



## The President's Corner

Well, we closed the book on another Messier Marathon held March 9<sup>th</sup>. This in connection with a spring star party co-hosted with EVAC, saw as many as 55 "set ups" and an estimated 60 to 70 people camp out in the western desert. I arrived on Thursday that week amid rain and wind. I feared the road to the site would be a mud pit but it turned out most of the rain went north or south of the main observing area. That evening was reserved for sitting around talking as we still had showers off and on all night. There were five set ups on Thursday.

Friday allowed for clear skies and more folks began to arrive. I counted 15 set ups Friday evening. We had good observing and the weather was cool but mild which made for a nice night at the 'scope. Thanks to the clear, transparent skies I was able to find the remaining eight objects missing from my Herschel 400 List.

Saturday saw the main crowd show up. Eleven people turned in Marathon object lists after braving the all-night search. Five observers found 107

objects or better with M30 being the morning's elusive member of the catalog.

This month's SAC meeting will be devoted to members sharing their experience at the MM and their plans for the April Solar Eclipse. In April we plan to see and hear all those great Eclipse travel stories. See you at the "Clubhouse" on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Happy Star Hunting,

Michael Poppre,  
SAC President



Photo by: Susan Trask



SAC on Facebook:  
**SAC has a Facebook moderator!**  
Mike Willmoth

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The Astronomical Calendar, 2024  
©2023 By Guy Orrewell  
All Arizona Messier Marathon, Sat, March 9<sup>th</sup>  
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## Quick Calendar

\* **The next SAC general meeting will be on Friday, March 22nd.**

*There will be no guest speaker, SAC members instead.*

*Topics will be: "All Arizona Messier Marathon & Solar Eclipse Reviews"*

**Note: "In-Person" meeting only, No Zoom meeting access!**  
@ 3030 E Mission Ln, Phoenix, AZ (SE of State Route 51 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street)

Header image © 2000-2013 Stellarium  
Developers  
Scorpius setting in the southwest.



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## Editor Notes



Hi Folks,

*Such-A-Deal* has seven old ads.  
*SAC Bits & Pisces* has minutes of the February SAC general meeting.

*SAC History* has history bits from Fred Tretta.

*SAC Observing* has sky info for the month and a short report of the Messier Marathon by SAC president Michael Poppre.

*SAC Sky* has info on the moon and planet locations this month for you all.

Enjoy.

Rick Rotramel, Editor >



< Left: SAC Webmaster, Terry Shay



Right: SAC ATM Leader, Paul Lind >

Photos: Susan Trask

### Note:

My email address has changed to:

[rrotramel601@gmail.com](mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com)

## Schedule of Events 2024

### SAC General Meetings

Jan. 26	Feb. 23	<b>Mar. 22</b>	April 26
May 18 * Saturday	June 21	July 19	Aug. 16
Sept. 13	Oct. 12 * Saturday	Nov 15	Dec. 14 Holiday Party

\* Saturday dates are at Thunderbird Park Public Star Parties, Glendale, AZ

**Meetings held at the Heritage Heights Clubhouse  
3030 E Mission Ln, Phoenix, AZ  
(SE of State Route 51 and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street)  
Meeting time: 7:00 PM**

View video recordings of the *past* Zoom meetings here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEKTf10gwebABZXwKbhe9oA>

### Grand Canyon Star Party North Rim, June 1st - 8th, 2024

For the Grand Canyon North Rim event:  
email **Steve Rottas**: [srottas@gmail.com](mailto:srottas@gmail.com)

## 2024 SAC Officers

**President: Michael Poppre >**



< **Vice President: Steve Rottas**

**Secretary: Sandy Milward >**



< **Treasurer and  
Properties Director:  
Tom Curry**

Photos: Susan Trask



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## Such-A-Deal

Ads placed here are free to SAC members and friends. SAC is not responsible for the quality of the advertised items. If you wish to place an ad here to sell your telescope or astronomy related items, contact Rick Rotramel at: [r.rotramel@cox.net](mailto:r.rotramel@cox.net)

### 10 inch Meade LX90

Advanced coma-free SCT with GPS and Audiostar GoTo. It tracks very nicely for visual, but not photography. Original owner and only a year old like new. All paperwork and accessories that came with it from Orion telescopes. I will throw in a Telrad, 2 inch star diagonal, 2 inch Crayford focuser and a 40mm Plossl eyepiece. It came with a 26mm Plossl. I'm keeping my 2 inch eyepieces because I'm not getting out of the hobby.

\$4500 invested and **REDUCED** to: **\$2500**  
Feel free to email Doug at:  
[dma6350@gmail.com](mailto:dma6350@gmail.com)



### Canon EF 200mm f/2.8L II USM Lens

For Sale - Canon EF 200mm f/2.8L II USM Lens

It's in good condition and includes the following.

- Canon Lens - \$600 from B&H Photo
- B&W UV Filter - \$75
- Canon Tripod Mount Ring - \$150
- Lens Caps and Lens Hood
- Carrying Bag

**Asking \$300 OBO.**

Cash or bank cashier's check.

Contact me at the email below.

[jimwaters@cox.net](mailto:jimwaters@cox.net)



### Tele Vue 31mm Type 5 Nagler Eyepiece

For Sale - Tele Vue 31mm Type 5 Nagler Eyepiece

The optical coatings are in good condition and I can't find anything wrong with the eyepiece including the rubber eye guard. Eyepiece end-caps are included.

My cost new was \$600. **Asking \$300 OBO.**  
Cash or bank cashier's check.

Contact me at the email below.

[jimwaters@cox.net](mailto:jimwaters@cox.net)





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### Telescope Equipment For Sale

\* Ads on this page were submitted through the SAC Website

#### Meade 8" LS8-8ACF

- ACF (Advance Coma Free) optics with UHTC coatings (Ultra High Transmission Coatings)
- LightSwitch Technology: Once the scope is turned on, it permits the scope to automatically level itself and find north (Meade calls this Level/North Technology), then with the use of its internal ECLIPSE CCD camera and on board GPS, align itself to the night sky without any user intervention. The steps are simple, flip the switch. Once the scope is turned on, you're greeted by the "Astronomer Inside". The "Astronomer Inside" gives you a brief introduction to the LS 8, and informs you of each and every step of the way during the alignment process.
- Eyepieces: Meade 8.8mm and 24mm UWA Series 5000, 82° apparent field of view
- TeleVue Qwik Point Finderscope
- Tripod
- 602 736-9221
- I'm near 7 th St. and Thunderbird. Buyers pick up.
- **\$ Best Offer \$**

Email Contact - Click Link Below:

[mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net?subject=Meade 8" Telescope For Sale in SAC Newsletter](mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net?subject=Meade 8)

Lorraine Drobny  
602 736-9221



### Celestron C11 Telescope On Celestron CGE Mount

- Celestron C11 Optical Assembly
- Celestron CGE Mount
- Celestron WiFi Unit
- Celestron StarSense Unit
- I'm near 7 th St and Thunderbird. Buyers pick up.
- **\$ Best Offer \$**
- 602 736-9221
- Email Contact - Click Link Below:

[mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net?subject=Meade 8" Telescope For Sale in SAC Newsletter](mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net?subject=Meade 8)



### Orion 80mm ED Refractor with case

- Orion 80mm, f/7.5, F.L. 600mm Telescope
- With hard case
- **\$ Best Offer \$**

Lorraine Drobny  
602 736-9221  
[Lorraine.drobny@cox.net](mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net)



### Celestron Focus Motor, Meade Imager, Eyepieces & Misc. Attachments

- Focus Motor for SCT and EdgeHD Telescopes
- Several Eyepieces and Misc. attachments
- Meade Flip Mirror System, Model 644
- Meade Deep Sky Imager, Mono CCD Camera

**\$ Best Offer \$**

Lorraine Drobny  
602 736-9221  
[Lorraine.drobny@cox.net](mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net)





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## Such-A-Deal

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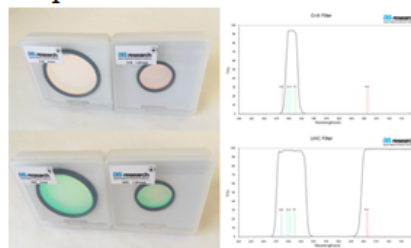
## Apache-Sitgreaves Observatory

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Arizona



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[www.Apache-Sitgreaves.org](http://www.Apache-Sitgreaves.org)

# STARIZONA

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Welcome to Starizona! In addition to a complete selection of astronomical products, we offer free online resources such as our award-winning Guide to CCD Imaging and more. We also manufacture unique products such as the HyperStar imaging system. Our staff consists of experienced observers and astrophotographers who love to share their knowledge. Please feel free to contact us for advice or answers to any of your questions.  
Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 10AM-5PM Fri, Sat 10AM-10PM  
Closed Sun. Free Viewing Fri and Sat nights!  
5757 N. Oracle Rd., Suite 103 · Tucson, Arizona 85704 ·



**The HyperStar-equipped ISERV telescope is now installed on the ISS!**

The HyperStar-equipped Celestron 9.25" telescope (and its backup) that is now installed on the ISS. The scope also features a Starizona MicroTouch Autofocuser. With the Starizona gang: Steve, Scott, Dean, and Donna. (Steve has since had to move to NY because he was dressing too much like Scott.)

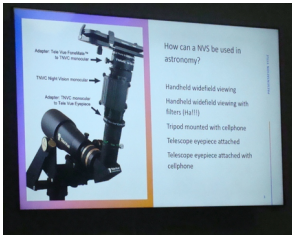
Call Us: (520) 292-5010  
<http://starizona.com>  
[info@starizona.com](mailto:info@starizona.com)

## Bits & Pisces

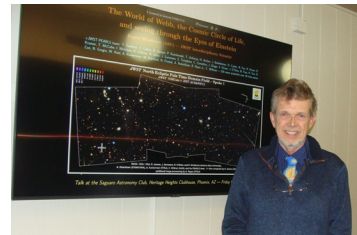
### Minutes of the February 23rd SAC General Meeting

By Tom Curry, SAC Treasurer

- Following a board meeting, Mike Poppo called the regular meeting to order. Mike made an announcement about the upcoming Messier Marathon March 9-10, to be held at the north Hovatter Road site near the gravel quarry. EVAC will partner with SAC and will handle getting the port-a-lets set. EVAC will also host the night's coffee/tea break that occurs when most observers have completed the first half of the objects and are waiting for the second half constellations to rotate into view. Mike encouraged all to attend. Award certificates will be provided to participants, with telescope plaques awarded to those seeing the most objects. Mike also stressed that there will be no dinner Saturday night provided by SAC/EVAC nor will there be a raffle.
- Mike then mentioned that the Fountain Hills Astronomy Club was looking for telescope hosts to participate in their March 30<sup>th</sup> outreach event. Mike did not have contact information but would post it to the SAC Forum when he obtains the information.
- The March SAC meeting will not have a guest speaker, but will have members speaking of their MM activities, as well as plans for their eclipse trips.
- The April SAC meeting will likewise not have a guest speaker but will have members speaking of their eclipse activities.
- The May SAC meeting will not be a regular meeting but will be replaced by the Astronomy Day (Sat, May 18<sup>th</sup>) City of Glendale T-Bird Park outreach event.
- Tom Curry, SAC Treasurer then gave a report on our finances and paid memberships. The club has \$2,568 in funds, and 23 current paid members.
- Paul Lind gave a brief update on the Amateur Telescope Making group's last meeting and plans to do a little more to finish the 6-inch mirror before assembly. There was talk about the next project which has yet to be fully determined.
- A Power Point presentation was then made by Tom Curry titled, "How a Night Vision Scope Changed My Astronomy." The talk explained the good and bad of using a night vision scope with astronomy. A variety of photos taken through the night vision scope were shown as part of the talk.



Tom Curry



Rogier Windhorst Photos by Susan Trask

- After a short break, with yummy treats provided again by Susan Trask, our guest speaker Rogier Windhorst made a presentation titled: "The World of Webb, The Cosmic Circle of Life, and Seeing Through the Eyes of Einstein." Rogier was part of the team building the Webb telescope. Rogier compared the Hubble telescope to the Webb and differences in what they could detect. A good explanation of the chemistry of space was provided with examples of star formation and how the elements of the periodic table are generated. Rogier informed the group of the prominence of elements in the dust that is needed to create a star, as well as planets and how all that we are made of comes from the dust elements, and that is where we will return to. Numerous Hubble and Webb photos were presented in the explanations and they were stunning. "Through the Eyes of Einstein" was a discussion of his predictions and what he thought would never be proven, has been proven, especially gravity lensing, where numerous dramatic Webb photos were shown. As a teaser, Rogier hinted that his group had used the data obtained from the gravity lensing photos to make a revised calculation of the Hubble Constant, but was not divulging what it was. He urged us to stay tuned as an announcement of the revision was to be announced soon.
- Questions were asked by attendees and good discussions occurred. The meeting adjourned slightly after 9 p.m.



# SAC History \* This concludes the run of this feature.

## Part 3: Astronomy in the 70's and 80's

© 2021 by former SAC President, Fred Tretta

*My name is Fred Tretta and I was one of the seven people who helped get our club off the ground, and then later had the pleasure of being the first, second and fourth president. When I think historically about our hobby and our club, I can't help but remember astronomy in the 70's and 80's when we were just getting started, how much fun we were having, yet how far we've come since then. Thinking that maybe looking back on that time could be of interest to you, I'd like to share some reflections on those earlier decades.*

### Our past as a club:

I have previously written on how we spun off from PAS in the late 70s because we felt a need to supplement theoretical cosmological discussions with real time observing. And that, of course, led to the creation of our club. Within a short time, we had a name, we were meeting regularly, we had elected officers, we had established a closeness with Wilson Camera that became a source of new members for us, and one of us was actually publishing a newsletter. Shortly thereafter, Grand Canyon College (now University) welcomed us onto their campus for our meetings, and a fellow interested in astronomy named George Fessler gave us free use of an acre of his land out in what is now East Anthem to develop into our star party site. I'd also like to add that the high point of each year for many of us was our pilgrimage to the Riverside Telescope Makers Conference at Big Bear Lake, CA where we enjoyed sharing the woods with over 500 other astronomers. Those trips are still some of my fondest memories.

### A very brief history of my astronomy adventures:

Like so many others, I began astronomy with a 76mm refractor on an altazimuth mount in my backyard, 1972, I believe. As the astronomy hook sunk in deeper, it was replaced with a Criterion Dynascope 6" reflector on a German Equatorial Mount (GEM). Over time, knowledge gained within the Club gave me the confidence to move upward again and I ordered a Tom Cave 10" f/5.6 reflector on a GEM, a serious telescope in those days. Over the years I have built telescopes around a Frank Mercardo 10" mirror and three of Carl Zambuto's mirrors, the largest a 16" f/4.9. That one I still get to use occasionally, now in a friend's observatory. Having retired into Flagstaff, my focus is primarily on h-alpha observing through a pair of Lunt solar scopes mounted in my modest 10' observatory. The observatory also houses a 152mm triplet for planetary, as well as camera equipment.

### Typical Equipment and Accessories of the 70's and 80's:

Clock drives back then actually were clock motors which synced off the 115VAC 60CPS (hertz) house voltage, but they had two problems. First, those motors were designed to complete things based on 60 seconds (60 CPS) and 24 hours while the stars liked 23 hours, 56 minutes, 4 seconds. Second, AC voltage wasn't always available. So, drive correctors were built to create 115VAC from a 12v battery, and had a variable drive rate. The majority of them were designed around a 555 IC timer and inverter electronics. The problem with these was their sensitivity to temperature which caused rate drifting. Several of us into electronics, instead, designed digital drive correctors using flip flop circuits to create a digital count-down system, the rate of which was set through digi-switches. The dialed-in clock drive rate stayed accurate. I know of one of mine still in operation. Coincidentally, Tim Geisler, who was also experimenting with this same circuitry, sold his commercially, and went on to establish Orion Telescopes.

The eyepieces of those times were frequently orthoscopes for planetary and plossis for more open work. Less expensive, but adequate for higher fratio telescopes, were Ramsdens and Kellners, 3 element eyepieces. Wide field eyepieces were frequently Erfles. The selection of eyepieces has certainly improved over the years, though plossis and orthos are still favored for many applications. To be honest though, I don't really feel the same about telescope quality. Frankly, there were people in the 80s who were just plain gifted at correcting optics to an extremely fine figure, despite the lack of precise surface quality test methods. They seemed able to "sense" the optical surface irregularities and correct their optics with as great a precision as any custom optics you can buy today. That Cave 10" f/5.6 mirror I mentioned above was later in its life re-corrected by Frank Mercardo to the point where there were no compromised zones on it that could be observed. Planetary views through that scope were simply stunning. I have never seen better images through any other 10", nor many larger apertures, for that matter. Scopes of that quality were not uncommon.

Photography back then was done with 35mm SLR film cameras, and deep sky photos often took 2 hours of constant, manual guiding. Several of us modified Practica SLR camera bodies to facilitate better focusing by cutting away the top mounted focusing screen and replacing it with a 25mm eyepiece that was first properly focused, then epoxied in place, a significant improvement. Guiding was generally done using a piggy backed scope, often a 76mm refractor, at high power. Like most, I had my own dark room so I could "push" develop film to bring out the faint details of deep sky objects. Unquestionably, astrophotography has made remarkable leaps forward since then, perhaps more than any other aspect of astronomy.

You might also enjoy knowing that it was common to clean your own optics. I still regularly do such cleaning for myself and friends. For us, there were three essential ingredients needed, distilled water, actual surgical cotton (no wood fibers) and Dawn dish detergent. We created a wash solution by adding one drop of Dawn to a pint of distilled water, stirred. We blew off the surface, then squirted this solution onto the optic with a spray bottle, wetting it thoroughly. We then cleaned the optic with a ball of surgical cotton using a light circular motion, beginning at the center of the optic and swirling outward. The optic was then stood on its edge and a final rinse applied with distilled water. The optic was left on its edge to drip dry. If you installed a water vapor trap in your compressor air line and turned down the pressure, you could blow dry the optic. In caution, however, most window cleaning products such as Windex have ingredients in them that will actually strip away the coatings on some optics.

### Finding objects in the sky:

Without aids like computer map software and today's GOTO systems, the process of finding objects was a bit more complex, but entertaining. You began by determining the location of desired objects from manuals, star charts and catalogs. From there, we used one of two methods. In the first method, we relied on the use of setting circles and therefore needed to polar align our mount so the circles would be accurate. Most all of us knew the sky well enough to know where Polaris was on any particular night and so polar alignment occurred quickly and within a couple of minutes of arc. Next, you slewed to a known target, dial in the coordinates of that object on the setting circles, then quickly slewed to your desired new target, again using the circles. You did it quickly because though the declination circle wouldn't be changing, the RA circle was turning with the RA shaft while the RA pointer remained fixed. So, the RA circle started drifting immediately. An important improvement was often made by devising an RA circle pointer that was also driven with the RA shaft in some manner. In that case, the RA setting obviously remained fixed during tracking.

The second method commonly used was called "star hopping". Here, you used your star map to "plot a course" from an object at a known location to the desired target by "hopping" from known star to known star across the sky. Using reasonably bright stars, this worked well. With this method I used a straight through finder where I could keep one eye focused on the finder crosshairs and the other eye open to the sky. With some practice, the crosshairs of the reticle appeared superimposed in the sky. In this way I could move the scope and finder from one star to the next. I still use this method regularly. The creation of finders like the Telrad has greatly simplified this process.

### Conclusion:

Being retired, I likely have more hobbies than I should. They keep me active. But astronomy is probably my favorite because this is a hobby that is constantly evolving and the opportunity to actually contribute something to science is always there. I remember times with the PEP gang, AAVSO, timed occultations and so on, that were so rewarding. And the science of today simply continues to produce new opportunities, equipment and results, pushing out the edges of what we know and what we can do as amateurs. The cost and availability of extraordinarily sophisticated equipment that I could only dream of owning in the 80's so enhances this hobby now that new adventures are never ending. Kinda cool. I'm sorry if this has carried on for a bit, but it is fun to think back to those days. I can be reached at [ftretta@msn.com](mailto:ftretta@msn.com) if anyone wants to just chat about those early days.



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## SAC Observing

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2024

### ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR

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www.universalworkshop.com



1

The left column gives Julian Dates (number of days from 4713 B.C. Jan. 1 noon), useful for finding time spans between events by subtraction. The first 3 digits of the Julian date (245) are omitted, to save space.

Hours and minutes, where given, are in Universal Time. (Sometimes the hour appears as "24" or the minute as "60," because the instant was shortly before the end of the day or hour.)

Occasions such as "Moon 1.25° NNE of Venus" are **appulses**: closest apparent approaches. They are slightly different from conjunctions, when one passes north of the other as measured in right ascension or in ecliptic longitude. A quasi-conjunction is an appulse without a conjunction, and typically happens when a planet is near its stationary moment.

Occasions when three bodies are within a circle of small size are "**trios**." Like appulses, they are most interesting when the bodies are bright and are not at small elongation from the Sun.



For **meteor showers**: ZHR (zenithal hourly rate) is an estimate of the number to be seen under ideal conditions at the peak time if the radiant were overhead. Actual rates may be very different. Peak times (predicted from where the center of the stream seems to cross nearest to Earth's orbit) are uncertain; best to start watching the night before. Meteor are usually most abundant in the morning hours.

Tell me of errors you notice. It's hard to check the accuracy of every detail, but errors are more easily corrected here than in the former printed *Astronomical Calendars!*  
[universalworkshop.com/contact](http://universalworkshop.com/contact)  
This calendar may be subject to improvement. Come back to it!

Explanation of terms can be found in our glossary book **Albedo to Zodiac**. There is more about each kind of event in **The Astronomical Companion**. And events in this list can be traced in the large **Zodiac Wavy Chart** for the year.

For all these, see [universalworkshop.com](http://universalworkshop.com)

0372.896	Mar	3	SUN	10	Moon 0.42° NE of Antares; 93° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.2 and 1.0; <b>occultation</b>
0373.097	Mar	3	SUN	14	<b>Asteroid 3 Juno at opposition</b> in longitude; magnitude 8.7
0373.142	Mar	3	SUN	15:24	<b>Last quarter Moon</b>
0377.813	Mar	8	Fri	8	Moon 3.3° SE of Mars; 30° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.9 and 1.2

*Continued next page...*





## SAC Observing

0378.125	Mar	8	Fri	15	Mercury 0.44° NNW of Neptune; 9° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -1.4 and 8.0
0378.333	Mar	8	Fri	20	Moon 3.0° SE of Venus; 22° and 23° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.3 and -3.9
0379.292	Mar	9	SAT	19	Moon 1.38° SE of Saturn; 9° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.0 and 1.0
0379.5	Mar	10	SUN		<b>Clocks forward 1 hour (America)</b>
0379.790	Mar	10	SUN	6:57	Moon at perigee; distance 55.96 Earth-radii; nearest in year; only 2.1 hours before New Moon
0379.876	Mar	10	SUN	9:02	<b>New Moon</b> ; beginning of lunation 1252
0380.354	Mar	10	SUN	21	Moon 0.62° ESE of Neptune; 7° and 6° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.8 and 8.0
0380.358	Mar	10	SUN	21	Moon, Mercury, and Neptune within circle of diameter 4.30°; about 8° from the Sun in the evening sky; magnitudes -5, -1, 8
0380.5	Mar	11	Mon		1st day of Ramadan (1445 A.H.)
0380.667	Mar	11	Mon	4	Moon 0.95° SE of Mercury; 11° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -5.3 and -1.3
0381.239	Mar	11	Mon	18	Sun enters Pisces, at longitude 351.64° on the ecliptic
0381.553	Mar	12	Tue	1	Moon at ascending node; longitude 15.7°
0382.520	Mar	13	Wed	0	Mercury at ascending node through the ecliptic plane
0383.479	Mar	13	Wed	24	Moon 3.4° NNW of Jupiter; 50° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.3 and -2.1
0383.595	Mar	14	Thu	2	<b>Jupiter and Uranus at heliocentric conjunction</b> ; longitude 52.4°
0383.917	Mar	14	Thu	10	Moon 3.2° NNW of Uranus; 56° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.6 and 5.8
0384.688	Mar	15	Fri	5	Moon 0.50° ESE of Pleiades; 66° and 65° from Sun in evening sky
0386.5	Mar	17	SUN		St. Patrick's Day
0386.5	Mar	17	SUN	0:00	Day and night equal, at latitude 40° north
0386.674	Mar	17	SUN	4:11	<b>First quarter Moon</b>
0386.974	Mar	17	SUN	11	Neptune at conjunction with the Sun; 30.897 AU from Earth; latitude -1.26°
0387.104	Mar	17	SUN	15	Moon 4.2° N of M35 cluster; 95° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.3 and 5.3
0387.192	Mar	17	SUN	17	Mercury at perihelion; 0.3075 AU from the Sun
0388.563	Mar	19	Tue	2	Moon 4.9° S of Castor; 112° and 111° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.8 and 1.5
0388.813	Mar	19	Tue	8	<b>Moon 1.51° S of Pollux</b> ; 115° and 114° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.9 and 1.2

*Continued next page...*

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## SAC Observing

0389.410	Mar	19	Tue	22	Venus at aphelion; 0.7282 AU from the Sun
0389.627	Mar	20	Wed	3:03	<b>March or vernal (northern spring) equinox</b>
0389.627	Mar	20	Wed	3:03	Sun enters the astrological sign Aries, i.e. its longitude is 0°
0389.979	Mar	20	Wed	12	Moon 3.6° NNE of Beehive Cluster; 128° and 127° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -11.2 and 3.7
0391.479	Mar	21	Thu	24	<b>Venus 0.32° NNW of Saturn</b> ; 19° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -3.9 and 1.1
0391.875	Mar	22	Fri	9	Moon 3.3° NNE of Regulus; 148° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -11.8 and 1.4
0393.146	Mar	23	SAT	16	Moon at apogee; distance 63.70 Earth-radii
0393.5	Mar	24	SUN		Palm Sunday
0394.435	Mar	24	SUN	22	<b>Mercury at easternmost elongation</b> ; 18.7° from Sun in evening sky; magnitude -0.1
0394.792	Mar	25	Mon	7:00	<b>Full Moon; penumbral eclipse of the Moon</b>
0395.673	Mar	26	Tue	4	Moon at descending node; longitude 195.6°
0396.417	Mar	26	Tue	22	Moon 1.27° NE of Spica; 162° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -12.2 and 1.0
0397.399	Mar	27	Wed	22	Mercury at northernmost latitude from the ecliptic plane, 7.0°
0398.5	Mar	29	Fri		Good Friday
0400.146	Mar	30	SAT	16	<b>Moon 0.32° NE of Antares</b> ; 120° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.1 and 1.0; <b>occultation</b>
0400.5	Mar	31	SUN		<b>Clocks forward 1 hour (Europe)</b>
0400.5	Mar	31	SUN		Easter



## ***SAC Observing***

### ***All Arizona Messier Marathon***

***Sat, March 9<sup>th</sup>, @ the Hovatter North Site***

Report by Michael Poppre, SAC President

2024 Messier Marathon Round-up

Friday evening/Saturday morning: 15 "set ups"

Saturday evening: 55 "set ups"

Estimated 60 to 70 people

Object lists turned in: 9 (possibly 11)

People with most objects found:

109 - Steve Rottas (SAC)

108 - Craig Averell (High Desert Astronomy Club, Kingman)

107 - Mike Cawley (PAS)

107 - Don Wrigley (EVAC)

107 - Ray Malcolm (HDAC)

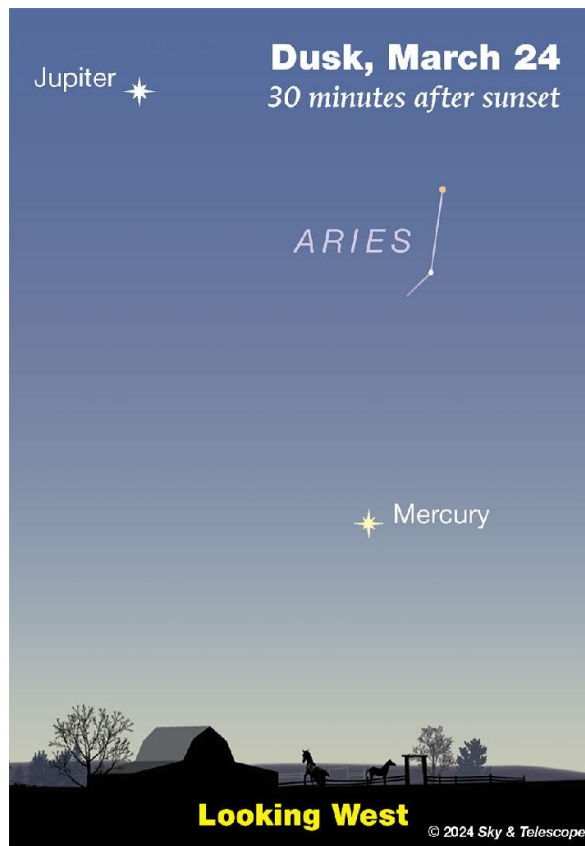
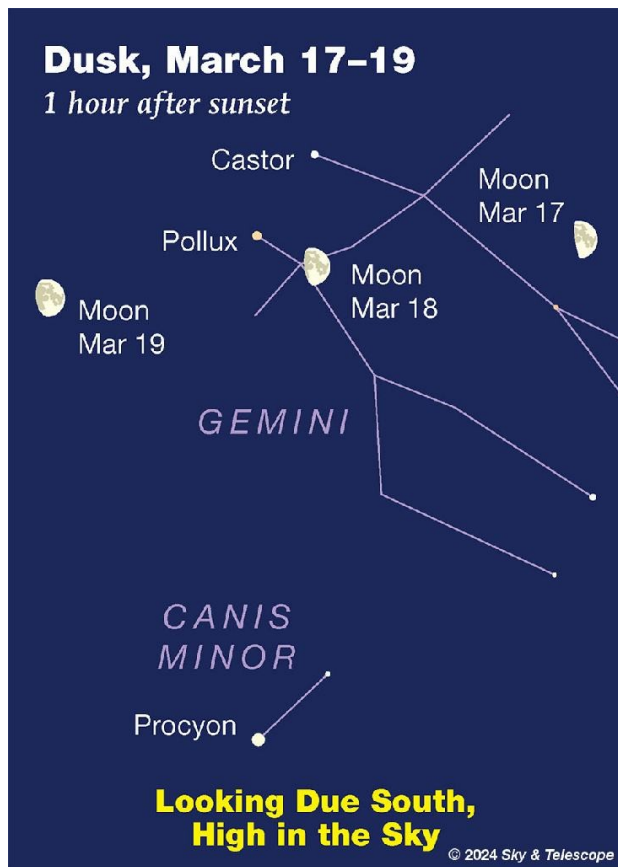
Items missed: M30, M72, M74, M73

Michael



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## SAC Sky



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<https://skyandtelescope.org/observing>



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## 2024 SAC Officers and Contacts

### Board Members

President Michael Poppre ([mail to: president@saguaroastro.org](mailto:president@saguaroastro.org))  
 Vice-President Steve Rottas  
 Treasurer Tom Curry ([mail to: treasurer@saguaroastro.org](mailto:treasurer@saguaroastro.org))  
 Secretary Sandy Milward  
 Properties Tom Curry ([mail to: properties@saguaroastro.org](mailto:properties@saguaroastro.org))

### Non-board Positions

Novice Leader Steve Dodder ([mail to: fester00@hotmail.com](mailto:fester00@hotmail.com))  
 Newsletter Rick Rotramel ([mail to: rrotramel601@gmail.com](mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com))  
 Webmaster Terry Shay ([mail to: webmaster@saguaroastro.org](mailto:webmaster@saguaroastro.org))  
 Public Events Jack Jones ([mail to: publicevents@saguaroastro.org](mailto:publicevents@saguaroastro.org))  
 ATM Group Paul Lind ([mail to: atmgroup@saguaroastro.org](mailto:atmgroup@saguaroastro.org))  
 Imaging Al Stiewing ([mail to: amst@cox.net](mailto:amst@cox.net))  
 Deep Sky Jack Jones ([mail to: deepskygroup@saguaroastro.org](mailto:deepskygroup@saguaroastro.org))  
 Public Outreach Tom Curry ([canyonhiker2@cox.net](mailto:canyonhiker2@cox.net))

### SAC on Facebook:

Moderator, Mike Willmoth ([mwillmoth@compuserve.com](mailto:mwillmoth@compuserve.com))

## 2023 Board Mtgs:

January, TBA

April, TBA

July, TBA

November, TBA

## Occultation Info

Wayne Thomas has asteroid occultation info for the greater Phoenix Area:

[Mail to: tomwaymas@gmail.com](mailto:tomwaymas@gmail.com)

**Meeting Location:** The Clubhouse, 7:00 PM, 3030 E. Mission Lane, Phoenix, AZ



## Saguaro Astronomy Club

Saguaro Astronomy Club (SAC), Phoenix, Arizona, was formed in 1977 to promote fellowship and the exchange of scientific information among its members-amateur astronomers. SAC meets monthly for both general meetings and star parties, and regularly conducts and supports public programs on astronomy. Membership is open to anyone with these interests.

Saguaro Skies is posted as a pdf file monthly on the SAC website,

<https://www.saguaroastro.org/newsletter/>

for browsing or downloading for SAC members and friends of SAC. A email announcement of the monthly newsletter release is included with membership.

Direct all membership inquiries to the SAC Treasurer by using the membership form found in this newsletter. For editorial and SUCH-A-DEAL advertising inquiries, contact the Saguaro Skies Editor.

## Contacting This Issue's Authors

If you wish to write to an author in this month's issue, contact them by sending your message to the editor of Saguaro Skies, Rick Rotramel, at: [r.rotramel@cox.net](mailto:r.rotramel@cox.net)

I will then forward your questions or comments to the author.

## Saguaro Skies Staff

Editor: Rick Rotramel; Photographers: Tom Curry, Sandy Milward, Tom Polakis, Michael Poppre, Rick Rotramel and Susan Trask.

2013-2023 Contributors: Bob Christ, Mike Collins, AJ Crayon, Tom Curry, Paul Dickson, David Dillmore, Steve Dodder, Richard Harshaw, Dean Ketelsen, Kevin Kozel, Joan McGue, Andrew Perry, Tom & Jennifer Polakis, Michael Poppre, Jimmy Ray, Rick Rotramel, Steve Rottas, SAC Imagers & Observers, Darrell Spencer & Rick Tejera.



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## Saguaro Astronomy Club Membership Services

**Membership** -- Memberships are for the calendar year and are pro-rated for new members as follows:  
Jan - Mar: 100%; Apr - Jun: 75%; Jul - Sep: 50%; Oct - Dec 25%.

- \$32.00 Individual Membership
- \$36.00 Family Membership



Note: You can now pay with PayPal through the SAC Website. Click Below:

<https://www.saguaroastro.org/join-sacpaypal/>



*Please print all information legibly*

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ For the year of: 20\_\_

**Make check payable to: SAC**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring your completed form to a meeting or mail it with payment to:

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check here if this is updated information*

**SAC Treasurer  
1238 E. Orchid Lane  
Phoenix, AZ 85020**

### Email Discussion Groups

<https://groups.io/g/SAC-Forum> - This is specific to SAC members/guests to communicate SAC related business, activities, etc.

<https://groups.io/g/AZ-Observing> - This is an Arizona wide astronomy discussion group for any aspect of astronomical observing in AZ. This is not a SAC specific group.

To keep up with SAC events, please register in the SAC-Forum mail list. From each of these webpages, you can click on the Apply for Membership button.

<http://saguaroastro.org/newsletter/>