



November 2017

Editor -Jack Fritz

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, has been the center of family astronomy in the Tampa Bay Area for decades. Its 251 adult members are dedicated to promoting and sharing the wonders and science of astronomy. We host dark-sky and local star parties, telescope-making workshops, science lectures, astronomy lectures, educational outreach sessions and much more.

President's Message

KYLE BRINKMAN

★ Great News! The skies are clearing. We had our very first not as hot front (Honestly, is it really a cold front in Florida?) move through last week. Temperatures plunged into the 60s and ladies got their boots out. I even wore a sweater. The skies cleared and we could make out a few stars again. Does this make you feel like singing "It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year"?



It has been a long Summer without many observing nights since March. I know many of us are excited about seeing the stars come out. It's like being reunited with an old friend. We start with the familiar constellations of the Fall at evening and can see the Winter constellations early in the morning. Don't forget to add that new thing to your holiday list that will turn your telescope into the Hubble. You are going to need it at this year's Orange Blossom Star Party. We are going to have some great skies.

We are going to all have a busy schedule over the next few months. Please take some time to get out at night and enjoy the marvel overhead. We have some opportunities to

share our enjoyment with others on the calendar through the outreach program. Grab your gear and share the fun with our communities. Maybe you like to set up at home. Invite a neighbor to take a look. The holiday season is upon us, and so many are concerned with parties, concerts, family, friends, and gifts. Take some time, breathe, and with a grateful heart look out at the stars and consider how small things are on this world.

New Members

We did not add any new members this month.

General Meeting

This month's meeting will take place on Friday, November 17th, at 8:00 PM, at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Ave. N, St. Petersburg. Please remember the November and December meetings are on the third Friday due to holidays.

Main Program - What's Up for December will be presented by David Richman followed by a video presentation.

Upcoming Programs

- December: Christmas Party.

Orange Blossom Special

Our annual star party will be February 7th - 11th, 2018. We do not have a food vendor this year, so you need to be prepared to provide all your own food.

Last month I reported that we were planning a pot-luck dinner for Saturday night. The consensus is that would be difficult to manage, so now we're thing about a catered bar-b-que with \$10/head donations. The club could pick up any additional costs. Please let us know what you think.

We only have a limited number of campsites on the field with electricity, and they are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis so you may want to register early. Go to www.OrangeBlossomSpecial.org/ for more information.

December Astronomical Events

JACK FRITZ

- ★ December 3 - Full Moon, Supermoon.
- ★ December 10 - Third Quarter Moon.
- ★ December 13 & 14 - Geminids Meteor Shower. The Geminids is the king of the meteor showers. It is considered by many to be the best shower in the heavens
- ★ December 18 -New Moon. This phase occurs at 06:30
- ★ December 21 - December Solstice. This is the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere. The December solstice occurs at 11:28.
- ★ December 21 & 22 - Ursids Meteor Shower. The Ursids is a minor meteor shower producing about 5-10 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tuttle

Withlacoochee New Moon Weekend

KELLY ANDERSON

This month's DOTM weekend coincided with the Silver Hawk Native American Flute Gathering, a two-day festival celebrating Native American music and crafts. The food was pretty good, too.

Because SPAC sponsors the Gathering, we share in the parking revenue which makes a nice contribution to the club coffers. Did I mention the food was pretty good?

Friday night the seeing was okay but hampered a little by a high, thin layer of stratus that muted the colors of nebulae. A number of campers who were attending the Gathering came over at our invitation to watch us do our astronomy thing. Joe Canzoneri set up his laptop so the visitors could easily see his imaging in near-real-time. His Atik camera was up to the challenge and wowed our visitors.

Saturday night was a washout, with clouds getting in the way. So we only batted .500 on astronomy, but the Gathering provided non-stop really good music. Jim & Penny Hunter, and Ron & Dee Waymand joined us for the weekend as well, so, as usual, despite less than ideal seeing, we had a great time.

As winter approaches, the seeing is getting better, and our favorite winter constellations and other stellar delights await. Our next DOTM will be Dec 17 - 19, so mark your sidereal calendars.

SPAC Business Meeting 

Our next business meeting is Wednesday, December 13th, at 8:00 PM at the Science Center. All interested members are invited to attend. All club business decisions are made at the business meeting so as not to encumber the general meeting.

Officers & Directors

President:	Kyle Brinkman	727 455-6931
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Outreach Chair:	Jim Hunter	813 909-7013
Librarian:	Ralph Craig	727 384-2086
Club Webmaster:	Chris Curran	813 653-2604

Click on the name to send email

Recognition of Patrons & Benefactors:

Clifford B. Benham	Benefactor
Jack & Roni Fritz	Benefactor
Andy Demartini	Patron
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Joe & Diane Ortiz-Bradley	Patron
Kyle Brinkman	Patron
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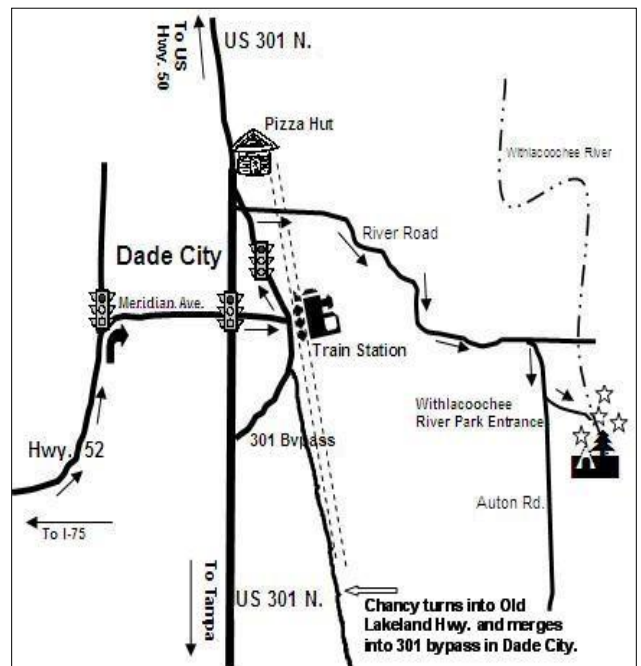
Withlacoochee New Moon Weekend

Our next New Moon Weekend falls on November 17th and 18th and coincides with the peak of the Leonid meteor shower.

The park gate is locked at Sundown, so you will need to arrive before then. The year-

round camping fee with electrical use is \$10/night for club members and \$20 for non-members. Tent camping without electric is \$5/night.

Be reminded that if you are not camping, you must pay the \$2/vehicle fee. Vehicles displaying the handicap parking tag are exempt. For further information, contact Bill or Nancy Huff. starhopr3@msn.com or 813 621-3606.



Withlacoochee River Park - Dade City, FL
 Detailed directions can be found at:
www.StPeteAstronomyClub.org



15406 Stonecreek Lane
Tampa, FL 33613

SPAC, INC. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc. is open to anyone, regardless of age, who is interested in astronomy. Dues are considered donations and are non-refundable. Membership options are available as listed below:

To join or renew your membership:

Complete the following form and return it with your payment to: Jim Hunter - Treasurer, 17316 Oak Ledge Dr., Lutz, FL 33549-7626 - Telephone number (813) 909-7013 (checks should be made payable to SPAC, Inc.)

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Spouse: _____ Children (*Under 18*): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St. ____ Zip: _____

E-Mail address: _____ Newsletter Preference: Email [] US Mail [] \$25

Single: [] \$ 30.00/YR. Includes one adult, minor children, the "SPACE" newsletter, and all the rights and privileges of membership.

Family: [] \$ 35.00/YR. Includes two adults, minor children and the above rights and privileges.

Patron: [] \$ 50.00/YR. A Patron member is entitled to the above rights and privileges.

Benefactor: [] \$100.00/YR. A Benefactor member is entitled to the above rights and privileges.

US Mail: [] \$ 25.00/YR. Please include \$25 if you choose to have the newsletter via US Mail.