



THE OBSERVER

East Valley Astronomy Club



Raining Persiids
APOD August 12, 2007 - Fred Buenjes

EVAC This Month by Claude Haynes

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye. We have come a long way from the days of the town crier to receive our daily dose of news. Now we have 24 hour news channels and countless apps on our mobile devices. We eagerly waited for the first pictures of Pluto transmitted billions of miles; accompanied by instant analysis from scientists and planetary experts. If you are reading this column, you may have found it on the EVAC website, but we hope that you were pointed to The Observer by an email message from EVAC-Announce. Marty Pieczonka and Michael Prator have worked hard to update

our website, and transition it to a newer platform. In that process we retired our unsupported mail server and created a new set of lists using a free internet software.

EVAC-Announce enables you to receive information on East Valley Astronomy events and activities. It does not allow members to reply to the posts, but does give you the best way to know what is going on. The EVAC-Outreach mail list is for members who want to participate in the public and school star parties. The list is managed by Lynn Young, our outreach coordinator. You don't have to

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Local Star Party - August 8*
- Public Star Party - August 14*
- Deep Sky Party - August 15*
- EVAC Monthly Meeting- August 21*
- Check out all of the upcoming club events in the Calendars on page 13*

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Evac This Month

be a member of the list to volunteer at a star party, but joining the list will enable Lynn to provide details and last minute changes. If you are an active observer we encourage you to join the AZ-Observing mail list. This list is not managed by EVAC, but will provide you with a link to other observers in Arizona. Please note that the AZ-Observing list does require you to reply to the confirmation email to actually join the list.

Details for joining, and also unsubscribing, to the EVAC-Announce list are on the evaonline.org homepage. Details for EVAC-Outreach are on the Public Star Parties

If It's Clear...

by Fulton Wright, Jr. Prescott Astronomy Club

August 2015

Celestial events (from Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy magazine, and anywhere else I can find information) customized for Prescott, Arizona. All times are Mountain Standard Time.

This month (on the 15th) Venus is in inferior conjunction with the Sun. That means that if you can catch it early in the month in the West after sunset or late in the month in the East before sunrise, you will be able to see a very thin crescent in your small telescope.

On Thursday, August 6, the Moon is at last quarter phase and rises at 11:54 PM. If you would like an observing challenge, look low in the West for Jupiter, Mercury, and Regulus, all within a degree and a half of each other. The sun sets at 7:28 PM. The group sets at 8:12 PM.

On the night of Wednesday, August 12, you might see some Perseid meteors. It is nearly new Moon so that shouldn't be a problem. As usual, the display is best after midnight, when the radiant is highest, and when the sky is darkest. This occurs about 4:15 AM, Thursday. If you want to watch for an hour, I would start about 3:15 AM, an hour before astronomical twilight begins. Although this is one of the more reliable meteor showers, with meteors there are no guarantees. If clouds threaten, try the night before or after.

page under the Meetings and Events list. Details for AZ-Observing can be found on the Member Star Parties page. Click on the link on the page, and follow the instructions. The board appreciates the survey responses we received at the June and July meetings. We are working on other technologies, so look for future announcements on other ways to interact with EVAC.

Keep looking up (and checking your email).

Claude

On Friday, August 14, it is new Moon and you have all night to hunt for faint fuzzies.

On Friday, August 21, between 7:30 PM and 9:30 PM, you can see some interesting features on the Moon. With a small telescope look at the south-east (IAU, not celestial) part of Mare Vaporum for Aries Hoofprint (a strange patch of dark mountain ridges) and, south of it, many rills. In particular Rima Hyginus shows lots of detail in a large telescope with good seeing. Astronomy magazine, August 2015, p. 37 has an article about the area.

On Saturday, August 22, the Moon is at first quarter phase and sets at 11:54 PM.

On Monday, August 24, just as dusk is falling (about 7:30 PM), the gibbous Moon will pass in front of the open cluster, M 23, in Sagittarius. Twilight will interfere with seeing the stars disappear behind the dark limb of the Moon, and the bright limb will interfere with seeing stars reappear later. Use a big telescope and high power to see the stars more easily. The whole show will be over about 10:00 PM.

On Saturday, August 29, at 7:01 PM (1 minute after sunset) the full Moon rises spoiling any chance of seeing faint fuzzies for the night.

The Backyard Astronomer

by Bill Dellinges (August 2015)

Seek Thine Summer Asterisms

Consider taking a break from your regimen of splitting double stars, resolving planetary detail or finding that galaxy a gazillion light years away and check out the world of asterisms. What is an asterism? Easy, any group of stars that form an interesting pattern that's not an official constellation. "Aster" is from the Greek word for star and "asterism" is a group of stars. They come in all sizes. Some are huge like the Big Dipper, the seven brightest stars in Ursa Major, the Great Bear (Yes, the **Big Dipper** is NOT a constellation). There are many examples of large asterisms where stars within a constellation are borrowed to create familiar or interesting objects. In Sagittarius we find the well known **Teapot**, where the Milky Way acts as steam coming out of the spout. North of the Teapot's handle, Rho, Pi, Omicron and Zeta Sagittarii form the **Teaspoon**, should you need to stir your tea. Below the optical double star Mu Scorpii in Scorpius, open star clusters NGC 6231 and Collinder 316 can look remarkably like a naked eye comet resulting in the moniker **False Comet**. Hercules' central torso of four stars is known as the **Keystone**.

There are very large asterisms that incorporate stars from more than one constellation. The venerable **Summer Triangle** is composed of the stars Deneb, Altair, and Vega. They are the brightest stars in the constellations of Cygnus the Swan, Aquila the Eagle, and Lyra the Harp. Lyra has a neat four star asterism below Vega often referred to as the **Parallelogram** (the main part of the Harp). As an asterism, Cygnus is also known as the **The Northern Cross**. It certainly looks more like a cross than a swan! The star Albireo, a beautiful double star, marks the Swan's head (or base of

the Cross). Seven degrees due south of Albireo the unaided eye can perceive a small nebulous patch of light. A pair of binoculars will reveal the smudge to be an asterism of ten stars in the shape of an upside down coathanger. The grouping has several names – The **Coathanger**, Collinder 399 and Brocchi's Cluster. Astronomers think the Coathanger is chance alignment of unrelated stars. Sidebar! About 20 arc minutes east of the Coathanger is a faint open cluster, NGC 6802. Also note that the two bright top stars in the "hook" are the multiple stars Struve 2521 and h2871.

To the southeast of Cygnus lies Delphinus the Dolphin, a small delicate curved five star constellation that's easy to relate to a dolphin jumping out of the water. To some, the four stars forming the main body of the mammal are reminiscent of the shape of a coffin and have come to be known as the asterism **Job's Coffin**. While there, check out the fine double star Gamma Delphini. High in the west sky hangs Bootes, the Herdsman. Mentors have been known to assist their astrophiles in remembering this star pattern as an **Ice Cream Cone** or **Kite**. To embellish the latter, the stars Eta, Tau and Nu are attached to Arcturus to make the kite's tail.

Asterisms can be fun to find and enjoy. Perhaps in the course of observing you'll stumble across a unique pattern of stars resembling an object or animal and share your asterism with others.

For a comprehensive list of Asterisms see:

www.saguaroastro.org/content/downloads.htm

Telescope Auction at the September Evac Meeting

There will be a telescope auction at the September EVAC meeting. The following pictures show the scopes that will be up for auction.

4.5 Inch Spectrum Short Tube Reflector



4.5 Inch Tasco Reflector



Telescope Auction at the September Evac Meeting

Continued from page 4

6 Inch Orion Reflector



60 mm Meade ETX



Find Out What's Happening – Join EVAC-Announce List

If you would like to receive email announcements about EVAC meetings and activities please join the EVAC–Announce mailing list. Click on the link below to subscribe. Enter your full email address in the box titled User Options and press OK. You will receive a confirmation email. Your privacy is respected by EVAC and we will never sell your email address, or use it for non-club relevant solicitations. This mailing list is designed for communication from EVAC, and does not enable users to respond to the message. If you wish to contact club officers, please use the list on the Contact-Us tab.

To subscribe to the EVAC – Announce mail group click:

<http://www.freelists.org/list/evac-announce>

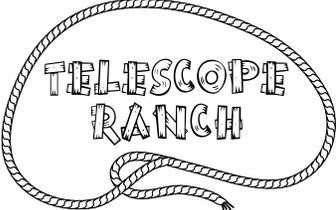
To unsubscribe use the same link, enter your email address and select Unsubscribe from the “Choose An Action” list.

LAST QUARTER MOON ON AUGUST 6 AT 22:03

NEW MOON ON AUGUST 14 AT 10:53

FIRST QUARTER MOON ON AUGUST 22 AT 15:31

***FULL MOON ON AUGUST 29 AT 14:35**



**TELESCOPES
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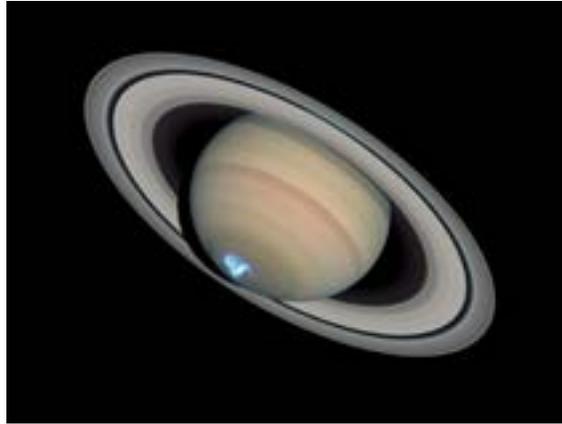
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Dobsonian Telescope For Sale

In April of 1992 I bought a dobsonian telescope with a 17.5" mirror from Coulter Optical. They are no longer in business. I paid \$1239.13 for the telescope. (Tax incl.) I have enjoyed using it but no longer have the means to transport it to a dark sky. The telescope needs to be used by someone who can get full use out of it so I am ready to bid farewell. I have the original operating guide. Some of the specifications are as follows:

- Mirror Diameter = 17.5
- Mirror Focal Length = 78.85
- Obscuration diameter = 4.25
- Focal ratio F/# = 4.5

I have just the original eyepiece that came with it. I never bought any extra eyepieces or filters. The overall condition of the telescope is good, but the mirror has never been cleaned. If you'd like to hear more about it, you may e-mail me. You can also leave a message at 480-483-3071. I will call back as soon as I get a chance.

Fred Marderness (reednote@yahoo.com)



Meade 10inch F/4 Schmidt Newtonian Telescope For Sale

Purchased in 2003, this Meade 10 inch F4 Schmidt-Newtonian is being offered by a gentleman who is no longer able to observe.

Please contact karenaramos@yahoo.com if interested. OTA has been stored inside. There is a pier with clock drive that has been outside and is included.

If interested, please contact Karen Ramos (karenaramos@yahoo.com)

Upcoming Meetings

August 21

September 16

October 16

November 20

December 18

January 15

February 19

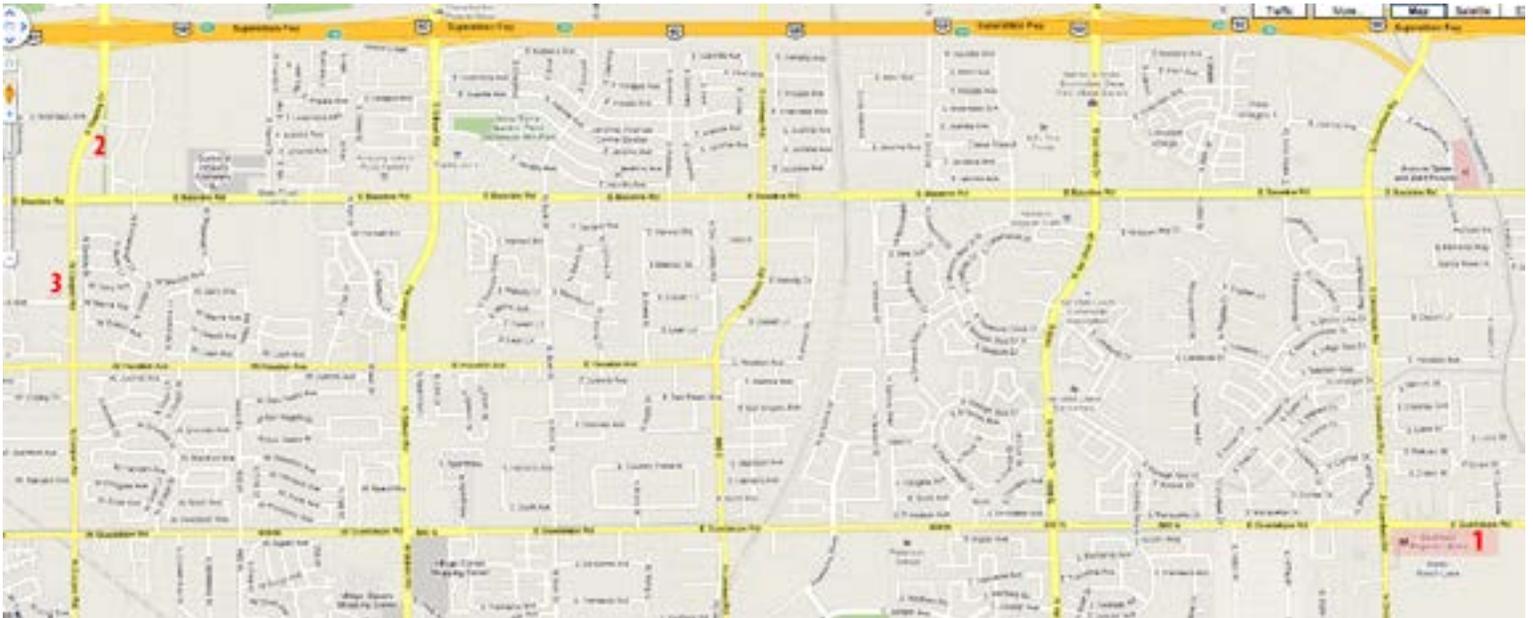
March 18

The monthly general meeting is your chance to find out what other club members are up to, learn about upcoming club events and listen to presentations by professional and well-known amateur astronomers.

Our meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert. The library is located at 775 N. Greenfield Road; on the southeast corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

All are welcome to attend the pre-meeting dinner at 5:30 pm. We meet at Old Country Buffet, located at 1855 S. Stapley Drive in Mesa. The restaurant is in the plaza on the northeast corner of Stapley and Baseline Roads, just south of US60.

Visitors are always welcome!



2

Old Country Buffet
1855 S. Stapley Drive
Mesa, Az. 85204

1

Southeast Regional Library
775 N. Greenfield Road
Gilbert, Az. 85234



AUGUST 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Aug 8 - Local Star Party

Aug 17 - Explore the Night Sky

Aug 14 - Public Star Party

Aug 21 - EVAC Monthly Meeting

Aug 15 - Deep Sky Party

SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sept 5 - Local Star Party

Sept 12 - Deep Sky Party

Sept 11 - Public Star Party

Sept 18 - EVAC Monthly Meeting

East Valley Astronomy Club -- 2013 Membership Form

Please complete this form and return it to the club Treasurer at the next meeting or mail it to EVAC, PO Box 2202, Mesa, Az, 85214-2202. Please include a check or money order made payable to EVAC for the appropriate amount.

IMPORTANT: All memberships expire on December 31 of each year.

Select one of the following:

- New Member
 Renewal
 Change of Address

New Member Dues (dues are prorated, select according to the month you are joining the club):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 Individual January through March | <input type="checkbox"/> \$22.50 Individual April through June |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 Family January through March | <input type="checkbox"/> \$26.25 Family April through June |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Individual July through September | <input type="checkbox"/> \$37.50 Individual October through December |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$17.50 Family July through September | <input type="checkbox"/> \$43.75 Family October through December |
- Includes dues for the following year*

Renewal (current members only):

- \$30.00 Individual**
 \$35.00 Family

Name Badges:

- \$10.00** Each (including postage) Quantity: _____

Name to imprint: _____

Total amount enclosed:

Please make check or money order payable to EVAC

- Payment was remitted separately using PayPal
 Payment was remitted separately using my financial institution's online bill payment feature

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email:

City, State, Zip:

- Publish email address on website

URL:

How would you like to receive your monthly newsletter? (choose one option):

- Electronic delivery (PDF) *Included with membership*
 US Mail **Please add \$10 to the total payment**

Areas of Interest (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Cosmology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunar Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Telescope Making |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planetary Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Astrophotography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep Sky Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please describe your astronomy equipment:

Would you be interested in attending a beginner's workshop? Yes No

How did you discover East Valley Astronomy Club?

PO Box 2202
Mesa, AZ 85214-2202
www.evaconline.org

All members are required to have a liability release form (waiver) on file. Please complete one and forward to the Treasurer with your membership application or renewal.

The Observer is the official publication of the East Valley Astronomy Club. It is published monthly and made available electronically as an Adobe PDF document the first week of the month. Printed copies are available at the monthly meeting. Mailed copies are available to members for a slight surcharge to offset printing and mailing expenses.

Please send your contributions, tips, suggestions and comments to the Editor at: news@evaonline.org Contributions may be edited. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the East Valley Astronomy Club, the publisher or editor.

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www.evaonline.org

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