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## CLUB NOTES

Dear members,

May is upon us with warmer weather and hopefully more clear skies.

Finally the weather we need to install the all sky camera which has been waiting for six (6) months.

We had a great turnout with an Art in the Park event at Hemlock Park on April 25 when we observed the Sun and Moon.

On May 9th SAAA will be organizing Astronomy day with hopefully the same great weather as last weekend.

Events start at noon with Solar observing through the Coronado. Several displays on astronomy and space related topics will be at the Nature Center, as well as, a Planet Walk.

Art Fleming will give a presentation starting at 7 pm on Perspectives of Scale in space followed by observing if we have clear skies.

Please come out and join us. You can also admire a display of astrophotos from our members which has been set up inside the Nature Center at Hemlock Crossing Park.

May 2nd we are part of a scouts outing at Cadet Campground in Holland. We will give 35 kids the opportunity to look through our telescopes and Art Fleming will give a kids friendly dimensions presentation.

On May 2nd I will present the Life Cycle of Stars at the White River township hall in Montague at 11 am.

Our final membership meeting for the season will be on May 14. There will be no membership meetings during the summer.

Please keep an eye on our web site agenda for activities. Wishing you clear skies.

Karl Rijkse  
President SAAA

www.holland-saaa.org

### SAAA Is Joining in Worldwide Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day is a grass roots movement designed to share the joy of astronomy with the general population – “Bringing Astronomy to the People.” On Astronomy Day, May 9, people who have never looked through a telescope will have an opportunity to see first-hand what has so many amateur and professional astronomers all excited. Our club will be at Hemlock Crossing during the day and evening. Come and join in the fun. Fun for all ages!! More information on Page 6.



# Calendar and Upcoming Events



## Public Observing

**When** Every FRI evening starting 8PM (weather permitting).

**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 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.

## 9

- 12pm Astronomy Day
- 7pm Perspectives of Scale
- 8pm Public Observing

Astronomy Day is at Hemlock Crossing Park.

## Club Meeting

Thursday, May 14 · 7:00 – 9:00pm

● Planetarium at Mac Bay School

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

- Announcements
- What's Up for May (NASA video)
- Women in Astronomy by Peter Burkey

## May 2026

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI May 1	SAT 2
					<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 8pm Public C	<span style="color: green;">●</span> 11am Life Cy
3	4	5	6	7	<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 8pm Public C	<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 12pm Astron 2 more
10	11	12	13	14 <span style="color: green;">●</span> 7pm Club Me	<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 8pm Public C	16
17	18	19	20	21	<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 8pm Public C	23
24	25	26	27	28	<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 8pm Public C	30
31	Jun 1	2	3	4	<span style="color: purple;">●</span> 9pm Public C	6

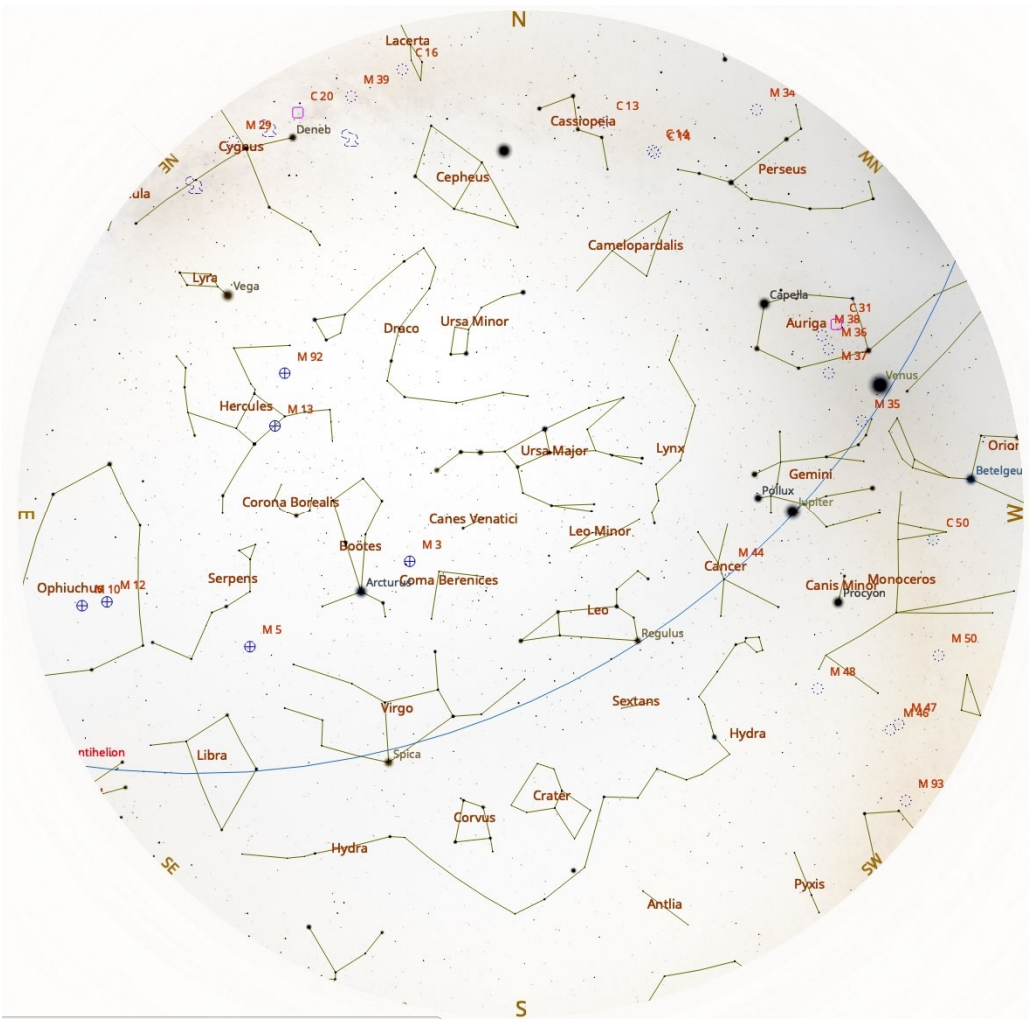
For More Information on Any Event  
Please go to [www.holland-saaa.org](http://www.holland-saaa.org)

Page 2

Ever wonder what might be in the night sky? Member, Barry Schoenfelner, shared a sky map at April's presentation. This looked like something both President Karl Rijkse and I immediately felt would be useful and educational for our members, especially those members like me (Barb, your newsletter editor) who are still learning so much about the night sky.

Where might you find this information? Point your browser to ...

<https://skymaps.com/skymaps/tesmn2605.pdf>  
(copy and paste into your browser)



## Club Photo

We had many club member photos this month....this photo begins those submitted.

Member Casey Bartman, Jr., sent in this shot of "just another night under the stars."

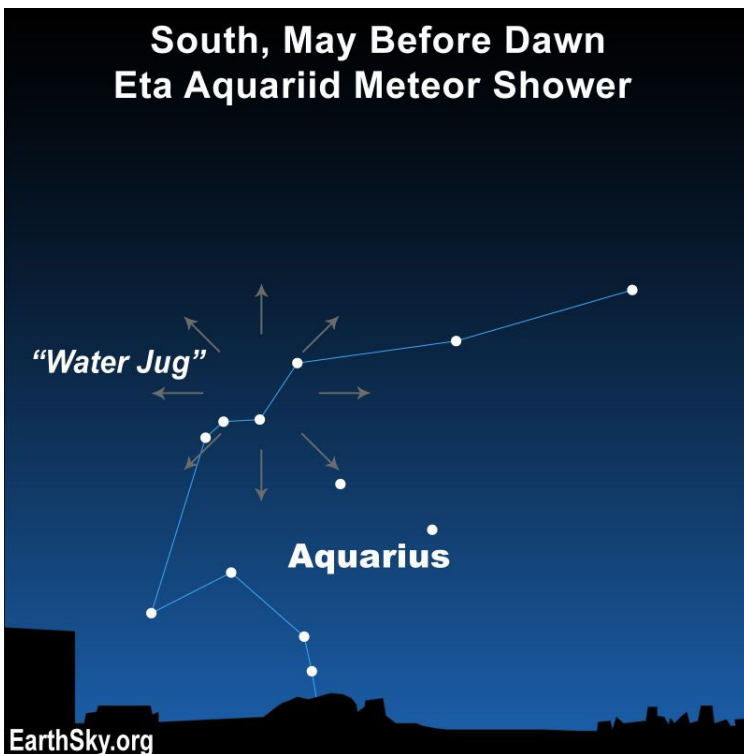
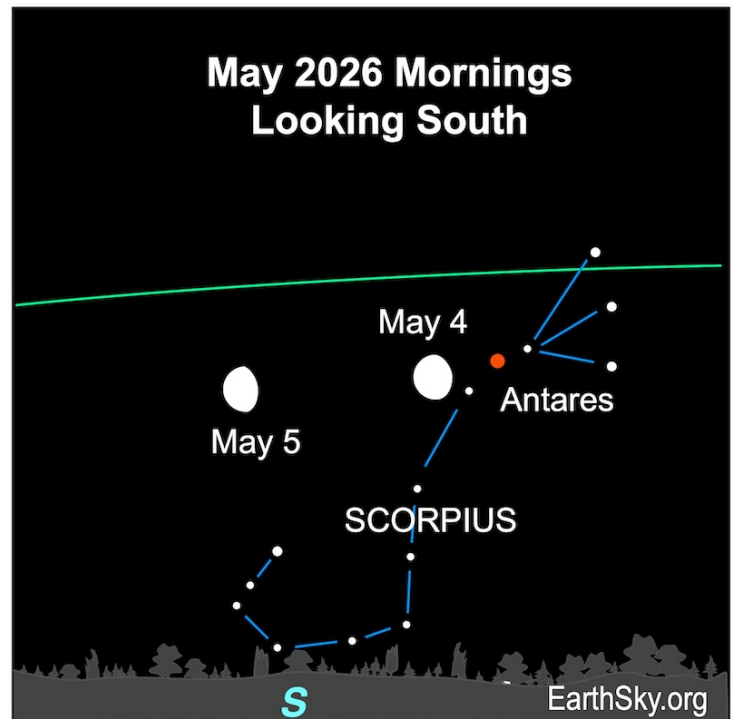
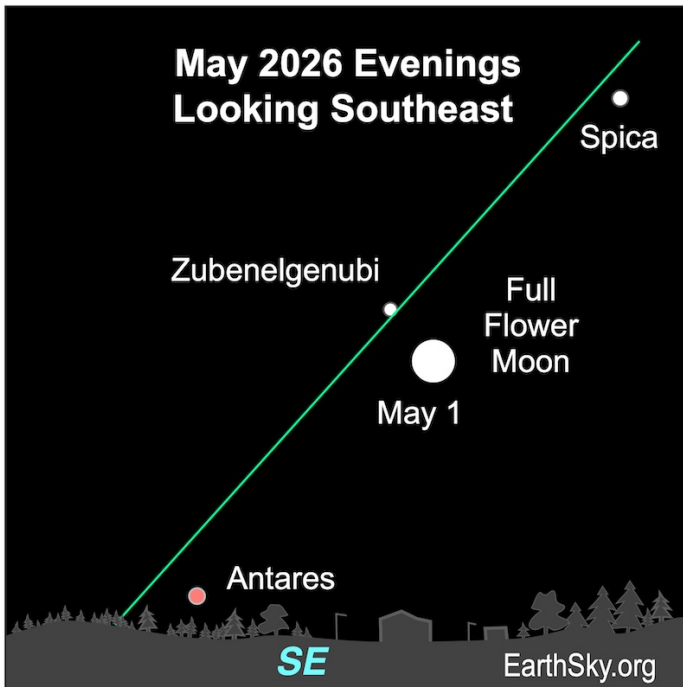
This great photo was taken at/over our Observatory in Hemlock Crossing.

More photos on pages 10 and 11.



# What's in the Sky this Month: May

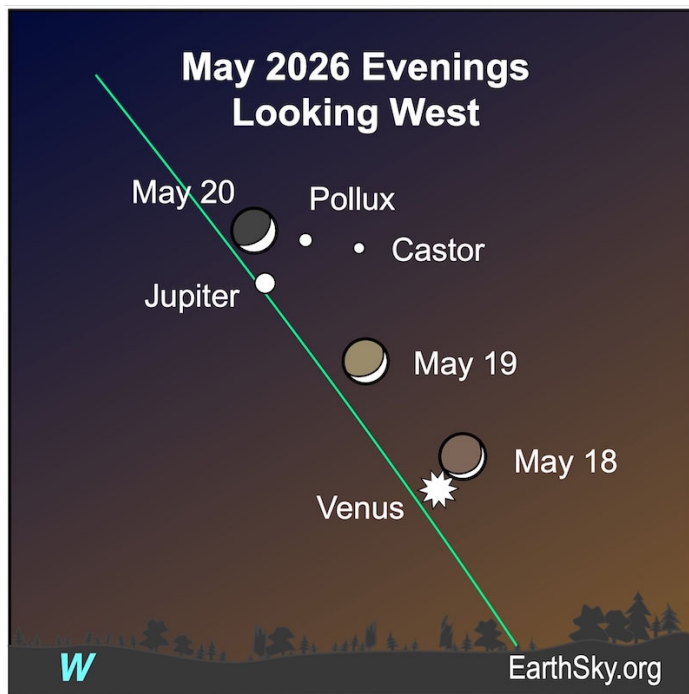
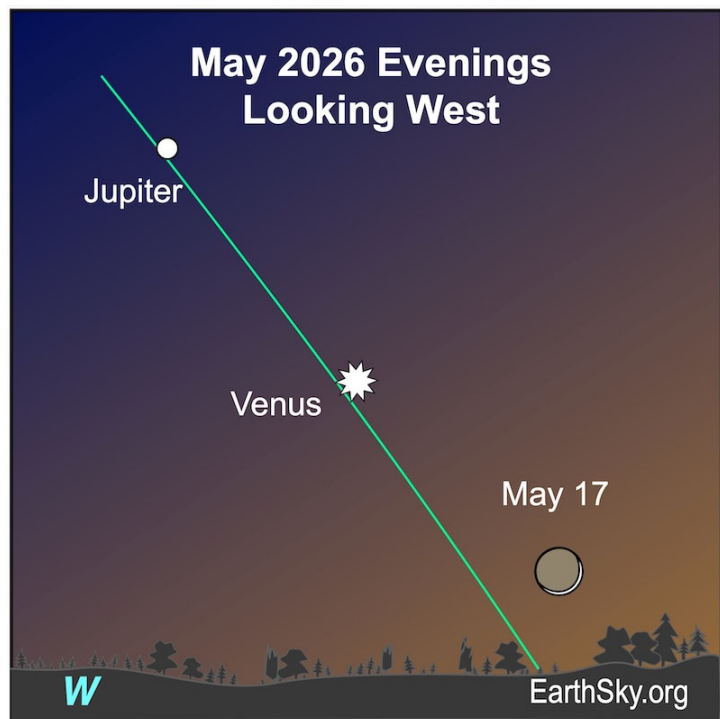
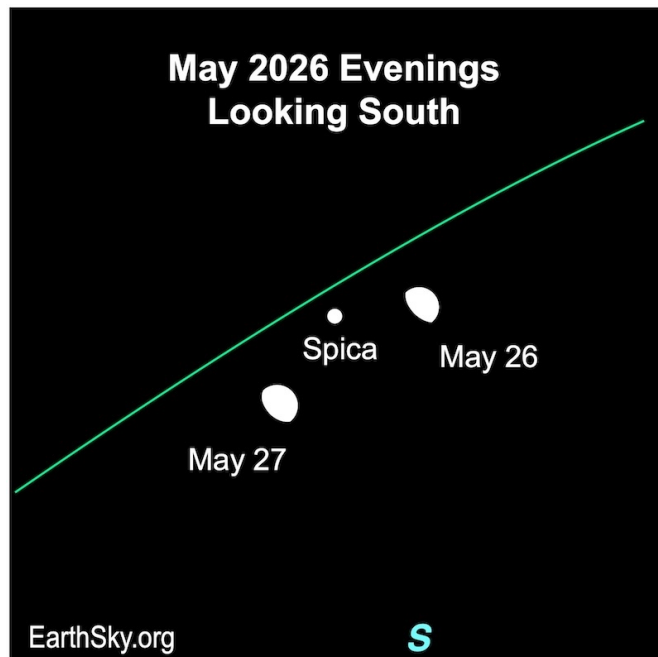
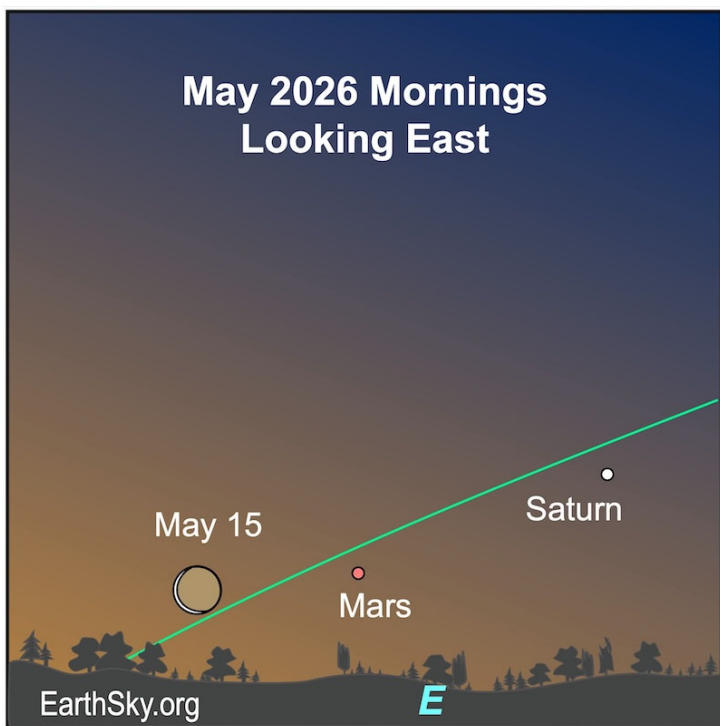
Information from EarthSky.org



From EarthSky.org ... The radiant point of the Eta Aquariid meteor shower will be near the star Eta Aquarii in the constellation Aquarius the Water Bearer. The radiant will rise in the wee hours after midnight and will continue climbing toward its highest point at dawn. That highest point will be in the south as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere, closer to overhead for the Southern Hemisphere. That's why the Southern Hemisphere will see more meteors (the radiant will be higher up), and it's why – for all of us around the globe – the hours before dawn on May 5, 2026, will be best for this shower. The 2026 Eta Aquariids will compete with a bright waning gibbous moon, reducing how many meteors you might see.

# What's in the Sky this Month: May, continued

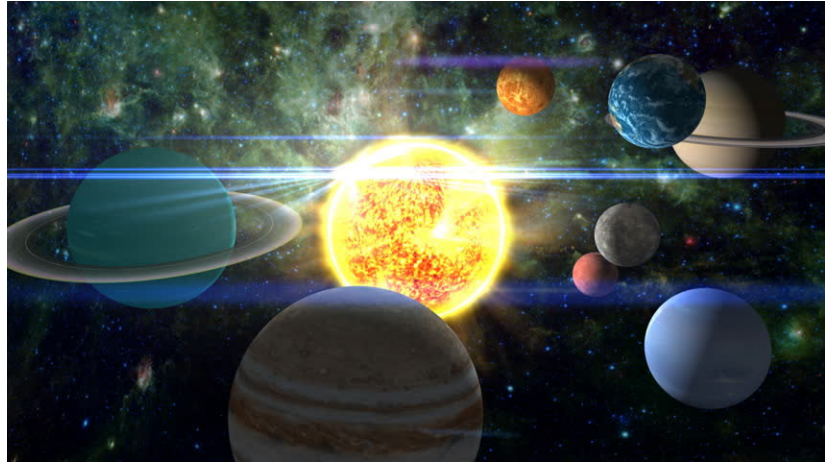
Also check out... [Skymaps.com](http://Skymaps.com): Astronomy and Space Articles



# What's Happening May 9th Astronomy Day at Hemlock Crossing

## GOOD WEATHER CONDITIONS 12:00 – 5:00 PM

- Public solar observing with the Coronado and Meade LX-600 telescopes
- “Planet Walk” along the path by the observatory showing the spacing between planets and information about the planets



7:00 – 8:15 PM

- “Perspectives of Scale” lecture at Nature Education Center

8:15 PM – midnight

- General observing with the 16” LX-600 and smaller telescopes at the observatory
- Constellation identification and mythological stories

## BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS 12:00 – 5:00 PM

- “Planet Walk” display and telescope exhibit inside Nature Education Center
- Space related video displays

7:00 – 8:15 PM

- “Perspectives of Scale” lecture at Nature Education Center



**RAFFLE** All children will receive one raffle ticket, and two (2) telescopes will be awarded at the end of the lecture. No need to be present to win. Winning numbers will be posted at [www.holland-saaa.org](http://www.holland-saaa.org)



**REGISTER NOW!**

The Nation's Premiere  
Amateur Astronomy Conference

**ALCON**  
**2026**  
CINCINNATI  
AUGUST 12-15 2026

- Nationally Recognized and Regional Astronomy Speakers
- Happy Hours • Special Events • Tours
  - The Annual StarBQ at The Cincinnati Museum Center
- The Annual Astrophotography Contest
- The Sunday Afterparty in dark skies at The Moeller Observatory

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW!**  
**ALCON2026.ORG**

CINCINNATI  
ALCON2026.ORG

CINCINNATI ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



For More Information, link is here: <https://ALCON2026.org> (ctrl/click)

It's time to get registered for ALCON 2026 being hosted by the Cincinnati Astronomical Society in partnership with The Astronomical League.

This website will guide you to all the details about the conference and link you to the registration site where you can claim your spot for this conference which is certain to be a great time.

Space is limited for this conference so act fast and we will see you in August in Cincinnati!

## Astronomical Terms 2

Here is another chance for you to inflate your vocabulary with the second installment of our three month home study short course in Astronomical Terms. Quizzes will be graded at the next monthly club meeting. Try quizzing your friends after you've learned the correct answers. They're sure to be impressed!

1. Astrolabe (a) A laboratory dedicated to astronomical research. (b) A two dimensional working model of the heavens. (c) Carl Sagan's Labrador retriever.
2. Ataxites (a) Seasonal IRS workers. (b) A family of long period comets. (c) Structureless nickel-rich iron meteorites.
3. Barycentre (a) British term for "close to the centre". (b) Geometrical center as opposed to the center of mass. (c) Center of mass of the earthmoon system.
4. Chandler period (a) Time of the movement of the Earth's rotation axis about its axis of figure, about 430 days. (b) Time between intensity maximums of Cepheid Variable stars. (c) Another name for the solar cycle.
5. Coma (a) A comet which is only visible photographically. (b) Italian for "come here". (c) An off-axis lens aberration typically resulting in points of light appearing comet or fan shaped.
6. Culmination (a) Common misspelling for collimation. (b) Maximum altitude of a celestial body above the horizon. (c) Point at which a celestial body crosses the observers meridian. (d) All of the above.
7. Dawes limit. (a) Measure of the resolving power of a telescope. (Resolution in arc seconds equals  $11.58$

## This Month in Club History May 1993

divided by the telescope aperture in centimeters.) (b) Theoretical faintest star magnitude visible with the unaided eye under perfect conditions, mag 7.4. (c) Maximum length of time you can observe before your feet get too cold.

8. Declination (a) Synonym for inclination. (b) Tendency to say no. (c) Distance in degrees north or south of the celestial equator.

9. Dichotomy (a) Exact half phase of the moon. (b) Point between two masses where a third point mass is equally attracted to both masses. (c) Maximum separation of a binary star system.

10. Dubhe (a) Brightest of the two pointer stars. (b) Early Arabian scholar/astronomer, circa 350 A.D. (c) Little known amateur astronomer who studied the eclipse periods of non-gravitationally bound apparent double stars.

Answers: 1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (a)

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## This Month in Astronomy History

- May 5: Alan Shepard becomes first American in space - 1961
- May 6: NASA announces that Canada will build the shuttle robot arm - 1975
- 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 28: Rhesus monkeys Able and Baker are first primates in space - 1959
- May 29: First experimental test of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity performed during total solar eclipse - 1919

# Kid's Corner



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/>

## Kid's Corner Extra: How Many Moons Do Planets Have?

From <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov>

A lot of moons or no moons at all?

We on Earth have just one moon, but some planets have dozens of them. Others don't have any. Which planets have moons, and which don't?

Let's go in order from the Sun. Up first are Mercury and Venus. Neither of them has a moon.

Because Mercury is so close to the Sun and its gravity, it wouldn't be able to hold on to its own moon. Any moon would most likely crash into Mercury or maybe go into orbit around the Sun and eventually get pulled into it. Why Venus doesn't have a moon is a mystery for scientists to solve.

Earth. We, of course, have one moon.

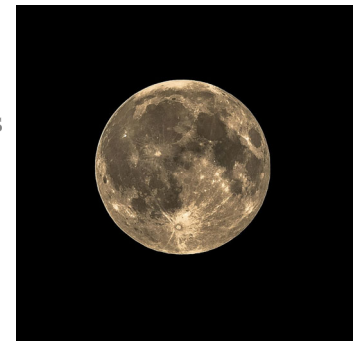
Mars: Mars has two moons. Their names are Phobos and Deimos. Don't you wish our moon had a cool name like that?

Jupiter: Next are the giant outer planets. They have lots of moons. Jupiter, for instance, has 115 known moons! The most well-known of Jupiter's moons are Io (pronounced eye-oh), Europa, and Callisto. Jupiter also has the biggest moon in our solar system, Ganymede. These moons are so big you can see them with just a pair of binoculars.

Saturn As of March, 2025, Saturn has 292 moons. And that's not counting Saturn's beautiful rings! Saturn's moons have great names like Mimas, Enceladus, and Tethys. One of these moons, named Titan, even has its own atmosphere, which is very unusual for a moon.

Uranus and Neptune: Uranus has 29 known moons that we know of. Some of them are half made of ice. Lastly, Neptune has 16 known moons. One of Neptune's moons, Triton, is as big as dwarf planet Pluto.

To watch a short video about other moons in our solar system, click [here](#) <CTL> <SHIFT>



# Club Photos



M51

Taken by Dave Lesh,  
with 16 inch, 250x10  
sec exposures, pro-  
cessed in Siril

C/2025 R3  
(PanSTARRS)

Taken by Dave Lesh  
on TUE morning  
4/7/26

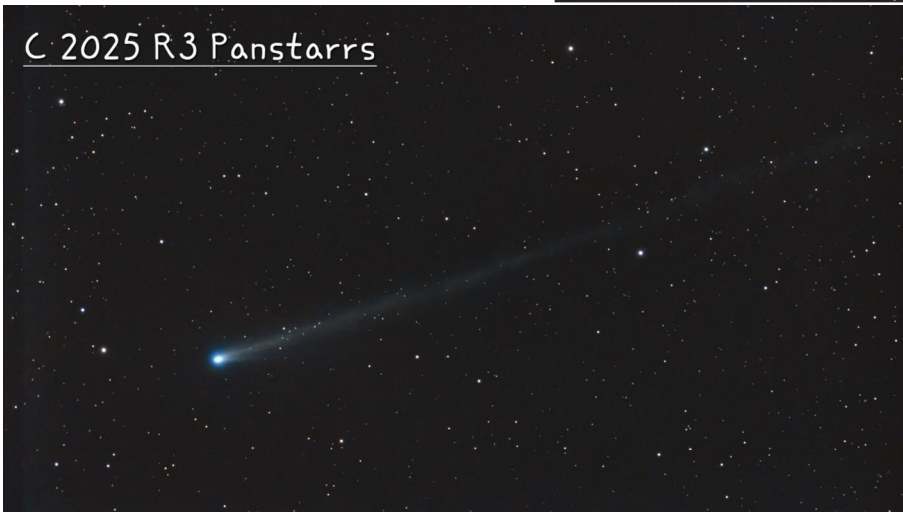
C/2025 R3  
(PanSTARRS)

Taken by Dave Lesh  
on SAT morning  
4/11/26



DWARF 3  
2026.04.07 06:01 | 42.9° N 86.1° W

C 2025 R3 PANSTARRS | 9 min  
30s | 60 | Astro



C 2025 R3 Panstarrs



Member Casey Bartman, Jr., visited Hemlock Crossing and saw our photos displayed.

This display will be up for a while. We hope our members will visit the Nature Education Center to view.

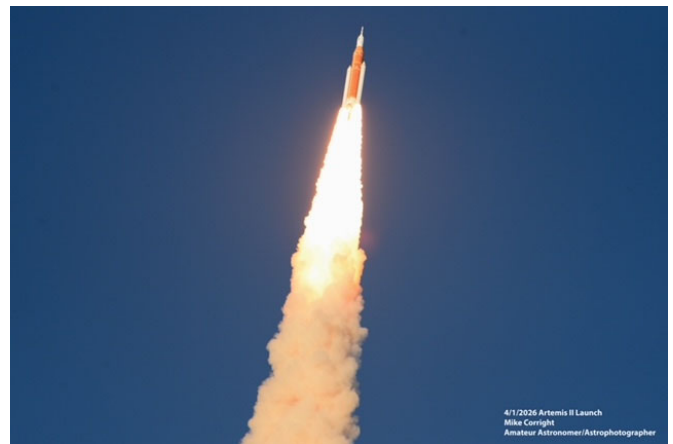
## More Club Member Photos!

From member Mike Cortright, and now President of the Muskegon Astronomical Society.

I had the privilege to be one of a few individuals, to attend the Artemis II launch, this past Wednesday, April 1st, 2026. I was about 3.5 miles from LC 39B where Artemis was launched from, in the historic return to the moon. There is no way to describe the experience. The view was fantastic. The roar of 8.5 million pounds of thrust shook the air, and the ground.

Artemis rose very quickly, and within about 2 and a half minutes was beyond view. The sky was clear, and was able to follow the path, and capture the solid booster separation, as the Artemis SLS continued to accelerate, and place 4 astronauts into earth orbit, and who are now on their way to the moon for the first time since leaving there in 1972 with Apollo 17.

The images below were captured with a Nikon 5300 fitted with 70-300mm lens.





## 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 they 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, a picture and phone number to be reached at in order to be contacted directly. Please send to Barb/Editor ([barbwbrown@hotmail.com](mailto: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, please see our membership roster for information on how to contact the Keyholder to schedule a private Observatory tour.

Apr 26-May2	Michael Long
May 3-9	James Reier
May 10-16	Karl Rijkse
May 17-23	Frank Roldan
May 24-30	Barry Schoenfelner
May 31-Jun 5	David Lesh



## NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day!

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

### *Publication Information*

*Self-published for SAAA members by a SAAA member. May 2026*

*Editor is appointed by the SAAA board. Email: [barbwbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:barbwbrown@hotmail.com)  
Previous Issues of our newsletters are found on our website at: [Holland-saaa.org](http://Holland-saaa.org)*

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