



The Observer

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS
Member of The Astronomical League
<http://sbvaa.org/>



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Since 1958

August, 2018

Meeting:

August 4, 2018

Location:

Pico Park
21950 Pico St.
Grand Terrace,
CA

4:30 to 8:00 p.m.

There won't be time for evening viewing but, if you have some solar equipment you might try for a bit of late afternoon "sun fun."

Program

Annual Club BBQ

It's On!



As in years past, we don't have a regular club meeting in August, instead we have a social get-together. **On Saturday, August 4, we'll meet at Pico Park in Grand Terrace.**

Set up will begin about 4:30 pm or so and eating will commence after 5:00 pm. Our reservation ends at 8:00 p.m.

Bring any kind of food you like, and everyone usually shares what they have. If you can't bring food, we always need napkins, plasticware, paper plates and beverages too.

And there will be a raffle. — all sorts of "goodies" provided by Chris.

It's a nice opportunity to simply chat and hang out with your fellow members.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug. 11, Outreach, Pioneer Town

Sept. 1, Club Meeting

Sept. 7-9, GRANDVIEW

*Sept. 18, Outreach, Dominguez School,
San Bernardino*

*Sept. 21, Outreach, San Bernardino
County Museum, Redlands*

Oct. 6, Club Meeting

Oct. 13, Outreach, Oak Glen

Nov. 3, Club Meeting



Return to The Museum! September 21.

Yes, we are returning to the Museum to do out-reaches. Chris worked with the Museum's new director to put things in place.

Instead of the main parking lot, we will set up on the far western side of the buildings. There is good road access, parking and a good spot to set up our scopes.

The event is scheduled from 8:00 to 10:00 pm and there will be other astronomy related activities going on in the museum that those folks will be doing.

We'll have Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Venus and the moon to observe, so it is truly a "Planets on Parade" event.

Setup time is around 7:30.

The Perseids Are Coming (we hope!)

After midnight on August 11 & 12, will be the best time to catch the peak of the Perseid meteor activity, Up to sixty meteors per hour is expected but we all know that it can be much better (or worse) than that. This year the Moon will be a waxing crescent and should set well before the potential peak. And of course, there is always a chance of a big bolide putting on a show.



Mars Putting On a Show



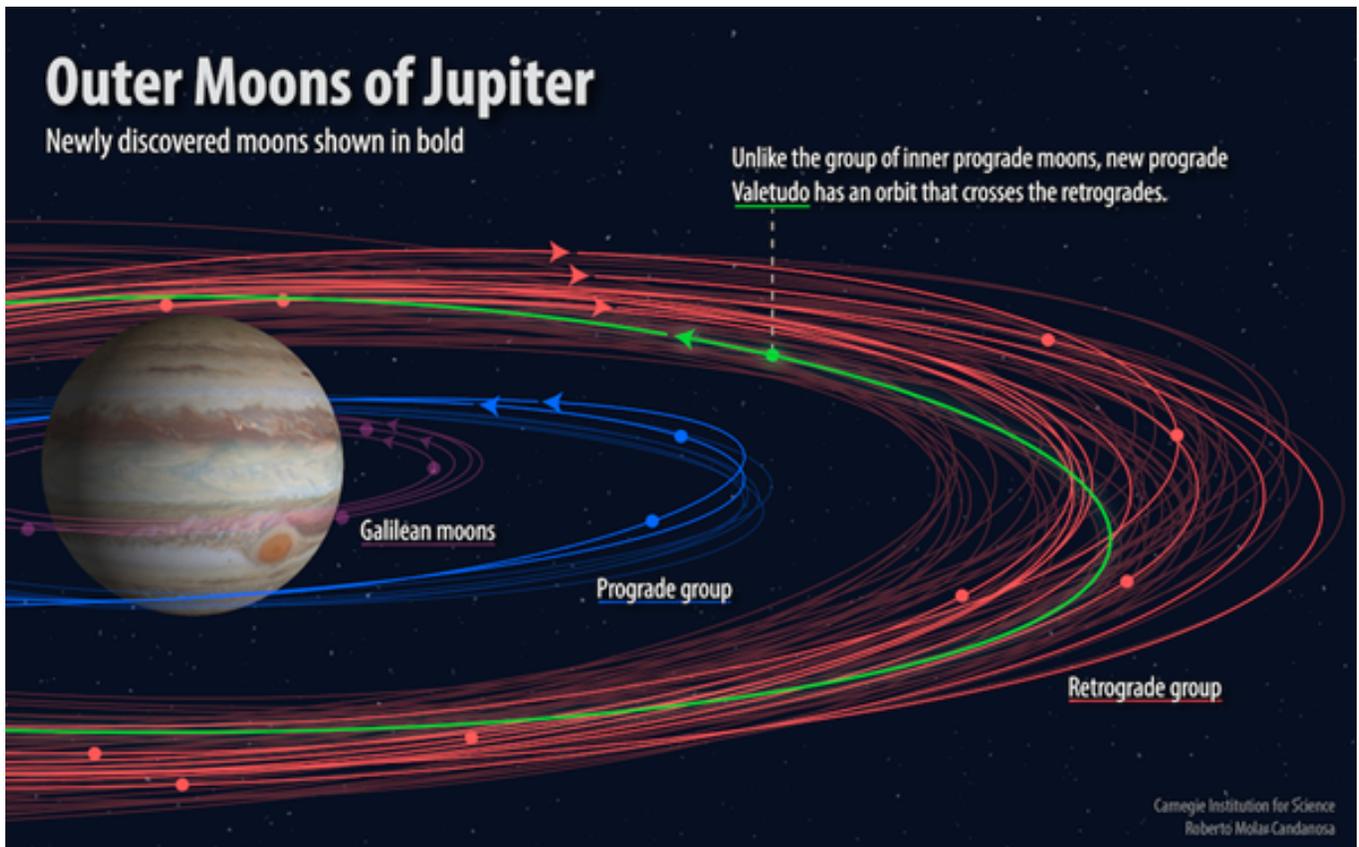
On July 31, Mars will be closer to Earth than it has been in 15 years. July and August will be a great time to check out Mars. Through a telescope, you should normally be able to make out some of the light and dark features of the Red Planet—and sometimes even polar ice. However, a huge Martian dust storm is obscuring these features right now, so less planetary detail is visible.

Mars opposition is happening on July 27 this year.

Mars should be brightly visible for several months offering observers great views of “The Red Planet.” John Carter, are you there?



Twelve More Moons for Jupiter



Discoveries during the last year have brought Jupiter's moon count to 79! Oddly enough, the discoveries came while astronomers were searching for the speculative "Planet IX" using the Blanco 4M telescope on Kitt Peak.

One moon (newly named Valetudo) caught the researchers' attention.

Of the 79 moons now known, most orbit in the same direction as other moons nearest them. The moons closer to Jupiter, including the four Galilean satellites, orbit Jupiter in the same direction as the planet's rotation — astronomers call this a prograde orbit. The outer moons move in the opposite direction — a retrograde orbit.

It's out where the outer, retrograde moons are, but it's orbiting Jupiter in the prograde direction, driving into the oncoming traffic. The curious find might shed light on how many of Jupiter's current moons were formed.

Unlike the huge Galilean moons, most of Jupiter's moons, including the new twelve, are between a mile and a few tens of miles across. The outer moons are clustered in at least three groups based on their distances from Jupiter and the angles of their orbits, and astronomers think these moons are fragments of three larger objects that were captured by Jupiter's gravity and later broken up by collisions — though whether that was with passing comets, rogue asteroids, or other moons is unclear.

(For more info go to astronomy.com, July 25)