



# Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL  
February 2013

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## President's Message

Tonight we have a wonderful presentation from Jack Berninger on "The Theory of Everything"; no doubt we will all understand it better after he's done.

We will also have returnees from the Winter Star Party and no doubt they will have a large number of interesting stories to relate.

Don't forget we will have a bright comet (knock on wood) to look at this time next month. If you don't have binoculars now is a good time to consider acquiring a pair. You can pick up decent ones for less than \$100 from Orion Telescopes.

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
Feb. 2		11:05 a.m.
Feb. 9	6:19 a.m.	5:54 p.m.

## Sky Events

- Feb. 3 - Last quarter
- Feb. 10 - New moon
- Feb. 15 - Asteroid 2012 DA14 will pass by Earth at an altitude of 27,000 km
- Feb. 17 - First quarter
- Feb. 25 - Full moon

## Next Meeting

Feb. 12, 2013  
Time 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
At the Norris Center, Cambridge Park

## What You're Missing at the Fack

Jackie Richards

We have seen so many amazing things at the Fack during the last few viewings that you just don't know what you're missing. So I'll tell you about it. And not only did we have a higher attendance of viewers than usual, but several of them were ladies. And the ladies may be happy to know that we believe we have the "bathroom situation" solved. For details, email me.

It's a good thing a picture may be worth a thousand words, because it's hard to describe the beauty of deep space images. At the Fack, Chuck Pavlick (a member of the Southwest Florida Astronomical Society) was imaging the Witch Head Nebula (IC2118) in the Eridanus Constellation which is illuminated by the giant star, Rigel, from the Orion Constellation using an SBIG 8300C camera. While none of us can see this nebula with our telescopes, it's the stacking of images that creates the picture. Onlookers could see the image on Chuck's laptop while being processed. The image is below.





Another picture taken by Chuck at the Fack with the SBIG 8300C camera is the Monkey Head Nebula (shown below) which is a bright nebula near the borders of the constellations of Orion and Gemini.



Here are some more of Chuck's images taken at the Fack with a Canon Rebel XT DSLR.



Horse Head and Flame Nebula by Chuck Pavlick



M31 by Chuck Pavlick

If anyone would like to see more of Chuck's images, here is the link: <http://www.pbase.com/hobbynaut/astrophotos>

As some of us were imaging, others were viewing the night sky with our telescopes. While searching for the Sculptor Galaxy in my telescope (10" f/5) which is between Diphda (in the Cetus Constellation) and Alpha Sculptoris (in the Sculptor Constellation), I came upon what looked like a circular cloud but didn't know what it was. I looked it up on the Stellarium program ([www.stellarium.org](http://www.stellarium.org)) and learned it was NGC 288 which is a globular cluster in the Sculptor Constellation. More amazingly, because we have access to everyone's telescopes at the Fack, when NGC 288 was viewed in Rick Piper's 16" f/6.25 scope, you could actually see the individual stars in the cluster. We learned the difference between a globular cluster and an open cluster, that being a globular cluster is a collection of stars that orbits a galactic core, are tightly bound by gravity and are much older than an open cluster which is a group of up to a few thousand stars loosely bound to each other by mutual gravitational attraction but become disrupted by close encounters with other clusters and clouds of gas resulting in a loss of its members.

Of course, the Orion Nebula is one of the most breathtaking sights out there right now. In addition to all of the nebulosity you could ask for, we saw the Orion Trapezium Cluster which is an open cluster. Telescopes of amateur astronomers from 5 inch aperture can see six stars under good seeing conditions. Otherwise, only four can usually be seen. Our President, Mike Usher, was able to see all six through his scope (10" f/8).

We also saw the Andromeda Galaxy, M81 and M82 and much more.

For those of you who haven't been out to the Fack lately or have never gone, this is what you're missing.

# Everglades Astronomical Society

Website: <http://gator.naples.net/clubs/eas/>

Please fill out this form (thank you for printing clearly) and send it with your \$20 check,

payable to Everglades *Astronomical Society*. Our address is:

<p><i>Everglades Astronomical Society</i></p> <p>P.O. Box 10406</p> <p>Naples, FL 34101</p>
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

*Meeting Schedule: Generally, fourth Thursday of each month at the Norris Center, 7 PM – 9 PM. In November and December, we generally meet on the third Thursday. Also, for February 2009, we will also meet on the third Thursday. Please check our Website for meeting details.*