www.holland-saaa.org

The Shoreline Observer
October 2025

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CLUB NOTES

Hello Members,
Fall has started and this is positive for us as amateur astronomers.

Day and night times are almost equal now, so this gives us more observing time. October is a busy month.

We have our membership meeting on October 9 starting at 7 pm, but also starting at noon on October 4 SAAA organizes Astronomy Day at Hemlock Crossing Park. Please see our calendar for more details. If you want to help us please contact Barry Schoenfelner.

SAAA is invited to join a Dark Sky Night at Oval Beach-Saugatuck on October 21 starting at 8 pm. We need help with people bringing Telescopes so please if you are available let Barry Schoenfelner or me know.

Saturn and Neptune are in opposition this month so visible all night.

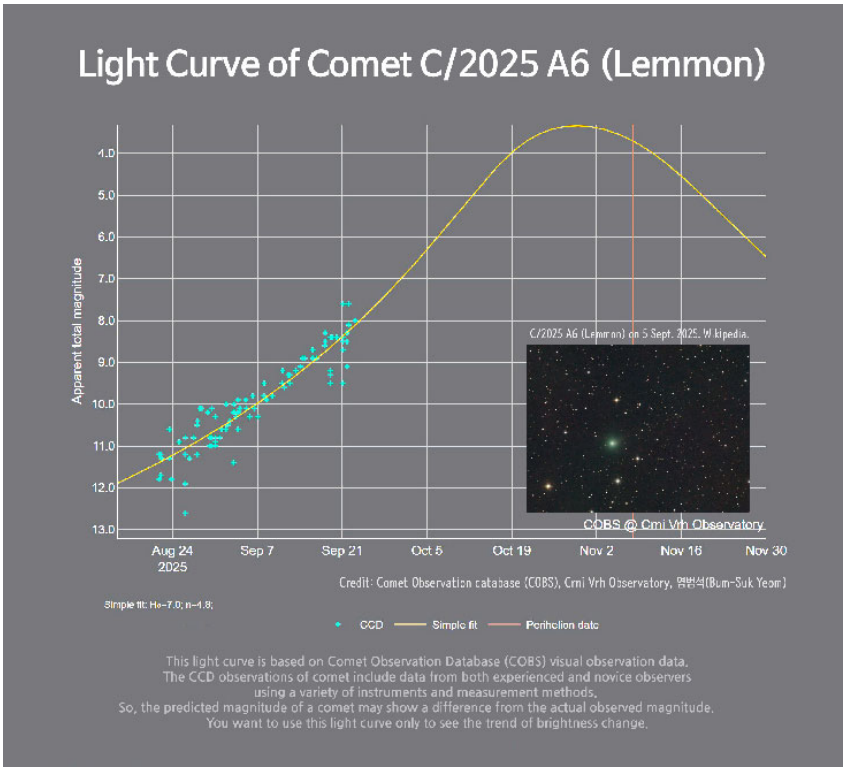
We also have 3 comets visible in October.

Comet 2025 R2 and Comet 2025 K1 are both visible from October 20-23 in the evening sky in the Constellation Virgo and close to each other.

Comet C/2025 A6 (Lemmon) is predicted to become magnitude 4 so visible with the naked eye! It is changing from the morning sky to the evening sky and will be visible in Ursa Major at the end of October.

Clear skies,

Karl Rijkse
President
SAAA



SAAA 2026 Presentations

Dear members,

As a board we are already planning ahead for the new year 2026. Something we have to arrange quickly is the Hemlock Crossing Park presentation program.

So far we found topics and presenters for a part of the year 2026, but some months are still open. **Would like to participate and give a presentation on an astronomical topic for the month of May or November 2026?**

Please help out the club and let me or Barry Schoenfelner know.

Thanks in advance for your support.
Kind regards,
Karl Rijkse, President SAAA

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Public Observing

When Every FRI evening starting at sunset (weather permitting) and on first SAT during the summer. See immediately below for start times.

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. 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.

Friday Night (and First Saturday) Viewing Times

7pm	January ~ March	**9pm**	**June ~ September**
8pm	April ~ May	**7pm**	**October ~ December**

October 2025 Dates and Times

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3 7pm Public C	4 12pm Astror 7pm Comets 8pm Public
5	6	7	8	9 7pm Club M	10 7pm Public C	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 7pm Public C	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 7pm Public C	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 7pm Public C	Nov 1 7pm Life Cy 8pm Public

For More Information on Any Event
Please go to www.holland-saaa.org

September 2025 Muskegon Club

Tuesday October 14, 2025	7:30 P.M. Regular ZOOM Meeting.
Tuesday November 11, 2025	7:30 P.M. Regular ZOOM Meeting.

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Celebrate National Astronomy Day with the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association! This family-friendly event includes telescope viewing, educational displays, and an evening lecture. All activities are free. To add to the excitement, each child will receive a free raffle ticket, and three telescopes will be awarded after the lecture. Winners will be posted at www.holland-saaa.org. In case of poor weather, events will move indoors to the Nature Center.

GOOD WEATHER CONDITIONS (clear skies!)
12:00 – 5:00 PM:
- Public Solar Observing through our Coronado and Meade LX-600 telescopes
- Space-related and telescope displays will be in the Nature Education Center.
- Planet Walk

7:00 – 8:15 PM:
- Comets, Asteroids and Meteors" lecture

8:15 PM – Midnight:
- General Observing with the 16" LX-600 telescope and several smaller telescopes
- Constellation identification & mythological stories

BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS
12:00–5:00 PM:
- Planet Walk Display & Telescope Exhibit
- Space-Related Video Displays

7:00–8:15 PM:
- Comets, Asteroids and Meteors" lecture

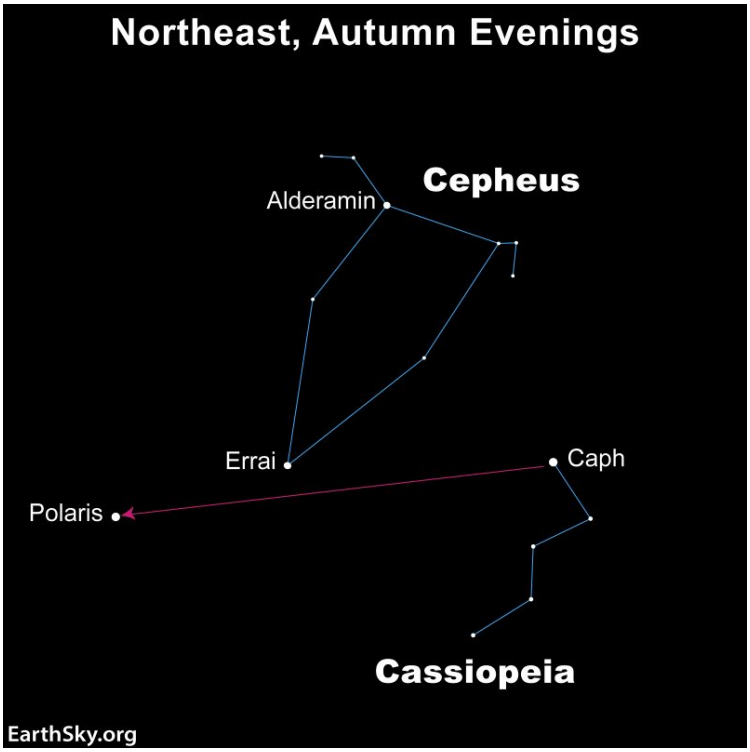
A Thank You to Our Club President!

Our Club President, Karl Rijkse, spoke at a recent HASP (Hope Academy of Senior Professionals) meeting…

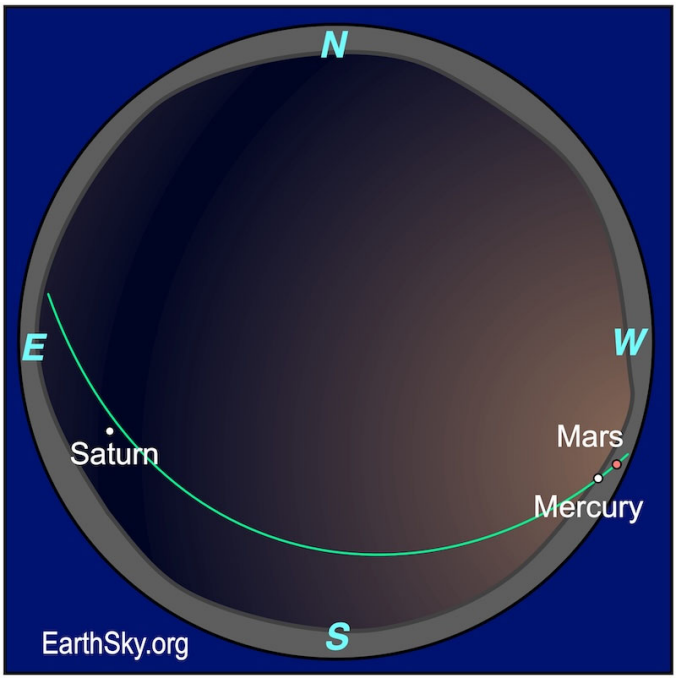
Dear Karl,
On behalf of the entire HASP membership, leadership, and staff, THANK YOU for your course on The Life of Stars. 58 HASP members participated in the classroom and online and the general feedback was very positive.
I am happy to share these comments from the course evaluations:
"Complicated stuff, this astrophysics - but explained in a way all could understand"
"Took a complex subject matter and didn't dumb it down too much. Just right and good presentation!"
"Great topic - so interesting!! The presenter was extremely knowledgeable - clearly an expert, but he was able to explain and present the material for a more general audience. Slides were very good!"
"Excellent course! Look forward to more from this presenter. There was something for all knowledge levels."
"He's so very knowledgeable!!! I learned so much!!"
We greatly appreciate your willingness to present this class, and kindly ask that you evaluate your experience with HASP by completing the Presenter Evaluation. Please let us know how we might improve before our next collaboration.
I will be processing the honorarium request for the SAAA tomorrow. You should see a check in the next couple of weeks.
Hannah Nendick-Mason
Office and Project Manager
HASP at Hope College

What's in the Sky this Month: October

Information from EarthSky.org

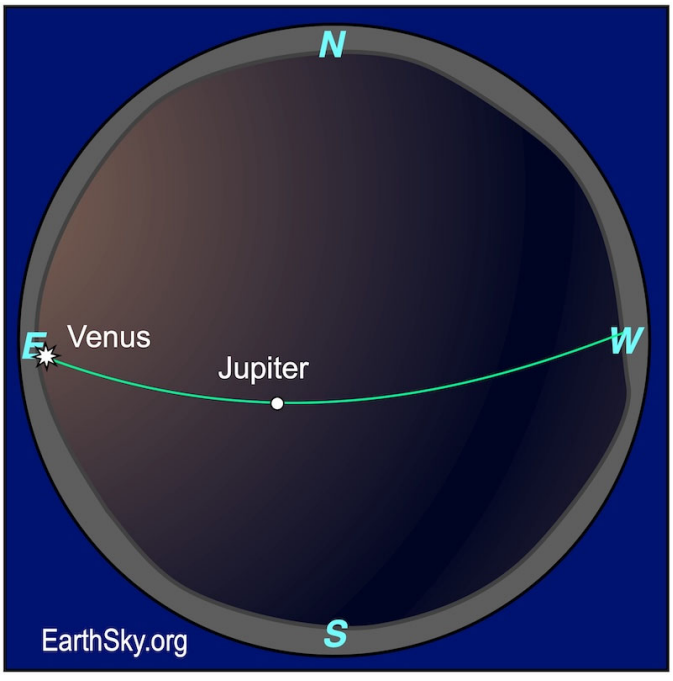


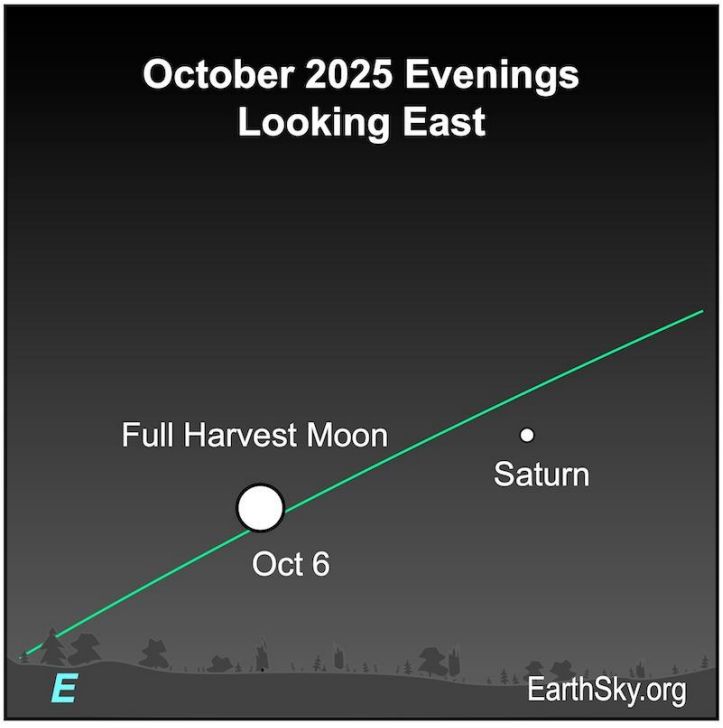
October Evenings



Full Harvest Moon October 6

October Mornings





This Month in Club History

A Brief History of Observing the Sky

Submitted by Peter Burkey

Even before the dawn of civilization, humans have been looking at the night sky with wonder and awe. So much so that they created superhuman beings (Gods) to explain what they observed in nature. And for the vast majority of history, all of our observing has been done with our naked eyes, although past observers have enjoyed vastly clearer skies and zero light pollution.

Then, in 1608 in the Netherlands an eyeglass maker named Hans Lippershey applied for a patent for a telescope. He didn't get the patent, but his new invention began to spread throughout Europe. Italian astronomer and mathematician, Galileo Galilei, improved on the design and used a telescope of his own to observe, among other things, the moons of Jupiter and the phases of Venus. His work led to the eventual downfall of the "Earth centered" theory of the solar system, and is often credited as being the start of the scientific revolution.

In the late 1600s Isaac Newton developed a telescope that uses a mirror rather than a lens to create an image. For the next couple of centuries both technologies improved, culminating in the 40-inch refractor (lens) at the Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay, Wisconsin, in 1897, and the Hooker Telescope, a 100-inch reflector (mirror) at Mount Wilson Observatory near Los Angeles. The size refers to the diameter of the instrument. The Hooker Telescope is famous for being the instrument Edwin Hubble used to determine the true nature of galaxies and the expansion of the universe. It remained the largest in the world until 1948 when the 200-inch mirror of the Hale Telescope saw first light at the Palomar Observatory in California.

In the post-Moon landing era there were a number of 4-meter (160-inch) telescopes built in the 70s and 80s in the Chilean desert and Hawaii. Twenty years later new technologies such as the computer controlled "alt-azimuth" mount and adaptive optics allowed a new generation of telescopes to be built with mirrors in the 8 to 10-meter range. These include the Keck, Gemini North, and Subaru Telescopes in Hawai'i and the Very Large Telescope, Gemini South, and Magellan Telescopes in Chile, just to name a few.

The discoveries made with these instruments have revolutionized our understanding of the universe and our place in it, and it all is about to take a giant leap forward. In the next ten years, a new generation of giant telescopes, along with the James Webb Space Telescope, will again expand our observational boundaries to new limits. Two are planned for Chile, the Giant Magellan Telescope, 24.5 meters, and the Extremely Large Telescope, 40 meters, and one in either Hawai'i or the Canary Islands, the Thirty Meter Telescope. My personal favorite, the 100 meter OWL, or Overwhelmingly Large Telescope, unfortunately was cancelled.

All of these revolutionary instruments will give us a better understanding of our world and a clear view of what's up in the sky.

This Month in Astronomy History

Oct. 1: Yerkes Observatory dedicates 40 inch refractor - 1897
Oct. 4: Space Age begins when Sputnik 1, first artificial satellite, is launched - 1957
Oct. 9: Johannes Kepler observes supernova - 1604
Oct. 14: Chuck Yeager breaks sound barrier - 1947
Oct. 22: First record of solar eclipse - 2136 BCE
Oct. 26: First flyby of Saturn's moon Titan by Cassini spacecraft - 2004
Oct. 30: STS-61A Challenger Space Shuttle launched - 1985

Kids Corner

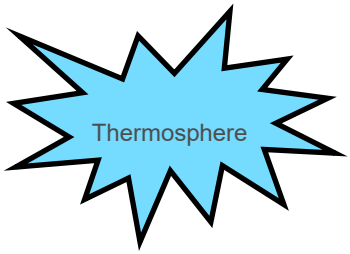
https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/ A place where kids and grown-ups have fun with chnology.

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! What's in the Atmosphere?

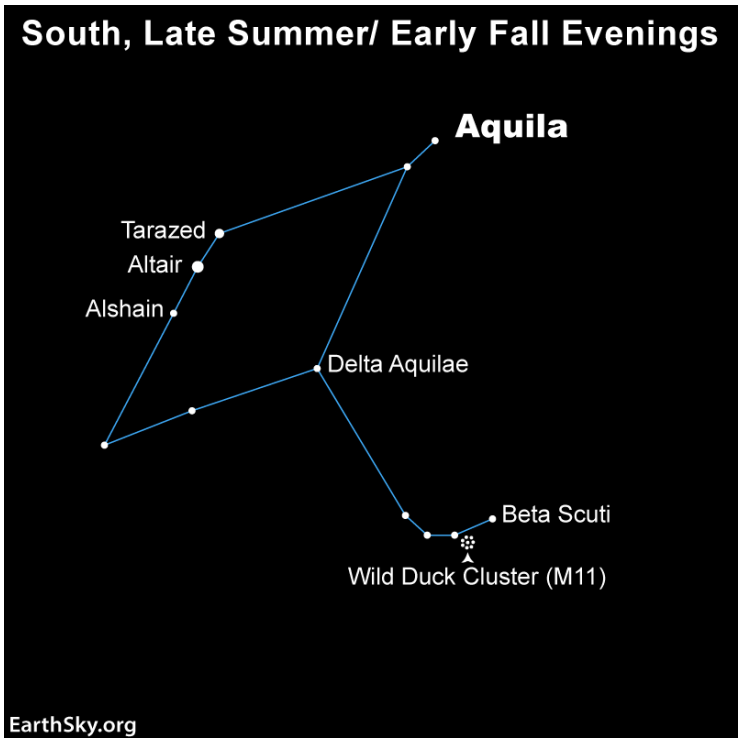
Want to learn more about what is in our atmosphere? Click here. (CTL-CLICK)



What Star am I?

What star am I?
answer will appear in next month's newsletter

I fly overhead, and oh, the treasures this constellation brings
I have a beauty of a globular cluster alongside
M15 is one of the best of those things
Every horse has a nose
But how many have wings?



September's star answer:
Altair (Alpha Aquilae)
Picture (Rt) from EarthSky.org

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 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, provide a picture and a phone number for direct contact. Please send to Barb/Editor (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 contact information in order to schedule for the Keyholder in order to schedule an Observatory private tour.

SEP 28-OCT 4	Barry Schoenfelner
OCT 5-11	Michael Long
OCT 12-18	James Reier
OCT 19-25	David Lesh
OCT 26-NOV 1	Karl Rijkse

NASA's Photo of the Day!

https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html features the NASA photo of the day.

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/

Publication Information

Self-published for SAAA members by a SAAA member. October 2025

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

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/