



Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL
August 2015

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President's Message

This Tuesday is our last summer casual meeting at Second Cup in the Mercato Shops before returning to the Norris Center in September. The evening weather has been a bit better lately with a small group making it out to the FAK this past Friday. Wish I could have made it!

Sorry to say the July 21st YMCA event with the EAS was cancelled due to clouds and rain. Our next attempt at the YMCA Family Fridays is August 14th. Watch your emails for weather updates.

An exciting upcoming astronomical event is the Perseid meteor shower. Glad to see that the Naples Daily News covered in the following:

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/national/perseid-meteor-shower-to-be-at-peak-visibility-this-week>

The Perseid meteor shower is hitting its peak August 12-13 with up to 100 fast and bright meteors visible per hour. Fortunately this year it will also occur during New Moon. Maybe we can organize a group trip to the FAK?

Clear Skies, Todd Strackbein

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	Moonset
Aug. 8	12:45 a.m.	2:20 p.m.
Aug. 15	6:49 a.m.	7:41 p.m.

Sky Events

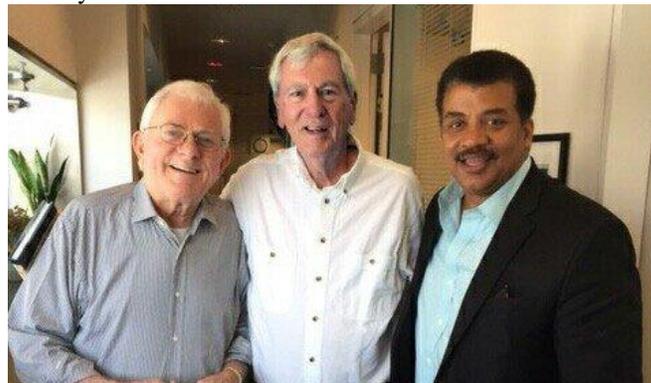
Aug. 6 - Last quarter
Aug. 12-13 - Perseid Meteor Shower
Aug. 14 - New Moon
Aug. 22 - First Quarter
Aug. 29 - Full moon

Next Meeting

August 11, 2015: Time 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Second Cup (@ Mercato)
9115 Strada Place
Naples, FL

Thanks for Sharing Photo, Ted Wolfe By Jackie Richards

Hey everyone, check out EAS club member Ted Wolfe's photo below with his college buddy, Phil Donahue. Last month Ted and Phil had the opportunity to meet with Neil de Grasse Tyson at his office in the Rose Planetarium. Neil told Ted that his favorite object in his office was a chunk of the meteorite from Meteor Crater in Arizona. Wouldn't that be something if we could get Neil to do a program for the EAS? Just sayin'....



Left to right: Phil Donahue, Ted Wolfe and Neil de Grasse Tyson. Photo shared by Ted Wolfe.

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Published Articles by EAS Members

Ted Wolfe's article in the Naples News/Collier Citizen on July 20, 2015, Looking up: Round and Round it Goes: An up close look at the Pinwheel Galaxy:

http://www.naplesnews.com/community/collier-citizen/looking-up-round-and-round-it-goes-an-up-close-look-at-the-pinwheel-galaxy_75019094

Mike Usher's article in the Coastal Breeze News on 7/26/15, Southern Skies: The Summer Milky Way:

<http://www.coastalbreezenews.com/2015/07/26/the-summer-milky-way-2/>

TO VIEW THESE ARTICLES, PRESS "CTRL" AND LEFT CLICK BUTTON.

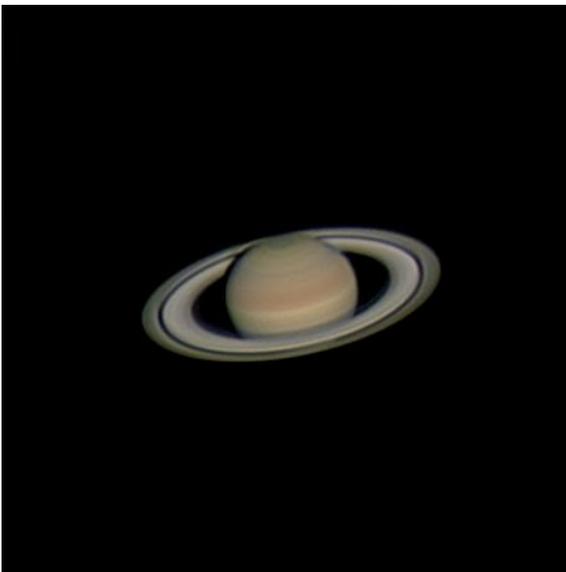


Photo of Saturn by Chuck Pavlick 7/21/15.

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Hello, Pluto!

**By Katie McKissick
National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

It's over three billion miles away from Earth. We've only known about it since 1930. Pluto is an icy rock about a fifth the size of Earth. We called it a planet until 2006, but now we say it's *dwarf planet*. Scientists decided that it's not a planet like Venus or Jupiter because it's just one of many objects in the Kuiper Belt. That's a ring of icy rocks on the edge of our solar system.

But just because it's not quite a planet like Venus and Jupiter, that doesn't mean we don't want to learn more about it. It's so far away that it's hard to see with even the most powerful telescopes. To get a better look, we sent a small spacecraft named New Horizons to visit Pluto. It left Earth on January 19, 2006.

New Horizons is the fastest spacecraft ever launched. It left Earth travelling 31,000 miles per hour. That's *really* fast. But because Pluto is so far away, it still took nine and half years to make it there.

It flew right by Pluto on July 14, 2015. For 22 hours, it took lots of pictures and measurements of this icy world. While it collected information, we couldn't talk to the spacecraft.

New Horizons has a radio antenna, cameras, and other tools. It uses the antenna to send messages to Earth. But New Horizons couldn't point its cameras at Pluto and keep its antenna pointed toward Earth. This meant it couldn't photograph Pluto and send messages to Earth at the same time. Scientists chose to get as many pictures of Pluto as possible, even if that meant we couldn't get messages from New Horizons for a while.

After the flyby, the mission team reconnected with the New Horizons spacecraft. They wanted to make sure everything went as planned. New Horizons sent a message to Earth saying it was OK. Because the spacecraft was so far away, the message took 4 hours and 25 minutes to reach us.

When we heard from New Horizons on July 14, 2015, it was just past 9 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Everyone was overjoyed. We sent a probe to Pluto, we took pictures, and the spacecraft worked just right.



One of the final images taken before New Horizons made its closest approach to Pluto on 14 July 2015. Image Credit: NASA/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory/Southwest Research Institute.

EAS 2015 DUES

For months to come, New Horizons will keep sending back the information it collected near Pluto. It takes a long time to get data from so far away. We'll learn about Pluto's surface, temperature, atmosphere, and moons—especially its largest moon, Charon. That's not bad for a spacecraft the size of a baby grand piano!

Do you want to learn more about Pluto?
Visit <http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/ice-dwarf>

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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>

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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:
