individual Membership Cost _____ (See Below)
- Junior Membership (13 and younger) Total _____

Dues are prorated each month. See table below
Example: A Family Membership paid in June is \$17.50

Membership Dues

Month	Family	Individual	Junior
JAN	\$ 30.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 15.00
FEB	\$ 27.50	\$ 22.92	\$ 13.75
MAR	\$ 25.00	\$ 20.83	\$ 12.50
APR	\$ 22.50	\$ 18.75	\$ 11.25
MAY	\$ 20.00	\$ 16.67	\$ 10.00
JUN	\$ 17.50	\$ 14.58	\$ 8.75
JUL	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.50	\$ 7.50
AUG	\$ 12.50	\$ 10.42	\$ 6.25
SEP	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.33	\$ 5.00
OCT	\$ 7.50	\$ 6.25	\$ 3.75
NOV	\$ 5.00	\$ 4.17	\$ 2.50
DEC	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.08	\$ 1.25

Checks should be made out to 'AVAC'
You may mail them to the Club PO Box or bring checks or cash to the meeting. **Do not mail cash.**
You may also pay via PayPal on our website.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

ANTELOPE VALLEY
ASTRONOMY CLUB, INC.

P.O. BOX 8545
Lancaster, CA 93539

Phone: 661-724-1623 or 661-822-4580
Email: info@avastronomyclub.org



Galaxy M101, Viewed Through A 10" Telescope