



BINOCULAR INTEREST GROUP
September, 2014

Welcome to the re-reincarnation of the LHAG Binocular Interest Group or
“Deja vous, all over again!”

We have scheduled our first viewing for Tuesday, September 30, 2014 ; beginning about a half hour after sunset or around 7:30 p.m.. The good thing about this time of year is that the evenings are usually warm and pleasant, and we can get to bed at our accustomed times. The location is at the top of Spring Valley Trail, which runs from near the top of Spring Valley Blvd. to the conjunction of Grand Pheasant Lane, Eagles Peak Lane, and Rossi Lane. (Heretofore referred to at the “Rossi site”.) If you have binoculars be sure to bring them. We will have viewing options for all magnifications. If you have a telescope you can bring it—we will have a few telescopes there to look at close up views and compare to the binocular images. You may want to bring a lawn chair. Some bug repellent may be useful, though bugs have not been a problem at Rossi in the past. The Rossi site is by no means dark (although it is one of the better locations in SCLH); red lights are recommended. Please remember to keep any white light to a minimum.

This will be a largely self-directed program although we will have several guides present to point you to the right direction in the night sky. From the Rossi site, the viewing is best to the northwest and somewhat to the northeast and to the zenith; therefore our suggested targets will be predominately in those areas each month. The viewing is worst toward the south, where the Sacramento and its sky glow interfere with good observing.

You should begin with a general naked eye tour of the night sky and orient yourself to the major constellations and planets. Next look for some of the binocular items (see below) and finally contrast the binocular view with telescope views of the same objects. Don’t forget just to look up w/wo your binoculars and peruse the wonders of the night sky—almost everything you see, except the planets and Moon, is located dozens or hundreds of light years away. The light from most objects left them and started toward earth before you were born!

Binocular friendly Messier objects

2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12,13,16,17,19,20,21,22,23,25,30,31(Andromeda), 33,34,51,52,62,81,82

Observable Planets + Illumination

Mercury (42%), Mars (89%), Saturn (100%), Neptune (100%)

Primary Stars

Antares, Altair-Deneb-Vega (the Summer Triangle), **Arcturus**, **Albireo**, Algol, **Mizar**, Alcor, **Fomalhaut**, Kochab, Polaris

Constellations:

Ursa Minor: Polaris

Cassiopeia : **Caph**

Cepheus: **Alderamin** Bootes: **Arcturus**

Ursa Major: Mizar

Draco: Thuban