

# Saguaro Skies



Saguaro Astronomy  
Club, Phoenix, AZ  
Volume 49, Issue 1  
January 2025

## The President's Corner

Soooo, like a bad penny, here I am again. Here we all are again, the start of a new year and new slate of board members. Well, not new as such, but more shuffled around somewhat.

Now, the big question, what do you all want out of us, or should I say YOUR club, this year? We have some ideas: try again to host the Messier Marathon; try again to get a good turnout from the public for another T-Bird Park in Glendale outreach this spring (and if successful, another this fall); our N Rim Grand Canyon National Park week of outreach; then...

I think many of us want more observing events where we can practice our hobby, maybe not as official events as much as getting together to do some ad hoc observing. 2024 was a good year for me personally for star gazing, but much of it was alone or with one or two others (excluding events such as mentioned above.)

Again, WHAT DO YOU, the members, WANT? Think about it seriously and please, give us some realistic ideas.

Now, we need to discuss how to make anything else happen. Membership, besides renewing 2024 members, how do we attract new members. We need fresh blood, as well as their financial support, to be able to do much more than we have.

2024 was a reasonable year for the club and I want to thank our past President Michael Popppe, Vice President Steve Rottas, and Secretary Sandy Milward for the great jobs they did.

For those of you who supported our outreach events, a hearty "thank you" also. We will need more of your participation this year, and the years following if the club is to continue. Lastly, money, money, money! Please pay your dues, for those of you who have not already, Thank You to those who have. Ok, maybe that wasn't the last thing. Please submit your activities to Rick Rotramel for the newsletter, or Mike Wilmoth for our Facebook page, or Terry Shay for our web page, all of whom have been doing great work in promoting the club.

Thanking you in advance. Clear skies.

Tom Curry, SAC President

### Inside this issue:

*Editor Notes, Events* 2

(Rick Rotramel)

*Such-A-Deal* 3-4

Four old ads, check them out.

*Bits & Pisces:* 5

The Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> SAC Holiday Party

(Tom Curry)

*SAC Imaging* 6

Two Imaging Sessions in the Arizona Desert

(Tom Curry)

*SAC Observing* 7-9

The Astronomical Calendar

© 2025 by Guy Ottewell

*SAC Sky* 10

*SAC Officers/Chairs* 11

(Board Meetings, Meeting Location, etc.)

*SAC Membership Form* 12

With *PayPal* Link (Via the SAC website)

## Quick Calendar

**Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, SAC General Meeting:**

**At the clubhouse, see the directions on page 2**

Header image © 2000-2013 Stellarium Developers

\* Scorpius setting in the southwest.

© 2025 Saguaro Astronomy Club



# Editor Notes

Hi Folks,

*Such-A-Deal* has four old ads.

*SAC Bits & Pisces* has a report of the Dec. 14th SAC Holiday party, with photos by Tom Curry.

*SAC Imaging* has images from Tom Curry, SAC.

*SAC Observing* has sky info for the month.

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

Enjoy,



Rick Rotramel >



< Left: SAC Webmaster, Terry Shay



Right: SAC ATM Leader, Paul Lind >

Photos: Susan Trask

# Schedule of Events 2025

## SAC General Meetings

Jan. 10	Feb. 7	March 14	April 11
May 9	June No Mtg.	July 11	August 8
Sept. 5	Oct. 3	Nov. 7	Xmas Prty Dec, TBD

\* 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/UCCKTf10gwebABZXwKbhe9oA>

### All Arizona Messier Marathon

Date: TBA, Hovatter North Site

### Spring Thunderbird Park Public Star Party

Date: TBA TBird Park, Glendale, AZ

### Grand Canyon North Rim Star Party

Dates: June 21-28, Steve Rottas, Coordinator

(Email: [gcnrspcoordinator@saguaro.org](mailto:gcnrspcoordinator@saguaro.org))

(Web: [saguaroastro.org](http://saguaroastro.org) click on "Events")

## SAC Officers

Photos: Susan Trask(2), Tom Curry(2)



President: Tom Curry >

Vice President: Lori Prause and Treasurer, Mitch Prause



Secretary: Michael Poppre >



Properties Director: Ken Milward >



## Such-A- Deal

Ads placed here are free to SAC members and friends. SAC is not responsible for the quality of the items. If you wish to place an ad here to sell your telescope or an astronomy related items, contact the editor at

<mailto:rrottramel601@gmail.com>

### 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
- Tele Vue 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>

Lorraine Drobny

602 736-9221



#### 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 **Sold!**
- Several Eyepieces and Misc. attachments **Sold!**
- Meade Flip Mirror System, Model 644 **Sold!**
- Meade Deep Sky Imager, Mono CCD Camera

**\$ Best Offer \$**

- Lorraine Drobny , 602 736-9221

[lorraine.drobny@cox.net](mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net)





## Such-A- Deal

Ads placed here are free to SAC members and friends. SAC is not responsible for the quality of the items. If you wish to place an ad here to sell your telescope or an astronomy related items, contact the editor at

<mailto:rrottramel601@gmail.com>

### Telescope For Sale:

#### Vintage Unitron 60mm f15 Telescope

- OTA with four eyepieces, rotating eyepiece mount, barlow, finderscope and wooden carrying case.
- No tripod or mount.
- "I think it is the 114 model from the late 1950's or early 1960's with the original box..."

# SOLD!

- Paul Jorgenson KE7HR
- Email Contact: [ke7hr@cox.net](mailto:ke7hr@cox.net)
- Asking \$250.00



### Telescope For Sale:

#### Sky-Watcher Esprit 100ED Telescope

- "I have upgraded to a Stellarvue SVX scope. The scope is in good condition and is about 4 years old. There are very minor cuff marks from the mounting rings. It's been used for astrophotography and includes a mounted Pegasus Astro FocusCube2.

#### Also Includes:

- Hard sided travel trunk
- Large format field flattener
- Tube rings, 7" Losmandy D dovetail plate
- 8x50 right-angle finder scope
- Canon EOS 48mm T adapter
- Canon EOS Filter Drawer
- Stellarvue Red Dot Finder
- Various adapters and 2-inch diagonal.
- "The optics are in good condition. I know of nothing wrong with the scope."

#### Some images taken with the scope:

- <https://flic.kr/p/2ocRDnf> **PRICE**  
<https://flic.kr/p/2odXv9Y>
- <https://flic.kr/p/2oCvmZk> **REDUCED !**
- <https://flic.kr/p/2p3f2Rq>
- <https://flic.kr/p/2pfiika>
- <https://flic.kr/p/2o8wG8R>
- "I really don't want to ship the scope so local pick-up in the greater Phoenix area. For serious offers I will drive three hours to meet you."
- **Current Sky-Watcher cost new - \$ 3,210.00**
- **Asking ~~\$1,850.00~~ - Bank cashier's check. \$1600.00** For local pickup, I WILL REDUCE TO \$1500.00
- Jim Waters, Phoenix, AZ. Email: [JimW85044@gmail.com](mailto:JimW85044@gmail.com)



## ***Bits and Pisces***

### ***The SAC Holiday Party***

*Report and photos by Tom Curry*

The December 14th SAC holiday party, graciously hosted by Lori and Mitch Prause was nicely attended with 16 of us in total. There seemed to be more food than people and it was all delicious. Attending were, our hosts of course, Joe Goss and his wife, Paul Lind and his wife, Steve and Pam Rottas, Ken and Sandy Milward, Mike Poppre, Cal Vance, Dwight Bogan, Jack Jones, Glen Nishimoto and yours truly. The good company being the highlight of the evening, the food was the second highlight, but the excitement came when the white elephant event occurred.

Rules changed this year with selectees able to take a previously selected item, BUT only if they won a challenge of "Rock, Paper, Scissors!" While a few challenges were won, the majority were lost, allowing the victorious prize holder to keep their treasure. It was an entertaining and joyous evening, and we want to thank our hosts again.





## ***SAC Imaging***

### ***Two Imaging Sessions in the Arizona Desert***

***Imager: Tom Curry***

All were taken using a Canon T7i on my Celestron 9.25 inch SCT on a CGX mount. I was using an Optolong L-Enhance filter and shooting at 25,600 ISO using 3 to 4 minute exposures. I also used a Celestron StarSense Auto Guider, which seemed to work well, most of the time. Imaged at the Antennas and Salome Airfield sites.



**PN NGC 246, Cetus**



**SG NGC 247, Cetus**



**SG NGC 253, Cetus**



**NGC 156, 157 & 158, Cetus**



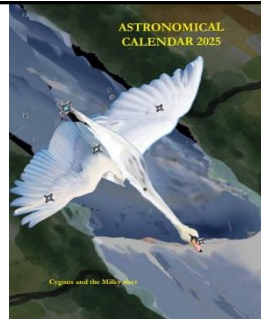
**NGC 1435 & IC 349, in Pleiades, Taurus**



**think there is still construction going on there so it might be less bright when it is completed.**



## SAC Observing



© 2020 by Guy Ottewell  
www.universalworkshop.com

## ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR 2025

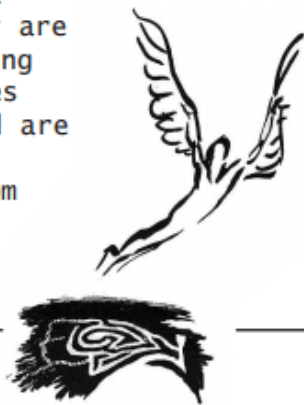
1

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)

Continued next page...



## SAC Observing

2025 JD 246-	UT			2025 JANUARY
0676.5	Jan	1	Wed	Gregorian calendar Jan 1 = Julian calendar 2024 Dec 19
0678.5	Jan	3	Fri	0 Quadrantid meteors; ZHR 80; 3 days after New Moon
0679.208	Jan	3	Fri	17 Moon 1.32° SE of Venus; 47° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.1 and -4.4
0679.807	Jan	4	SAT	7:22 Latest sunrise, at latitude 40° north
0680.037	Jan	4	SAT	13 Earth at perihelion; 0.9833 AU from the Sun
0680.229	Jan	4	SAT	18 Moon 0.70° N of Saturn; 61° and 60° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.9 and 1.2
0681.125	Jan	5	SUN	15 Moon 1.07° N of Neptune; 72° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -9.5 and 7.9
0681.324	Jan	5	SUN	20 Moon at ascending node; longitude 0.4°
0682.497	Jan	6	Mon	23:56 First quarter Moon
0683.517	Jan	8	Wed	0:24 Moon at perigee; distance 58.04 Earth-radii
0684.708	Jan	9	Thu	5 Mercury at descending node through the ecliptic plane
0685.083	Jan	9	Thu	14 Moon 4.3° NNW of Uranus; 124° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -11.3 and 5.7
0685.583	Jan	10	Fri	2 Moon 0.37° NNE of Pleiades; 130° from Sun in evening sky
0685.699	Jan	10	Fri	5 Venus at easternmost elongation; 47.2° from Sun in evening sky; magnitude -4.4
0686.438	Jan	10	Fri	23 Moon 5.4° N of Jupiter; 141° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -11.8 and -2.7
0687.584	Jan	12	SUN	2 Venus dichotomy (D-shape)
0687.875	Jan	12	SUN	9 Moon 4.1° N of M35 cluster; 160° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -12.3 and 5.3
0688.067	Jan	12	SUN	14 Mars nearest to Earth, 0.642 AU
0689.188	Jan	13	Mon	17 Moon 5.4° S of Castor; 174° and 169° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -12.6 and 1.5
0689.417	Jan	13	Mon	22 Moon 2.09° S of Pollux; 175° and 173° from Sun in morning midnight sky; magnitudes -12.6 and 1.2
0689.435	Jan	13	Mon	22:27 Full Moon
0689.5	Jan	14	Tue	Julian calendar 2025 Jan 1
0689.642	Jan	14	Tue	3 Moon, Mars, and Pollux within circle of diameter 4.19°; about 174° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -13, -1, 1
0689.688	Jan	14	Tue	5 Moon 0.44° ENE of Mars; 175° from Sun in morning midnight sky; magnitudes -12.6 and -1.4
0690.5	Jan	15	Wed	0 Moon 2.69° NNE of Beehive Cluster; 166° and 167° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -12.4 and 3.7
0690.621	Jan	15	Wed	3 Mercury at southernmost declination, -23.78°
0691.605	Jan	16	Thu	3 Mars at opposition in longitude; magnitude -1.4; declination 25.1°
0692.250	Jan	16	Thu	18 Moon 2.02° NNE of Regulus; 146° and 147° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.8 and 1.4
0692.325	Jan	16	Thu	20 Venus at ascending node through the ecliptic plane
0694.250	Jan	18	SAT	18 Venus 2.17° NNW of Saturn; 47° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.5 and 1.2
0694.576	Jan	19	SUN	2 Moon at descending node; longitude 179.1°
0695.085	Jan	19	SUN	14 Mercury at aphelion; 0.4667 AU from the Sun

Continued next page...



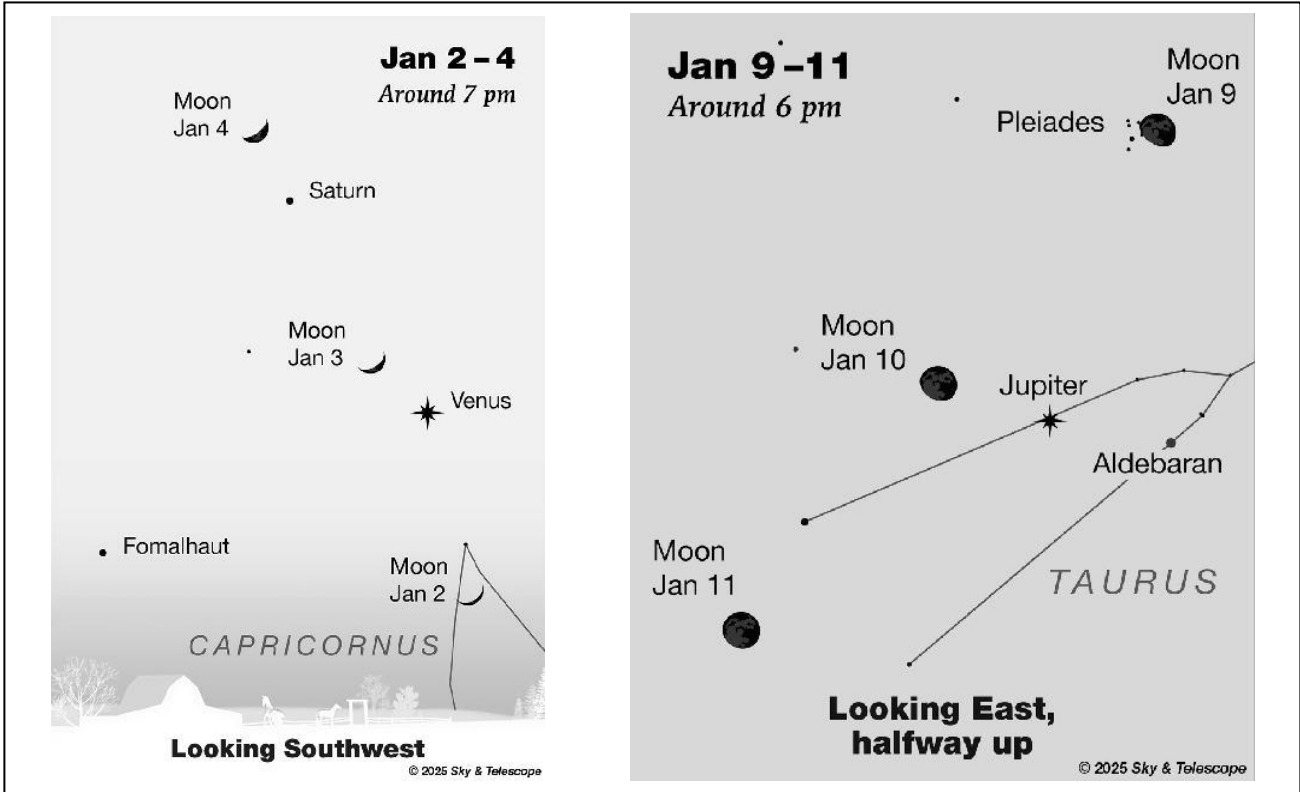


## SAC Observing

0695.135	Jan	19	SUN	15	Sun enters Capricornus, at longitude 299.80° on the ecliptic
0695.333	Jan	19	SUN	20	Sun enters the astrological sign Aquarius, i.e. its longitude is 300°
0696.674	Jan	21	Tue	4	Pluto at conjunction with the Sun; 36.168 AU from Earth; latitude -3.39°
0696.702	Jan	21	Tue	5	Moon at apogee; distance 63.39 Earth-radii
0696.708	Jan	21	Tue	5	Moon 0.26° SE of Spica; 97° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.3 and 1.0
0697.355	Jan	21	Tue	20:31	Last quarter Moon
0698.375	Jan	22	Wed	21	Mars 2.36° S of Pollux; 170° and 168° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -1.3 and 1.2
0700.521	Jan	25	SAT	1	Moon 0.31° SE of Antares; 55° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -8.5 and 1.0
0704.438	Jan	28	Tue	23	Moon 2.45° SE of Mercury; 9° and 8° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -4.9 and -0.8
0705.025	Jan	29	Wed	12:36	New Moon; beginning of lunation 1263
0706.065	Jan	30	Thu	14	Uranus stationary in longitude; resumes direct motion
0706.169	Jan	30	Thu	16	Uranus stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion
0706.292	Jan	30	Thu	19	Mars 5.8° S of Castor; 159° and 157° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -1.1 and 1.5
0706.438	Jan	30	Thu	23	Jupiter 5.1° N of Aldebaran; 120° and 119° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -2.5 and 0.9
0707.417	Jan	31	Fri	22	Venus 3.3° NW of Neptune; 45° and 46° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.6 and 7.9



## SAC Sky



From Sky & Telescope; Copyright © 2025 AAS Sky Publishing LLC. All rights reserved.

<https://skyandtelescope.org/observing>



## 2025 SAC Officers and Contacts

### Board Members

- President Tom Curry [mail to: president@saguaroastro.org](mailto:president@saguaroastro.org)
- Vice-President Lori Prause
- Treasurer Mitch Prause <mailto:treasurer@saguaroastro.org>
- Secretary Michael Poppre
- Properties Ken Milward <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)

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

Phoenix, AZ



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

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

### 2024 Board Mtgs:

Board meetings will be called by the SAC President and will contact the board members for the meeting time and date.

### Ocultation Info

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

### 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.

### Saguaro Skies Staff

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

2013-2024 Contributors: Bob Christ, Mike Collins, AJ Crayon, Tom Curry, Paul Dickson, David Dillmore, Steve Dodder, Richard Harshaw, Dean Ketelsen, Kevin Kozel, Joan McGue, Sandy Milward, Andrew Perry, Tom & Jennifer Polakis, Michael Poppre, Jimmy Ray, Rick Rotramel, Steve Rottas, SAC Imagers & Observers, Darrell Spencer & Rick Tejera.



## 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\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Check here if this is updated information*

**Make check payable to: SAC**

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

Mitch Prause

**8441 W. Foothill Dr.  
Peoria, AZ 85383**















