



## CLUB NOTES

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The next membership meeting will take place on Thursday, March 14, at 7 pm in the planetarium. Once again, we will start by continuing to meet and socialize with fellow attendees. This will be the last membership meeting before the solar eclipse on April 8. Many members will be traveling out of state to witness the event under clear skies. Others will take their chances closer to home. Wherever you choose to observe from, be sure to have eye protection on hand. You can purchase a pair of solar glass from our treasurer, George Miller, at the club meeting.

There is some confusion regarding the proper way to view a total eclipse of the Sun. NEVER look at the Sun without good equipment, some that is made especially for a solar eclipse. There are many ways to project its image for safe viewing. I will discuss some options at the club meeting. Note that this will be our last meeting prior to the eclipse so we will spend some time answering questions you may have. I hope to see everyone there.

Peter

Peter Burkey  
President, SAAA



## The Night Sky: March

This month offers several great opportunities to view interesting celestial objects.

In the predawn sky on March 3, folks from southern Wisconsin to west Texas will be able to witness the 3rd quarter Moon occult Antares. Here in West Michigan, we will only see a very close pairing of the two objects, but it will still be a pretty sight.

On Thursday, March 7, 40 minutes before sunrise, look toward the southeast and see if you can spot Venus, Mars, and a tiny crescent Moon very close to the horizon.

Mercury joins the evening sky during the second week of the month. Look toward the western horizon starting 30 minutes after sunset. It continues to climb higher each evening until the 24th when it reaches its greatest elongation, 19 degrees east of the Sun. Take advantage of the opportunity because at the end of the month it will no longer be visible.

Jupiter continues to put on its celestial show. Two hours after sunset, look for the crescent Moon shining brightly in the west. The best opportunity will be on Wednesday, March 13 and Thursday, March 14. If you look on either the day before or the day after, you can get a better feeling for just how far the Moon moves from night to night. Also, on the 13th, it will be very close to the thin, crescent Moon. Don't miss this one.

Finally, on Monday, March 25, at 3:00 am, there will be a penumbral lunar eclipse. If you're like me, you will not quite be sure what that actually is, so feel free to do some research. That can also be a topic for discussion while we gather at the start of this month's membership meeting

-PB

*The following links are not hot, please copy and paste into your preferred browser.*

<https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/penumbral-lunar-eclipse.html>

<https://www.mreclipse.com/SEphoto/SEphoto.html>

# Calendar and Upcoming Events



## Public Observing

**When** Weather Permitting Every FRI evening 7PM.

**Where** Hemlock Crossing Public Observatory, 8115 W Olive Rd, West Olive, MI 49460, USA

**Description** The observatory is open from our start time until 11 PM (weather and clear sky permitting, see note above after October 14<sup>th</sup>). There are no entry fees. Please be aware that the park gate closes automatically at 10 PM sharp, therefore visitors must arrive before 10 PM to enter the park. You will be able to leave as you wish.

**Visible night sky objects:** planets, the Moon, deep sky objects like galaxies, star clusters and planetary nebulae.

## Next Club Meeting

**When** Thu, March 14th, 7pm – 9pm

**Where** Planetarium at Mac Bay School (map is linked on our Website: [www.holland-saaa.org](http://www.holland-saaa.org))

**Description** Our monthly meetings occur on the 2nd Thursday of the month and are open to the public.

## Upcoming Events

**SAAA events**

Today ◀ ▶ March 2024 ▼ Print Week Month Agenda ▼

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
					8pm Public Obs	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					8pm Public Obs	7pm April Full S
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				7pm Club Meet	8pm Public Obs	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
					8pm Public Obs	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	6:30pm Solar Ec			6:30pm Solar Ec	8pm Public Obs	
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:30pm Full Solc		6pm Full Solar I	8pm Public Obs	

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York + Google Calendar

*For More Information on Any Event  
Please go to [www.holland-saaa.org](http://www.holland-saaa.org)*



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

NASA Climate Kids: It's all about climate. <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>



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

## Club History Moment: From February 1990

### As I Remember

From about 1957 to 1960 there was some interest in star gazing in the Holland area. Henry Engelsman owned a 6" Newtonian type reflector. Sid Risselada, another friend of mine, made a 6" reflecting telescope which he mounted in his garage. Both friends are now deceased.

Sid ground and polished his own mirror, an  $f/10$  with a focal length of about 60". He made an opening in the flat roof of his garage with a sliding cover and used a short polar axis mounting which was hung from the ceiling! This was driven with an electric phono motor (an old 78 rpm) which had a flyball-type governor for adjusting the speed. This operated through a large worm gear drive and believe it or not seemed to work quite well. He observed double stars and liked to look at the moons of Jupiter. However his view was somewhat limited at his west 19th street location. Sid was the chief machinist at Buss Machine Co., on west 8th street.

Henry purchased his telescope complete with a tripod and a clock drive. It was a really nice instrument. He worked at the Holland Evening Sentinel as an engraver.

In order to get away from city lights, Henry and Sid used to come to my house at 778 W 32nd street (which is now the Knollcrest subdivision). At that time I had a 10"  $f/13$  mirror mounted in a 12.5' long tube in a rotating building. I ground the mirror myself and silvered it. This was an alt-azimuth mounting and the scope was great for

EDITOR'S NOTE: this next section is taken directly from the document, and a portion of the right edge is not present/visible.

planetary work. The 134" focal length meant w observed from the second floor!

We weren't organized as a club but w enjoyed looking at the stars and planets as well as the good old moon. One night in the early part of May 1957 I believe it was, Henry brought along the Sentinel photographer and so our picture made the Sentinel Tulip Time Edition. How about that!

Thanks for letting me share my memories with you.

Jarvin Kleim:

This month in history:

March

March 2: Pioneer 10 launched - 1972

March 6: Kepler Observatory launched - 2009

March 14: Albert Einstein born - 1879; Gene Cernan born - 1934

March 18: Soviet rocket explosion at launch pad kills 50 workers - 1980

March 22: Comet Hale-Bopp passes closest to Earth - 1997

March 31: Mariner 10 makes first flyby of Mercury - 1974



*Photograph above:  
Mike Cortright ©  
Please see our website for  
more of Mike's work.  
[https://www.holland-  
saaa.org/](https://www.holland-saaa.org/)*

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### Upcoming Club Meetings:

Date	Time	Place, Event, Topic	Presenter
February 8	7 pm	Club meeting in Planetarium <a href="#">Thoughts on the 2017 solar eclipse</a>	Maunakea Trip : Mike Long Program: Lindsey Smith
March 14	7 pm	Club meeting in Planetarium <a href="#">April 2024 Total Solar Eclipse</a>	Constellation: Karl Rijkse Program: Mike Long
April 11	7 pm	Club meeting in Planetarium <a href="#">Occultations</a>	Constellation: <a href="#">Spert</a> Program: Frank Roldan
May 9	7 pm	Club meeting in Planetarium <a href="#">ESA Euclid Mission</a>	Constellation: <a href="#">Spert</a> Program: Karl Rijkse

### Upcoming Library Lectures & Private Group Tours:

Date	Time	Topic	Presenter
March 25	6:30 pm	Library: Allendale Library Lecture: <a href="#">Solar Eclipse</a>	Mike Cortright
March 28	6:30 pm	Library: Loutit Library Lecture: <a href="#">Solar Eclipse Explained</a>	George Jaeger
April 2	6:30 pm	Library: Gary Byker Library in Hudsonville Lecture: <a href="#">Solar Eclipse</a>	Mike Cortright
April 4	6:00 pm	Library: Loutit District Library in Grand Haven Lecture: <a href="#">Solar Eclipse</a>	Mike Cortright

### Upcoming Lectures at Hemlock Crossing:

Date	Time	Topic	Presenter
February 10	7 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">NASA OSIRIS Rex Asteroid Mission</a>	Mike Long
March 9	7 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">April Full Solar Eclipse</a>	David Debrunyn
April 13	8 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Spring and Summer Sky</a>	Karl Rijkse
May 11	8 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Women in Astronomy</a>	Peter Burkey
June 8	dusk	Observatory: <a href="#">Public Night</a>	SAAA Members
July 13	dusk	Observatory: <a href="#">Public Night</a>	SAAA Members
August 10	dusk	Observatory: <a href="#">Public Night</a>	SAAA Members
September 14	8 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Astronomy in Art</a>	Frank Roldan
October 12	7 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Finding Things in the Night Sky</a>	Barry Schoenfelner
November 9	7 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Telescope Basics</a>	Frank Roldan

### Club Resources:

The office inside the planetarium contains the SAAA library. Members are welcome to check out books, videos, and telescopes from the club library. See Karl for details.