

Vandenberg Amateur Astronomical Society
presents
The Sidereal Times



NGC 1788 reflection nebula (Orion) See Page 5.

Meeting News:

At the May meeting we discussed Vince's Adventure on Figueroa Mtn. Watched a video about Night Sky. Have a new club member Diana Reid Welcome to VAAS. Discussed Star Parties.

**Reminder: VAAS meeting June 14th
Manzanita school, Hope to see you there.**



Lunar Calendar:

Last $\frac{1}{4}$ 30 June
New 8 June
First $\frac{1}{4}$ 16 June
Full 23 June

Presidents Message

The next Membership meeting will be on Friday 14 June starting at 7PM. This will be the last membership meeting until Friday 13 September (oh what a lucky day!). We'll continue to have the star parties as weather permits during the summer break. Do check your e-mails for star party reminders and other event notices.

In the evening you'll be able to see the bright planet Saturn. It is now taking center stage and looking quite exceptional if the atmospheric conditions are good. The ring structure is nicely tilted such that one could spend some time looking at Saturn's features before taking it all in.

Mercury is another bright planet that is visible in the early evening. It is normally difficult to see because it is so close to the Sun; however Mercury's orbit is not perfectly circular. Late May and early June is the next time that Mercury will be visible.

June is also the last month this year to find Omega Centauri (Caldwell 80, NGC 5139), a really big globular cluster, above our Southern horizon. Omega Centauri is at declination -47.5° or about 13° above the local horizon and that assumes that there are no hills in the way. On a good dark night it can easily be located with binoculars and perhaps even with your eyes alone. In a small telescope, it becomes a spectacular sight. So it is definitely worth the effort to find it! The Figueroa Mountain sites 1 and 1.5 are good locations for trying your skills in finding it. Just remember to take a star chart and at least binoculars. Good hunting!

Cheers
Dave

June 1 or 29 Star party at VAAS Observatory.

June 8th Star Party Figueroa Mountain site 1.5
A New Moon or this star party.

June 12th Mercury at greatest eastern elongation, farthest
From the Sun. It will be at its highest point in the night
Sky after sunset. Best time to view Mercury.

June 15th Star Party VAAS Observatory.

June 21st The June Solstice occurs at 05:04 UTC. This is
The first day of summer in the Northern hemisphere.

June 23rd The Moon is directly opposite the Earth from
The Sun as seen from the Earth, the result is a FULL
MOON

When you have a chance I highly recommend you take
Some time and visit Our VAAS web site. David McNally
Has done an excellent rebuild and formatting the site.
Look it over in detail I am sure you will be pleasantly
Surprised. It is easy to navigate and much new information
Is imbedded. <http://home.comcast.net/~vaas/>

Some May Star parties were cancelled due to weather.



**Note: This will be the last Newsletter until
September. July and August is our normal
Summer break.**

**During this period the membership will
be notified via email of any scheduled Activities
such as star parties or other functions.**

13 May 2013
Vahan and Dave did some maintenance on the inside
Of the VAAS observatory. Clean up and removal of
Spider webs and general dirt and dust. Fixed the Telrad.

Star Party Reports:

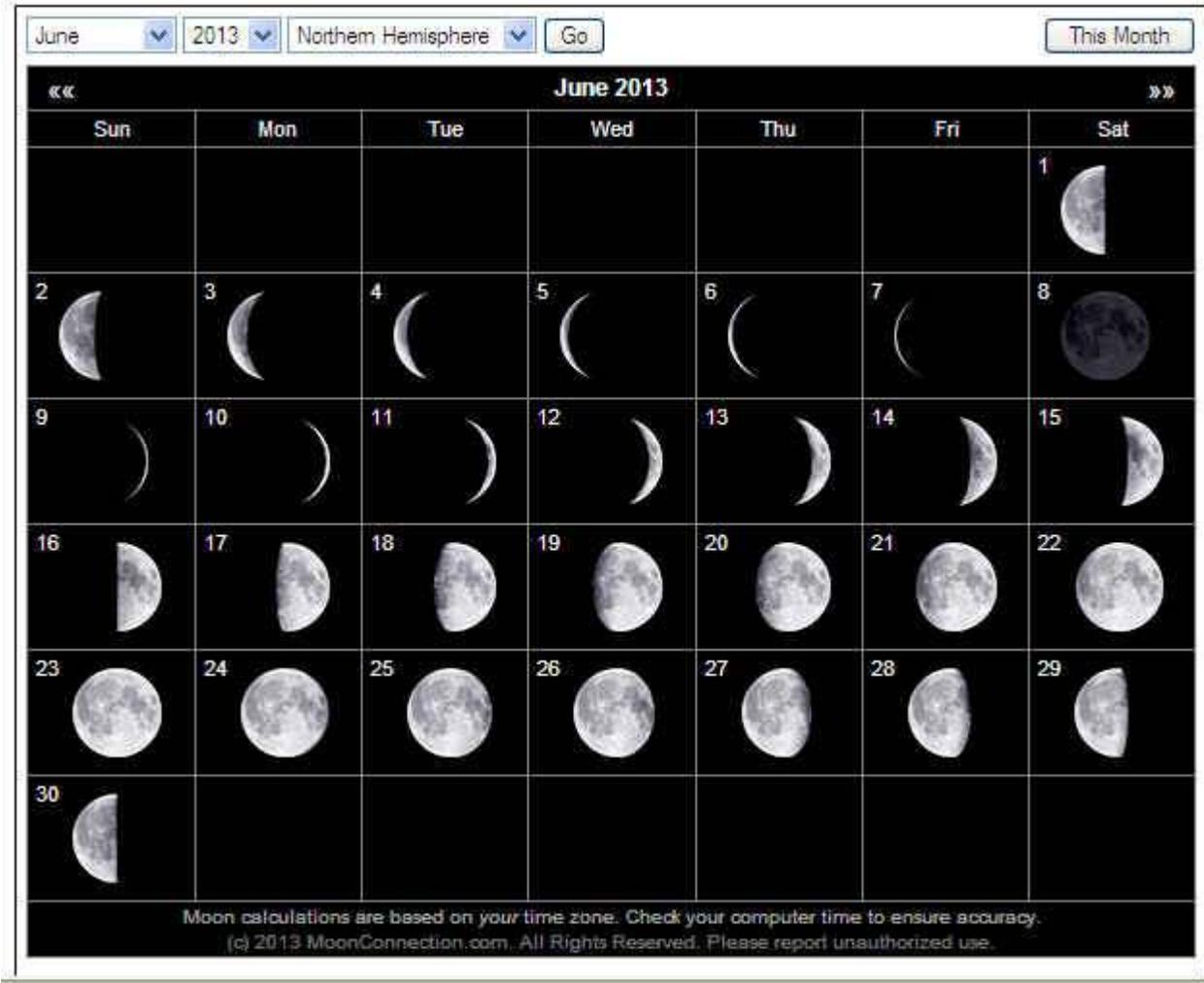
11 May Figueroa Mountain site 1.5
A few VAAS members, Vince Tobin, Vahan
Yeterian and Dave Covey, gathered just around
sunset. At first the sky condition didn't look very
promising, the East direction was mostly cloudy
and haze was along the South and West
horizons. Shortly after sunset the clouds
dissipated leaving the haze near the horizon.
Top of the order for viewing that night were
Venus, Jupiter and the Moon before they set.
Next was Saturn. We went back to Saturn a few
times during the night as it climbed higher into
the night sky and the viewing got better. Saturn
didn't disappoint us.

We then turned our attention to Omega Centauri
(Caldwell 80, NGC 5139). It is one of the better
globular cluster that we can view in the Northern
Hemisphere, but just. By that I mean that only
about 2 maybe 3 months out of the year it is just
above the horizon for us in Santa Barbara
County/San Luis Obispo County. At first it was
very difficult to spot even with telescopes due to
the low contrast conditions caused by the haze
layer. However, later that night the haze layer
diminished and the contrast become much
better such that we could spot it using
binoculars.

We spotted several other deep sky objects such
as M13 (Great Hercules Cluster), M3 (globular
cluster), M68 (globular cluster), M51 (Whirlpool
Galaxy), M101 (Spiral Galaxy), M95 (Barred
Spiral Galaxy), M97 (Owl Nebula), M105
(Elliptical Galaxy) and NGC 3242/ Caldwell 59
(Planetary Nebula named "Ghost of Jupiter").
Vahan and Dave left the site about midnight.
Vince followed less than an hour later.
All-in-all a good full night of viewing was had by
all.

(See page 6 pictures)

JUNE Moon



Full 23 June, 1st Q 16 June, Last Q 30 June, New 8 June

Moon Folklore

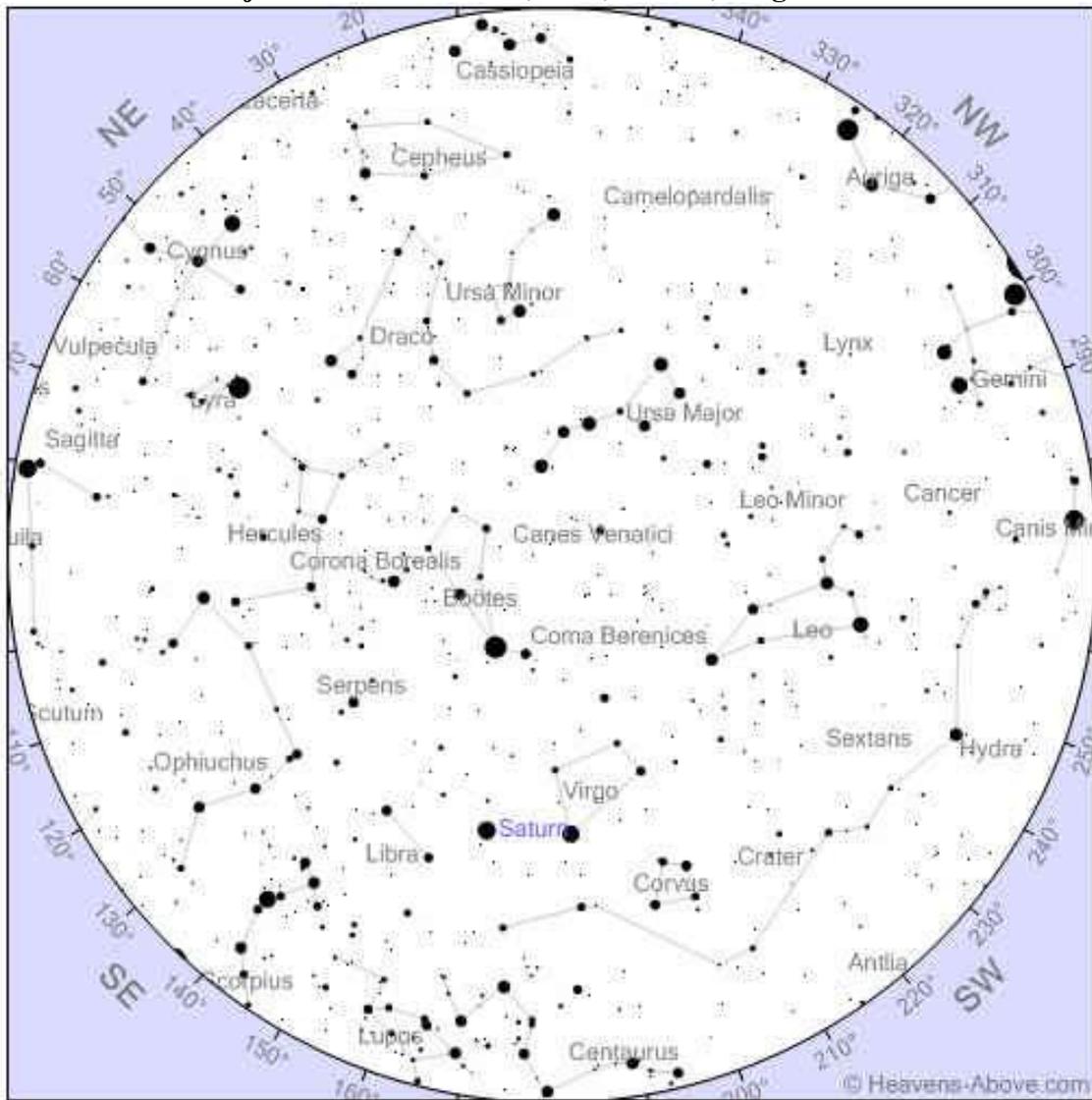
This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Strawberry Moon because it signaled the time of year to gather ripening fruit.

It also coincides with the peak of the Strawberry harvesting season.

This Moon has also been known as the Full Rose Moon and the Full Honey Moon.

JUNE Sky

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



Time

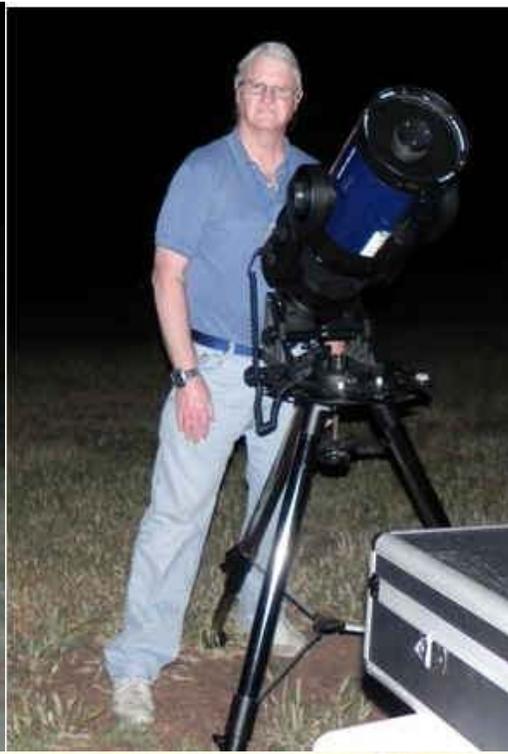
Year	2013	Month	6	Day	5	Hour	5	Minute	38
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Photo Courtesy Gary Satterfield



NGC 1788 a reflection nebula in the constellation of Orion approximately 800 light years distant. This busy star scape is laden with hundreds and perhaps thousands of baby stars many of them being hot massive blue white stars. These energetic stars emit ultra Violet light through the confines of the nebula ionizing the Hydrogen gas and dust clouds that make it and the dust clouds so intricate. Most notably is the bright star Rigel (Beta Orionis). Overall this star is the brightest star located in the Orion constellation and is the 6th brightest star in the galaxy. The photograph was captured by Gary Satterfield with his 8 inch RCT Celestron Hypertuned mount and Canon DSLR and much Image processing of multiple timed exposures.

Star Party Pictures



The Wild Bunch

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 14 June 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/>