www.holland-saaa.org Mar 2024

CLUB NOTES

In this issue:

- Club Notes
- The Night Sky: **February**
- Calendar and Events
- Kid's Corner
- Club History Moment
- Moments in History
- Featured Photo
- Upcoming Club Events

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

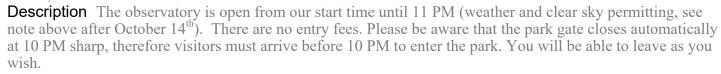
Calendar and Upcoming Events

Public Observing

When Weather Permitting Every FRI evening 7PM.

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

49460, USA



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)
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 Month Sun Mon Tue Wied 26 27 28 Mar 1 Born Public Obs For More Information on Any Event Please go to www.holland-saaa.org 8pm Public Obs/7pm April Full S 16 7pm Club Meeti 8pm Public Obs-23 **Born Public Obs** 30 6:30pm Solar Ec 6:30pm Solar Ec 8pm Public Obs-Apr 1 6pm Full Solar I 8pm Public Obs-6:30pm Full Sols Google Calendar Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York



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 altazimuth 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 we enjoyed looking at the stars and planets as well at 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 memoric with you.

Jarvin Kleim:

This month in history:

March

March 2: Pioneer 10 launched - 1972

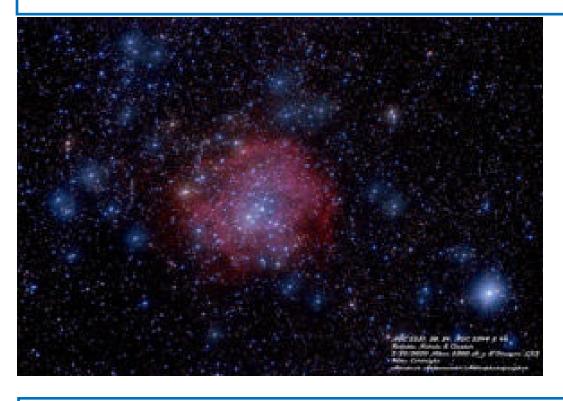
March 6: Kepler Observatory launched - 2009

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.hollandsaaa.org/

Publication Information

Self-published for SAAA members by a SAAA member. January 2024

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

Upcoming Club Meetings:

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

Upcoming Library Lectures & Private Group Tours:

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

Upcoming Lectures at Hemlock Crossing:

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