



2024 Friends Night !

Saturday 31 August 6-11p.m.

Friends Only Event!

Space is limited. Reservations are required: 831.883.1000 or mira@mira.org



40 Million light-years away lies the the bright spiral galaxy NGC 7331 in the constellation Pegasus. Image Credit: Sloan Digital Sky Survey

Come join us for a dark, moonless night atop Chews Ridge as we enjoy majestic views of galaxies beyond our own Milky Way. The night is sure to be star-studded with a lineup that includes star clusters, planetary nebulae, and other deep sky objects. Guests from the MIRA and Santa Cruz Astronomy Clubs will provide a wide variety of astronomical wonders for you to feast your eyes upon.

- * *Please wear walking shoes as we have put gravel on the road to reduce the dust. Parking in the meadow is strongly recommended. The amateur astronomers will be using the parking lot to provide Friends with a range of additional celestial objects to view.*
- * *There will be pastries and warm drinks.*
- * *This event is not appropriate for very young children.*

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Events and Happenings

- 14 September- International Observe the Moon Night, time TBD
- 26 October, 25 January, 7 March - Star Party at Garland Ranch at Sunset
- 31 October- Haunted Observatory at the Hamming Center 6:00pm
- Laguna Seca Race to Space-Please check our webpage mira.org for updates on this event.

Directions to the Oliver Observing Station

MIRA's Oliver Observing Station is located on Tassajara Road in Carmel Valley, in the Los Padres National Forest. Allow an hour and a half for the trip from the Monterey Peninsula or Salinas, or an hour from Carmel Valley Village. From Carmel Valley Village, travel east on Carmel Valley Road for about 10 miles, to Tassajara Road. Turn right. Follow Tassajara Road for approximately 3 miles to start of dirt section. The last 6 miles are on a steep dirt country road which is quite bumpy and dusty, so please drive slowly. You will ascend 4,000 feet in those six miles. Turn left at the very top of Chews Ridge, just when you see that the road will begin to descend. We will have a small sign saying ← MIRA. This is a Forest Access Road and is rutted in some spots. Our astronomers drive small cars and have no problems, as long as they go slowly. Also, driving slow helps keep the dust down and out of our very delicate telescope mirror surfaces and instrumentation. Our driveway branches off to the right a short way up the hill, and after another quarter mile through the forest you will reach the observatory.

