



# Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL  
February 2019

**Officers: President:** Denise Sabatini     **Treasurer:** Victor Farris  
**Newsletter Editor:** Jackie Richards

**Mailing Address:** P. O. Box 1451, Marco Island, FL 34146

**Fak Coordinator** & information on viewing: Mike Usher

**Home Page:** <http://naples.net/~nfn19284/eas/>     **Webmaster:** Mike Usher

## President's Message

The presentation by Scott Flaig at our January meeting was excellent. His information and mind provoking ideas kept everyone on their toes, including a few young lads who joined us.

Our February meeting will be our celebration of the memory of our dear friend, Charlie Paul. For those of you who knew him, this will be a chance to share with his family and members your fond anecdotes. For those of you who never had the privilege of meeting him, this will be an opportunity for you to not only learn about a truly wonderful man, but to get some history of our club. Charlie was so instrumental in many of our activities and made a lasting impact on all of us. Please bring any pictures, videos, and/or stories you'd like to share with us.

After my last letter, things really exploded for our club. We have had several events around the county. I was able to work one, for which I thoroughly enjoyed. I know that many of you are busy or maybe feel that you don't have enough knowledge to help. These events are a lot of fun. We get to meet many people from the community and share our passion with a lot of young folks. I really hope that if you have never participated in one of these functions that you will at least give one a try. I can't stress enough that regardless of what you perceive to be your knowledge base, we need everyone to help.

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## 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
March 2	4:20 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
March 30	3:02 a.m.	2:01 p.m.

## Sky Events

Feb. 4        - New Moon  
Feb. 12      - First Quarter  
Feb. 14      - Jupiter Transit (Europa)  
Feb. 19      - Full Moon  
Feb. 22      - Jupiter Transit (Io)  
Feb. 26      - Last Quarter

## Next Meeting

**February 12, 2019: Time 7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
Norris Center, Naples

## MY FIRST ASTROPHOTO By Eric Uthus

After several years of trying, I have my first, somewhat successful, astrophoto. Astrophotography has a steep learning curve. Chuck Pavlick told me this when I first told him I was



getting into astrophotography. Sometimes I wish I had listened to him and stuck with visual astronomy! My first go around with this hobby involved my home-built 12.5 inch Newtonian which got heavier and heavier every time I set it up. It got to the point where I ended up building a 6 inch f4 Newtonian. I reground and finished a mirror that came from an old Criterion Dynascope that was given to me by my Mom when I was in high school. I made the tube from carbon fiber. This scope is much easier for me to handle. I set it up at the side of my house where I have a decent view of the southern skies. The telescope sits on a Mesu 200 mount. This is the first astrophotography-capable mount I've used. I've had to learn how to operate the mount (polar aligning, guiding, getting power and USB cables to all necessary components, and much more), the camera (which I bought from Chuck Pavlick a few years ago) and a ton of software including PHD2, SGPro, and software specific to my Mesu mount. This doesn't include learning the software image processing which is my latest nightmare. To give you an idea of what I'm talking about, there is a book on image processing called "Dark Art or Magic Bullet – A Beginner's Guide to Deep Sky Image Processing" – the first five words of the title tells it all.

This image of M42 (about 90 min integration) isn't that particularly good but it gives me enough encouragement to show that I am finally on the right track. I need to improve my guiding/tracking (which I know I can do with this mount), my collimation needs improving, I need to gather more photons, and I should learn how to take bias and flats frames. Then I need to spend much more time learning image processing software.



Photo of the Orion Nebula (M41) by Eric Uthus.

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED**

This cannot be more true than this upcoming spring and summer. I have received a LIST of requests from the Collier County Library system to give presentations in most of the

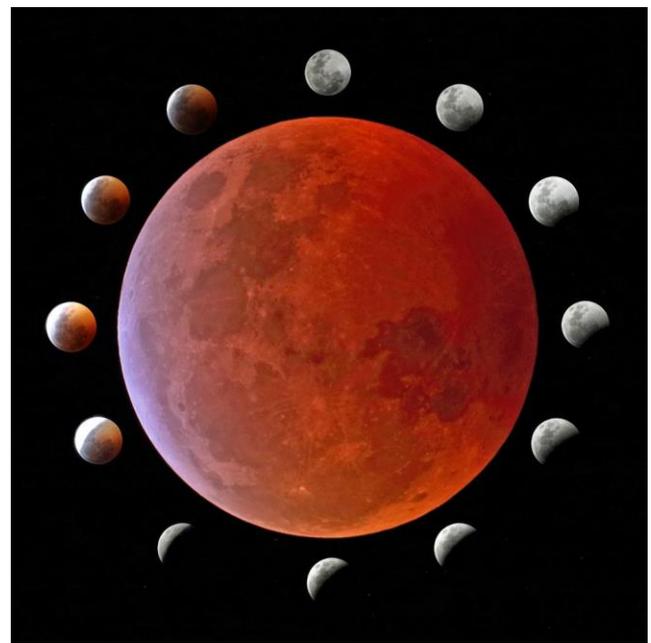
library branches. We are so fortunate that the Library system has chosen Space as their theme for their summer reading program. Along with our donation of the Horkheimer telescope, they are anxious to have us share our passion. I am working on a list of libraries, dates, and times. I will be sending this list out shortly as a broadcast e-mail in hopes that many of you will volunteer to give a presentation.

One last thing for now: **We found the banner!!!**

Denise

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**PHOTOS BY EAS MEMBERS**



Phases of the Lunar Eclipse photos by Chuck Pavlick 1.21.19.



Photo of the moon on 1.15.19 by Henri Troch.



Lunar Eclipse photo by Bob Francis 1.20.19.



The Heart Nebula (IC 1805) by Chuck Pavlick on 1/25/19.



Lunar Eclipse photo by Lou Tancredi 1.21.19



The Christmas Tree Nebula by Chuck Pavlick on 1/11/19.



Chuck Pavlick's backyard playground.

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## Space Trilogy Series at South Regional Library By Mary Ann Wallace

This coming Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 11 am is the first of three 90-minute talks taking place on space and astronomy topics presented by speakers from the Center for Critical Thinking. They will take place on three consecutive Tuesdays all held at South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Pkwy (off Collier Boulevard near Physicians Hospital).

The first talk by Dr. John Psaras will focus on asteroids. The second talk on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m. by Carole Leher, Vice President of the Center for Critical Thinking, will focus on what the James Webb Space Telescope is designed to do and how it will operate as the scientific successor to the Hubble. The third and final talk in the Series on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. will discuss Russia, China and the U.S. in their attempts to dominate space and manage new weapons such as those threatening global communications.

Registration is required for these talks and may be done online at [www.collierlibrary.org](http://www.collierlibrary.org). Go to "Events" in the menu on the homepage; immediately scroll down to where you see "Or Limit By" "Keyword" and put Space as the "Keyword"; and in the "Sort By Topic" click on the arrow to choose Lecture/Discussion. The February calendar will open up and you can click on each of the lecture dates for more information and to register for the event. The South Regional Library can be reached at 239-252-7542 for questions or directions.

You may recall that these lectures also took place at the Collier County Public Library on Orange Blossom Drive last month.

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### Published Articles by EAS Members

Ted Wolfe's article in the Naples News/Collier Citizen on February 24, 2019: Looking Up: Magellan's cloud of stars.

<https://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/local/communities/collier-citizen/2019/01/24/looking-up-magellans-cloud-stars/2643511002/>

The below link provides previous articles in the Naples News/Collier Citizen by Ted Wolfe that appeared over past years.

<http://www.naplesnews.com/search/Ted%20Wolfe/>

To view all of Ted Wolfe's photos, visit his website @ [www.tedwolfe.com](http://www.tedwolfe.com).



Photo of the Small Magellanic Cloud by Ted Wolfe.

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WSP 2019. Left to right: Lou Tancredi, Mary Ann Wallace and Armando Merlo.

**Village Oaks Elementary  
School Outreach  
By Mary Ann Wallace**

Kathy, Roger, Lou and myself set up on the grass playfield behind the playground and covered patio picnic area. There was a huge tree toward the north that had those that needed polar alignment moving further out on the field. We were able to drive our cars close to the gate to limit the moving of equipment to 50-100 yards. The sky cooperated for most of the evening. All the children and parents had to leave by 7:30 pm, which turned out to be a good thing because the clouds came in right around that time!

It didn't get dark until after 6:30 pm; so we really had only about 45 minutes of viewing for the approximately 50 young people and their parents. For some of us, it was a long drive. It took me a solid hour to get there in traffic on Immokalee Road, but it was easier coming back after rush hour since I decided to take 29 south to I-75 and then back to my home in downtown Naples, about 48 miles and 50 minutes.

We each took a separate object for the students to view so the children could split up and rotate among scopes. Kathy had M42, Roger had the NGC 896/884 Double Cluster (magnificent!), Lou had Andromeda (kids were excited to see what a galaxy looked like) and I chose M38, Starfish Cluster, but some of us had to switch to other objects near the end when some clouds came in.

A very satisfying outreach for the school children and us in spite of travel and setup taking longer than the actual viewing! It was good to do something for the school in Immokalee. We were back home by 9 pm.

**EAS 2019 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 1451, Marco Island, Florida, 34146.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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