

# SoVerA Courses

Registration deadline is end of day, **20 September, 2018**.  
Courses will be held in Chester and Andover, Vermont.

## Basics of Observational Astronomy

Instructor: Claudio Veliz

NOTE: *Due to hands on and equipment logistics, registration is limited. 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served basis. If overflow, class may be offered again in spring.*

Schedule: 3 sessions of 1.5 hrs. **6:30PM, Saturday/5th, Wednesday/10th & Saturday/13th of October.**

Description: This short, introductory course will be informal and substantive, including PowerPoint presentations, hands-on activities and astronomical observing. Open discussion and questions are encouraged. Methods for improving basic observational techniques will be demonstrated. Students need not have a telescope. This is, however, a good way to learn what sort of optical equipment might be appropriate for your particular type of observing.

OPTIONAL OBSERVING AT END OF CLASS, SKY CONDITIONS PERMITTING: Skies permitting, an observing session will be held for those who wish to remain after each class. Students who have observing equipment are encouraged to bring it along. It is not required, however.

Session content:

1. **The very basics** of exploring, knowledgably, the night sky with the naked eye or equipment; written and online resources, how to use star charts, guides; planning ahead and smart observing approaches.
2. **Starting binocular and telescopic observing.** Basic selection criteria and technical use of binoculars and telescopes.
3. **Telescope observing.** Getting deeper into the use of a telescope for exploring the universe. Further ways to study, find helpful organizations and using additional resources to propel one's interest and passion.

\$30 – members

\$55 – non-members (*includes 2019 membership in SoVerA*)

## How Telescopes Work

Instructor: Patrick Porch

Schedule: 1 session of 1.5 hrs. **7:00PM, 11 October.**

Description: This class will discuss the varied and clever optics used in popular telescope designs. We will cover basic optics in general and review how each applies to different telescope designs. Basic understanding of focal length, aperture, field of view, calculations for f/ratio and magnification will be covered. We will discuss eyepieces and how different eyepiece designs work with different telescope types. Telescopes of the common type (refractor, reflector and catadioptric) will be set up for demo purposes.

WE WILL OBSERVE AT END OF CLASS, SKY CONDITIONS PERMITTING

Other important items covered will include:

- + Commercial mirrors vs. hand-ground.
- + Expectations one may have of a new telescope and the tradeoff of some components in typical consumer telescopes.
- + Pluses and minuses of used vs. new purchase.
- + What to avoid.

\$15 – members

\$40 – non-members (*includes 2019 membership in SoVerA*)

## **The Secret Lives of Astronomers**

Instructor: Rick Bates

Schedule: 1 session of 1.5 hrs. Tuesday, 7pm. 16 October

Description: a light-hearted, yet substantive look into the private lives of some of the folks behind the telescopes. We will learn about the odd, intriguing, hilarious and insightful private lives of some of the scientists whose public work led to our current knowledge of the known universe.

\$15 – members

\$40 – non-members (*includes 2019 membership in SoVerA*)