

Offered Title: Hello 2017

Welcome to another beginning. 2017 is looking like a good year for getting outside and checking on our celestial neighborhood. Well, any year is a good year for this but this is 2017, this is now, and the future is ahead. Astronomical opportunities are at your fingertips.

First, a plug for the New Braunfels Astronomy Club (NBAC). We are a bunch of fun loving and dedicated members who meet once per month to share wild and crazy stories of astronomical exploits. OK, not wild, not usually crazy, but absolutely astronomical! If you have an interest in astronomy, maybe received a telescope for Christmas, or just want to get out of the house, come on! We meet on the third Thursday of the month at TJ's Burgers, at 7:00 p.m...in the back room. Grab a burger and grab a seat. Check our website, nbastronomy@gmail.com for more information.

Next, a plug for Tye Preston Memorial Library (TPML) in Canyon Lake. Did you know they have an observatory? Yes, TPML is one of a very few libraries in the US with its own observatory. One Saturday each month everyone is invited to join in the festivities of Astronomy Night. Library staff and members of the NBAC entertain you with astronomy! You will get a quick update in the library followed by a short walk up observatory hill and telescopic views of our beautiful starry sky. The library's observatory houses a Celestron 11" telescope and NBAC members set up their own scopes for your viewing pleasure. Here is the schedule for 2017: January 21, 7 – 9 pm; February 18, 7 – 9 pm; March 18, 8:30 – 10:30 pm; April 15, 8:30 – 10:30 pm; May 13, 3:30 – 5 pm SUN PARTY, we will use a variety of telescopes to get closer to our closest star; August 26, 6:30 – 8:30 pm inside the library for a TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE REVIEW. For June, July, and August we do not go to the observatory because it gets dark too late. For more information go to TPML's website, www.tpml.org.

Did you notice the eclipse review on August 26th listed for TPML? As a reminder, if you are thinking of witnessing the total solar eclipse on August 21st 2017 now is a good time for planning. I predict all campgrounds, hotels, motels, B&Bs, RV parks, etc. will get filled up so get your reservation soon.

What's in the Sky?

What? Another meteor shower? Yep, another chance to kick back with family and friends, a cozy beverage in hand, and let those space pebbles do their thing. The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks at 1 a.m. CST on the 3rd. There will be no Moon to spoil the fun. Look to the east-northeast. The constellation Boötes (the ox driver or plowman) will be up, with its bright orange star Arcturus. Boötes forms the radiant, generally where these meteors appear to emanate.