



THE OBSERVER

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS

Member of The Astronomical League

2009, International Year of Astronomy

<http://sbvaa.org/>

Volume #52, Issue 6

Since 1958

June, 2010

Meeting:

June 19, 2010

Location:

San Bernardino County
Museum, 7:00 p.m.
Redlands, CA. California
St. exit, I-10 Fwy.

Pre-meeting Dinner, 5:00
p.m., **NEW!!!**

The Sizzler
1800 So. Waterman
Ave.
San Bernardino, CA

After the meeting telescopes
will be set up for viewing
and members will be
available to answer
questions. Bring your
telescope to observe with us.

*No telescope is too humble,
and beginners are always
made welcome!*

After viewing the group will
head for Coco's in Redlands,
Tennessee exit, I-10 Fwy.

Program

Update on Cal State San Bernardino's Murillo Observatory

Dr. Leo Connolly of Cal State University, San Bernardino, will discuss the progress of the Campus's new Murillo Family Observatory that is being erected for use by students and public.



Artist's rendition of the completed observatory

SBVAA Officers

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 11, 12 & 13, Grandview (don't forget to take pictures!)

June 19, Club meeting at the Museum

July 17, Outreach Moon Party at the Museum

July 17, SCAE at OPT, Oceanside, CA. Attend the event and be back in time for the outreach listed above.

July 24, Club meeting at the Museum

Are the Rocket Ships Flying Tonight?

By Cliff Saucier

October 4, 1957, and my father had us kids out in the darkening evening sky. "Sputnik", he said gesturing as we scanned the night looking for the new wonder of our age, a mixture of awe and a probably little apprehension in his voice. We didn't see "the Sputnik", but it ignited something in all of us as the space race caught fire. Predawn television waiting for Alan Shepard to go suborbital. John Glenn orbiting the Earth. We knew all the names of the Mercury astronauts, and saw bright passes of the Echo satellites thanks to tables published in the local papers. Now having seen so many things, we have become a little jaded with our space adventures. Maybe we need to rephrase and call them what they used to be called, and bring some of the wonder and magic back. Rocket Ships! Spacemen (and, in due course, Spacewomen)!

Now this is the winding down of the flights of the Space Shuttle's many years of service, indeed, only three final flights scheduled for this year. We have all seen the bright International Space Station more times than can be counted, but the opportunities to catch it overhead with the undocked shuttle chasing it across the firmament are far rarer, but, oh, it makes the hair on the back of my neck stand on end when I've been fortunate enough to catch the sight. I feel like

knocking on doors in the neighborhood and exclaiming, "the Rocket ships are flying tonight!", but usually I just quietly celebrate my good fortune to live in such an age. Rocket Ships! How completely marvelous! Don't miss the few chances we have to see this sight. A day or two after launch, and the period after separation but before the fiery journey back home are our opportunities. The clouds may try and thwart our efforts, the orbital elements may not line up for us at the right time, you may have to look in the hour before dawn, but make the attempt. You will be richly rewarded!

Congratulations to Matt Wedel

Congratulations are in order for our own Matt Wedel who recently was awarded the Astronomical League's Binocular Messier Observer Award.

To be eligible for this award you must be a member of the Astronomical League either through a local club or as a member at large and observe and record fifty or more Messier objects using only binoculars. The required information is: The name of the object; date and time of the observation; an estimate of the seeing and transparency; the size and power of the binoculars used; and perhaps, a brief comment on what you saw. The info is then submitted to the A.L.