

Vandenberg Amateur Astronomical Society
presents
The Sidereal Times

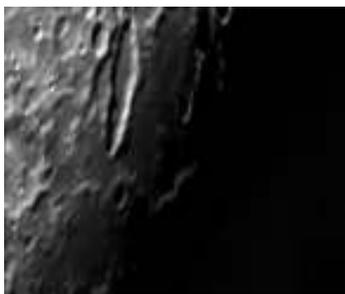


Flame Nebula See Page 5.

Meeting News:

At the April Meeting we reviewed Night Sky Net with Dave McNally. Aim is to expand it to be useful to all Viewers. Dave picked several of us to participate. Watched a video by Dr. Tyson on death of the Sun and the universe.

**Reminder: VAAS meeting May 10th
Manzanita school, Hope to see you there.**



Lunar Calendar:

Last ¼ 31 May
New 10 May
First ¼ 18 May
Full 25 May

Presidents Message

The next Membership meeting will be on Friday 10 May starting at 7PM. In the early evening you'll be able to see the bright planets in order from West to East: Venus, Jupiter and Saturn putting on a bright light show. Mercury will also put in a cameo appearance in late May. Not to be out done the bright stars: Capella, Sirius, Vega and Arcturus are also putting on a show of their own. This is the last month to view Jupiter in the evening before it is lost in the glare of the Sun. Other events in May include the Eta Aquarids meteor shower on nights of 4 and 5 May. Look towards the constellation Aquarius. Also on 25 May there will be penumbral lunar eclipse (the Moon is not in the full shadow of Earth). We'll have the normal meeting followed by a video presentation this month and the New Moon star party on 11 May up at Figueroa Mountain. However, the way the marine layer has been very heavy along the coast lately, I doubt that the 3rd Quarter Moon star party will be conducted at the Observatory. Which brings me to the topic of performing some light maintenance on the Observatory; we need to vacuum out the spider webs that have been collecting in there. Can we get a few volunteers for a Saturday morning in May?
Cheers
Dave

May 4th Star party at VAAS Observatory.

May 4 and 5 Aquarids Meteor Shower an above average Meteor shower producing up to 80 meteors per hour. It is Produced by dust particles left behind by comet Halley. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight.

May 10th Annular Solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is Too far away from the Earth to completely cover the Sun. This results in a ring of light around the darkened Moon. The Sun's corona is not visible during an annular eclipse.

May 11th Star Party Figueroa Mountain.

May 18th Star party at VAAS Observatory.

May 25th Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter. A rare event Where 2 or more objects appear extremely close together In the night sky. The 2 bright planets will be within 1 Degree of each other in the night sky. The planet Mercury Will also be visible nearby. Look to the west near Sunset. **Also on this date** there will be a penumbral Lunar eclipse. During this type of eclipse the Moon will darken slightly But not completely. The eclipse will be visible throughout North America, western Europe and Africa.

Some April Star parties were cancelled due to weather.

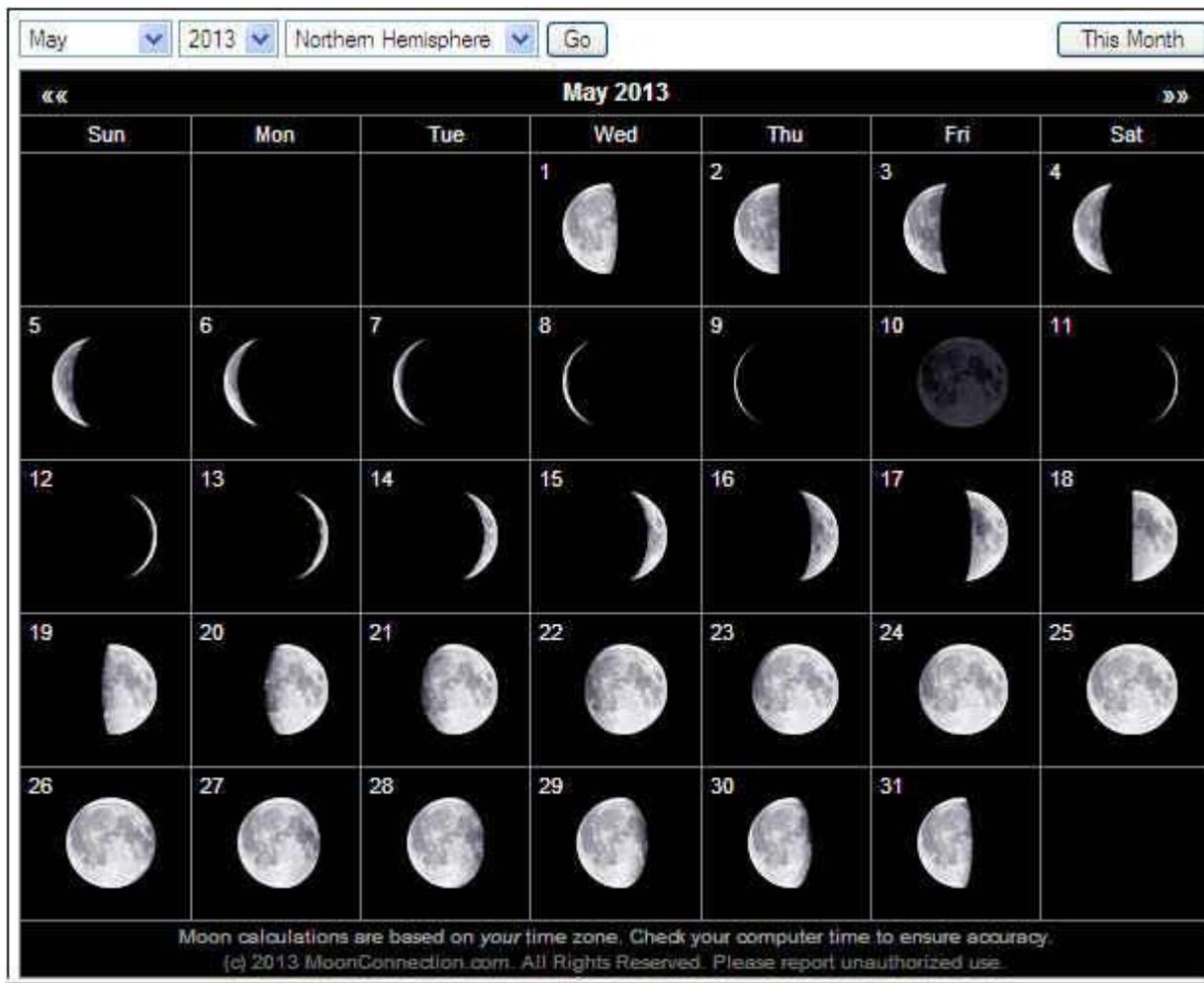


For what its worth

Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram (H-R) is a scatter graph of stars showing the relationship between the stars absolute magnitudes or luminosities versus their spectral types or classifications and effective temperatures. H-R diagrams are not pictures or maps of the locations of the stars. Rather they plot each star on a graph measuring the star's absolute magnitude or brightness against its temperature and color. The diagram was created circa 1910 by Ejnar Hertzsprung and Henry Norris Russell and represents a major step towards an understanding of stellar evolution...the lives of stars.

April 13 Star party The stars showed up for the star party at Site 1.5, but only one club member was there to witness the beautiful skies. A nice waxing crescent moon presided in the west, with Jupiter as vice president. It took a while for it to get dark enough, but Comet PanSTARRS was visible through my binoculars and ETX telescope. When I viewed Jupiter through the 8" scope, I felt like I might be saying farewell since it is getting low in the evening twilight, but it was nice to say hello to Saturn again, too. It's that time of year when the Milky Way is almost horizontal in the early night, so you don't see much of it unless you stay late. The ecliptic was making a large angle with the horizon at the same time, with Leo up at about 60° altitude; I wondered if I would have seen the Zodiacal Light if the moon hadn't been up. I've been up at Site 1.5 several times without any accompaniment and never before had any concern about being "alone in the woods". This time I got a scare, however. I heard something crashing through the brush to the west, so I jumped in my car, closed the door, and got a white flashlight from the glove box. With no one else there, I definitely felt more vulnerable; All I could see was a hulking black silhouette with reflections coming straight back to me from two eyes. The scary beast was just a cow..... I think.Vince. *It is not a good idea to be up there by your self. Mountain Lions are silent killers, Bears are another threat.*

May Moon



Full 25 May, 1st Q 18 May, Last Q 31 May, New 10 May

Moon Folklore

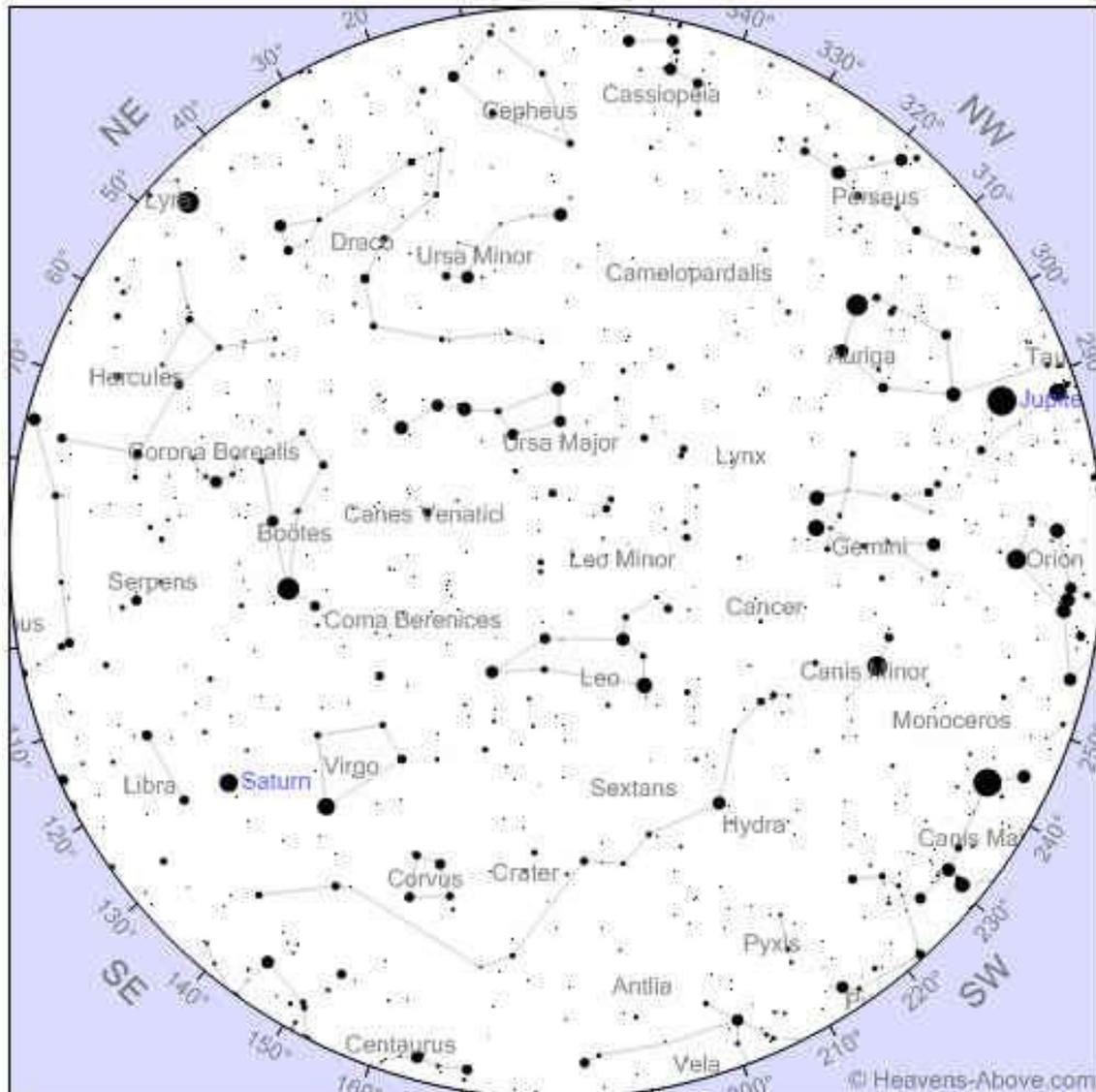
To see a crescent Moon over the right shoulder was considered lucky but seeing it over the left shoulder was unlucky.

If a new moon falls on a Saturday it is said that there will be 20 days of wind and rain.

A ring around the Moon means there will be rain or snow.

MAY Sky

Objects of interest: M13, M57, Saturn, Virgo cluster



Time

Year	2013	Month	5	Day	1	Hour	21	Minute	27
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Photo Courtesy Vahan Yeterian



The Flame nebula also known as NGC 2024 is a stellar nursery located about 1500 light year from our solar system. The nebula is a region of star formation that is in the process of forming a star cluster. It is located in the constellation of Orion near the star known as Alnitak (Zeta Orionis) the eastern most star of Orion's belt and shines energetic ultra violet light into the flame and this knocks electrons away from the great clouds of hydrogen gas that resides there. Much of the glow results when the electrons and ionized hydrogen recombine. Much of the gas and dust lies in the front part of the nebula and is what causes the dark network that appears in the center of the glowing gas. The flame nebula is part of the Orion Molecular Cloud Complex, a star forming region which includes the Horse Head Nebula. Photo capture was accomplished using a 12 inch SCT and DSI 2 CCD camera. Exposure time 15 seconds per frame for 12 frames then combined and processed.

Club Officers



President
Dave Covey



Treasurer
Liberty Partridge



Vice President
Vince Tobin



Newsletter Editor
Vahan Yeterian

*“Astronomy compels the soul to look upward,
and leads us from this world to another”.*
(Plato)



Club Meeting

Club meeting 10 May 2013 7 PM
Manzanita school
Hope to see you there.....

Star Parties (as always weather permitting)

Other Astronomy Club Meetings

Central Coast Astronomical Society

Link to web site...

<http://www.centralcoastastronomy.org/>

Santa Barbara Astronomical Unit

Link to web site...

[http:// www.sbau.org/#AU_EVENTS_Calendar](http://www.sbau.org/#AU_EVENTS_Calendar)

Night Time Bright Objects (no scope required)

Link to “Heavens Above” web site

[http:// www.heavens-above.com/](http://www.heavens-above.com/)

(Iridium Satellite)

(ISS Visible Pass)

Be sure to set the nearest location from their pull-down menu.

The web site link below will take you to some Great Milky Way interactive images and how It was developed. (Type it in the search box.)

<http://skysurvey.org/>

VAAS web site that includes a discussion group.

Vince Tobin runs the web site and sends reminders to those that have registered into the discussion group.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/vaastronomy/>