



# Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL  
November 2011

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## President's Message:

The rainy season is finally over! Pretty quick now we will get decent viewing back at the Fack. From November through April the skies are reasonably clear - except for the bi-weekly cold front. The clearest skies at the Fack usually come about 12-24 hours after a cold front moves past us.

Also the Christmas shopping season is rapidly approaching. I wrote a Christmas buying guide that is now posted on our club website. It might be a good idea to print out a copy and leave it lying around the house where your spouse/significant other can find it!

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	Moonsset
Nov 19	5:36pm	12:43am	1:21pm
Nov 26	5:35pm	8:19am	7:11pm
Dec 17	5:39pm	11:56pm	11:59am
Dec 24	5:42pm	6:59am	5:53pm

**Next Meeting:** ( *Bring a friend!* )

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

## Sky Events:

Nov 2 -- First Quarter Moon  
Nov 10 -- Full Moon  
Nov 18 -- Last Quarter Moon  
Nov 25 -- New Moon

## Eclipse Dates:

**November 25: Partial eclipse of the Sun** This eclipse will not be visible from North America. The eclipse will be visible from Antarctica, southern Africa, southern India, and New Zealand.

**December 10: Total lunar eclipse** This eclipse will be fully visible from Alaska. The Moon will enter the penumbra at 2:32 A.M. AKST and will leave the penumbra at 8:32 A.M. AKST. The eclipse will be partially visible from parts of North America: Central and western areas will be able to observe both a penumbral and umbral eclipse. The Moon will enter the penumbra at 3:32 A.M. PST and the umbra at 4:45 A.M. PST. A penumbral eclipse will be visible from most of the East Coast, starting at 6:32 A.M. EST, just before the Moon sets.

## Meteor Showers:

Meteor Shower: **Norther Taurids**  
Radiant and direction: Taurus  
Morning of maximum: Nov. 13  
Hourly rate: 5

Meteor Shower: **Leonid**  
Radiant and direction: Leo (E)  
Morning of maximum: Nov. 18  
Hourly rate: 10-20

Meteor Shower: **November Orionids**  
Radiant and direction: Orion  
Morning of maximum: Nov. 30  
Hourly rate: 3

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## Astronomical Trivia Question of the Month:

What are Jupiter's four brightest moons?

- a. Io, Nix, Charon, and Hydra
- b. Titan, Dione, Pandora, Pan
- c. Ganymede, Titan, Callisto, and Dione
- d. Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto
- e. All of the above

*\*Answer on next page.*

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## The Gray Cubicle You Want to Work In

By Dr. Tony Phillips

It's another day at the office.

You're sitting in a gray cubicle, tap-tap-taping away on your keyboard, when suddenly your neighbor lets out a whoop of delight.

Over the top of the carpeted divider you see a star exploding on the computer screen. An unauthorized video game? No, this explosion is real. A massive star just went supernova in the Whirlpool Galaxy, and the first images from Hubble are popping up on your office-mate's screen.

It's another day at the office ... at NASA.

Just down the hall, another office-mate is analyzing global temperature trends. On the floor below, a team of engineers gathers to decode signals from a spaceship that entered "safe mode" when it was hit by a solar flare. And three floors above, a financial analyst snaps her pencil-tip as she tries to figure out how to afford just one more sensor for a new robotic spacecraft.

These are just a few of the things going on every day at NASA headquarters in Washington DC and more than a dozen other NASA centers scattered around the country. The variety of NASA research and, moreover, the variety of NASA people required to carry it out often comes as a surprise. Consider the following:

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) supports research in four main areas: Earth Science, Heliophysics, Astrophysics, and Planetary Science. Read that list one more time. It includes everything in the cosmos from the ground beneath our feet to the Sun in the sky to the most distant galaxies at the edge of the Universe. Walking among the cubicles in NASA's science offices, you are likely to meet people working on climate change, extraterrestrial life, Earth-threatening asteroids, black holes or a hundred other things guaranteed to give a curious-minded person goose

bumps. Truly, no other government agency has a bigger job description.

And it's not just scientists doing the work. NASA needs engineers to design its observatories and build its spacecraft, mathematicians to analyze orbits and decipher signals, and financial wizards to manage the accounts and figure out how to pay for everything NASA dreamers want to do. Even writers and artists have a place in the NASA scheme of things. Someone has to explain it all to the general public.

Clearly, some cubicles are more interesting than others. For more information about the Science Mission Directorate, visit [science.nasa.gov](http://science.nasa.gov). And for another way to reach the Space Place, go to <http://science.nasa.gov/kids>.

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



**Caption:** Some of the employees of NASA's Science Mission Directorate may work in gray cubicles, but their jobs are anything but dull. They get to study Earth, the Sun, the Solar System, and the Universe!.

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## Answer to the trivia question:

The answer is: **D.**

Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. Jupiter has 64 confirmed moons at this time.

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### Links of the Month:

1. <http://discovermagazine.com/2011/jun/17-the-night-scientific-revolution-began>
2. [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/asteroids/overview/yu55.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/asteroids/overview/yu55.html)
3. <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets/3308506.html#>

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### Items for Sale

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

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#### **NEW**

- 1) Meade Star Finder 12 1/2" dob \$290.00
- 2) Meade LX 90 GPS 8" Lots of accessories. \$1100.00
- 3) Custom built Truss Dob 16" w/Sky Commander DSC. \$1600.00

Please call David Eimers 239-353-4828 for more info.

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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](http://www.astrohandbook.com/astrohandbook_clubs.html)

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

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# 2011 Membership Dues:

For the bargain price of only **\$20.<sup>00</sup> 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**

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