



Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL
April 2013

Officers: **President:** Michael Usher; **VP/Secretary:** Todd Strackbein; **Treasurer:** Bob Gurnitz
Newsletter Editor: Jackie Richards (jmrichards2005@yahoo.com)
Home Page: <http://naples.net/clubs/eas> **Webmaster:** Martin Zombeck (mvz@alum.mit.edu)
Fack Coordinator & information on viewing: Charlie Paul (cpaul651@earthlink.net) 410-8192

President's Message

Spring is coming fast! We have only three more club meetings this season. Comet Pan-STARRS was not a truly spectacular comet, but it still put on a pretty good show; be sure to read Jackie's article about it.

John Fishwick will be speaking at our next meeting on Some Astronomy, Some Geology, Some Evolution, Some Philosophy, and Unscientific America.

Don't forget the Picnic at the Fack on Saturday, April 6th, weather permitting, of course. Charlie will give the final go/no go call in an e-mail that Saturday if the weather appears questionable. The Sun sets at 7:45PM on that day; so if you would desire a leisurely supper in the daylight followed by a spectacular sunset you should shoot for an arrival no later than 7:15 to 7:30. First time visitors to the Fack should contact Charlie for assistance in finding the right location.

This is a bring-your-own-food picnic rather than a buffet style because there is a serious lack of tables at the Fack to distribute the food with. Ladies will be interested to know we now have restroom facilities available!

Clear Skies,
President
Mike Usher

Dates for the "Fack"

Usually the best times to go out to the Fakahatchee Strand viewing site are moonless nights. Below is a list of upcoming Saturday nights that you will often find fellow club members out there enjoying the skies with you (weather permitting).

Date	Moonrise	Moonset
Apr. 6	3:35 a.m.	3:32 p.m.
Apr. 13	8:12 a.m.	9:57 p.m.

Sky Events

Apr. 2 - Last quarter
Apr. 10 - New moon

Apr. 18 - First quarter
Apr. 21 - Lyrids meteor shower
Apr. 25 - Full moon
Apr. 28 - Saturn in opposition

Next Meeting

April 9, 2013
Time 7:00 – 9:00 pm
At the Norris Center, Cambier Park

Comet Hunting

By Jackie Richards

What an experience it was viewing Comet Pan-STARRS which was visible just after sunset beginning in early March. It was first spotted on March 10th by club member, Rick Piper, and it didn't take much arm twisting to get more club members out to see it. Some members viewed Comet Pan-STARRS almost every night over a one-week period which provided an opportunity to see how it moved in the sky each night and how weather conditions affected viewing.



Photo by Rick and Lori Piper – Comet Pan-STARRS 3/15/13. Canon T3i, Tamrom 18-250mm lens, manual 10-15 seconds.



Photo by Rick and Lori Piper – Comet Pan-STARRS 3/15/13. Canon T3i, Tamrom 18-250mm lens, manual 10-15 seconds.

While most writings stated that the comet would get dimmer each night, it seemed to me to get brighter. The best way I can describe it is that it went from flat to glossy over a seven-day period. For several members, Comet Pan-STARRS was the first comet ever viewed. Club member, Mary Ann Wallace, stated, “I was thrilled that I was able to locate it by myself in my binoculars. I loved just keeping it in my binoculars and watching it.”

Viewing Comet Pan-STARRS was a very exciting experience, but I’m sure it was just a precursor to viewing the upcoming Comet ISON in November, when it is expected to be visible to the naked eye. While I don’t know if there will be any songs written about Comet Pan-STARRS, Shinedown’s “Second Chance” provides lyrics on Halley’s Comet.

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TED WOLFE, ASTROPHOTOGRAPHER (AND WE’VE GOT HIM)

By Jackie Richards

How lucky are we to have Ted Wolfe, astrophotographer, in our club? We are fortunate enough to have Ted present his pictures periodically at club meetings while explaining many of the most amazing images you will ever see of deep-space objects. Two of his images are below. Ted’s images are deservingly displayed at the Center for Space Studies at the University of Florida and have been published in leading national magazines in the astronomy field. Additionally, his images are often published in the Naples News. Ted has also published “The Colors of the Universe” in Blu-ray which includes 70 spectacular images and original music which can be purchased through the club for \$20. I have already viewed “The Colors of the Universe” and can tell you that you won’t be disappointed. Ted’s images can also be viewed directly from the club’s website at <http://naples.net/clubs/eas> under “Photo Gallery” or at www.tedwolfe.com.



Photo by Ted Wolfe - NGC 7635 – Color. Material shaped like a "bubble" is seen being ejected out of a Wolf-Rayet star. 12 1/2" Ritchey-Chretien Telescope with an ST10XE/CFW8,F/6 LRGB(50/7minBW,10/5min2x2bin R,G,B. Scaled on MaximDL at R 1.0, G 1.0, B 1.6).



Photo by Ted Wolfe - NGC 0613 – Color. A beautiful barred spiral at 64 million ly away. Ted dubbed this one the "Whip Tail Galaxy" because it seems to be hurling a bright star from the end of one of its long spiral arms. 12 1/2"Ritchey-Chretien Telescope with a ST10XE/CFW8, F/6LRGB (50/7minBW, 11/5minRGB2x2bin, Scaled on Maxim DL at R1.0,G1.0, B1.6).

Possessing many knowledgeable “professional” amateur astronomers and astrophotographers by our club, I can tell you that they are all willing help the “amateur” amateur astronomers like me and most of you. So don’t be afraid to ask for help; I do it all the time.

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Items For Sale or Trade or Wanted:

http://www.naples.net/clubs/eas/equipment_sales.html

Useful links (software, telescope making, telescope and equipment suppliers, astronomical data sources, iPhone and iPad Apps and more):

<http://www.naples.net/clubs/eas/links.html>