



# Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL  
May 2013

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

## President's Message

We are exploring the possibility of changing the location of our meetings beginning in September. As you know the Norris Center has been complaining when our attendance exceeds 45 members. Nothing has been decided yet, although the Board of Directors has a good possibility in mind. In any case, keep reading our Newsletter for updates!

This month I am giving the monthly presentation on a topic that I am keeping a surprise; although certain people already know or guess. As a hint I'll tell you it's just a little different than our regular presentation subjects.

Clear Skies,  
President  
Mike Usher

### 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).

Date	Moonrise	Moonsset
May 11	6:52 a.m.	8:40 p.m.
June 1	12:54 a.m.	1:16 p.m.

### Sky Events

- May 2 - Last quarter
- May 6 - Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower
- May 9 - New moon
- May 17 - First quarter
- May 24 - Full moon
- May 28 - Conjunction of Venus & Jupiter (1° apart)

## Next Meeting

May 14, 2013  
Time 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
At the Norris Center, Cambier Park

## What's Up There Now?

By Jackie Richards

Lots of exciting things are coming to a sky near you. One of the most spectacular objects to view now is Omega Centauri (which is the brightest and largest known globular cluster associated with our galaxy). It is located just above the southern horizon in the constellation Centaurus, is about 15,800 light years from earth and contains several million stars as can be seen in club member, Ted Wolfe's, photo below. The stars in its center are so close together that they are estimated to average only 0.1 light years away from each other. Omega Centauri is about 12 billion years old. We can



Photo by Ted Wolfe (12 1/2" Ritchey-Chretien Telescope with a ST10XE/CFW8 f/6 RGB (2/5min2x2bin.RGB weighted 1.0R, 1.0G, 1.65B))

see it clearly from the Fak, and it can also be seen with the naked eye. Viewing it through a telescope is just as awesome as Ted's photo. The second largest globular cluster viewable from the Fak is M13 in the constellation Hercules which consists of about 300,000 stars.

Also visible from the Fak are three of the four stars of the Southern Cross. It's not like we didn't try standing on the top of the highest vehicle at the Fak to see the bottom star. It didn't work. You will just need to go to the Winter Star Party next year if you want to see the entire Southern Cross.

Comet PanSTARRS will still be visible during May in the constellation Cepheus which is just above the Northern horizon. When we viewed it in March, it was just above the Western horizon. We are hopeful to see it at the Fak.

Other challenging objects to find with our telescopes are some of my favorite objects—galaxies. And better yet are colliding galaxies such as M51 (the Whirlpool Galaxy) which is located at the bottom of Ursa Major (the Big Dipper) in the constellation Canes Venatici. As you can see from Chuck Pavlick's (member of the Southwest Florida Astronomical Society) photo below, it is colliding with its companion galaxy, NGC 5195. Even more challenging to find are the Siamese Twins (NGC 4567 and NGC 4568) which are also colliding galaxies and can be found in the constellation Virgo. The Siamese Twins are 60 million light years away from Earth and appear as fuzzy stars in most telescopes at the Fak.



M51—The Whirlpool Galaxy by Chuck Pavlick (Orion Starshoot Imager w/0.6 focal reducer – 30 @ 30 sec., 45 @ 20 sec. stacked in Maximdl Essentials)

One of the first objects I saw through a telescope at the Fak was M57 (the Ring Nebula). M57 is a planetary nebula which is an expanding remnant of a dying star and has nothing to do with a planet. The term “planetary nebula” is a misnomer that originated in the 1780's when astronomer William Herschel thought these objects were similar in appearance to Uranus, the planet which he discovered. This misnomer was adopted by astronomers and has not been changed. The Ring Nebula

can be found in the constellation Lyra. Of course, when we view it from our telescopes, it won't be in color like Ted Wolfe's photo below, but even in black and white (looking similar to a smoke ring), it is a beautiful object to view and a challenge to find.



M57 – The Ring Nebula by Ted Wolfe (12 1/2" Ritchey Cretien Telescope with an ST8e/CFW8F/7 LRGB (3 min. B/W, 1/5 min. 2x2 bin RGB)

So come out to the Fak and “Fly Away” like Lenny Kravitz says. Happy viewing!

\* \* \*

#### Items For Sale or Trade or Wanted:

[http://www.naples.net/clubs/eas/equipment\\_sales.html](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>

## EAS 2013 DUES

For the bargain price of only \$20.00 per family, all this can be yours this year:

- Meet with your fellow astronomy enthusiasts at least 10 times a year;
- Learn about astronomy and telescopes. Check out our club scope;
- Many opportunities to view planets, nebulae and other celestial objects (even if you don't have your own telescope); and
- Enjoy the many astronomy programs at our regular monthly meetings.

**Don't miss out!** Fill out this form (please print clearly) and send it with your \$20 check to the Everglades Astronomical Society, P. O. Box 1868, Marco Island, Florida, 34146.

Name:

---

Address:

---

---

Phone:

---

Email:

---