



www.holland-saaa.org

April 2024

CLUB NOTES

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This is it! . . . the Great Solar Eclipse of 2024. This is special to Michiganders because it will be the last time we will be able to witness a total solar eclipse anywhere near Michigan until the end of this century. I know several club members are traveling to get a better view and many others will be on-hand at the Hemlock Crossing Observatory site. Although only a small area in southwest Michigan will be in the path of totality, it will still be a pretty good partial with 92% of the Sun blocked by the Moon.

I want to encourage everyone to come together on the 11th of April, starting at 7pm, for our membership meeting in the planetarium at Mac Bay Middle School. We will have our now traditional “visiting” time during which we can share stories and adventures doing some solar observing the previous Monday.

Peter
Peter Burkey
President, SAAA



The Night Sky: April

Although the news will be all about the eclipse, there will be plenty of other great sights to enjoy as we start to get into the constellations of spring.

Go out 30 to 60 minutes after sunset. Looking west, you should be able to spot the winter constellations of Ori-
on and Gemini and the bright star Sirius. You may recall that they formed a beautiful gathering of stars and
nebulae in the southern winter sky.

As the winter constellations fade in the west, the stars of spring begin to appear high in the eastern sky. Begin
by looking due south and almost straight up. There you will find the unmistakable lion - the constellation Leo.
Turning east, you will get a preview of the early constellations of summer. Look directly overhead to see the
Big and Little Dippers. Notice how those two constellations are on opposite sides of the zenith.

The early morning hours also have many interesting observation opportunities. Mars and Saturn will be play-
ing tag all month. Look east-southeast near the horizon 40 minutes before sunrise. Saturn and Mars should be
visible very near the horizon if conditions permit. Binoculars will probably be useful. Look each morning as
often as possible, especially on the 5th and 6th of the month, when the thin crescent Moon joins the picture.

Weather permitting, this should be an interesting month to observe what's up in the sky.

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 14th). 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, April 11th, 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.

These links are not hot, please copy and paste for some reading about what some authors have shared over the years regarding solar eclipses.

<https://www.themarginalian.org/2017/08/01/annie-dillard-total-solar-eclipse/>

<https://www.themarginalian.org/2017/07/13/maria-mitchell-1869-total-solar-eclipse/>

<https://www.themarginalian.org/2017/08/09/mabel-loomis-todd-total-eclipses-of-the-sun/>

SAAA events

Today ◀ ▶ April 2024							Print	Week	Month	Agenda ▼
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6				
		6:30pm Full Solar		6pm Full Solar E	8pm Public Obs					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
	Partial Eclipse 2pm Public Obs			7pm Club Meeti	8pm Public Obs	8pm Spring and				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
					8pm Public Obs					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27				
					8pm Public Obs					
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4				
				9pm Public Obs						

For More Information on Any Event
Please go to 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 March 1990

Constellations 101

Many of us in the SAAA are still learning where the constellations are located in the night sky. Newer members are learning the main ones, more experienced members are learning the obscure ones. In any case, we all butcher the pronunciation of many names because we don't know the "correct" pronunciation. Last summer that stellar stalwart John Dobson made a point of saying the bright star in Lyra is not *Vayga*, but rather *Veega* (Vega). Then and there I decided it would be fun to look up proper pronunciations for various stars and constellations. *The Observers Handbook* contains just such listings, and I thought I'd share the correct pronunciations of the constellations with you. Although this source may not be the ultimate authority, it's a good a place to start as any. Look through these as you have the time and see if the way you are pronouncing these now agrees with the key provided.

Constellation	Pronunciation	Abbr.	Meaning
Auriga	aw-ree-ga	And	Daughter of Cassiopeia
Antlia	ant-lee-a	Ant	The Air Pump
Apus	ay-pus	Apr	Bird of Paradise
Aquarius	ay-kwair-ee-us	Aqr	The Water-bearer
Aquila	ay-kwail-a	Aql	The Eagle
Ara	ay-ra	Ata	The Altar
Aries	ay-ree-us	Als	The Ram
Auriga	aw-ree-ga	Aw	The Chariot
Bates	ba-tis	Bat	The Headman
Bootes	bo-tees	Boo	The Plow
Camelopardalis	ka-mel-oh-par-is	Cam	The Giraffe
Cancer	kan-sar	Cnc	The Crab
Canis Major	kan-ee-may-jor	CMA	The Hunting Dog
Canis Minor	kan-ee-min-ohr	CMB	The Little Dog
Capricornus	kap-ree-korn-us	Cap	The Horned Goat
Carina	kar-ee-na	Car	The Keel
Cassiopeia	kas-ee-oh-pee-ah	Cas	The Queen
Centaurus	sen-tor-us	Cent	The Centaur
Cepheus	seh-fee-us	Cep	The King
Cetus	seh-tus	Cet	The Whale
Chamaeleon	ka-mel-ee-on	Cha	The Chameleon
Circinus	ser-ee-nus	Cir	The Compasses
Columba	kol-um-be	Col	The Dove
Cornucopia	kor-nuh-bee-see-tee-us	Com	Minerva's Horn
Corona Australis	kor-oh-na-aw-stral-is	CRA	The Southern Crown
Corona Borealis	kor-oh-na-bor-ee-al-is	COR	The Northern Crown
Corvus	kor-vus	Cor	The Crow
Crater	kre-ter	Cre	The Cup

This month in history: April

April 1: Comet Hale-Bopp nearest Sun - 1997

April 2: First photograph of Sun taken - 1845

April 9: NASA selects original seven Mercury astronauts - 1959

April 12: Yuri Gagarin becomes first human in space - 1961

April 12: Columbia is first space shuttle to be launched - 1981

April 17: Apollo 13 returns to Earth - 1970

April 25: Deployment of Hubble Space Telescope - 1990

April 28: Eugene Shoemaker is born - 1928



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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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/>

Upcoming Club Meetings:

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