

THE OBSERVER



The Sombrero Galaxy from Hubble - APOD May 15, 2011
 Credit: NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team

From the Desk of the President

by Tom Mozdzen

Many thanks to Gordon for stepping up to give his "History of Rocketry" talk on short notice. When our featured speaker had to cancel at the last minute, we asked Gordon if he was ready to go, and he said yes. Gordon's talk was well received and had many favorable comments. We have a reserve of two to three talks by club members just for the situation where we get a late notice cancellation, and the talks in reserve are worthy of "featured speaker" quality.

We will be able to hear Dr. Larry Wasserman's talk on New Horizon's Ultima Thule at the June meeting. Perhaps a delay of two months for

Dr. Wasserman's talk will enable even more data to be analyzed by NASA and presented to us.

Brooks Scofield gave a brief quarterly financial report stating that we are on track with our budgeted income and expenses for 2019. Membership is healthy, and membership turn out at the monthly meetings has been solid.

A second round of EVAC logoed clothing was ordered in April and will be available for pick up at the May general meeting. We will have ten shirts and several hats on hand for sale that we needed to order to make the minimum order quantity.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

EVAC Star Party - May 4

EVAC Public Star Party - May 10

EVAC Meeting - May 17

EVAC Star Party - May 25

Check out all of the upcoming club events in the Calendars on page 9.

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From the Desk of the President

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When these are gone, the next ordering opportunity will be in the late fall or in the spring, at the earliest. Please contact David Douglass if you wish to order something at a future date, and when there is enough interest again, we will order another batch of twenty items.

The board agreed to hire Marty Pieczonka's daughter-in-law, Heather Pieczonka, to modernize the EVAC web page. Her excellent modernization of the GRCO webpage, free of charge, impressed everyone so much that we asked her to take her skills to the main EVAC site. Tom Polakis and Rob Baldwin are providing the bulk of the input as to what to keep, what is redundant, and what should be grouped or ungrouped. Input by others is also welcome, but recommendations should come with good specific details and perhaps examples if possible. We hope to have this modernization completed by the end of the summer or fall of 2019.

We are in the process of finding a new Events Coordinator as Lynn Young has stepped down due to health

issues last month. We are making progress, and hope to make an announcement next month. In the meantime, Claude Haynes and I will be covering the position.

Along with the Gilbert Parks and Recs department modernizing the projector this year (16:9 format and HDMI connectors), they are now in the process of updating the internet in the room. Apparently, EVAC is not the only user who has requested more robust internet. Several of our talks lately have required internet access, and we have had to provide that with cellphones configured as local "hot spots." We are excited that we will be getting 21st century internet in the room.

The featured speaker for the May meeting will be Dr. Chad Trujillo (NAU) with his talk titled, "Discovery of minor planet Erin, the "Goblin", and the search for Planet X."

See you at the May meeting

Tom Mozdzen

EVAC General Meeting Notes for April 2019

by Tom Polakis

Club President Tom Mozdzen opened the meeting with an introduction of EVAC's officers and Board members. This was followed by visitors introducing themselves. GRCO Director Claude Haynes provided a brief summary of the status of the observatory. He made a call for volunteers to help out on Friday and Saturday nights. Claude also mentioned that the Grand Canyon Star Party will be June 22 through 29 at the South Rim, and there is plenty of space to set up scopes.

Treasurer Brooks Scofield gave a report on the Club's finances, which are in good shape for 2019. Tom showed the calendar for outreach events, with only one on April 25 at Sanborn Elementary School. Lynn Young is stepping down from his long-held position as Outreach Director, so EVAC is in need of a replacement for outreach to continue. Finally, Tom brought up the need for volunteers at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held in Phoenix on May 16.

Tom Polakis led off member presentations with some images of geostationary satellites and photos of the night

sky over Death Valley and southern Florida. Bob Buchheim followed with an invitation to attend the Society for Astronomical Sciences Symposium in Ontario, California from May 30 through June 1. Finally, David Douglass described the availability of newly designed EVAC shirts and hats.

The main speaker for the night was Gordon Rosner, life member of EVAC, GRCO vice-manager, and a veteran rocket propulsion engineer. His talk was "Rocketing Into Space." He began with the early efforts to launch rockets, and followed their evolution through modern rocketry. He spent some time describing the technology developed during the USA's Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs of the 1960's and 70's. Gordon led the presentation with a photo of a rocket launch, telling the audience that they would be able to identify many aspects of it by the end of the talk. When he came back to the same photo, we knew whether the booster was solid or liquid, what the towers were there for, and the elements of the smoke and steam on the ground.

The Backyard Astronomer

by Bill Dellinges (May 2019)

Can't Remember Star Names? Mnemonics May Help.

I enjoy knowing the names of stars in constellations. Unfortunately, I have a terrible memory. Some years ago it occurred to me to try using mnemonics to remember star names. My first test constellation was Ursa Major, The Great Bear, more specifically its seven brightest stars forming the asterism The Big Dipper. If we start at the tip of the bowl of the dipper and work east, we have **Dubhe**, **Merak**, **Phecda**, **Megrez**, **Alioth**, **Mizar**, and **Alkaid**. For this one to be a memorable mnemonic, I needed to cheat a little using the first two letters of Dubhe. I came up with **dump mama**, with apologies to all the mothers out there. Before moving on, I should say this technique still requires you to know the star names. There's no free lunch. My problem is I know the star names but my lousy memory needed a jump start, as it were. If I had a clue, like the first letter of the star, the name would surface in my mind from the netherworld.

Another problem constellation for me is Cassiopeia, The Queen. Her stars west to east are Caph, Schedar, Chi, Ruchbah, and Segin. My mnemonic for her majesty is **Can't Stand CRS**. People of a certain age may know what CRS stands for.

Corvus, The Crow: Top to bottom – Algorab, Gienah, Kraz, Minkar, Alchiba = **A Ghost Keeps Me Awake**.

Canis Major, The Greater Dog: Top part, left to right for Sirius and Mirzam. Bottom part, left to right for Aludra, Wezen, Adhara = **Some Men Always Watch Aliens**.

I occasionally use a mnemonic for just several stars in a constellation. For instance, the two stars either side of Altair in Aquila, The Eagle make for a distinctive trio but I had a heck of a time remembering which one was Alshain or Tarazed. So, since Tarazed is north of Altair and if I went south to north, I'd get the initials AAT which I mnemonicized into **Aquila Attacks Toads**.

Scorpius, The Scorpion: The three almost vertical western stars in Scorpius currently represent the creature's claws which in ancient times extended into what is now Libra. I could never remember their names. For this group I go top to bottom. The most common proper name for the top star is Graffias, though it's also known as Acrab; it's not uncommon to find stars with two names in astronomy. The middle star is Dschubba. The bottom star has no proper name and is simply assigned the Bayer Greek letter Pi. Thus I have either GDP or ADP. I still haven't made up my mind which I like better, **Good Darn Pie** or **A Dangerous Pet**. I'm working on it.

Our final entry is Bootes, The Herdsman. Here, I'm really going to go nuts. I'm pulling out all the stops and will use all the constellation's star names! I seriously don't expect anyone, including myself, to try to remember this tortuous mnemonic, but it might be an amusing way to end this bizarre discussion. OK, fasten your seat belts. We're going south to north and clockwise at the same time. Muphrid, Arcturus, Izar, Delta, Alkalurops, Nekkar, Seginus, Rho. I offer for your consideration: **Messier Always Initiates Detailed Amorphous Nebulae Searches Ravenously**. Whew!

NEW MOON ON MAY 5 AT 04:50

FIRST QUARTER MOON ON MAY 11 AT 21:12

FULL MOON ON MAY 18 AT 17:11

LAST QUARTER MOON ON MAY 26 AT 12:34

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. Another list that may be of interest is AZ-Observing. To subscribe click <http://www.freelists.org/list/az-observing>.

EVAC also has a Facebook Group where members may share ideas, photos, and Astronomy related information. To join: [EVAC Facebook Group](#).

The Gilbert Rotary Centennial Observatory (GRCO) also has a Facebook Group where members may share ideas, photos, and Astronomy related information. To visit, please click on [Gilbert Rotary Centennial Observatory - GRCO](#).

Looking for that perfect weekend activity?

Why not resolve to getting involved?

Contact Claude Haynes to join the staff at GRCO

Email: grco@evaconline.org




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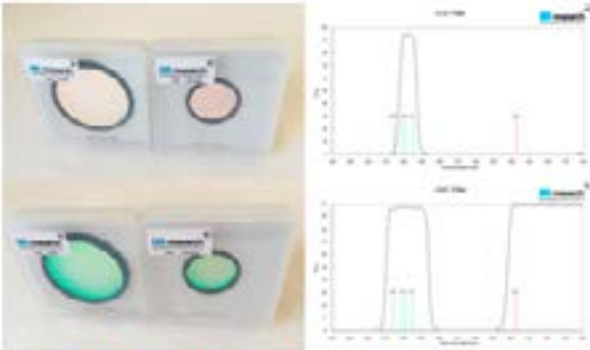
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Classified Ads



The darkest, most Pristine, sky in the continental U.S. !

At the site: Bathroom facilities, running water, 5 pads w110v, wifi, acres of grassy camp sites.

From the site: Very Large Array 42mi E, The Astronomical Lyceum 55mi E, MRO Observatory 80mi E

IC 405

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[SkyPi Remote Observatory](#)



Upcoming Meetings

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

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.

Visitors are always welcome!



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



MAY 2019

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	31	

May 4 - EVAC Star Party

May 17 - EVAC Monthly Meeting

May 10 - Public Star Party

May 25 - EVAC Star Party

JUNE 2019

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

June 1 - EVAC Star Party

June 21 - EVAC Monthly Meeting

June 14 - Public Star Party

June 29 - EVAC Star Party

East Valley Astronomy Club -- 2019 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:		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	
<i>Includes dues for the following year</i>		

Renewal (current members only):
<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 Individual <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 Family

Name Badges:
<input type="checkbox"/> \$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:

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.

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

How did you discover East Valley Astronomy Club?

To join via Paypal: http://evaonline.org/join_evac.htm	Joining the club implies you agree to the liability waiver. http://evaonline.org/join-liability_release_form.htm
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The East Valley Astronomy Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

www.evaonline.org

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Vice President: Rob Baldwin

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Property Director: David Hatch

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Webmaster: Marty Pieczonka

SkyWatch Coordinator: Claude Haynes

Observatory Manager: Claude Haynes