

# Southwest Florida Astronomical Society

## SWFAS



## The Eyepiece July 2011

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a good Fourth of July weekend. The rains have arrived along with a lot of clouds! (Did anyone get a new telescope?)

Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control, Andrew Zimmerman Jones had to cancel his trip down here and so we had to cancel his presentation. We will be showing the planetarium show **Stars** and if there is interest, an additional show.

I did a presentation for Chick-Fil-A's Wacky Science Thursday on June 30th for about 50 kids. It was cloudy so we couldn't do any solar observing. At this time, observing is scheduled at Chick-Fil-A for July 5th during their Kids Night. This is at the Chick-Fil-A in North Fort Myers/Cape Coral.

We have a solar observing presentation planned for Lee County Parks and Rec at Manatee Park on July 27th. Cape Coral Parks and Rec has also requested us to do an event for them in July too at their Rotary Park camp. We are working to establish a date.

The Immokalee Rotary Club (care of Chuck Pavlick) is asking us to do a star party for them in the October/November time frame on a Friday night. Time change is not until November 6th, so I recommend a date after that. Currently, we have an event scheduled at the Edison Home on the night of Nov. 11th from 10pm to midnight for the Girl Scouts. Nov. 18th is available and is before the Thanksgiving weekend.

We have a member asking about getting a ride to the meetings from the 33908 zip code. Please contact me for details.

Our August meeting is August 4th at 7:30 pm at the Calusa Nature Center Planetarium. Presentation to be determined.

The sky this month:

- \* Saturn is high in the south at sunset and sets after midnight. It is well placed for observation.
- \* The full moon is on the 15th.
- \* Mercury graces the evening twilight sky and is at greatest elongation on the 20th.

## President's Message Continues...

- \* The last week of the month, the moon will pass near Jupiter and Mars in the morning sky.
- \* On the 29th with a new moon so there will be no interference, the Delta Aquarid meteor shower will peak. This is a somewhat faint shower, so dark skies are needed. The radiant is high in the southeast after midnight.
- \* Neptune is completing its first orbit around the Sun since it was discovered this month on the 12th.

## July Meeting

Our monthly meeting is on July 7 at 7:30pm at the Calusa Nature Center Planetarium. Our scheduled speaker, Andrew Zimmerman Jones, has cancelled, so we will be watching a planetarium show instead. We will be showing the planetarium show **Stars** and if there is interest, **Impact Earth**. Here are the show descriptions:

Stars (26 minutes) - Every star has a story. Some are faint and almost forgotten. Others burn bright and end their lives in powerful explosions. New stars are created every day within vast clouds of gas and dust. Through every phase of their existence, stars release the energy that powers the Universe. Journey to the furthest reaches of our galaxy and experience both the awesome beauty and destructive power of stars. Narrated by Mark Hamill.

Impact Earth (22 minutes) - Listen to astronaut Tom Jones explain the differences between asteroids, meteors, and comets, and what how each can benefit (or harm) the earth. Learn how modern-day meteorite hunters are learning more about the early solar system, and how amateurs have found hundreds of asteroids.

## Club Equipment Info

The club's equipment is available to club members, that includes the CPC-800, the Meade 8" f/4.5 reflector on a manual GEM mount, the Orion 6" dob, the 4.5" Bushnell ball scope and the 8" optical craftsman on its heavy GEM mount (if you really want a workout!)

The CPC-800 has a plastic rolling bin to help transportation, it does not have a heavy duty case, however, there is some padding in the bin. It is available only to club members, and if the club is doing an event while you have it, you need to bring it to the event. You can do webcam imaging with it, long exposure imaging is a bit harder, as it is not wedge mounted so you get field rotation issues and there is not a guidescope setup for it. I have put a piggyback camera mount on it so you can use it for piggyback camera use. We have a white light solar filter for it and it can take the Ha Prominence filter setup too. We have the communication software for hooking it up to a laptop as well. We do ask that anyone checking it out go through a short training session, as there are a few key things to be aware of with it and it is good to be a little familiar with the hand control operation.

The Loan-A-Scopes are 60mm to 6" reflectors and refractors, some automated, some with just motors and some completely manual. These are available to the general public to check out 4 weeks at a time. If any club member wants to check one out, that is fine too. Also, if they know someone who may want to check one out, they can take one to them too. The idea behind the Loan-A-Scopes is to get people interested and let them experience things on their own. The fancier (and more expensive) scopes are reserved for actual club members.

- Brian Risley

## Comets And Asteroids in the News

### Comet Hartley 2 is Hyperactive

After visiting a comet and imaging distant stars for hints of extrasolar planets, you could say the spacecraft used for EPOXI had seen its fair share of celestial wonders. But after about 3.2 billion miles of deep space travel, one final wonder awaited the mission's project and science teams. On Nov. 4, 2010, the EPOXI mission spacecraft flew past a weird little comet called Hartley 2. The EPOXI mission found that the strong activity in water release and carbon dioxide-powered jets did not occur equally in the different regions of the comet. During the spacecraft's flyby of the comet – with closest approach of 431 miles – carbon-dioxide-driven jets were seen at the ends of the comet, with most occurring at the small end. In the middle region, or waist of the comet, water was released as vapor with very little carbon dioxide or ice. The latter findings indicate that material in the waist likely came off the ends of the comet and was redeposited. Although Hartley 2 is the only such hyperactive comet visited by a spacecraft, scientists know of at least a dozen other comets that also are relatively high in activity for their size and which are probably driven by carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide.

- *The full version of this story with accompanying images is at:*

[http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2011-185&cid=release\\_2011-185](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2011-185&cid=release_2011-185)

### **Comet Elenin Will Not Mean the End of the World in September (Students Will Have to Go Back to School in the Fall!)**

As part of a rash of conspiracy theories about the end of the world which seem to be popular these days, some web commentators are now suggesting that Comet Elenin - which will pass closest to the Earth on Oct. 16th, 2011- was connected somehow to the recent earthquake in Japan and will cause major destruction to our planet in months to come and particularly next September.

Astronomer David Morrison, writing for the "Astronomy Beat" column of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, has examined these claims and finds them all without foundation. As a public service, the Society is making the column available free to all readers at:

**[www.astro.society.org/elenin/](http://www.astro.society.org/elenin/)**

The small comet (a chunk of dirty ice) will not get closer to our planet than 34 million kilometers, which is almost a hundred times the distance of the Moon. It could not have caused earthquakes back in March, and - like many other comets over the centuries - will only be able to stir our imaginations, not our planet's magnetism, seismic activity, or physical orientation. David Morrison, is a planetary astronomer at NASA's Ames Research Center, the award-winning Director of the Carl Sagan Center at the SETI Institute, and a popular author with more than a dozen popular books and textbooks to his credit. He frequently writes about topics at the fringes of astronomy, setting public fears to rest as part of his work answering letters sent to NASA.

### **Dawn Spacecraft Captures Video of Asteroid Vesta Approach**

Scientists working with NASA's Dawn spacecraft have created a new video showing the giant asteroid Vesta as the spacecraft approaches this unexplored world in the main asteroid belt. The video loops 20 images obtained for navigation purposes on June 1. The images show a dark feature near Vesta's equator moving from left to right across the field of view as Vesta rotates. Images also show Vesta's jagged, irregular shape, hinting at the enormous crater known to exist at Vesta's south pole.

To see the video, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/dawn> .

The images were obtained by a framing camera during a 30-minute period and show about 30° of a rotation. The pixel size in these images is approaching the resolution of the best Hubble Space Telescope images of Vesta.

"Like strangers in a strange land, we're looking for familiar landmarks," said Jian-Yang Li, a Dawn participating scientist. "The shadowy spot is one of those - it appears to match a feature, known as 'Feature B,' from images of Vesta taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope."

Before orbiting Vesta on July 16, Dawn will gently slow down to about 75 mph. NASA is expecting to release more images on a weekly basis, with more frequent images available once the spacecraft begins collecting science at Vesta.

-The full version of this story with accompanying images is at:  
[http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2011-179&cid=release\\_2011-179](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2011-179&cid=release_2011-179)

### **Dawn Mission's Vesta Fiesta: August 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

After nearly four years and 1.6 billion miles, Dawn is catching up to the object of its first destination in the main asteroid belt: Vesta. Soon we will explore this exciting new world up close. It's Vesta Fiesta time!

Taking advantage of three nights when Vesta is near full and visible for night sky viewing with a telescope, Dawn is inspiring fiestas across the nation. Check out our resources, ranging from great summer science games and activities to night sky viewing inspiration to Vesta Fiesta invitations. Everything you need for an astronomical summer celebration!

[http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/news/vesta\\_fiesta.asp](http://dawn.jpl.nasa.gov/news/vesta_fiesta.asp)

- John Ristvey, Senior Director, Field Services: Education and Public Outreach,  
[jristvey@mcrel.org](mailto:jristvey@mcrel.org), <http://www.mcrel.org>

### **NGC 4945: The Milky Way's not-so-distant Cousin**



The European Southern Observatory (ESO) has released a striking image of a nearby galaxy that many astronomers think closely resembles our own Milky Way. Though the galaxy is seen edge-on, observations of NGC 4945 suggest that this hive of stars is a spiral galaxy much like our own, with swirling, luminous arms and a bar-shaped central region. These resemblances aside, NGC 4945 has a brighter center that likely harbors a supermassive black hole, which is devouring reams of matter and blasting energy out into space.

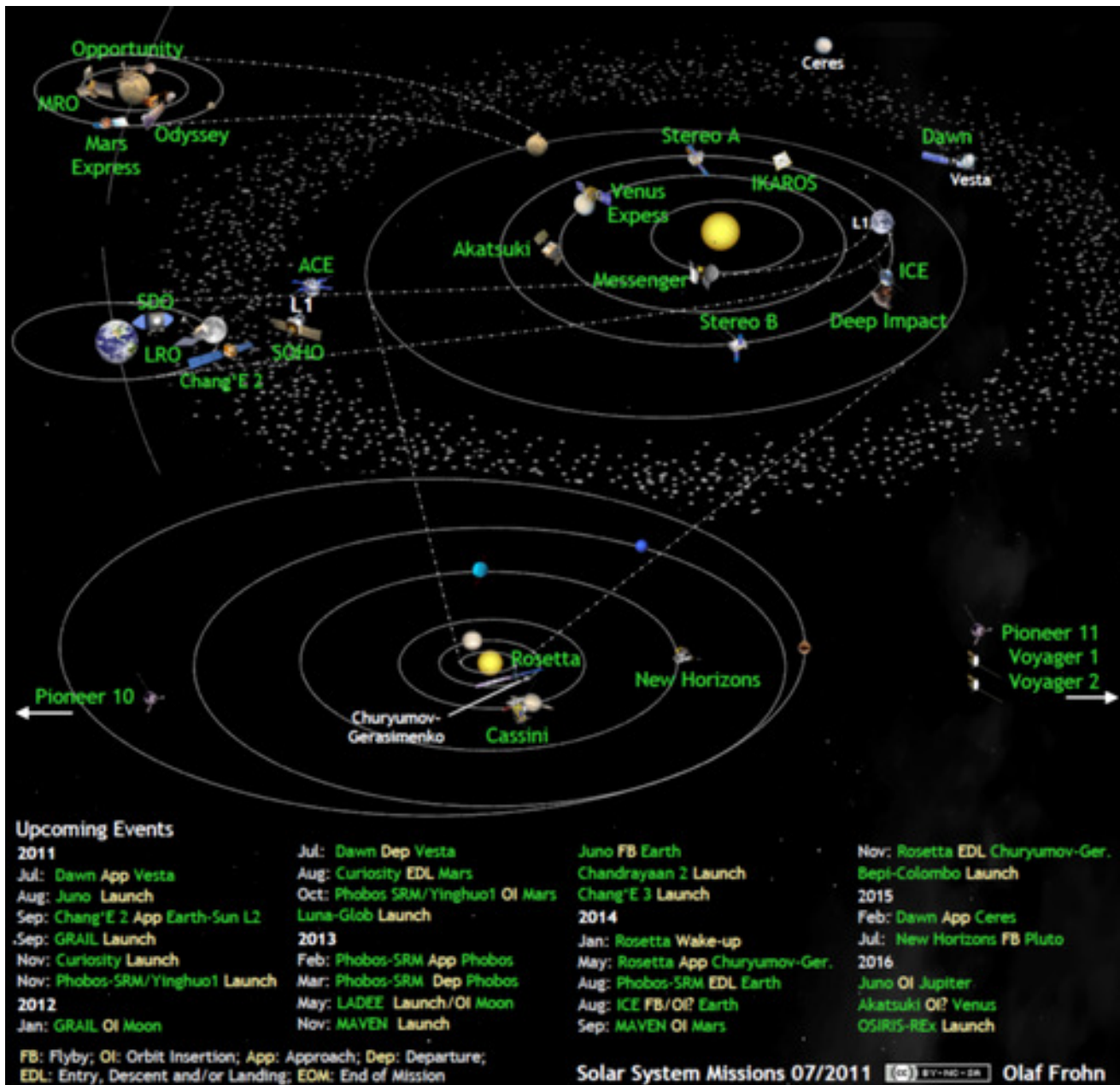
As NGC 4945 is only about 13 million light-years away in the constellation of Centaurus, a modest telescope is sufficient for skygazers to spot this remarkable galaxy. NGC 4945's designation comes from its entry number in the New General Catalogue compiled by the Danish-Irish astronomer John Louis Emil Dreyer in the 1880s. James Dunlop, a Scottish astronomer, is credited with originally discovering NGC 4945 in 1826 from Australia.

The new portrait of NGC 4945 comes courtesy of the Wide Field Imager (WFI) instrument at the 2.2-metre MPG/ESO telescope at the La Silla Observatory in Chile. NGC 4945 appears cigar-shaped from our perspective on Earth, but the galaxy is actually a disc many times wider than it is thick, with bands of stars and glowing gas spiraling around its center. With the use of special optical filters to isolate the color of light emitted by heated gases such as hydrogen, the image displays sharp contrasts in NGC 4945 that indicate areas of star formation.

Other observations have revealed that NGC 4945 has an active galactic nucleus, meaning its central bulge emits far more energy than calmer galaxies like the Milky Way. Scientists classify NGC 4945 as a Seyfert galaxy after the American astronomer Carl K. Seyfert, who wrote a study in 1943 describing the odd light signatures emanating from some galactic cores. Since then, astronomers have come to suspect that supermassive black holes cause the turmoil in the center of Seyfert galaxies. Black holes gravitationally draw gas and dust into them, accelerating and heating this attracted matter until it emits high-energy radiation, including X-rays and ultraviolet light. Most large, spiral galaxies, including the Milky Way, host a black hole in their centers, though many of these dark monsters no longer actively “feed” at this stage in galactic development.

- <http://www.eso.org/public/news/eso0931/>

## Solar System Exploration Missions in July 2011



- Credit: Olaf Frohn, from Emily Lakdawalla's *The Planetary Society Blog* at <http://planetary.org/blog/article/00003081/>

## Cassini Captures Ocean-Like Spray at Saturn Moon

NASA's Cassini spacecraft has discovered the best evidence yet for a large-scale saltwater reservoir beneath the icy crust of Saturn's moon Enceladus. The data came from the spacecraft's direct analysis of salt-rich ice grains close to the jets ejected from the moon.

Data from Cassini's cosmic dust analyzer show the grains expelled from fissures, known as tiger stripes, are relatively small and predominantly low in salt far away from the moon. But closer to the moon's surface, Cassini found that relatively large grains rich with sodium and potassium dominate the plumes. The salt-rich particles have an "ocean-like" composition and indicate that most, if not all, of the expelled ice and water vapor comes from the evaporation of liquid salt water.

"There currently is no plausible way to produce a steady outflow of salt-rich grains from solid ice across all the tiger stripes other than salt water under Enceladus's icy surface," said Frank Postberg, a Cassini team scientist. When water freezes, the salt is squeezed out, leaving pure water ice behind. If the plumes emanated from ice, they should have very little salt in them.

The Cassini mission discovered Enceladus' water-vapor and ice jets in 2005. In 2009, scientists working with the cosmic dust analyzer examined some sodium salts found in ice grains of Saturn's E ring, the outermost ring that gets its material primarily from Enceladean jets. But the link to subsurface salt water was not definitive.

A new data analysis suggests a layer of water between the moon's rocky core and its icy mantle, possibly as deep as about 50 miles beneath the surface. As this water washes against the rocks, it dissolves salt compounds and rises through fractures in the overlying ice to form reserves nearer the surface. If the outermost layer cracks open, the decrease in pressure from these reserves to space causes a plume to shoot out. Roughly 400 pounds of water vapor is lost every second in the plumes, with smaller amounts being lost as ice grains. The team calculates the water reserves must have large evaporating surfaces, or they would freeze easily and stop the plumes.

"Without an orbiter like Cassini to fly close to Saturn and its moons - to taste salt and feel the bombardment of ice grains - scientists would never have known how interesting these outer solar system worlds are," said Linda Spilker, NASA's Cassini project scientist.

*-The full version of this story with accompanying images is at:*

*[http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2011-190&cid=release\\_2011-190](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2011-190&cid=release_2011-190)*

## Finding Planets among the Stars

*by Dr. Tony Phillips*



Strange but true: When it comes to finding new extra-solar planets, or exoplanets, stars can be an incredible nuisance.

It's a matter of luminosity. Stars are bright, but their planets are not. Indeed, when an astronomer peers across light years to find a distant Earth-like world, what he often finds instead is an annoying glare. The light of the star itself makes the star's dim planetary system nearly impossible to see.

Talk about frustration! How would you like to be an astronomer who's constantly vexed by stars? Fortunately, there may be a solution. It comes from NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer, an

ultraviolet space telescope orbiting Earth since 2003. In a new study, researchers say the Galaxy Evolution Explorer is able to pinpoint dim stars that might not badly outshine their own planets.

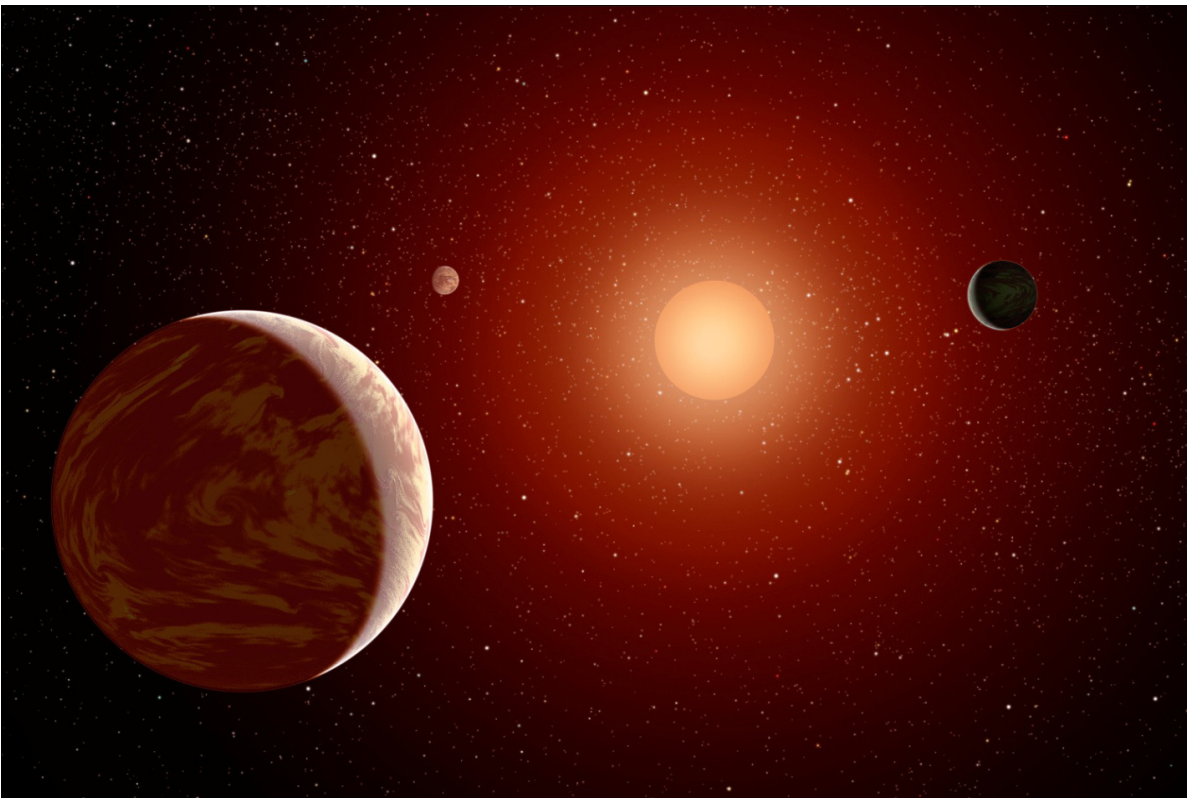
"We've discovered a new technique of using ultraviolet light to search for young, low-mass stars near the Earth," said David Rodriguez, a graduate student of astronomy at UCLA, and the study's lead author. "These M-class stars, also known as red dwarfs, make excellent targets for future direct imaging of exoplanets."

Young red dwarfs produce a telltale glow in the ultraviolet part of the electromagnetic spectrum that Galaxy Evolution Explorer can sense. Because dwarf stars are so numerous—as a class, they account for more than two-thirds of the stars in the galaxy—astronomers could reap a rich bounty of targets.

In many ways, these stars represent a best-case scenario for planet hunting. They are close and in clear lines-of-sight, which generally makes viewing easier. Their low mass means they are dimmer than heavier stars, so their light is less likely to mask the feeble light of a planet. And because they are young, their planets are freshly formed, and thus warmer and brighter than older planetary bodies.

Astronomers know of more than five hundred distant planets, but very few have actually been seen. Many exoplanets are detected indirectly by means of their "wobbles"—the gravitational tugs they exert on their central stars. Some are found when they transit the parent star, momentarily dimming the glare, but not dimming it enough to reveal the planet itself. The new Galaxy Evolution Explorer technique might eventually lead to planets that can be seen directly. That would be good because, as Rodriguez points out, "seeing is believing." And it just might make astronomers feel a little better about the stars.

The Galaxy Evolution Explorer Web site at <http://www.galex.caltech.edu> describes many of the other discoveries and accomplishments of this mission. And for kids, how do astronomers know how far away a star or galaxy is? Play "How Old do I Look" on The Space Place at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/whats-older> and find out!

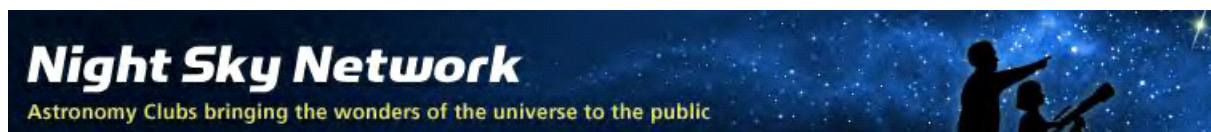


Caption:  
Exoplanets are easier to see directly when their star is a dim, red dwarf.

- This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Space technology is beautiful in different ways. Spacecraft act as our eyes, ears, noses, and brains as they observe our own planet from the vantage point of space, or as they venture beyond Earth orbit to explore the rest of the solar system. In this way, they are marvels of human intelligence, ingenuity, curiosity, and the spirit of adventure. In another way, they are visually beautiful, as well, especially as rendered in their operating environments by technical artists. Take a look at the collection of spacecraft art just added to The Space Place at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/gallery-technology/#spacecraft>. Images are suitable for browsing or printing for classroom display.

Greenhouse Gas Attack is a new game on The Space Place that gives everyone a chance to slow down global warming—at least in the digital world. Brightly colored blocks represent greenhouse gases. They allow sunlight in, but do not allow heat out. You wield a bouncing greenhouse-gas-blasting ball to knock out some of the gas blocks so that some of the heat can escape. If you do a good job, Earth's temperature stays in a healthy range. If you don't get rid of enough greenhouse gas blocks, Earth gets too hot and you lose. Yellow "light balls" entering from the sky and red "heat balls" bouncing back from the ground demonstrate the greenhouse effect. This is one opportunity to get things under control! Check it out at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/greenhouse-gas-attack>.



### **Aliens Coming Your Way!**

The NEW "Life In the Universe" ToolKit is being released in July:  
[http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/admin/news-display.cfm?News\\_ID=438](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/admin/news-display.cfm?News_ID=438)

Where are we looking for life beyond Earth? What are we looking for and what are we likely to find?

To qualify, log at least two of your second quarter events using NSN resources and ToolKits by Tuesday, 5th of July.

Then watch out for the alien invasion!

### **Quarterly Drawing for Lunar Phase Pro**

You'll also want to get your second quarter events logged by July 5th to qualify for the Quarterly Prizes and increase your chance of winning Lunar Phase Pro software known as the "Swiss Army Knife" of Moon software, in preparation for International Observe the Moon Night (InOMN) on Saturday, October 8th! We will pick five clubs randomly from the NSN events held between April 1 and June 30. The more events you log using NSN resources and ToolKits, the better your chances. The drawing will be held on Wednesday, July 6th.

### **International Observe the Moon Night (InOMN) October 8th**

On Saturday, October 8, 2011, people around the world will be celebrating International Observe the Moon Night (InOMN): <http://observethemoonnight.org>

To be included, log into NSN and schedule your event now - and be sure to choose the "Public Calendar" option: <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club/event-edit.cfm>

Free publicity! Any events on the NSN Calendar for October 8th will automatically appear on the InOMN international event map: <http://observethemoonnight.org/getInvolved/attend.cfm>

### **What happens June 5, 2012?**

Mark the date on your calendar - June 5, 2012 when the last Transit of Venus of our lifetime will take place. The NASA Night Sky Network will be celebrating and supporting your Venus Transit

outreach events with a ToolKit on the Sun and heliophysics. Scheduled for release next year, the ToolKit will include resources to address what can be seen on the Sun, how the magnetic fields generate these observable features, and the impact of solar storms on Earth. We're looking for a name for the ToolKit., so send us your suggestions!

### **End of the World and Comet Elenin**

Astronomer Dr. David Morrison, our celebrated NSN telecon speaker on July 28th addresses theories about the end of the world, particularly in this column about Comet Elenin, which will pass closest to the Earth on October 16, 2011: <http://www.astrosociety.org/elenin/>

### **Two Amateur Astronomers receive ASP Awards**

Night Sky Network member and Educator Mark Reed of the Amateur Astronomers of Jackson, Michigan will receive the Thomas J. Brennan Award for excellence in the teaching of astronomy at the high school level.

Lonnie Puterbaugh is awarded the Las Cumbres Amateur Outreach Award, honoring outstanding educational outreach by an amateur astronomer to K-12 children and the public. Lonnie is active with two NSN clubs: Barnard-Seyfert Astronomical Society of Tennessee, and Von Braun Astronomical Society of Alabama. Congratulations to them both.

### **ASP Conference Scholarships Available**

A limited number of scholarships are available for K - 12 teachers to attend the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) conference in Baltimore, July 30 - August 3:

<http://www.astrosociety.org/events/2011mtg/scholarship.html>

### **Upcoming Telecon Dates**

Talk live and interact with NASA scientists. Mark these dates on your calendar and announce them in your club newsletter to keep on the cutting edge of scientific discoveries and NASA Missions:

- Thursday, July 28th: In celebration of the release of the Life in the Universe ToolKit, Dr. David Morrison will speak on Astrobiology
- Thursday, September 22nd: Exploring the Dark Side of the Solar System with WISE featuring Dr. Ned Wright
- Thursday, November 17th: Citizen Science and the LADEE Mission with Brian Day of NASA Ames Research Center

In August, the NASA Lunar Science Institute will hold a special telecon on International Observe the Moon Night. The date will be announced in the next newsletter.

P.S. We'll like your club if you like us: <http://www.facebook.com/nightskynetwork> While your logging your events to qualify for the Life in the Universe ToolKit, let us know you've liked us.

[nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org](mailto:nightskyinfo@astrosociety.org)

- Marni Berendsen, Kenneth Frank and Jessica Santascoy, Night Sky Network

### **SWFAS Minutes**

Minutes of Southwest Florida Astronomical Society, Inc  
Meeting Date: June 2, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER:** The monthly meeting of the Southwest Florida Astronomical Society was held at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, Ft Myers, Florida, on Thursday, June 2, 2011. The meeting convened at 7:30pm, President Brian Risley presiding, and Kathleen Hendrix, secretary.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** There were approximately 30 members and visitors in attendance.

**OPENING REMARKS:**

President Brian Risley announced coming events, including :

Star Parties June 4 and July 2 Caloosahatchee Regional Park (contact Bruce Dissette)

Star Parties for June at Fakahatchee Strand to be announced, (contact Tony Heiner or Chuck Pavlick)

SWFAS July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting features guest speaker Andrew Zimmerman Jones, author of String Theory for Dummies.

SWFAS Supported Events:

July 5, 2011 -Chick-Fil-A North Ft Myers Astronomy Kids

October 17, 2011 - Sanibel Ding Darling Park Family Fun day. Solar Observing

November 11, 2011 - Edison Ford Estate/Girl Scout Star party (10:00pm-midnight)

January 10, 2012 - Astronomy Talk, Lee County South Regional Library

January 17, 2012 - Observation Session, Lee County South Regional Library

Announcement: If anyone is not receiving emails, agenda, or Eyepiece, let Brian know.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bruce Dissette, Vice president, encouraged members to keep a log of their observations and share information at future meetings.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Carol Holmberg, Newsletter Editor, announced that Astronomy Day at the Planetarium took in \$100 in donations.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary, Kathleen Hendrix, submitted May minutes as published in the May Eyepiece. Minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer, Stewart Rorer sent a report with our balance. Details are available to members upon request.

VIEWING COORDINATORS' REPORT: Viewing Coordinators, Chuck Pavlick, and Tony Heiner remind members of upcoming Star parties (see above). Contact Chuck, Tony or Bruce for details and directions. SWFAS shares these dark sky sites with the Naples Club. Members and friends are invited.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT: Librarian Maria Berni, no report

CLUB HISTORIAN: Club Historian Danny Secary, not present.

EQUIPMENT COORDINATOR: Equipment Coordinator Brian Risley gave tonight's program on use of telescopes available to members.(see below)

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Website Coordinator, Dan Fitzgerald announced that the club's new website is now up and running.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Program Coordinator Ron Myrick, not present. We are looking for speakers for August, September, and October meetings.

EVENING PROGRAM; President, Brian Risley, demonstrated the use of several club telescopes, and educational materials. Many educational toolkits from the Night Sky Network are available to club members on subjects such as black holes, super nova and space rocks and meteors, telescopes, and solar system. These kits come complete with DVDs, supplies and instructions., and are available for check out by club members.

Brian revealed the use and capabilities of the club's new CPC-800 telescope. This new Celestron has GPS, and an 8" F10 9x50 finder. Its computer can be powered by car battery when in the field. This telescope, as well as smaller scopes with manuals and sky maps, are

available to members.

As a safety precaution, never leave lenses in direct sunlight, as they can heat up and ignite within minutes. Always cover with front aperture filter. Also, remember to loosen clutches during transport, and tighten when in use. Do not try to clean telescope. See Brian for further instructions.

CLOSING REMARKS, ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tony held a drawing for Astronomy DVDs. Congratulations to the 6 lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT: Thursday July 7, 2011 was set as the next regular meeting.  
The June 2, 2011 meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Kathleen Hendrix, Secretary

## Future Events

CALUSA NATURE CENTER PLNTRM	7-7-11	7:30 PM	MONTHLY MEETING
MANATEE PARK	7-27-11	DAYTIME	SOLAR OBSERVING
CALUSA NATURE CENTER PLNTRM	8-4-11	7:30 PM	MONTHLY MEETING
SANIBEL DING DARLING PARK FAMILY	10-17-11	11:00 AM	SOLAR OBSERVING
EDISON FORD ESTATE	11-11-11	10:00 PM	GIRL SCOUT STAR PARTY
LEE CNTY SOUTH REGIONAL LIBRARY	1-10-12		ASTRONOMY TALK
LEE CNTY SOUTH REGIONAL LIBRARY	1-17-12		OBSERVATION SESSION

Southwest Florida Astronomical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 100127  
Cape Coral, FL 33910

[www.theeyepiece.org](http://www.theeyepiece.org)