

## **Backbayastro Yahoo Group Forum Guidelines**

Welcome to the Backbayastro Yahoo Group astronomy forum. Many, if not most of our members, are also members of the Back Bay Amateur Astronomers (BBAA) astronomy club in the Tidewater ("Hampton Roads") area of southeastern Virginia. This group was established as a place where current or prospective BBAA members (or anyone who observes in the Tidewater or elsewhere) can come for assistance with astronomy related subjects and/or advice on how to get the maximum enjoyment from the astronomy endeavor. Of course, anybody who has an interest in astronomy in Southeastern Virginia (and northeast North Carolina) is welcome. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

- 1) Be respectful. As our Group owner says "Speak as if you were speaking to your grandmother." These boards can deteriorate quickly if people are not respectful of each other.
- 2) This is an un-moderated board. That means once you post something such as a message or file, it is OUT there on the great and global Internet for all to see. A good rule of thumb for posts is that if you would not say it in front of the intended recipient in mixed company, perhaps it does not need to be said publicly and should be directed as a private post. Once you have posted, it generally can't be retracted. We are un-moderated as each member has been through a vetting process and is expected to post with respect and consideration for others. Remember, that due to cultural differences, not everyone may UNDERSTAND you exactly and most importantly, there is no such thing as a SARCASM font, so folks tend to take things literally.
- 3) Check the Files section. There are a number of documents posted to help people get started. They have assisted many new users in getting started.
- 4) Search the Archives. Many topics have been discussed at length in the forum. Before posting, do a couple of searches and check the User Tips documents. If you still can't find it, absolutely post your question.
- 5) Help manage the message traffic. With up to a hundred messages posted each day, it is important to use good practices to keep long or extraneous posts to a minimum: Stay on topic. BBAA, General Astronomy, etc.; cut & paste only the relevant passages from original messages when replying. Don't post thank you notes for every reply -- usually one post thanking several people is more than enough.
- 6) Have Fun. Let's not take ourselves too seriously, here. This is supposed to be fun and entertaining as well as educational. Let's help generate enthusiasm for a truly awe-inspiring hobby and profession.

Best regards from the BBAA Moderator team.

And may your days/night be star-filled and cloud-free.