



Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL
March 2020

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President's Message

For those of you who were lucky enough to be at the February meeting, all reports are that Ted (to no one's surprise) gave a fabulous program. Part of the reason I know this is because Ted sent me his video to watch. Thank you, Ted.

In last month's newsletter, I wrote about the February moon occultation of Mars on February 18th. Hopefully by now you have seen Chuck's photo of that event that I sent out as an e-mail blast. Armando Merlo also sent photos which can be seen below. If you have any photos you'd like to share with the group, send them to me and I will send them to our members.

I am getting very excited for the upcoming Messier Marathon. Please remember to bring your questions AND answers to possible questions to the March meeting. I also sent out three attachments that Armando sent. I'm hoping to conduct the March meeting more as sharing experience than a presentation. So don't worry if you are shy.

I'm still working on getting a program for our May meeting. If anyone has any suggestions, I'll take them.

Remember that our July and August meetings don't meet at the Norris Center. We meet informally at a "coffee" shop to chat with each other about whatever we want. This year we will be meeting at Zoes Kitchen at the Mercado on N. Tamiami Trail.

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Dates for Observing

Usually the best times to observe are moonless nights. Below is a list of upcoming Saturday nights that you will likely find fellow club members out there enjoying the skies with you (weather permitting) at the Big Cypress Preserve.

Date	Moonrise	Moonset
Mar. 14	Midnight	11:23 a.m.
Mar. 21	6:12 a.m.	5:31 p.m.

Sky Events

Mar. 2 - First Quarter
Mar. 9 - Full Moon
Mar. 16 - Last Quarter
Mar. 21 - Messier Marathan
Mar. 24 - New Moon

Next Meeting

March 10, 2010: Time 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Norris Center, Naples

The Messier Marathan is Almost Here By Jackie Richards

Our club will be doing the Messier Marathon on Saturday, March 21 at our dark site location at the Big Cypress Preserve. That is the closest Saturday to the new moon and our best chance to see all of the 110 Messier objects.

In order to be recognized by The Astronomical League as completing the Messier Marathon, there are some rules which



Whirlpool Galaxy (M51) by Lou Tancredi on 2/22/20. This is one of the objects we will need to find for the Messier Marathon.

we will go over during our meeting. In fact, the entire meeting will be dedicated to questions, answers and discussion about the Messier Marathon. Please bring any materials you have located about the marathon. This is a first for our club so everyone's contributions will be greatly appreciated.

As this is the club's first attempt at a Messier Marathon, I'm sure we will all learn from this experience. The best part is that we will do the marathon as a club and we can all help each other out. I am so looking forward to doing this.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from Page 1)

This little "coffee" shop is right next door to where The Second Cup USED to be. I put coffee in quotation marks because they don't serve coffee, just soft drinks.

I received an e-mail from someone who wants to donate a telescope to one of our members. It is an Orion ShortTube 80-T. If you are interested, let me know and I will forward to you the e-mail.

See you at the March meeting.

Denise

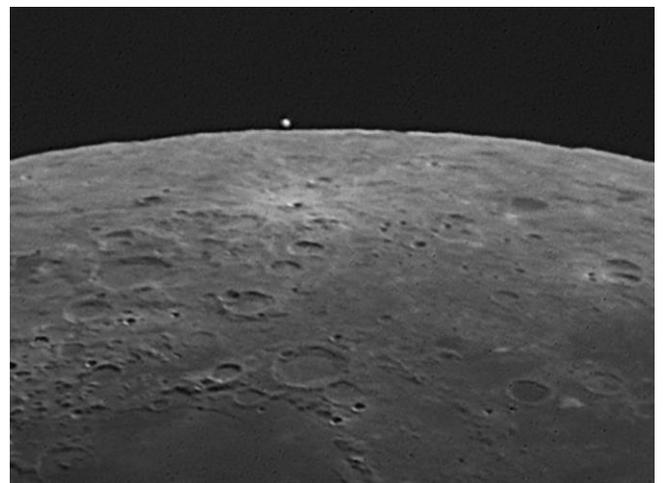
FABULOUS PHOTOS BY EAS MEMBERS



ESO 138 29 by Ted Wolfe (Scope in Chile remotely taken in Naples)



Moon/Mars Occultation by Henri Troch on 2/18/20



Moon/Mars Occultation by Chuck Pavlick on 2/18/20



Photo of the moon taken with cell phone via telescope by Robyn Prichard on 2/27/20 at Parkside Elementary School Event.

WSP 2020 By Mike Usher

Several club members made the annual pilgrimage down to the Keys last month. In attendance were myself, Armando Merlo, Lou Tancredi, Vic Farris and Mary Ann Wallace. If others were there, I did not happen to run into them.

For those of you who don't know, the Winter Star Party is held on Scout Key (MM34) for six days every February during the week around the New Moon. This year the Girl Scout camp is still recovering from Hurricane Irma so the Boy Scout camp next door helped us out with electricity, restrooms and lecture facilities.

Every WSP has its own story and this one was the wind. It was howling pretty good much of the week, but there were calmer nights, too. The skies were pretty clear and there was only one night that was a complete write off, but even that one had a couple of clear hours in the predawn. Transparency was not as good as usual no doubt due to the unseasonably high temperatures. I tended to concentrate on the brighter objects and left the galaxies to the photographers.

There is a raffle drawing on Fridays where various items of Astronomical interest are given away, eyepieces, equipment,

tickets to other star parties and themed T-shirts. I won a T-shirt and Mary Ann just barely missed getting another prize. I'll see you there next year!



Horsehead and Flame Nebulas by Armando Merlo at the WSP.



Maryanne Wallace in her tent at the WSP 2020.



Telescopes at the 2020 WSP.



NASA Night Sky Notes

Dim Delights in Cancer

David Prosper

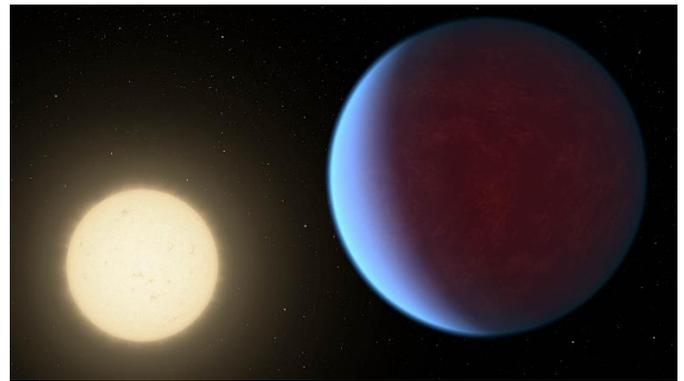
Cancer the Crab is a dim constellation, yet it contains one of the most beautiful and easy-to-spot star clusters in our sky: the **Beehive Cluster**. Cancer also possesses one of the most studied exoplanets: the superhot super-Earth, **55 Cancri e**.

Find **Cancer's** dim stars by looking in between the brighter neighboring constellations of Gemini and Leo. Don't get frustrated if you can't find it at first, since Cancer isn't easily visible from moderately light polluted areas. Once you find Cancer, look for its most famous deep-sky object: the **Beehive Cluster**! It's a large open cluster of young stars, three times larger than our Moon in the sky. The Beehive is visible to unaided eyes under good sky conditions as a faint cloudy patch, but is stunning when viewed through binoculars or a wide-field telescope. It was one of the earliest deep-sky objects noticed by ancient astronomers, and so the Beehive has many other names, including Praesepe, Nubulum, M44, the Ghost, and Jishi qi. Take a look at it on a clear night through binoculars. Do these stars look like a hive of buzzing bees? Or do you see something else? There's no wrong answer, since this large star cluster has intrigued imaginative observers for thousands of years.

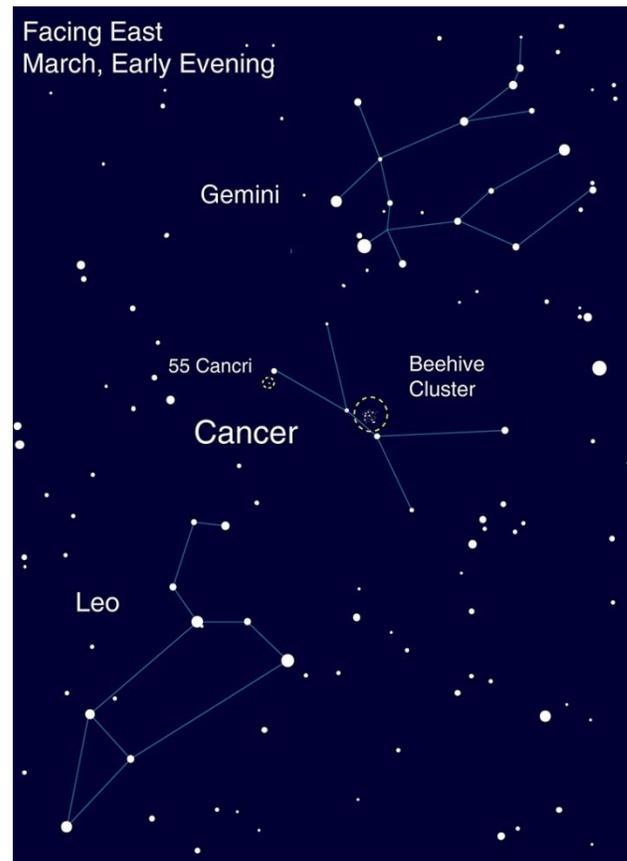
55 Cancri is a nearby binary star system, about 41 light years from us and faintly visible under excellent dark sky conditions. The larger star is orbited by at least five planets including **55 Cancri e**, (a.k.a. Janssen, named after one of the first telescope makers). Janssen is a "super-earth," a large rocky world 8 times the mass of our Earth, and orbits its star every 18 hours, giving it one of the shortest years of all known planets! Janssen was the first exoplanet to have its atmosphere successfully analyzed. Both the Hubble and recently-retired Spitzer space telescopes confirmed that the hot world is enveloped by an atmosphere of helium and hydrogen with traces of hydrogen cyanide: not a likely place to find life, especially since the surface is probably scorching hot rock. The NASA Exoplanet Catalog has more details about this and many other exoplanets at bit.ly/nasa55cancrie.

How do astronomers find planets around other star systems? The Night Sky Network's "How We Find Planets" activity helps demonstrate both the transit and wobble methods of exoplanet detection: bit.ly/findplanets. Notably, 55 Cancri e was discovered via the wobble method in 2004, and then the transit method confirmed the planet's orbital period in 2011!

Want to learn more about exoplanets? Get the latest NASA news about worlds beyond our solar system at nasa.gov.



Artist concept of 55 Cancri e orbiting its nearby host star. Find details from the Spitzer Space Telescope's close study of its atmosphere at: bit.ly/spitzer55cancrie and the Hubble Space Telescope's observations at bit.ly/hubble55cancrie Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech



Look for Cancer in between the "Sickle" or "Question Mark" of Leo and the bright twin stars of Gemini. You can't see the planets around 55 Cancri, but if skies are dark enough you can see the star itself. Can you see the Beehive Cluster?

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.org to find local clubs, events, and more!

EAS 2020 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: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____