Monthly Notices of the Everglades Astronomical Society

Naples, FL
November 2019

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President's Message

WOW! The October meeting certainly was engaging. Steve Valdespino's presentation on the Apollo 11th moon walk kept everyone on the edge of his/her seat. He included so much information that it made the room spin. For me, the biggest take-away was that this was an amazing feat of human accomplishment. The November meeting's topic is the James Webb telescope. Carole Leher will be giving the presentation.

Please mark your calendars for all of our upcoming meetings. The schedule so far is as follows: December (THE THIRD TUESDAY), Mike Usher's Trivia; January, Joel Banow, a journalist who covered the space program; February, Ted Wolfe will present a talk on his southern observatory, March, a panel discussion on the planned Messier Marathon.

Requests for our group to participate in community events continue to roll in. There have already been covered events, and there are events still to come. I'm always looking for people to join in the fun to cover these events. REALLY, you don't need a telescope or any exhibits. Having coverage is so important to simply talk to people.

The next event (and I do mean NEXT) is the Mercury Transit on November 11th. Bart Thomas has coordinated two locations to show our students this rare astronomical phenomenon. We do have enough volunteers for this event, but if you would like to help, or simply join us to view the event, please let Bart or me know. You don't have much time on this one.

Now that we are entering this busy time of year, I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Denise

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
Nov. 16	9:19 p.m.	10:29 a.m.
Nov. 23	3:34 a.m.	3:45 p.m.

Sky Events

Nov. 4 - First Quarter
Nov. 11 - Transit of Mercury Across Sun
Nov. 12 - Full Moon
Nov. 17/18 - Leonid Meteor Shower
Nov. 19 - Last Quarter
Nov. 26 - New Moon

Next Meeting

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

Ring Nebula by Chuck Pavlick on 10/30/19

PHOTOS BY EAS MEMBERS

Ghost Nebula by Chuck Pavlick (Oct. 2019)

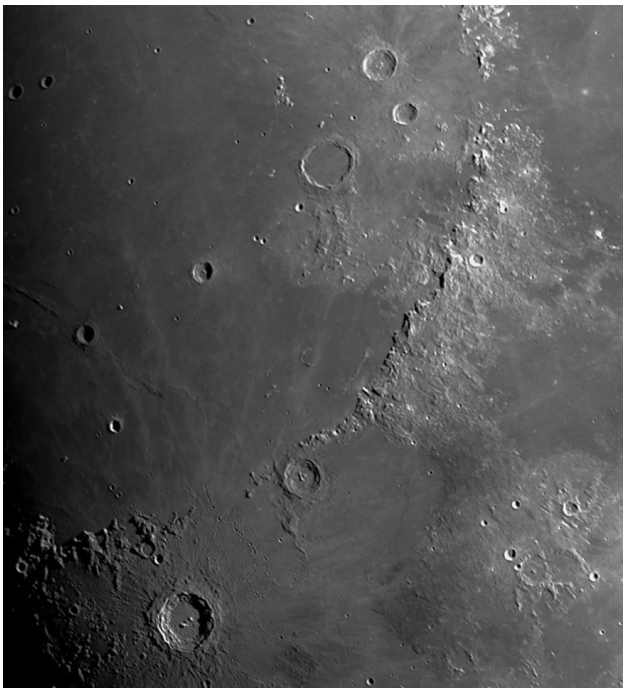

Photo of the Moon by Chuck Pavlick on 10/7/19.

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NASA Night Sky Notes

The Messenger Crosses the Sun: Mercury Transit 2019

By David Prosper

Did you know that there are two other objects in our skies that have phases like the Moon? They're the inner planets, found between Earth and the Sun: Mercury and Venus. You can see their phases if you observe them through a telescope. Like our Moon, you can't see the planets in their "new" phase, unless they are lined up perfectly between us Earthlings and the Sun. In the case of the Moon, this alignment results in a **solar eclipse**; in the case of Mercury and Venus, this results in a **transit**, where the small disc of the planet travels across the face of the Sun. Skywatchers are in for a treat this month, as Mercury transits the Sun the morning of **November 11**!

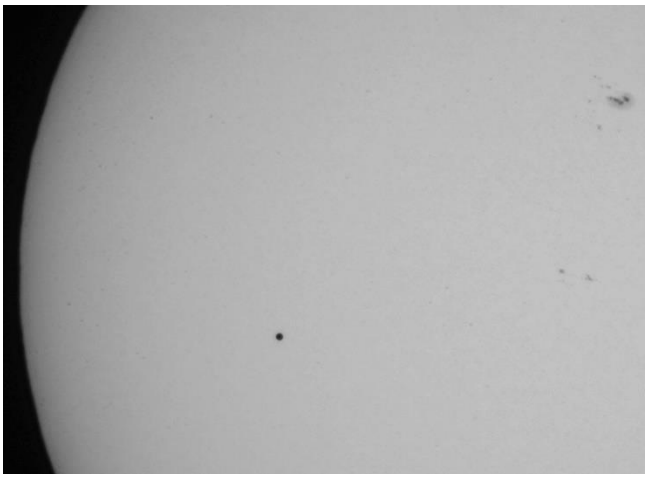
You may have seen the transit of Venus in 2012; you may have even watched it through eclipse glasses! However, this time you'll need a solar telescope to see anything, since eclipse glasses will only reveal the Sun's blank face. Why is that? Mercury is the smallest planet in our solar system, and closer to the Sun (and further away from Earth) during its transit than Venus was in its 2012 transit. This makes Mercury's disc too small to see without the extra power of a telescope. Make absolutely certain that you view the transit via a telescope equipped with a safe solar filter or projection setup. Do NOT combine binoculars with your eclipse glasses; this will instantly burn a hole through the glasses – and your eyes! While most people don't have solar telescopes handy, many astronomy clubs do! Look for clubs hosting Mercury transit observing events near you at bit.ly/findnsn (USA) or at bit.ly/awbtransit (worldwide).

What a fun opportunity to see another planet during the day! This transit is expected to last over five hours. Folks on the East Coast will be able to watch the entre transit, weather permitting, from approximately 7:35 am EST until around approximately 1:04 pm EST. Folks located in the middle of North America to the west coast will see the transit already in progress at sunrise. The transit takes hours, so if your weather is cloudy, don't despair; there will be plenty of time for skies to clear! You can find timing details and charts via eclipse guru Fred Espenak's website: bit.ly/mercurytransit2019

Mercury's orbit is small and swift, and so its position in our skies quickly changes; that's why it was named after the fleet-footed messenger god of Roman mythology. In fact, if you have a clear view of the eastern horizon, you'll be able to catch Mercury again this month! Look for it before dawn during the last week of November, just above the eastern horizon and below red Mars. Wake up early the morning of November 24th to see Mars, the Moon, and Mercury form a loose triangle right before sunrise.

Discover more about Mercury and the rest of our solar system at nasa.gov

Photo of the May 9, 2016 transit of Mercury. Mercury is the small dot on the center right. Note how tiny it is, even compared to the small sunspot on the center left. Credit: Dave Huntz



This photo from the same 2016 transit event shows Mercury a bit larger, as it should; it was taken at a higher magnification through a large 16 inch telescope! Credit: J. A. Blackwell

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!

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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: _____