The Southern California Desert Video Astronomers set up super scopes for stunning stargazing. They will offer tours of the sky during Saturday's Starry Nights Festival.

Fest fixes up cosmic events

By Rebecca Unger
Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA VALLEY — Celebrate the Hi-Desert's dark skies with family and friends at the Starry Nights Festival in the community center complex Saturday.

From 11 to 11:30 a.m., school-age youngsters will get a hands-on introduction to astronomy at the Hi-Desert Nature Museum's Science Saturday.

The Starry Nights extravaganza kicks off when gates officially open at noon. There are always free goods like astronomy magazines.

Beginning at 1 p.m., visitors will enjoy hours of cosmic presentations in the community center's Yucca Room. Topics range from the Northern Lights, solar discoveries and the science behind the 2012 predictions.

From 7 to 8 p.m., the Yucca Room hosts a buffet reception, and treats the eyes to the earthly delights of the Jewels of the Desert belly-dancing troupe.

Fortified by coffee and chocolate, you're ready to ratchet up your sense of wonder at the Southern California Desert Video Astronomers star party from 8 to 10 p.m. in the back parking lot and lawns. Bring a jacket, blanket, folding chair and even your own binoculars, as the SCDVA members lead the tour through the planets and constellations of the autumn sky.

This annual event is sponsored by the town of Yucca Valley and the Hi-Desert Nature Museum and is free thanks to the support of the Andromeda Society astronomy club.

The community center and the museum are located next to each other at the Town Hall/library complex off Dumosa Avenue.

For information, call the museum at (760) 369-7212 or log on to www.hidesertnaturemuseum.org.