



# SHENANDOAH ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

April 2011

**SAS Meeting April 11  
Lord Fairfax Community College  
7:00 P. M. in the Board Room**

Alan and I are going to bring our favorite astronomy book or one of our favorites to share with the rest of you. So we are inviting each of you to also bring one of your favorite astronomy items to share with us.

If time allows, then we might conclude with a presentation if the computer system in the Board Room is working OK.

So we hope to see everyone for this meeting as we are heading for warmer weather and the chance of some good observing sessions.

## **Historic First: A Spacecraft Orbits Mercury**

**Posted by Paul Walsh on  
3/18/2011**

NASA Messenger orbiter has successfully achieved orbit around Mercury at approximately 9 p.m. EDT on Thursday, March 17. This marks the first time a spacecraft has accomplished this engineering and scientific milestone at our solar system's innermost planet.



**Posted by [Guy Pirro](#) on  
3/27/2011**

By applying today's state-of-the-art seismological techniques to Apollo-era data, researchers at NASA are coming to the conclusion that our moon has a core similar to Earth's. Although sophisticated satellite imaging missions to the moon have made significant contributions to the study of its history and topography, the deep interior of the moon has remained a subject of much speculation and conjecture.

These two news clips are from the [ASTROMART.COM](#) site where there are other news items in the NEWS section.

One item is about the "Super Moon" we heard about and likely went outside to get a look at. Interesting article I don't have room for here, look there.  
**J. Adkins**