



THE LOS ANGELES ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

THE BULLETIN

MAY, 2023

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The first "Family Night" of this year is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2023 at our Lockwood site. All club members are welcome to attend this special night of dark sky observation. Bring along the family, telescopes and binoculars to enjoy a full night of astronomy and connect with other family members and friends.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

Upcoming Club Events

Board Meeting, : May 3

General Meeting: May 8

Family Night: May 13

Dark Sky Night: May 20

Public Star Party: May 27

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Update Your Contact Information

Please send any contact info changes to the club secretary at

secretary@laas.org.

Garvey Nights -The Garvey Ranch Observatory is open to the public every Wednesday night from 7 PM to 10 PM, weather permitting. Masks are required inside the facilities.

Mt. Wilson Nights - Schedule For 2023

60 Inch and 100 Inch Nights

60 Inch Dates:

(All on Saturday and all HALF-nights only.)

May 20

June 17

July 15

August 12

September 16

October 14

100 Inch Nights:

September 9 - This is the final 100 Inch Night of the season. Please make your reservations soon.



The Cost per person, per session:

60 Inch Night - \$65.00

100 Inch Night - \$145.00 (Booked/Waiting List only)

There will be 20 people, per session.

Learn more about these incredible events by visiting Mt. Wilson Observatory's website:

<https://www.mtwilson.edu/60-telescope/>

<https://www.mtwilson.edu/100-telescope-observing/>

How to Make a Reservation?

Please contact Darrell Dooley **BEFORE** you pay for your reservation.

*Darrell is our Mt. Wilson Coordinator and the **ONLY** contact available.*

Darrell's Email Address:

Mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Darrell will answer all of your questions and concerns.

Reserve your spot by paying by credit cards or PayPal using the following link:

<https://fs30.formsite.com/LAAS/MtWilson/index.html>

M51- Whirlpool Galaxy

By Spencer ShooHoo



M51 (Whirlpool Galaxy) captured at the LAAS Dark Sky site in the Lockwood Valley this past weekend. M51 is about 30M light years away and can be found near the end of the handle of the Big Dipper. The galaxy is in the process of merging with the smaller galaxy on it's lower left.

This image is a stack of 31x300 second images taken through a 9.25 SCT and ASI2600 MC Pro camera.

Photo credit: Spencer SooHoo

M81- Bode's Galaxy and M53 - Sunflower Galaxy

By Brian Paczkowski



Springtime is galaxy season for astrophotographers. Here's a couple of great examples of large spiral galaxies that I recently took from my telescope in New Mexico. The first is Bode's Galaxy (M81), located in the constellation Ursa Major. The second is the Sunflower Galaxy (M63) in the constellation Canes Venatici. Both color composite images use over 30+ hours of data.

Photo credit: Brian Paczkowski



Monthly Sky Report

By Dave Nakamoto

Full moon is on the 5th, last quarter is on the 12th, new moon is on the 19th, and first quarter is on the 27th. The eta Aquariid meteor shower is active from April 19th through May 28th, with the peak being from the night of the 6th through the morning of the 7th. At the peak about 30 meteors an hour may be visible, with occasional bright fireballs. However, the moon is 98-percent full and will interfere with observations all night long. The meteors come from comet Halley, and is one of two showers produced by Halley.

On the 1st, **Mercury** is too close to the sun to be observed until the middle of the month. By the 31st, Mercury 15 degrees north of east and close to the horizon. The planet rises at 4:35 a.m., PDT, 68 minutes before sunrise. You'll need a telescope with a magnification of 150x to see the planet's diminutive disk, eight arcseconds wide. **DO NOT** observe any planet when it comes close to the sun, for the danger to the eyes is great.

Venus is due west and three quarters of the way up from the horizon. The planet sets at 11:07 p.m., PDT, on the 1st, three and a half hours after sunset. By the 31st, the sun sets at 7:59 p.m., PDT, and Venus sets even later at 11:21 p.m., PDT. You'll need a small telescope to see its disk, which is nearly at half phase.

Mars is in Gemini the Twins. The planet crosses into Cancer the Crab on the 16th. On the 1st, Mars is due west, halfway above the horizon, and sets at 12:54 a.m., PDT. On the 31st, Mars sets at 11:53 p.m., PDT. Mars continues to diminish in size and decrease in brightness for the rest of 2023.

On the 1st, **Jupiter** rises due east at 5:28 a.m., PDT, and the sun rises at 6:04 a.m., PDT, only 30 minutes after Jupiter rises. This makes it very difficult to observe the planet. On the 31st, Jupiter rises at 3:50 a.m., PDT. The planet moves from Pisces the Fishes into Aries the Ram on the 19th. A small telescope with a magnification of 50x will show the four Galilean moons and the Red Spot

On the 1st, **Saturn** rises at 3:15 a.m., PDT. On the 31st the planet rises at 1:22 a.m., PDT. Saturn is 30 degrees south of east and about one-fifth the distance from the horizon to the zenith, the highest point in the sky. The rings and Saturn's largest moon Titan may be seen with a small telescope with a magnification of 50x.

Uranus is in Aries the Ram. On the 1st the planet sets at 8:10 p.m., PDT, only 30 minutes after sunset, making it difficult to observe. On the 31st, Uranus rises in the morning sky at 4:38 p.m., PDT, an hour before sunrise, and hence it will be difficult to observe.

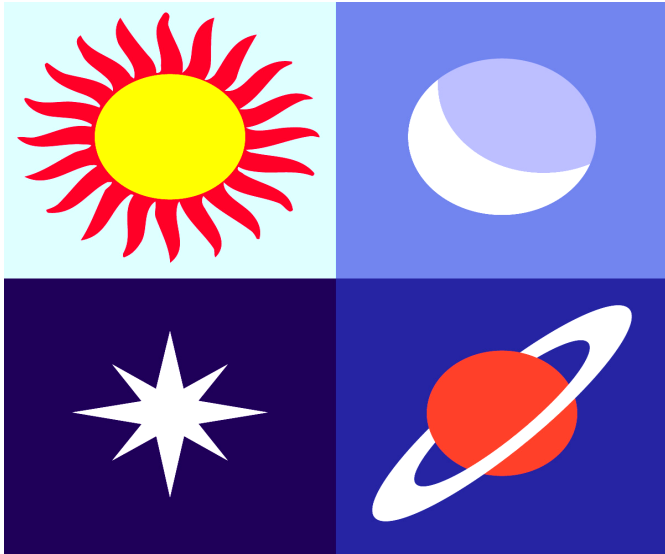
Neptune is in Pisces the Fishes. The planet rises at 4:11 a.m., PDT. As dawn breaks the planet is positioned east-southeast about one-third of the way up from the horizon. On the 31st, Neptune rises at 2:15 a.m., PDT. On the 15th, Neptune is located at Right Ascension 23^h 51^m 17^s and a declination of - 2° 14' 48". Neptune's disk is only 2.2 arcseconds wide, so a magnification of 150x is needed to even see it as a disk.

Garvey Ranch park observatory is open every Wednesday night from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The telescope is open for public viewing if the sky is clear. It is manned by volunteers from the Los Angeles Astronomical Society. Admission and viewing through the telescope are free.

David Nakamoto has been observing the heavens through various scopes since he was in the 5th grade. You can contact Dave by email at:

dinakamoto@hotmail.com.





Almanac

May 5 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 17:36 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Flower Moon because this was the time of year when spring flowers appeared in abundance. This moon has also been known as the Corn Planting Moon and the Milk Moon.

May 5 - Penumbral Lunar Eclipse. A penumbral lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow, or penumbra. During this type of eclipse the Moon will darken slightly but not completely. The eclipse will be visible throughout all of Asia and Australia and parts of eastern Europe and eastern Africa. ([NASA Map and Eclipse Information](#))

May 5, 6 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Eta Aquarids is an above average shower, capable of producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. Most of the activity is seen in the Southern Hemisphere. In the Northern Hemisphere, the rate can reach about 30 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet Halley, which has been observed since ancient times. The shower runs annually from April 19 to May 28. It peaks this year on the night of May 5 and the morning of the May 6. The nearly full moon will be a problem this year, blocking out all but the brightest meteors. If you are patient, you should still be able to catch a few good ones. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

May 19 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 15:55 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

May 29 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 24.9 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

Source:

<http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2023.html>

May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Garvey Night Board Mtng	4	5	6
7	8 General Mtng	9	10 Garvey Night	11	12	13 Family Night
14	15	16	17 Garvey Night	18	19	20 Dark Sky Night 60 Inch Night
21	22	23	24 Garvey Night	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Garvey Night			

Meet The New Members

Welcome to the LAAS!



Prabhnoor Antal	Richard Hennig
Michel Bourque	Grace Moyer
Rudy Corona	Hung Nguyen
Allan Der	Haygo Salibian
Robert Dozmati	
Philip Estrin	

LAAS Board Meetings

.Due to the pandemic, all Board Meetings are now held online, live on Zoom. Please check the information posted in the IO Group Forum for any current news related to these meetings. If you wish to attend a board meeting, please send a request to secretary@laas.org for a link to Zoom.

Volunteer Opportunities

Every LAAS member is a volunteer at some point. Some members volunteer to share telescopes with the public, while others tackle administrative duties, help out at our community and public events, or join a club committee. Taking photos at our events and writing articles about events for our club newsletter are great ways to volunteer and become more involved in the LAAS as a member.

Volunteers are always welcome to write articles for our monthly newsletter or share images captured of the night sky. Members are also welcome to come up with new ideas and future activities for the membership which can be shared in Board meetings. If you are artistic and enjoy creating posters or flyers, or printable astro-educational handouts for further star parties, please let us know.

Time To Renew Your Membership?

Please remember to renew your membership once you receive notice from the Club Secretary in your email inbox. The secretary will send you a link to a form created just for you for your renewal.

Please send any new contact information to the club secretary at secretary@LAAS.org.



Outreach Team Volunteers

“We are dedicated to advancing the knowledge of astronomy, optics, telescope making, and the wonders of our universe.”



One of the ways the LAAS advances the knowledge of astronomy and the wonders of our universe is to visit local schools in our area with telescopes. The telescope operators are current members of the club. Many schools invite us to their campus to provide views of the objects in the night sky for not only the children but for the staff and parents, too. Some schools invite us on scheduled “Science Nights” while other schools plan a special evening of astronomy education on their campus. Other activities may be planned by the school during the event while our members are stationed in one specific location with telescopes to share with students and other school guests. These special members are part of our Outreach Team.

Our Outreach Coordinator is Heven Renteria. He and the others on his team have been attending outreach events on campuses throughout Los Angeles county and beyond.. Many of them travel great distances (and after a full day of work) to share astronomy with children and the public. The LAAS is also invited to attend special community events or events at state or city parks, libraries, and other venues. Recently, the club could not accept additional requests for outreach events because the team’s schedule was full.

The LAAS needs more members to join the outreach team. Some of these events may be local to you. Outreach members are greatly appreciated by the school administrators and students at every event.

You don’t need to be an expert using a telescope as the members of the team will help you set up and find objects in the sky to share with the students. You can attend an outreach event without a telescope and help the team with their telescopes or help with the long lines of children who are excited to look through a telescope for the first time.

These events are fun and rewarding in many ways. The enthusiasm shared by the children is infectious, in the best way possible. If you enjoy attending Public Star parties at the Griffith Observatory, you will enjoy a school outreach event.

The Outreach Team really needs your support and participation.

Please contact Heven at outreach@laas.org to learn more.

Thank you for volunteering!

Andee Sherwood
Communications



John O’Bryan shows a student the Sun at Overland Elementary, 2021.

Photo credit: Van Webster

LAAS Outreach Program

The mission of LAAS is to promote interest in and advance the knowledge of astronomy, optics, telescope making and related subjects. In furtherance of its mission, LAAS conducts public star parties and other outreach events that are intended to enhance the public's understanding of astronomy and its enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty and wonders of our universe.



We provide outreach events at local schools, Griffith Observatory, Mt. Wilson Observatory, various state and county parks, and community events.

Join our Outreach team of volunteers today.

Contact Heven Renteria, our Outreach Coordinator at Outreach@LAAS.org for more information.



Want to include astronomy outreach at your school's science night or open house? Follow the link below to access the request form:

[Outreach Request Form](#)

LAAS Club Merchandise

LAAS T-SHIRTS, HOODIES, MUGS, AND MORE!

To find new merchandise from our store, please use the following link: [Shop Here](#)

Please note all prices listed are subject to change and include all shipping and handling costs. All items will be shipped directly to the address you provide on your order form.



LAAS Hoodie



Donate



Disclaimer: The Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Inc. is a public charity, as defined by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and all contributions to the Society are deductible for Federal and State Income tax purposes.

John O'Bryan, Jr.

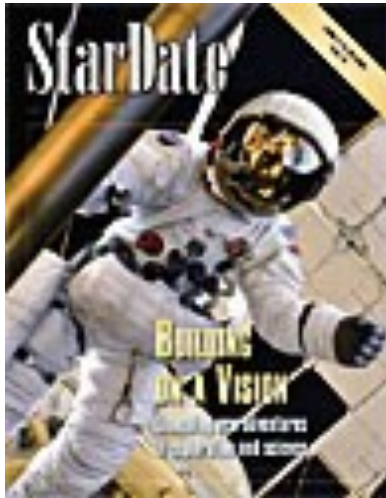
Treasurer

Astronomy Magazines

Discounts for astronomy magazines can be found on the internet. Look for the best deals possible. Send a copy of your LAAS membership card with your check or payment to receive a club member discount.



[Click here to subscribe to Sky and Telescope Magazine.](#)



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As a member of the Night Sky Network, you may use the above link to renew your Astronomy Magazine subscription (or enter a new subscription) at the club discount rate. If this is a renewal, Astronomy Magazine will match your entered name and address and extend your subscription. For inquiries, please contact Astronomy Magazine customer service & sales at 1-800-533-6644.

Use [this link](#) to begin the subscription process.



[Join the Astronomical Society of the Pacific](#) and help support the cause of advancing science literacy through engagement in astronomy. Member benefits include a subscription to [Mercury Magazine](#), published quarterly.

Club Contact Information

President: Darrell Dooley

President@laas.org

Vice President: Alecia Hurst

hurst.alecia@gmail.com

Treasurer: John O'Bryan, Jr.

treasurer@laas.org

Secretary: Spencer Soohoo

secretary@laas.org

Outreach Coordinator: Heven Renteria

outreach@laas.org

Club Communications: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org

Mt. Wilson Coordinator: Darrell Dooley

mtwilsoncoordinator@laas.org

Bulletin Editor: Andee Sherwood

communications@laas.org



Find astronomy outreach activities by visiting NASA's Night Sky Network:

<https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/about.cfm>

Club Contacts

Club Phone Numbers

LAAS Message Phone:

213- 673-7355 (Checked daily)

Griffith Observatory:

213-473-0800

Sky Report:

213-473-0880



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