

THE OBSERVER

BATTLE POINT ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

WWW.BPASTRO.ORG BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA



DID YOU KNOW?

YOUR RITCHIE 27.5 INCH REFLECTING TELESCOPE IS THE LARGEST PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE TELESCOPE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST? REALLY! TELL YOUR FRIENDS. WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE SCOPE IS BACK IN SERVICE AND READY TO HOST VISITORS!

2020 Officers

Frank Petrie, President
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Steve Ruhl, Chief Scientist
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Letter From The President

Frank Petrie

BPAA Members and Friends,

Welcome to this first year of a new decade! Let's make it a year of progress for your Battle Point Astronomical Association. We'll start with this newsletter, THE OBSERVER, the first newsletter we've produced in six years. It will come out monthly, and feature news about our association, as well as items from other observatories and the universe at large. Feel free to forward it to non-members and others whom you think might be interested. We want this newsletter to help build our membership.

*Also, this year, we will complete the re-build of our 27.5 inch Ritchie reflecting telescope control system. This has been a several -
(continued, next page)*

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BATTLE POINT ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

(letter from The President, continued)

year project that will be described by Nels Johansen, our Chief Astronomer, in next month's issue.

In a future issue we will feature our Chief Scientist, Steve Ruhl, who takes beautiful, world-class, deep-space photographs from right here on Bainbridge Island. You don't have to be on a mountain-top in Peru or Hawaii. Steve will explain how and where he does it.

Also, our Director of Education, Dr. Erica Saint Clair, conceives, promotes, and conducts some of the best youth education science programs to be found anywhere, and hundreds of Bainbridge Island youths have benefited.

So, let's enjoy 2020 at BPAA, and make it one of the best Astronomical years ever!

Frank

IN THE MARCH ISSUE we'll talk about Regulus, the brightest star in the spring constellation of Leo the Lion - but it is actually *two* stars, a binary pair, orbiting one another! And "it" is less than 80 light years away! That's *close* - in cosmic terms. We'll show you where and tell you when (what time of evening) to find it.

Battle Point Astronomical Association
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Calendar of Events

(unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Edwin Ritchie Observatory, Battle Point Park)

Feb. 2 - 1st qtr. moon - evening sky

Feb. 8 - BPAstro Kids GARDEN TIME
4 pm with Dr. Erica Saint Clair

Feb. 9 - Full Moon

Feb. 15 - Celebrate Valentine's Day as Astronomer Dave Fong presents TALES of LOVE and LOSS, ancient Greek Star Stories (to amuse)

Feb. 15 - 3rd qtr. moon

Feb. 23 - New Moon (not visible)

WHAT'S UP!

Launch of the 2020 Mars Rover is planned for July 20 and should touch down on or about February 18 of 2021. It will search for evidence of past microbial life, sub-surface water, O₂, and other information to help assess future human colonization for scientific purposes.

Launch of the James Webb Telescope, planned successor to the Hubble Telescope, is scheduled for late March of 2021 and will be "parked" in space at a point almost a million miles (1,500,000 km) in nearly null sun/earth gravity. It's 6.5 meter reflecting mirror is over two-and-one-half times the size of the Hubble reflector.



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