



San Antonio League of Sidewalk Astronomers

No. 5

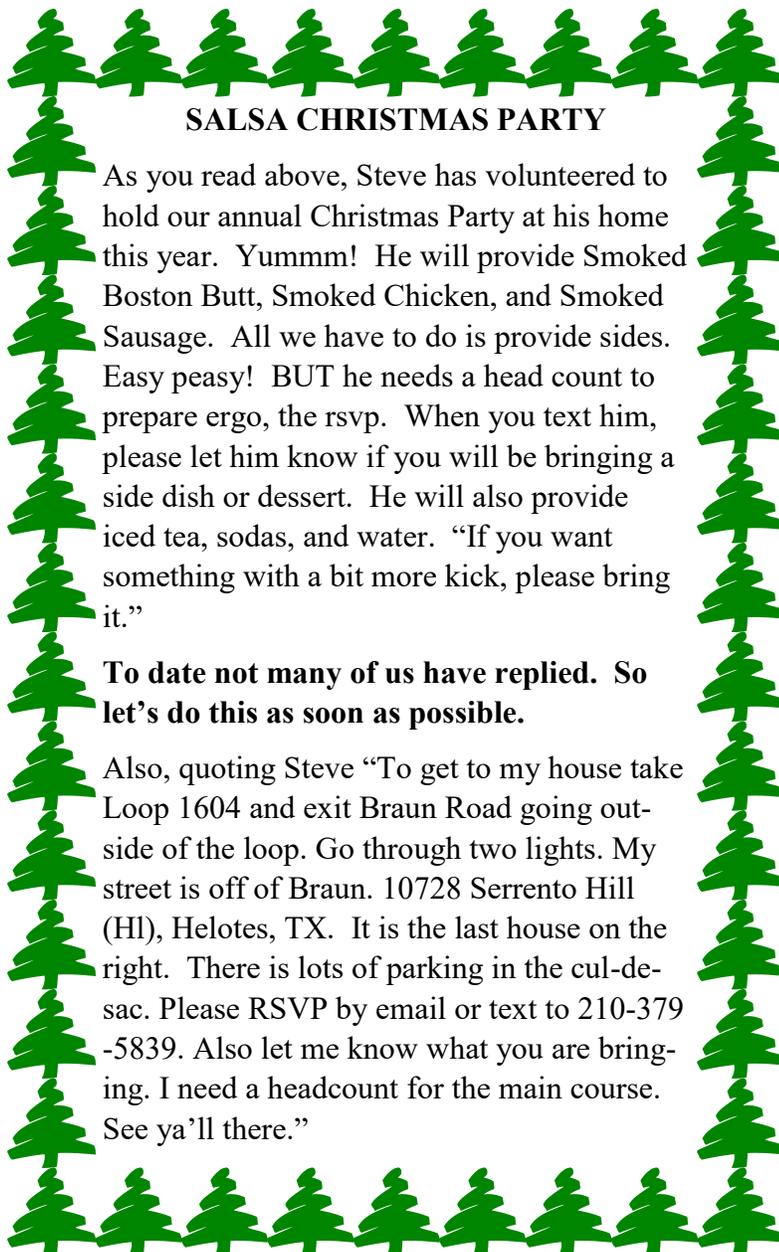
December 2018

Our monthly meeting for December will be the annual SALSA Christmas Party! Yay! It will be at Steve Ferguson's home from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on December 8, 2018. Steve's address is 10728 Serrento Hill, Helotes, Texas 78023. **Please RSVP by text at (210) 379-5839 as soon as possible.** He will have a telescope up on the patio (weather permitting) which also makes a good launch for drones, plus he will be 3D printing a model of the solar system during the party that will be the grand prize drawing for the evening! SEE YOU THERE!

Bryan Tobias had posted on the forum wherein he asks if anyone has any ideas for lecture topics and whether you are willing to give the lecture. I have taken a turn at the lectern and it was not bad at all. If anyone wants to present, but is shy, I am willing to work with you on a presentation. There are so many topics out there. This is your chance to provide your input on the direction you would like to see your astronomy group to take. -YOR

McAllister Park

Again and again Astronomy in the Park has been a bust. This cloudy weather will just not let up. I did make it out there on October 10, 2018. I was a really nice evening for stargazing. It was not too hot or cold. There was a slightly warm breeze blowing and staying out was easy. I was able to add another constellation to my list. Another day in November when viewing was good it was cold and being the only one out there decided to pack it in and leave early. Yep! I got a case of the chickened out. Nina went out the last week, but with windy conditions she called it early. Anyway, hopefully this month will prove better. At least the weather has been cooperating for amateur astronomers. -Yolanda O. Reyes



SALSA CHRISTMAS PARTY

As you read above, Steve has volunteered to hold our annual Christmas Party at his home this year. Yummm! He will provide Smoked Boston Butt, Smoked Chicken, and Smoked Sausage. All we have to do is provide sides. Easy peasy! BUT he needs a head count to prepare ergo, the rsvp. When you text him, please let him know if you will be bringing a side dish or dessert. He will also provide iced tea, sodas, and water. "If you want something with a bit more kick, please bring it."

To date not many of us have replied. So let's do this as soon as possible.

Also, quoting Steve "To get to my house take Loop 1604 and exit Braun Road going outside of the loop. Go through two lights. My street is off of Braun. 10728 Serrento Hill (Hl), Helotes, TX. It is the last house on the right. There is lots of parking in the cul-de-sac. Please RSVP by email or text to 210-379-5839. Also let me know what you are bringing. I need a headcount for the main course. See ya'll there."

All I Want for Christmas. . .if you are wondering what to get your kids for Christmas, wonder no more. Space.com has a list of the [Best Space Gifts for Kids 2018!](https://www.space.com/34669-kids-gifts.html) Here is a list

of toys that are current in theme and range from the usual telescopes to some

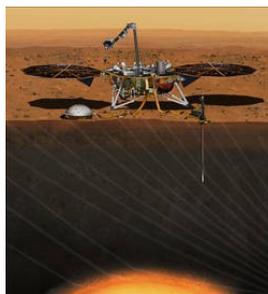


<https://www.space.com/34669-kids-gifts.html>

pretty fun stuff. How about the Supernova Flying Orb. A drone controlled with your hands! Excellent. Looks like fun.

- ★ New Moon: Dec. 7, 2018
- ★ First Quarter: Dec. 15, 2018
- ★ Full Moon: Dec. 22, 2018
- ★ Last Quarter: Dec. 29, 2018

<https://www.almanac.com/>



<https://marsmobile.jpl.nasa.gov/programmissions/missions/future/insight/>

Mars InSight

On November 26, 2018, the InSight mission arrived on Mars. Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) is a two year mission that will dig deep down into Mars surface. This will help scientists learn more about the formation of Mars and should already be actively relaying information back to NASA. InSight's landing was highly suc-

cessful and the celebration was seen the world over. Here is a short [clip](#) on This Week @NASA for November 30, 2018, that outlines the landing and other NASA news. We can expect lots of new information from InSight soon.

Mark Your Calendars

December 5, 2018: Sunset, Wednesday Night in the Park, McAllister Park, Dog Park

December 7, 2018: Sunset, First Friday Stargazing, UTSA Curtis Vaughn Observatory

December 8, 2018: 7:00 p.m. SALSA Monthly Meeting, Steve Ferguson's Home for the SALSA Christmas Party

December 12, 2018: Sunset, Wednesday Night in the Park, McAllister Park, Dog Park

December 19, 2018: Sunset, Astronomy in the Park, McAllister Park, Dog Park

December 26, 2018: Merry Christmas. No Astronomy in the Park, McAllister Park, Dog Park

Ok, so you are a reader, you too have a Christmas list available to you. [Here](#) is a list of the 12 Books of Christmas from *BBC Sky at Night Magazine*, with ratings. There are 6 books with 5/5 rating. I had to include this photo as it is just too cool!



UK astronaut Tim Peake pictured on the International Space Station tackling Isaac Newton's *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, after which his Principia mission was named.

Credits: ESA/NASA

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SALSA Internet sites:

Main Web Page: <http://salsa-astro.com/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/San-Antonio-League-of-Sidewalk-Astronomers-221942041183729/>



<https://www.almanac.com/content/full-moon-december>

Seriously, if you have any news or something you would like to include in this newsletter, please contact/text me, Yolanda O. Reyes (210) 837-1597. I try to have the newsletter out the first week of the month, before the monthly meeting, so contact me anytime before that week.