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# ASTROBYTES



by *Budd Howard*

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## Introduction to Astrobytes

Welcome to "Astrobytes", a weekly column dedicated to those interested in astronomy and the natural wonder that occurs as we look up on a clear starry night.

Astrobytes is geared to the excitement of astronomy and how our understanding of the universe around us has evolved from the past to the present. We'll look at the future of astronomy and learn of incredibly huge ground based telescopes coming on-line, and talk about space satellites and space telescopes of the twenty-first century.

Mt. Cuba is about to break ground for a new 1.3-meter (51-inch) research telescope. Though not as huge as those mentioned above, Mt. Cuba's 1.3m telescope will be the largest in Delaware and the largest (operating) research telescope on the east coast. Current and new telescopes and satellites are already generating enormous amounts of data. Much of the data contain objects of interests that those same satellites and telescopes do not have much time, if any, to go back and study further. That is where large ground based "meter-class" telescopes such as the new 1.3m telescope at Mt. Cuba will allow astronomers opportunities to "follow-up" on new objects of interest. There won't be enough telescopes, astronomers and computers available by the end of this decade and beyond to investigate what may be the most abundant raw astronomical data that modern astronomy has ever produced.

Each week we'll discuss a different topic of astronomy. We won't delve much on what's visible in the weekly nighttime sky. Multiple sources for such information can be found at:

- 1) MCAO's web site: <http://mountcuba.org/> and scroll down to "The Manager's Page". There you will find several links under "Interesting Astronomical Websites".
- 2) For weekly stargazing information go to: <https://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/sky-at-a-glance/>
- 3) For information on when to see a nightly International Space Station fly-over go to: <https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/>
- 4) The 10 Best Space and Astronomy sites: <https://armaghplanet.com/the-10-best-space-and-astronomy-sites.html>

Astrobytes will keep you abreast of any new interesting or upcoming events in the nighttime skies. The next Astrobytes article "***Thar She Blows! Well, Maybe***" we'll talk about a red giant star in the constellation Orion and why astronomers are watching it very closely.

## ***Look Up and Wonder!***

*Budd Howard is a Technical Associate at Mt. Cuba Astronomical Observatory and Research Associate for the Delaware Asteroseismic Research Center based at MCAO. Copyright © 2020 by Budd Howard. All rights reserved. Please don't use Astrobytes material without written permission.*