



# Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society



Naples, FL  
October 2019

**Officers: President:** Denise Sabatini      **Treasurer:** Victor Farris

**Newsletter Editor:** Jackie Richards

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

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

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

## President's Message

Our September meeting was one of the most rewarding meetings. The Charles Paul Everglades Astronomical Society Award was presented to a most deserving recipient, Elijah Kurbec. A ruse of a birthday party for him was used to surprise him, and it worked. He was thrilled to receive this award, and we were thrilled to bestow it to him. Some of our members have already volunteered to teach him how to use it.

Also, our guest speaker, Chris Pritchard, gave an amusing and informative talk on some of the considerations about going to Mars. After listening to his presentation, I am taking my name off the list to go to Mars.

The topic of the October meeting will be a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing. The speaker is Steve Valdespino.

Perhaps it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing that has sparked so much interest in astronomy. Usually, requests for us to attend events and give presentations don't start until November. We have already received requests, and it is September. If anyone is interested in meeting the public to assist with some of these events, please let me know.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 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). We will let you know the new location.

Date	Moonrise	Moonset
Oct. 19	11:27 p.m.	12:36 p.m.
Oct. 26	5:46 a.m.	6:10 p.m.

## Sky Events

- Oct. 5      - First Quarter
- Oct. 13     - Full Moon
- Oct. 21     - Last Quarter
- Oct. 21     - Orionid Meteor Shower Peak
- Oct. 27     - New Moon

## Next Meeting

**October 8, 2019: Time 7:00 – 9:00 pm**  
Norris Center, Naples

## The Charles Paul Everglades Astronomical Society Award Presented to Elijah Kurbec



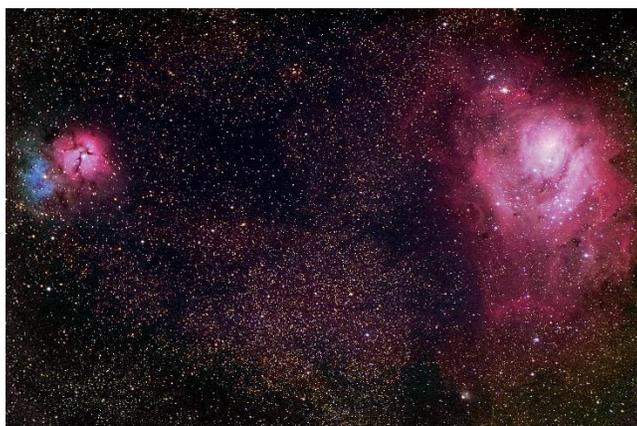
Elijah Kurbec receiving the Charles Paul Everglades Astronomical Society Award on 9/10/19.

## President's Message Continued from Page 1

One event that is quickly coming up is the Mercury Transit on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Bart Thomas is coordinating this event at three schools. We need help to be able to pull this off. Just think of how many students we will reach. The last Mercury Transit coordinated by Bart was a huge success. We will be discussing this more at the meeting, but you can let me know before the meeting if you are interested in assisting.

Denise

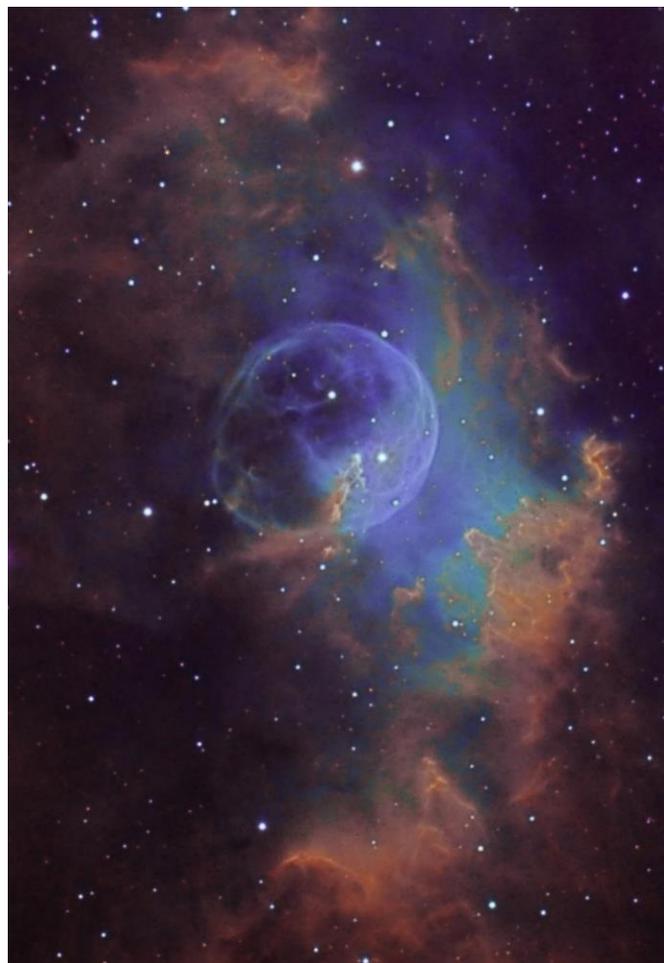
## PHOTOS BY EAS MEMBERS



M8 and M20 by Armando Marlo in Sept. 2019.



M27 (Dumbbell Galaxy) by Vic Farris on 9/30/19.



Bubble Nebula by Chuck Pavlick (Sept. 2019).



NGC 253 (Sculptor Galaxy) by Vic Farris on 9/30/19.

\* \* \*



## NASA Night Sky Notes

### Find Strange Uranus in Aries By David Prosper

Most of the planets in our solar system are bright and easily spotted in our night skies. The exceptions are the ice giant planets: Uranus and Neptune. These worlds are so distant and dim that binoculars or telescopes are almost always needed to see them. A great time to search for Uranus is during its opposition on October 28, since the planet is up almost the entire night and at its brightest for the year.

Search for Uranus in the space beneath the stars of Aries the Ram and above Cetus the Whale. These constellations are found west of more prominent Taurus the Bull and Pleiades star cluster. You can also use the Moon as a guide! Uranus will be just a few degrees north of the Moon the night of October 14, close enough to fit both objects into the same binocular field of view. However, it will be much easier to see dim Uranus by moving the bright Moon just out of sight. If you're using a telescope, zoom in as much as possible once you find Uranus; 100x magnification and greater will reveal its small greenish disc, while background stars will remain points.

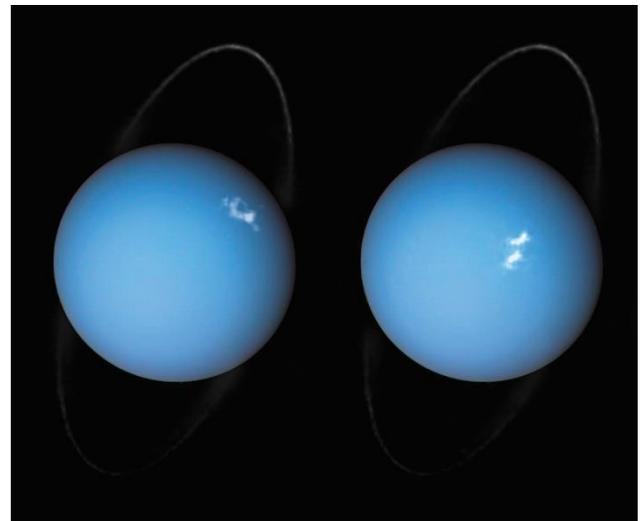
Try this observing trick from a dark sky location. Find Uranus with your telescope or binoculars, then look with your unaided eyes at the patch of sky where your equipment is aimed. Do you see a faint star where Uranus should be? That's not a star; you're actually seeing Uranus with your naked eye! The ice giant is just bright enough near opposition - magnitude 5.7 - to be visible to observers under clear dark skies. It's easier to see this ghostly planet unaided after first using an instrument to spot it, sort of like "training wheels" for your eyes. Try this technique with other objects as you observe, and you'll be amazed at what your eyes can pick out.

By the way, you've spotted the first planet discovered in the modern era! William Herschel discovered Uranus via telescope in 1781, and Johan Bode confirmed its status as a planet two years later. NASA's Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to visit this strange world, with a brief flyby in 1986. It revealed a strange, severely tilted planetary system possessing faint dark rings, dozens of moons, and eerily featureless cloud tops.

Subsequent observations of Uranus from powerful telescopes like Hubble and Keck showed its blank face was temporary, as powerful storms were spotted, caused by dramatic seasonal changes during its 84-year orbit. Uranus's wildly variable seasons result from a massive collision billions of years ago that tipped the planet to its side.



Discover more about NASA's current and future missions of exploration of the distant solar system and beyond at [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov)



*Composite images taken of Uranus in 2012 and 2014 by the Hubble Space Telescope, showcasing its rings and auroras. More at [bit.ly/uranusauroras](http://bit.ly/uranusauroras) Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, L. Lamy / Observatoire de Paris.*

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit [nightsky.jpl.nasa.org](http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.org) to find local clubs, events, and more!

\* \* \*

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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