



CLUB NOTES

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Club Notes - May 2024

Greetings and welcome to the final meeting of the '23/'24 SAAA season. Some members who recently joined may not be aware that we do not hold membership meetings in the summer due to the planetarium (and the school) being closed. We will return to the planetarium in September to begin another season of SAAA activities.

In a partnership with the Holland State Park, we continue to sponsor park activities for the public throughout the summer. In June we host "Museum Under the Stars", partnering with the Holland Museum. July finds us helping park visitors navigate the sky and learn about the summer stars and constellations. In August, State Parks across Michigan join forces to promote "Meteors and S'mores, a very popular evening for attendees hoping to see some of the Perseid meteor shower.

So we look forward to another chance to enjoy the night sky and foster friendships with those of a similar persuasion - the stars.

Peter Burkey
President, SAAA



The Night Sky: May

Springtime is great. The trees leaf out, the flowers start to bloom, the songbirds return to their feeders and baths. But the sky does not follow suit. The winter constellations are drifting toward the western horizon and the summer constellations have yet to make their appearance. Except for Leo, that is. Leo, the Lion, stands alone as a beacon hope, guarding his part of the sky so that others dare not trespass. And he's easy to find.

About forty five minutes after sunset, face south and look about two thirds of the way up from horizon to overhead (your zenith). There you will see a grouping of stars consisting of a backwards question mark (or a sickle) and a right triangle, with the triangle toward the east (left). That's the constellation Leo, the Lion.

One of the things I like best about Leo is that it is one of those groups of stars that is easy to visualize as the mythological creature it is supposed to represent. Imagine a lion, crouched Sphinx-like on the African grassland, its head and mane facing west, its hind quarters and tail to the east.

Early risers can still enjoy rare sights. On May 3 and 4, view the thin crescent Moon pass fairly close to first Saturn, then Mars. On May 5 the Eta Aquariid Meteor shower peaks. This meteor shower is expected to show a noticeable outburst for several days on either side of the peak. The meteoroids causing this year's outburst were ejected from Halley's comet about 2500 years ago.

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, May 9th, 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.

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/>

SAAA events									
Today	◀	▶	May 2024	▼	Print	Week	Month	Agenda	▼
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4	8pm Public Obs		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	7pm Club Meet; 8pm Public Obs; 8pm Women in		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	8pm Public Obs		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	8pm Public Obs		
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1	8pm Public Obs		

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 December 1990 And January 1991

Newsletter Name Contest

Several members wondered if the name of the newsletter could be changed. It's your club, so bring your favorite suggestion to the December meeting, or phone a suggestion to the editor if you cannot make it. *Make it original!*

As you can see, members voted to change the name of the newsletter to *The Shoreline Observer*.

Mark Logsdon made a motion to vote on the constitutional changes as a package, and this was seconded by Rob Tuls. The vote was unanimous to accept the changes as published. If you would like a copy, contact an officer.

This Month in History: May

May 5: Alan Shepard becomes first American in space - 1961

May 11: Launch of first geostationary weather satellite - 1974

May 12: Adler Planetarium in Chicago opens, first planetarium in the western hemisphere - 1930

May 20: Pioneer-Venus 1 launched - 1978

May 25: President Kennedy gives speech challenging nation to land astronaut on Moon before the end of the decade - 1961

May 29: First experimental test of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity performed during total solar eclipse - 1919



*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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Previous Issues of our newsletters are found on our website at: 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/>

2024 Lecture Schedule

Date	Time	Title	Presenter
May 11	8 pm	Lecture: Women in Astronomy	Peter Burkey
Jun 8	dusk	Observatory: Public Night	SAAA Members
Jul 13	dusk	Observatory: Public Night	SAAA Members
Aug 10	dusk	Observatory: Public Night	SAAA Members
Sep 14	8 pm	Lecture: Astronomy in Art	Frank Roldan
Oct 12	7 pm	Lecture: Finding Things in the Night Sky	Barry Schoenfelner
Nov 9	7 pm	Lecture: Telescope Basics	Frank Roldan