



www.holland-saaa.org

The Shoreline  
Observer

January 2026

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Our 2026 membership dues are due now. Please visit the linked page below to pay your dues. **THANK YOU!**

## Reception and Artist Talk

January 9th, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

At the Holland Area Arts Council,  
free and open to the public!

## Out of This World

By Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association

On Exhibit at the Holland Area Arts Council,  
Holland Area Arts Council, 150 E. 8th Street,  
Holland, MI 49423, USA

December 23rd - February 21st  
Lieveense Zobkiw Gallery

## CLUB NOTES

Dear Members,

I want to start this newsletter by wishing you a Happy, Healthy and clear skies 2026. I hope you had great Holidays and were able to spend some good times with family and friends.

I would like to thank all members that came to our Christmas meeting for bringing the goodies we could taste. We had a great time.

The SAAA January 2026 calendar is filled with activities.

On January 8 at 7 pm we have our membership meeting. Harold Reitsema will give a presentation on occultations. He made quite some trips for NASA to get to the right spot to witness these.

On January 9 at 5.30 pm there is an opening reception where you are all invited at the Holland Arts Council. We have a special announcement about this in the newsletter so please scroll down.

On January 10 at 7 pm Mike Long will give a presentation at the Hemlock Nature Center on Life beyond earth.

There is a beautiful video from the European Space Agency celebrating 4 years of the James Web Space Telescope.  
...continued top pg 2

If you want to see this 45-minute video please visit this You Tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFiOZqyyUY>

In a couple of days I will send to all members two (2) surveys by email. Please be so kind to give your feedback.

We really would like to know how we can make the SAAA something that is interesting for all and improve on what we have to offer. We can only do this when we have your views on our club.

On a last note please pay the dues for 2026. Info about this you can find on the SAAA website.

Regards and clear skies (hopefully soon),

Karl Rijkse, President SAAA

## January 2026 Dates and Times

### Viewing is Clear Sky Dependent

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU Jan 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
<b>For More Information on any event, please go to <a href="http://www.holland-saaa.org">www.holland-saaa.org</a> January 9th! Artist Talk ~ Out of this World See page 1 for invitation</b>		Member Only Observing on clear sky Tuesday nights at our Observatory in Hemlock Crossing Park.			● 7pm Public C	
			7	8 ● 7pm Club M	9 ● 7pm Public C	10 ● 7pm Life Bey ● 8pm Public C
			14	15	16 ● 7pm Public C	17
		20 ● 6pm Winter	21	22	23 ● 7pm Public C	24
			28	29	30 ● 7pm Public C	31

## December 2025 Muskegon Club

Tuesday January 13, 2026	7:30 P.M. Regular ZOOM Meeting.
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# Astronomy Riddle

It's been around for millions of years,  
but is never more than a month old.  
What is it?

Answer: the Moon.

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## What's in the Sky

By Peter Burkey

Astronomers are trying to determine if they've witnessed a complex stellar explosion or a relatively ordinary supernova.

Astronomers may have spotted their first superkilonova — a star that's exploded not once, but twice.

When massive stars die, they detonate in a celestial fireworks display known as a supernova. Often this leaves behind a neutron star — a dense, city-sized kernel. A spoonful of its material weighs more than everyone on Earth put together. When two neutron stars collide, they produce a different spectacular show: a kilonova. Astronomers currently spot multiple supernovae every day, but they've only ever seen one confirmed kilonova. That was in 2017, when gravitational waves from the cataclysm washed up on Earth at the same time as multiple telescopes were bathed in the light of the explosion.

Then, on August 18, 2025, both detectors of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) in the U.S. and the Virgo detector in Europe, picked up a new gravitational wave signal.

"The eruption looked just like the first kilonova in 2017," says Mansi Kasliwal (Caltech). A dozen telescopes around the world swung into action, training their mirrors on the patch of sky the gravitational waves had travelled from.

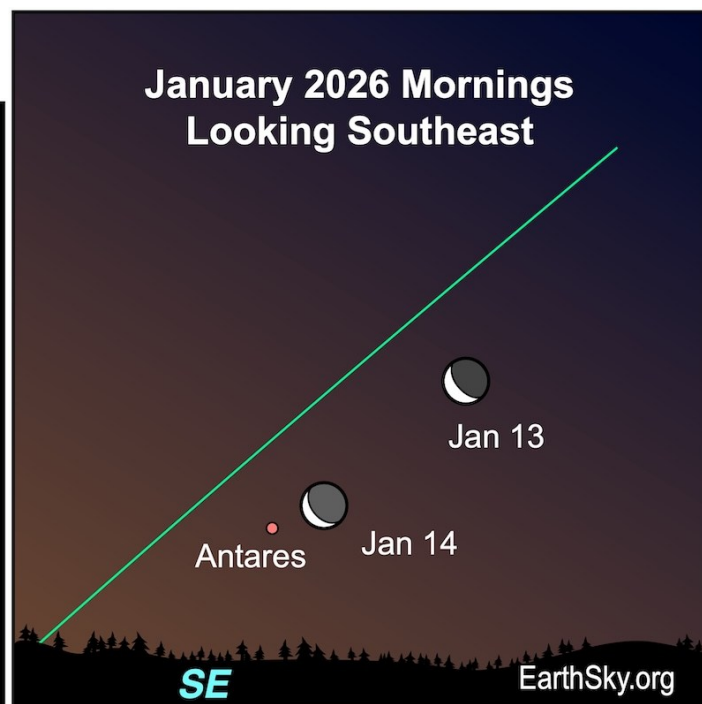
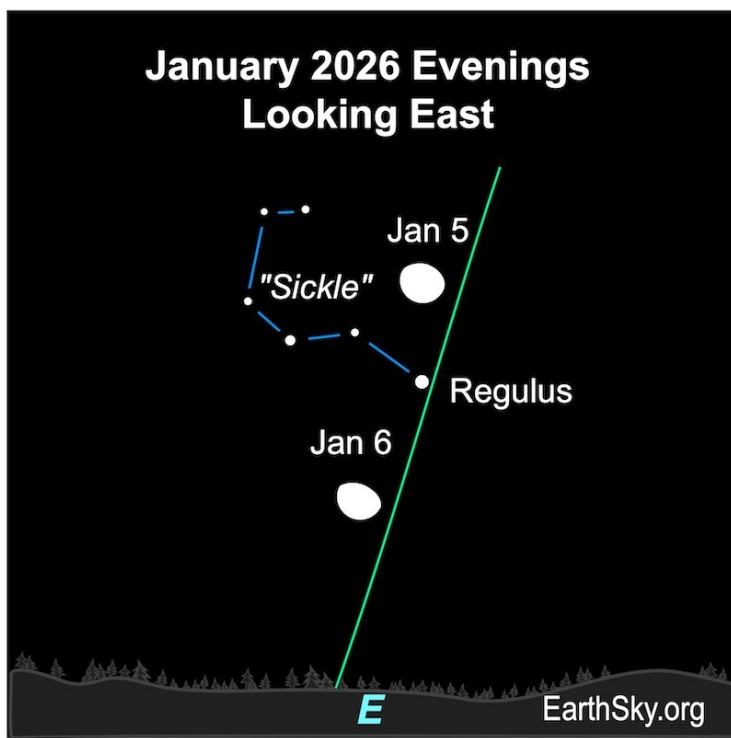
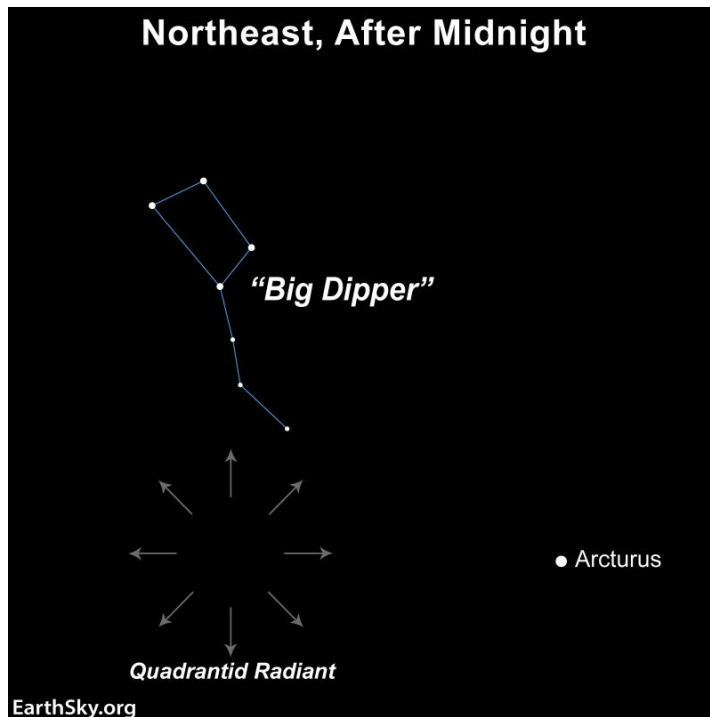
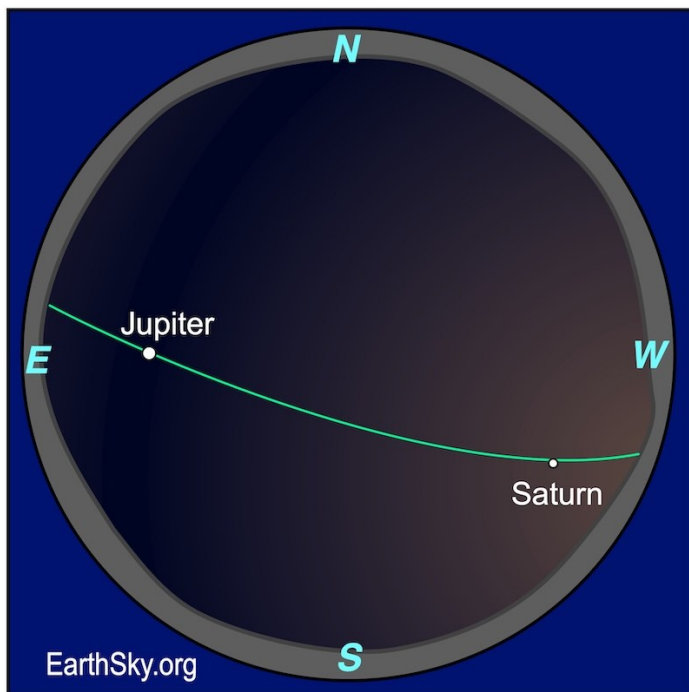
For more on this topic, see the December issue of *Sky and Telescope* magazine.

### Also from *Sky and Telescope* (online)...

The south face of Saturn's ring plane tilts just  $0.48^\circ$  from horizontal in this image from Nov. 7th made with a C11 EdgeHD telescope and an ASI290MM camera. At the time, the moon Titan was in transit. Additional Titan transits (see below) will be visible this month and next. The shadow cast by the rings across the planet's equatorial region will be prominent this fall. North is up.

# What's in the Sky this Month: January

Information from EarthSky.org



# This Month in Club History: January '90

## January Executive Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. by Bob Wade. We discussed the SAAA 1990 meeting calendar and brain stormed possible programs to be presented to the general membership at the general meetings. It appears that a schedule can be confirmed through May.

Peter Burkey talked about plans for Astronomy Day which is on April 28 this year. Our plans will not coincide with that date but instead we will plan to be at Herrick Library on Monday, April 30 starting at 6:30 or 7:00 pm until 9:00pm. We

envision setting up our telescopes again and to present a video on a suitable astronomical topic and perhaps some computer simulations of astronomical programs.

We discussed placing a schedule of events in the newsletter and subscribing to the calendar of sky events produced by Abrams Planetarium. This monthly calendar would be included with forthcoming issues of *URANOGRAPHOS*.

The board would like to remind members to renew their memberships as soon as possible as we are into a new year. Part of our dues pays for our association's membership in the Astronomical League.

The board also talked about submitting to a vote our proposal that the SAAA become a non-profit organization. This would require appropriate applications be submitted to the IRS and include a one time expenditure of \$150. This would allow for the SAAA to hold money making events. Think of it as an investment with the possibility of huge returns.

The board has decided to assign each board member certain duties in order to carry out the functions needed for the SAAA. We then as chairpersons will be looking to the membership to assist us in fulfilling these duties. Most of you can look forward to being on at least one committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Editor's Note: this is when our club's Executive Committee discussed filing for it's own 501 (c)3 status! So exciting!!

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## This Month in Astronomy History

Jan. 1: Isaac Azimov born - 1920

Jan. 4: NASA cancels further production of Saturn V rockets - 1970

Jan. 13: Galileo discovers Ganymede, moon of Jupiter - 1610

Jan. 19: New Horizons spacecraft launched on it's journey to Pluto - 2006

Jan. 27: Apollo 1 astronauts Chaffee, White and Grissom die in fire in capsule-1967

Jan. 28: Seven astronauts killed when Space Shuttle Challenger explodes during launch - 1986



## Kids Corner

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/> A place where kids and grown-ups have fun with technology.

NASA Climate Kids: It's all about climate.

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>



SciJinks: It's all about weather! <https://scijinks.gov/>

## Kid's Corner Extra! NASA Kids Club

**NASA Learning Resources for All** ➔

### More Fun Things To Do



#### Learn About Space and Earth Science

Play fun games, do hands-on activities, watch videos and read about space and Earth science for kids!

**NASA Space Place** ➔



#### Learn About Climate Change

Play fun games, do hands-on activities, watch videos, and read stories about our changing planet!

**Climate Kids** ➔



#### Space to Play

Launch rockets, build a Moon Habitat, solve spacey puzzles, and other activities for kids, adults and the whole family!

**For Students Grades K-4** ➔



#### Out-of-this World Stuff

Build spacey things, play games and puzzles, watch videos, explore new topics, or read about NASA!

**For Students Grades 5-8** ➔

#### NASA Climate Kids

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AUDIENCE  
**Students**

GRADE LEVELS  
**Grades K-4, Grades 5-8**

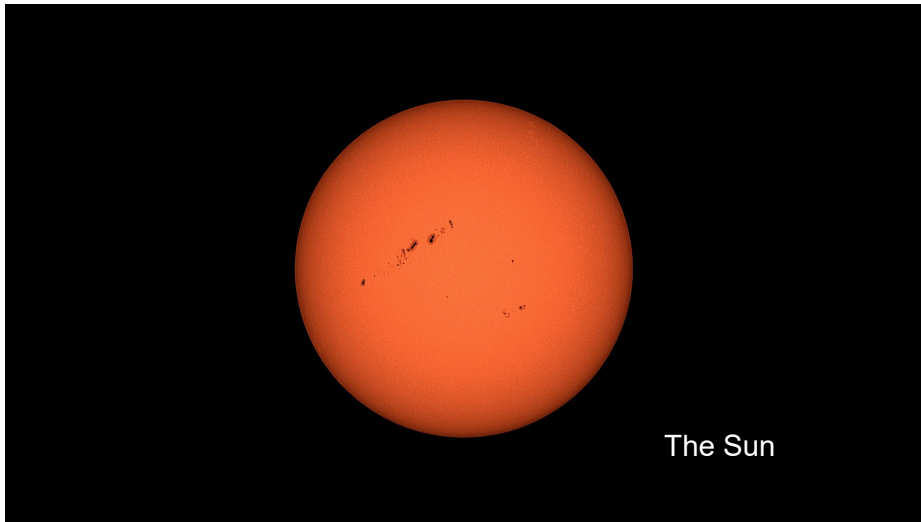
SUBJECT  
**Life Science, Physical Science, Planet Earth, Animals and Plants, Energy**

TYPE  
**Hands-on Activities, Interactive Multimedia, Play and Learn, Read About It, Videos, Websites**

This site for students tells the story of our changing planet through the eyes of the NASA missions studying Earth. Games, activities, crafts, videos and articles will help you understand climate science.

[NASA Climate Kids](https://climatekids.nasa.gov/)

# Club Members' Photos



Club Member Dave Lesh took these while in California early in December.



## Club Members' Photos continued Our Club Christmas Party





## Selling Equipment?

If you want to sell your telescope or other astronomy equipment, we will provide space on this page of our newsletter.

Any member interested in selling their astronomy equipment to other members can do this via the Newsletter. SAAA will not be otherwise involved or responsible for any bidding/selling transactions. The member should list the asking price, provide a picture and a phone number for direct contact. Please send to Barb/Editor (barbwbrown@hotmail.com) seven (7) days before the end of any month in order to be included in the next month's issue.

### Keyholder Schedule

Members may contact the designated keyholder to schedule (48 hour notice) a private tour of our Planetarium. Use our membership information to obtain the keyholder's phone or email.

Jan 4-10 James Reier

Jan 11-17 Frank Roldan

Jan 18-24 Barry Schoenfelner

Jan 25-31 David Lesh

Feb 1-7 Michael Long



## NASA's Photo of the Day!

<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> features the NASA photo of the day.

Have you missed a copy, or lost one, or just want to browse old issues of Astronomical League's *Reflector*?

**Astronomical League's quarterly *Reflector* magazine:**

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>

#### *Publication Information*

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*Editor is appointed by the SAAA board. Email: barbwbrown@hotmail.com*

*Previous Issues of our newsletters are found on our website at: [Holland-saaa.org](http://Holland-saaa.org)*

*Not sure received your copy of *Reflector*, or, looking for a past issue?*

*Digital copies of the Astronomical League's quarterly *Reflector* magazine can be found at:*

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>