



Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL
June 2011

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President's Message:

Well the long slow summer is now upon us. The Summer Milky Way is rising with all of its glories; if you can stay awake past midnight you will have clear skies generally. Before then, the skies are often hit or miss. Our diehard members will still visit the Fak twice monthly.

This month marks the last time this season we will meet at the Norris Center. For our July and August meetings please visit the Books-A-Million store across from the Mall. Same time as usual!

Clear Skies,

Mike Usher
(239) 643-6017

Dates for the "Fak":

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).

Fak Dates	Sun Set	Moonrise	Moonset
June 18	8:22 pm	10:47 pm	10:13 am
July 23	8:19 pm	12:39 pm	2:09 pm
July 30	8:15 pm	6:40 pm	8:09 pm

Next Meeting: (*Bring a friend!*)

June 14th, 2011
Time 7:00 – 9 pm
At the Norris Center, 755 8th Avenue South, Naples, FL

Sky Events:

Jun 1 -- New Moon
Jun 8 -- First Quarter Moon
Jun 15 -- Full Moon
Jun 23 -- Last Quarter Moon

Eclipse Dates:

June 1: Partial eclipse of the Sun This eclipse will be visible in North America only from northern Alaska and parts of northern Canada. In Deadhorse, Alaska, for example, the partial eclipse lasts from 12:31 P.M. until 1:52 P.M. AKDT.

June 15: Total lunar eclipse This eclipse will not be visible from North America. The eclipse will be visible from South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and parts of Australia.

July 1: Partial eclipse of the Sun This eclipse will not be visible from North America. The eclipse will be visible only from a small area of the southern Indian Ocean.

Meteor Shower: Class III

Name: **June Bootids (JBO)**
Activity Period: **Jun 22 - July 02**
Maximum: **Jun 27, 21:00**

Astronomical Trivia Question of the Month:

The ancient Greeks called our galaxy the Milky Way because they thought it was made from drops of milk from the breasts of the Greek goddess _____ ?

- Aphrodite
- Hera
- Medusa
- Selene

**Answer on next page.*



Milky Way Safari

by Dauna Coulter and Dr. Tony Phillips

Safari, anyone? Citizen scientists are invited to join a hunt through the galaxy. As a volunteer for Zooniverse's Milky Way Project, you'll track down exotic creatures like mysterious gas bubbles, twisted green knots of dust and gas, and the notorious "red fuzzies."

"The project began about four months ago," says astrophysicist Robert Simpson of Oxford University. "Already, more than 18,000 people are scouting the Milky Way for these quarry."

The volunteers have been scrutinizing infrared images of the Milky Way's inner regions gathered by NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope. Spitzer's high resolution in infrared helps it pierce the cloaking haze of interstellar gas and dust, revealing strange and beautiful structures invisible to conventional telescopes. The Milky Way Project is helping astronomers catalogue these intriguing features, map our galaxy, and plan future research.

"Participants use drawing tools to flag the objects," explains Simpson. "So far they've made over a million drawings and classified over 300,000 images."

Scientists are especially interested in bubble-like objects believed to represent areas of active star formation. "Every bubble signifies hundreds to thousands of young, hot stars. Our volunteers have circled almost 300,000 bubble candidates, and counting," he says.

Humans are better at this than computers. Computer searches turn up only the objects precisely defined in a program, missing the ones that don't fit a specified mold. A computer would, for example, overlook partial bubbles and those that are skewed into unusual shapes.

"People are more flexible. They tend to pick out patterns computers don't pick up and find things that just look interesting. They're less precise, but very complementary to computer searches, making it less likely we'll miss structures that deserve a closer look. And just the sheer numbers of eyes on the prize mean more comprehensive coverage."

Along the way the project scientists distill the volunteers' data to eliminate repetitive finds (such as different people spotting the same bubbles) and other distortions.

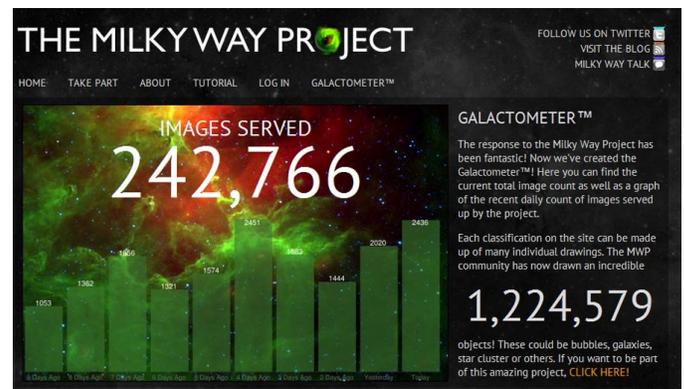
The project's main site (<http://www.milkywayproject.org>) includes links to a blog and a site called Milky Way Talk. Here "hunters" can post comments, chat about images they've found, tag the ones they consider especially intriguing, vote for their favorite images (see the winners

at <http://talk.milkywayproject.org/collections/CMWS00002u>, and more.

Zooniverse invites public participation in science missions both to garner interest in science and to help scientists achieve their goals. More than 400,000 volunteers are involved in their projects at the moment. If you want to help with the Milky Way Project, visit the site, take the tutorial, and ... happy hunting!

You can get a preview some of the bubbles at Spitzer's own web site, <http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu/>. Kids will enjoy looking for bubbles in space pictures while playing the Spitzer concentration game at <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/spitzer-concentration/>.

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



Caption: Volunteers study infrared images of our galaxy from the Spitzer Space Telescope, identifying interesting features using the special tools of the Milky Way Project, part of the Citizen Science Alliance Zooniverse web site.

Set For Launch:

<http://www.nasa.gov/missions/highlights/schedule.html>

Date: July 8 +

Mission: STS-135

Launch Vehicle: Space Shuttle Atlantis

Launch Site: Kennedy Space Center - Launch Pad 39A

Launch Time: 11:26 a.m. EDT

Answer to the trivia question:

The answer is **B**.

- Selene - Was the goddess of the Moon.
 - Hera - Queen of the gods, sprayed her milk to feed the birth of the cosmos.
 - Circe - Was the daughter of the Sun god Helios.
 - Aphrodite - Cute girl, but she flunked Astronomy 101.
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Links of the Month:

1. <http://mo-www.harvard.edu/MicroObservatory>
 2. <http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/hd>
 3. <http://www.space.com/6829-military-hush-incoming-space-rocks-classified.html>
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Items for Sale

<http://naples.net/clubs/eas/sales.html>

Handbook of Space Astronomy and Astrophysics -
Paperback; 782 pages; 338 B&W illustrations; 247
tables. 40% off list price for astronomy club members. A
comprehensive compilation of the facts and figures
relevant to astronomy and astrophysics. This handbook
contains the most frequently used information in modern
astronomy and astrophysics, and will be an essential
reference for advanced amateur astronomers, university
students, graduate students, researchers and
professionals working in astronomy and the space
sciences. For more information and to purchase the
handbook go to:

http://www.astrohandbook.com/astrohandbook_clubs.html

Martin Zombeck, mvz@alum.mit.ed, Club Affiliation:
EAS; date posted: 23 November 2010.

2011 Membership Dues:

For the bargain price of only ***\$20.⁰⁰ per family***, all this can be yours for the coming year!

- ✓ Meet with your fellow astronomy enthusiasts at least 10 times a year.
- ✓ Many opportunities to freeze/sweat/get bitten by mosquitoes in the Fakahatchee Strand.
- ✓ View planets, nebulae and many other celestial objects.

Don't miss out! Fill out this form (please print plainly) and send it with your \$20 check, payable to:

Everglades Astronomical Society

P.O. Box 1868

Marco Island, Florida 34146

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____