www.holland-saaa.org
November 2023

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### Club Notes

## THE NOVEMBER SKY

November is a very popular month for a number of reasons. Thanksgiving, the Day of the Dead, election day, and the Michigan-Ohio State game all occur in November.

This month's evening sky will be notable because of the presence of two bright planets, Jupiter and Saturn, high in the south. They are two of the ten brightest objects visible, the others being (in order of brightness) Vega, Capella, Rigel, Betelgeuse, Altair, Aldebaran, Fomalhaut, and Deneb.

Facing due south, also high in the sky is another favorite - the Great Square of Pegasus. Look just to the right of Jupiter. My favorite aspect of of this asterism is that you can use its stars to locate M31, the Andromeda galaxy. Begin at the top, left corner of the Great Square and jump to the left for two stars, turn 90 degrees to the right, and repeat the last jump. Use binoculars to scan the area for the galaxy. If you are working on your Messier Certificate or another award from the Astronomical League, you can find more information here: https://www.astroleague.org/observing-program-division/

If you have a clear view of the northern horizon, check out Ursa Major very near the horizon. Follow the pointer stars straight up to catch Polaris, the North Star. One hour after sunset on the 16th, look low in the southwest for the thin, crescent Moon in the middle of the Teapot in Sagittarius. Early risers should vow not to miss the spectacular close pairing between Venus and the Moon.

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# November Public Lecture at Hemlock Crossing Telescope Basics presented by Frank Roldan

When: Saturday, November 11th at 7:00 - 8:00pm

Where: Nature Education Center Hemlock Crossing County Park, 8115 West Olive Dr, West Olive Thinking of buying a telescope but are confused by all the strange terms in the catalog's description? Tonight the mysteries of basic optics, terms such as power, magnification, focal length and more will be revealed. SAAA presents informational and educational lectures at Hemlock Crossing inside the Nature Education Center on the second Saturday of the month. Weather permitting, programs are followed by public observatory sessions accompanied by members' telescopes. The goal is to have fun while learning.

I have mentioned this in the past, but I find it worth repeating., a very helpful source of information is the Sky Calendar from Abrams Planetarium, located on MSU's campus. You can subscribe for \$12 per year. It consists of a monthly calendar that describes notable events to observe during the month with a full-sky map on the other side. You will find the calendar side to be a helpful source when trying to locate and identify your sightings. https://www.abramsplanetarium.org/SkyCalendar/index.html



Now go back and try to locate all the bright stars listed in the second paragraph.

Peter Burkey, President, SAAA

# Calendar and Upcoming Events

#### **Public Observing**

When Weather Permitting Every FRI evening 7PM. NOTE: **Time changed to 7PM on Oct 20**<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup>). There are no entry fees. Please be aware that the park gate closes automatically at 8 PM sharp, therefore visitors must arrive before 8 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, November 9th, 7pm – 9pm

Where Planetarium at Mac Bay School (map)

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

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Space Place: <a href="https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/">https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/</a> 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 Our Club Newsletter March 1989

#### Trivia, Flotsam, And Jetsam

Our collective thanks to Consumer Powers of Michigan for their cooperation in lowering lights in Traverse City. It was brought to their attention that lighting at a substation was casting glow near John Rodger's Observatory. Consumers reacted quickly to turn off its night lighting.

Dick Cookman, professor of Geology and Astronomy, told me that a local group of amateurs, Traverse City Astronomical Society, brought in a speaker from the Dark Sky Association. This provided awareness on the part of the local group to go to the City and Consumers. Dick also said that several townships now have ordnances controlling lighting. Additionally, two other power companies reduced their night lighting in the area.



Photograph left:
Mike Cortright ©
Please see our website for more of Mike's work.
<a href="https://www.holland-saaa.org/">https://www.holland-saaa.org/</a>

# Jupiter 8/16/2021

Celestron 8HD, ASI462MC, SharpCap Mike Cortright Amateur Astronomer/ Astrophotographer

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