



Club Notes

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Additional Club Note

If you've not done so already, we want to encourage everyone to subscribe to the Abrams Sky Calendar. It is very helpful to all ages. It can be found at abramsplanetarium.org/skycalendar/skycalendar/. The cost is \$12.00 per year.

Greetings. I wanted to share some information for members regarding the next membership meeting to be held on Thursday, December 14 in the Mac Bay planetarium.

(I'll interrupt my train thought and suggest that perhaps we could convince the school to allow us to give the facility a real name. Just a thought.)

As I mentioned in an earlier email, this is a meeting filled with tradition. We will have our brief membership meeting to start things off. You will receive the minutes of the December Board meeting beforehand. These items will be discussed and acted on.

Also, Members are encouraged to bring their favorite holiday treats or beverages to share with the group.

After the formalities, we will enjoy a short clip describing December's night sky and a brief tour using the planetarium projector. During the intermission we will enjoy treats and refreshments donated by various members. Please let me know if you are about to donate some treats to this cause.



The main feature will follow with our annual viewing of the excellent video called "Season of Light." This once-a-year presentation offers a wonderful view of many of the traditions and history associated with the Christmas Season. It is always a favorite of those present.

So, please join us at the Mac Bay planetarium on Dec. 14 for food, fun, entertainment, and inspiration.

Peter
Peter Burkey, President, SAAA

THE DECEMBER SKY

December can be frustrating for skygazers, usually for three reasons: clouds, wind, and snow. The good news about this December is that there will be multiple dates when something observable will be in the sky.

We'll start with some planets. You probably noticed Jupiter shining brightly in the southeast in recent days. As the month progresses, it will continue to dominate the southern sky. Also visible is Saturn, although it is lower, further west and not as bright as Jupiter. Venus dominates the early morning sky. Don't miss the conjunction with the crescent Moon on Dec. 9. Mercury has a fleeting chance of being spotted 40 minutes after sunset on Dec. 10. By the end of the month, it will be easily visible in the SE to the lower left of Venus, 40 minutes before sunrise.

This month there is also a number of deep sky objects to enjoy. At last month's meeting, we found one of my favorites - the Andromeda Galaxy. If you use the December Abrams Sky Calendar, you will find it very nearly

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overhead just below Cassiopeia. You may recall that the Great Square of Pegasus can also be used as a guide to find the galaxy.

Low in the Eastern sky is a group of constellations that will dominate this spring. Here is another case where the Sky Calendar is very helpful. Turn the calendar so that East is at the bottom and you will see a “circle” of the constellations Gemini, Auriga, Taurus, and Orion. Each one contains myriad deep sky objects, many of which are easily visible in binoculars or a small telescope. This will also be a great preview of what’s up in the sky this coming spring.

So grab some binoculars and your Sky Calendar, bundle up in some blankets, bring a thermos, and tour the sky. This will also be a great time to start cataloguing your observations for your quest to earn your Messier pin. And remember, "keep looking up."

Peter

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Public Observing

When Weather Permitting Every FRI evening 7PM. NOTE: **Time changed to 7PM in October.**

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 8 PM sharp, therefore visitors must arrive before 8 PM to enter the park. You will be able to leave as you wish.

Next Club Meeting

When Thu, December 14th, 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.

Upcoming Events

SAAA events								
Today	◀	▶	December 2023	▼	Print	Week	Month	Agenda
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	7pm Public Obs	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7pm Public Obs	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7pm Club Meeti	7pm Public Obs
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	7pm Public Obs	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	7pm Public Obs	
31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5	6	7pm 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: May 1989

WELCOME

TO AMATEUR ASTRONOMY!

Last November, three of us sat for several hours in a local restaurant sipping coffee and arguing and discussing all aspects we could think of on starting a new organization. The discussion centered on four main topics:

- * 1) Should we or shouldn't we start an amateur astronomical association?
- * 2) What our assessments were of the chances of success or failure of such an adventure.
- * 3) What needed to be done to actually get the association going.
- * 4) Once started, what did we need to do or offer to the membership to keep the association viable and growing?

The decision of the three collaborators was, "Let's try it and see what happens."

As I look at the already growing and enthusiastic membership of our fledgling group, I am pleased at the response to our invitation to those with a love of the sky to join us in the formation and initiation of an amateur astronomy association. If we continue, and even expand, our growth patterns and, most importantly, our enthusiasm, we never need to worry about the health and vitality of the Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association.

Dr. Phil (Doc) Hill
335-3334



Photograph left:
Mike Cortright ©

Please see our website for more of Mike's work.

<https://www.holland-saaa.org/>