



# SPACE

St. Petersburg Astronomy Club **Examiner**

March 2025

Editor - Guy Earle

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club has been the center of family astronomy in the Tampa Bay Area since 1927. Our 337 adult members are dedicated to promoting and sharing the wonders and science of astronomy. We host a dark-sky star party each New Moon at Withlacoochee River Park, along with local star parties, telescope-making workshops, science lectures, astronomy lectures, educational outreach sessions and much more.

## Inside this Issue:

April Examiner preview	2
General meeting info.	2-3
President's Message	4
SPAC Raffle Scope	5
Feb. meeting in review	6
New Moon Weekend	7-10
VSA's First Light	10-15
Lunar Calendar	16-17
Space Exploration News	17-18
Alachua Astronomy Club	19-21
Outreach at Alafia	22-24
SPAC Image Gallery	25-28
Outreach at Gulfport	29-32
For Sale	33

**Whirlpool Galaxy Messier 51, HaLRGB image captured from Chiefland Astro Ranch with the PlayerOne Poseidon-m Pro and the Celestron Edge HD 9.25, by Jamie Kenas**



## April Preview

Our April meeting will feature another presentation by SPAC member, Carmen Manfredi, titled "Understanding Tropical Weather."

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For many years, SPAC has held its annual spring picnic event on the New Moon weekend. Covid put a damper on this event, so we're bringing it back to be a fun, inviting event for both new and current members. We even have the FOO astronomy club joining us for an impromptu swap meet.

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The slide features the club's logo on the left, which includes a globe and the text 'ST. PETERSBURG ASTRONOMY CLUB'. The title 'Understanding Tropical Weather' is prominently displayed in red. Below the title is a bulleted list of topics: 'A Touch of History', 'Earth - Sun Relationship', '3 Pathways of Energy', 'High to Low Pressure Gradient', 'Atmospheric Circulation', 'Spaghetti Strings', and 'Hurricanes'. The background is light blue with a pattern of purple stars and a faint spiral galaxy. The author's name, 'by: Carmen Manfredi', is in the bottom right corner.

- ★ **A Touch of History**
- ★ **Earth - Sun Relationship**
- ★ **3 Pathways of Energy**
- ★ **High to Low Pressure Gradient**
- ★ **Atmospheric Circulation**
- ★ **Spaghetti Strings**
- ★ **Hurricanes**

by: Carmen Manfredi



## March General Meeting

This month's general meeting will not be held at St. Pete College.

Instead, the **general meeting is being combined at Withlacoochee River Park for our spring picnic on March 29<sup>th</sup>**, our New Moon Saturday. See the Mike's message on the following page for more details.

Please, if you plan on attending, [message me via email](#) so we can get a head count and know how much food to bring.

SPAC will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers, you bring a dish to share and let's make it a festive time at the park!



The club's **New Moon observing weekend** is on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at [Withlacoochee River Park](#) east of Dade City.



## New SPAC Members

We would like to welcome Marty Anderson, Linga & Moitreyee Reddy, and Alex Retana to our family of members.

## Examiner Staff

Editor	<a href="#">Guy Earle</a>
Space News	<a href="#">Steve Robbins</a>
Field Reporter	<a href="#">Kelly Anderson</a>
Mirror Lab	<a href="#">Ralph Craig</a>
Image Gallery	<a href="#">Peter McLean</a>
Mirror Lab	<a href="#">Mike Davis</a>
	<a href="#">Allen Maroney</a>

## *President's Message*

Greetings and I hope everyone is well. We have had a crazy past six months in which we saw two major hurricanes cause damage to many of our homes, our beloved observing site at the Withlacoochee River Park was closed, and for the first time in our club's history, our annual OBS star party was cancelled. Thankfully, things are coming full circle. The park has re-opened (except for the RV campground) and we can again enjoy our new moon weekends. We will resume our OBS star party in January of 2026.



The leadership would like to invite everyone to come to the Withlacoochee River Park on March 29th for what we used to call our Spring picnic. Please RSVP me at [Spacstarparty@gmail.com](mailto:Spacstarparty@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. The club will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs for the picnic but we ask that everyone bring side dishes, non-alcoholic drinks, and buns. Please let me know what you can bring when you RSVP.

We will draw for our raffle scope at the Spring picnic. You can still buy tickets [HERE](#). We will also have a SWAP meet for astronomical equipment which will co-incide with our picnic. Feel free to bring out your old gear and look for new treasures! As this is our new moon weekend, many of us will be camping at the park. Come join us if you are able.

Feel free to arrive at 4:00 PM to hang out and set up. We will start cooking at 4:30 PM and eat at 5:30 PM after we conduct the raffle drawing. Our SWAP meet will start at 5:30 PM.

I hope to see everyone out on Saturday the 29th.

Mike

## *SPAC Raffle Telescope*

The **Mirror Lab** has a **12.5" f/5.3 Dobsonian** for this year's raffle scope that was to be won at our annual Orange Blossom Special star party. While OBS was cancelled this year due to hurricane Milton, we are still raffling off this beautiful telescope. This is a Newtonian truss tube telescope that dismantles for easy transport, and is likely the last mirror lab produced telescope for some time. We are still looking for a home for our displaced mirror lab, so if you have an idea of a location that would be able to accommodate the lab, please let us know. You can well imagine the difficulties of refurbishing and producing a great telescope under such conditions, so take advance of this opportunity to own a piece of their beautiful work.

**Tickets are \$10 donation/each or 3 for \$25.** All donations go to the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club. There is a large link below to get tickets.

**The drawing will be conducted on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Spring Picnic** and the winner will be announced via email to all participants. You do not need to be present to win. However, it will be the winner's responsibility to arrange pick-up.



[Raffle Link](#)



## February General Meeting Recap

February was a great meeting, with many people attending both in person and online, including quite a few new members in the group. This was wonderful to see, and I'm very thankful to Aria Huang and Claire Hu for joining us from Dwarf Labs to explain the history of the company, their focus and goal with smart telescopes, and their amazing Dwarf III product.

There were many follow-up questions, and the membership is truly amazed at what these small, portable smart telescopes are capable of doing. I think this was a real success and I'm very thankful for everyone's participation.

If you missed the meeting, you can view it, the presentation, and past meetings by viewing them on our website [HERE](#).



*SPAC New Moon Weekend*  
*Field Report*  
*January 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

By Intrepid Field Reporter

This past weekend(s) made for a busier time than usual for your Intrepid Field Reporter. We had the usual New Moon Weekend at our dark site (Withlacoochee River Park) which overlapped with an astronomy outreach at St Leo University just a few miles up the road. Tacked on to the end of all that we were back to Withlacoochee to support the annual Van Life exposition.



Figure 1 Friday Night's Clear Skies

The New Moon weekend began, as usual, a day early with the arrival of Joe Canzoneri, Ron Collins, Mike Reese, Ron Jones, and Bob & Rita Mizell. Skies that night were OK, with high, thin cirrus making seeing a bit soupy.

Your Intrepid Field Reporter arrived noonish on Friday. We were joined shortly after by Mark & Sharon Bruns, Jeff Tobergty, Bob Stelmock, Jack Brockhurst, and Ed Chesky. Apparently after an extended drought of good skies and hurricane damage, the excellent forecast for the weekend was bringing out a goodly group of astronomy enthusiasts.

Jack Brockhurst and I were able to horse the C-11 (heavy beast) atop my CGEM-DX. Much huffing and puffing were in evidence.

Shortly thereafter I was joined by Jack Fritz and Jim Hunter in time



Figure 2 Clear Skies at St Leo !

to drive the short jaunt back to St Leo University for our third attempt to show their astronomy club some wonders

of the night skies. Our first two sessions with the St Leo Lions were dampened somewhat by total overcast skies. We still had enjoyable sessions with the students and faculty but could only show them our scopes and talk about what we would be able to see if only someone had invented an effective cloud filter.

This time it was different with good viewing and an exceptional turnout of students, faculty and alumni.

Returning back to our beloved Dark Site (a sojourn of perhaps ten miles), our growing star city enjoyed the same good seeing until the fog rolled in and temperatures dropped nearly to the arctic level. Saturday morning dawn greeted us with patches of frost, but it warmed up nicely by nine-ish. A pleasant breeze arose to keep the afternoon torrid (low 80s) weather well within the comfortable zone.

Skies on Saturday and Sunday nights continued to improve, with really clear seeing for our collective astronomic enjoyment.

Sunday evening we were joined by new member Marty Anderson. Marty rotates between domiciles at Toronto and Dade City. Marty showed me a way to greatly improve the performance and range of the WiFi of the ASIair little red box. Hope he comes back in March to show me how to hook up one of those jewels. Or maybe we can encourage him to write a short article for our SPAC Newsletter with the details. What say, Marty?

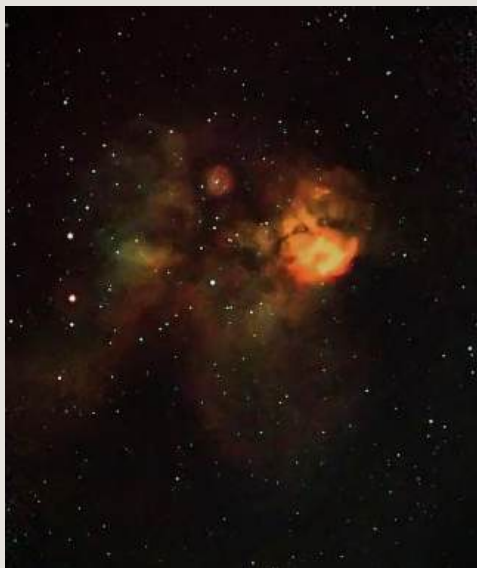


Figure 4 Skull & Crossbones Nebula  
by Joe Canzoneri



Figure 3 Rosette Nebula by Kelly Anderson



Departing on Monday, your Intrepid Field Reporter returned three days later to represent our inestimable astronomy club at the annual Van Life Festival. Each year about this date at least 500 vans (yes, 500 of them) roll into what only a few days before was our beloved dark site. The theme for this year's festival was "Peace, Love and Vans Florida!" Here's a link for more info and a nifty video: <https://www.peacelovevans.com/>



On Thursday the only people populating the Park were those who were setting up for the festival, so only about a dozen or so showed up to my telescope shortly after dusk. As usual, "Wow!" was the password. Seeing was good and we had a very fun session.

Friday morning, as the festival gate at Big Ma's Way opened the line-up of vans stretched out to the entrance to the Park at Auton Road! As this is our third year bringing astronomy to the festival this wasn't a surprise. It happens every year.



That evening over 30 vanners arrived to experience their first look through a telescope. Considering the other attractions happening up to 10:00 pm (van tours, expert-led workshops, food trucks, a tropical-themed Tiki-Bar, nearly \$15,000 in raffle prizes, live music, and an awesome community of like-minded, adventurous people!) I think the allure of the cosmos did a good job of bringing the nascent star gazers.

Saturday evening Chris Halls and kids arrived, thinking they'd have a quiet evening of observing, then discovering there were 1,000+ people having a party! Fortunately he spotted me with my telescope, and of course I signed him up to join me with his 12-inch Dob, so we now had two awesome scopes to demonstrate. We had well over 50 people take in the cosmological wonders, even though we had a fairly dense overcast that was giving us only a few sucker holes here and there.

I must say that at each of the three Van Life events we've attended we have met the nicest, funnest people coming together to share ideas, learn new things and have a great time. Sign me up for next year!

And don't forget March 28-30 New Moon Weekend. We're having a potluck gastronomic extravaganza on Saturday, so bring a munchie and your appetites. As usual, clear skies are guaranteed.

## *The VSA's First Light*

First, I want to thank Matthew Peters for partnering up to make the first meeting of the Very Small Array (VSA) happen last New Moon weekend in Chiefland. Where do I even begin? Thanks to all those who participated: Matthew Peters, Mike Partain, Peter McLean, Steve Robbins, Steve Maiaroto, Christian Rubach, Jamie Kenas, Gary and Debbie Daniels, Gerry Graszl, and Rich Tobin.

I got to the Chiefland Astronomy Village (CAV) on Friday early afternoon and set up next to Matthew Peters from the Alachua Astronomy Club, my partner in crime for this endeavor. A few members were already there, and some other SPAC who were there but did not have a smart scope to participate, and by the evening everyone was setting their Seestar s50's down in a tight area just outside my setup. Walking in the field of s50's, which also had some



*GUY EARLE*



Dwarf 3's and Seestar s30's, all with different tripods or mounts, felt like I was Ripley walking through the facehugger pods from Aliens. We had worked out a preliminary list of targets for Friday and Saturday night, with two per evening for two hours each. I didn't want to monopolize anyone's time with their smart scope, and I incorrectly and naturally thought everyone was going to be staying Sunday night as well.



This was an awesome learning experience. It only occurred to me on Sunday at 3AM that we should be using the planning mode. I was trying to coordinate things via text message to everyone when I should have asked everyone to show up prior to sunset, so we could all set our planning mode for the same target at the same time. As I said, a learning experience.

This was also the first time since 1996 that I did not bring a "regular" telescope. I packed my s50 and Dwarf 3 only, so when the stars came out I found myself sitting in my comfortable chair, heating pad on my back and heated blanket on my lap, with my smart scopes doing their job as I sat around with everyone, laughing and having a great time. At one point during the night, I made the obligatory over-50 trip to the bathroom, and on my way back I stopped and stared at the field of smart scopes. Their little red lights, at different heights because of their tripods, mixed with the green Keebler rings on the Dwarf scopes, looked like some really pretty Christmas scene. Usually, it's a few little lights



but this was a cluster that we had to monitor to keep people from wandering into the miniature scope minefield.

As Sunday came, only a handful of the VSA group were remaining one more night. Jamie, having loaned his scope to Peter, Steve Robbins, and I continued to image targets together that last night. I went to bed about 12:30 that Saturday night and got back up at 3 o'clock to image Omega Centauri in mosaic mode, as it was at its highest at that point in the south. Steve was up and pointed out the Centaurus A could be imaged from there—I had not realized that! It was then that we decided to try planning mode. So, flash forward to the last night and we had our first object all set for 8:50 in all four, remaining s50 scopes. Peter, Steve, and I were giddy like Christmas morning at 8:49, waiting for the s50's Siri-ish voice to start issuing "target acquired" updates. Yeah, it's nerdy, but it was really fun.

Naturally, there was a fewer number of frames for each object that night since we had less than half of the scopes of the VSA, so we jokingly called ourselves the Very Tiny Array for that night. We went through a list of Messier galaxies all the way to astral sunrise about 5:30. I got up about 6:30 to get the s50 and found the lens rotated to the close position. I was instantly worried, as dew had settled hard and if it was off for a bit then the lens would be wet. As it turns out, when you use planning mode it closes the lens, gently popping off my lens hood, but keeps itself on and the anti-dew heater running. All was good!

I've seen data shared before with online groups, but that can be from people all around the country or even around the world. This was one group in one area, and I think that worked out great. I gathered the data and put it on my Dropbox account, sharing the files with everyone so they can process it themselves. Here are some photos of the VSA targets, the Omega Centauri globular cluster and Centaurus A that I imaged, as well as video that I put together that includes a short, GoPro star trails. We'll definitely do this again.



VSA - NGC 2359 Thor's Helmet



VSA -NGC 2903



VSA- NGC 4565 Needle Galaxy



NGC 5139 Omega Centauri



VSA - M86 and M84 in Markarian's Chain



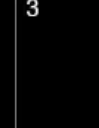
























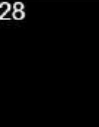




VTA - M63 Sunflower Galaxy



Dwarf III - Jellyfish Nebula

# April Lunar Calendar

April 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2 	3 	4 	5 
6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 
13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 	19 
20 	21 	22 	23 	24 	25 	26 
27 	28 	29 	30 			

April 1, the Pleiades will be 0.6° south of the Moon

### First Quarter April 4

April 5, Pollux will be 2.0° north of the Moon

April 5, Mars will be 2.2° south of the Moon

April 1, the Moon will be at Perigee: 361,967 km from Earth

April 5, the Pleiades will be 0.6° south of the Moon

April 8, Regulus will be 2.1° north of Saturn

April 10, the Moon will cross the celestial equator going southward at the Descending Node



**Full Moon, April 12**

April 12, Spica will be  $0.3^\circ$  north of the Moon  
April 13, the Moon will be at Apogee: 406,295 km from Earth  
April 16, Antares will be  $.4^\circ$  north of the Moon

**Third Quarter April 20**

April 21, Mercury will be at Greatest Elongation,  $27.4^\circ$  west of the Sun  
April 22 is the Lyrid Meteor Shower, ZHR  $\sim 18$ , best to watch before the Moon rises  
April 24, Venus will be  $2.4^\circ$  north of the Moon  
April 24, the Moon will cross the celestial equator going northward at the Ascending Node  
April 24, Saturn will be  $2.3^\circ$  south of the Moon  
April 25, Mercury will be  $4.4^\circ$  south of the Moon  
April 30, the Moon will be at Perigee: 357,119 km from Earth

**New Moon April 27**

April 28, Venus will be  $3.7^\circ$  north of Saturn  
April 29, the Pleiades will be  $0.5^\circ$  south of the Moon

## *Space Exploration News*



So [the headline says](#) **SpaceX Crew-10 folds traits, hopes into origami crane zero-g indicator**. Depending on how you read this you might be thinking they actually folded a Japanese Origami Crane as their zero G indicator: COOL! But au contraire, there is no origami Japanese crane. There is a poorly executed plush toy that bears no resemblance whatever to the origami it's supposed to represent. They could have actually folded an origami crane on foil paper or Tyvek, properly inflated the body and made a real statement of authentic Japanese art. Another opportunity lost. My opinion, yours may vary.

Finally, a privately funded lander has a successful Moon landing! On [January 15](#), Firefly Aerospace's probe, Blue Ghost, was launched aboard a Falcon 9 on a mission to the Moon. Using it's own kick stage, Blue Ghost slowly elongated its elliptical orbit around the Earth until it became a transfer orbit to Lunar orbit February 8, achieved with a retrofire [February 13](#). Blue Ghost spent 16

days refining its orbit to allow landing on the Moon's Mare Crisium, the Sea of Crises, then successfully became the first privately funded craft to achieve a properly oriented Moon landing on [March 2](#). How do you follow that?



Most people don't realize that the view of Earth from the Moon is a weird reflection of the view of the Moon from Earth. For instance, when we Earthlings see a new Moon, from the surface of the Moon is a full Earth. A waxing crescent Moon corresponds to a waning gibbous Earth from the Moon. That also works with eclipses. Our Lunar eclipse of March 14 is seen from the Moon as a solar eclipse of Earth passing in front of the Sun. Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost lander became the first Lunar lander in history to record a Solar eclipse by Earth, getting [a magnificent view](#) of the diamond ring as the Sun began to reappear from behind Earth 04:30 March 14.

Are we going to talk about duplicate second failures by SpaceX and Intuitive Machines, of the second success of SpaceX in catching its Super Heavy booster with the chopsticks on the launch tower? Naw! We like the more obscure stuff here.

# *Exploring the Cosmos with the Alachua Astronomy Club*

*By Matthew Peters and Dave Froiseth*

For over three decades, the Alachua Astronomy Club (AAC) has brought together astronomy enthusiasts in North Central Florida. Based in Gainesville, the club is dedicated to observing, education, and outreach, providing a space for amateur astronomers, students, and professionals to share their passion for the night sky. Whether it's deep-sky observing, astrophotography or public events, the AAC continues to expand its reach and foster a thriving community of stargazers.

The AAC was founded in 1987 after Dr. Armen C. Tarjan inquired about a local astronomy club at the University of Florida (UF). When Professor Howard L. Cohen confirmed that no active club existed, he encouraged Tarjan to start one, and the AAC was born, with incorporation as a nonprofit in 1999. The club's primary observing site is Newberry Star Park (NSP), located 15-miles west of Gainesville. Established in 2010, NSP offers dedicated observing pads, storage facilities, and at the time, dark



skies, making it an ideal site for deep-sky observations, star parties, and astrophotography sessions. However, Newberry is growing fast and with the added light pollution the site is pretty much relegated to automated telescopes. But as we all know, telescopes like the Seestar S50 and Dwarf 3 can do amazing things.



Beyond Newberry, the AAC maintains strong ties with the UF's Rosemary Hill Observatory (RHO), a research facility equipped with a 30-inch Tinsley reflecting telescope. Members have exclusive access to private observing sessions at RHO, providing an opportunity to work with advanced equipment and



professional-grade optics. For those seeking darker skies, the club regularly visits Chiefland Astronomy Village (CAV), a well-known observing site an hour west of Gainesville. Regional star parties draw amateur astronomers from around Florida, and the annual Astrofest bring folks in from all around the United States.

The AAC is committed to bringing astronomy to the public. The club hosts Fall through Spring public stargazing events at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park where club members set up telescopes and introduce visitors to the wonders of the universe. These events provide guided telescope viewing, constellation tours, and discussions on



astronomical topics, helping to spark interest in astronomy across the community. Additionally, the club partners with Santa Fe College's Kika Silva Pla Planetarium, where lectures, hands-on demonstrations, and special presentations make astronomy more accessible to the public.



The AAC isn't just about observing—it's also about learning and experimenting. The club offers exclusive educational sessions for members, covering topics such as Amateur Telescope Making (ATM), how to select and use equipment and software, and astrophotography workshops. Additionally, the club has built strong relationships with leading telescope and astronomy equipment manufacturers. These partnerships allow AAC members to test new products, attend exclusive information sessions, and get early insights into cutting-edge advancements in the industry.



Collaboration with area astronomy clubs has become an important feature of AAC. By working together, clubs across Florida can share knowledge, resources, and experiences, creating a more connected and engaged astronomy community. The AAC is always excited to collaborate through initiatives such as the newly created Very Small Array (VSA) Project, the combining of AAC, SPAC and CAV automated telescopes to produce a single

image of a celestial object. Additionally, the AAC is dedicated to fostering the next generation of astronomers. The club provides scholarships for students at Santa Fe College and the University of Florida, supporting those pursuing astronomy and related sciences. Many recipients go on to engage with the club's educational initiatives, research projects, and outreach programs.

The AAC hosts monthly meetings at the planetarium and features guest speaker astronomers from UF, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) Astronomy Department, the University of Central Florida (UCF) and Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). Topics include planetary science, deep-sky



astrophotography, space exploration, cutting edge observatories and instruments and many other. These presentations are available both in-person and via Zoom, making them accessible to a broader audience. The club also participates in International Observe the Moon Night and other large-scale astronomy events. For those who enjoy staying engaged online, the AAC's Facebook page serves as a hub for event updates, astrophotography discussions, and the latest astronomy news.

A recent addition to the lineup of AAC events is the Far-Out Journal Club (FOJC) which is a periodic Zoom interview of a noted figure in the field of astronomy or astronomy related areas. Recent guests include Tim Russ, an amateur astronomer that most people know as Tuvok from the Star Trek: Voyager TV series, and Dr. Emily Levesque, astronomer and author of "The Last Stargazers: The Enduring Story of Astronomy's Vanishing Explorers."



So, for members of the St. Petersburg astronomy community, the Alachua Astronomy Club offers a great opportunity to explore Florida's darker skies. Whether you're interested in attending a star party, participating in an astrophotography workshop, or joining an exclusive equipment demo, fellow stargazers are always welcome.

## *Outreach at Alafia River State Park on March 8<sup>th</sup>*



GUY EARLE

SPAC had our second outreach event for campers at Alafia River State Park on Saturday, March 8th. I was joined by Tim Harris and his 20" homebuilt monster Dobsonian, Gary and Debbie Daniels, Joe Reichle and Peter McLean, setting up before sunset near the horse barn where we had our first outreach back on the 4th of January. This is also the location where the park has given SPAC members the free pass to come set up their telescopes on the select dates that I mentioned in last month's Examiner.



The SPAC team sets up their gear before the campers arrive.

Park Ranger Stephanie Collins again did a marvelous job of setting up some tables with her volunteers, so that way the campers got an introduction from them before they came back around the telescopes. I had set up the Seestar with the television while the other setups had rigs of various types. We had an issue with the television, sadly, but Peter saved the day by having his tablet with him rather than me using my phone. Using the smart scopes in conjunction with a tablet or television is a fantastic way to engage with people at an outreach event, especially—and I feel old for typing this—the younger participants. I did also bring my venerable 6" f/8 reflector, which I had set up next to me, so people were bouncing between live views to watching the Orion or Horsehead Nebulas on the Seestar.



Gary and Debbie Daniels(top)  
Tim Harris (right)





Joe Reichle and his very portable Dobsonian



A father and son look at the Moon



# *SPAC Image Gallery*

★ Here are some excellent astrophotography photos from our fellow SPAC membership, shot from various locations and divided into categories similar to our annual star party imaging competition. If you would like to share your work, I encourage you to [email Peter](#) your image or share them on our SPAC Facebook page.



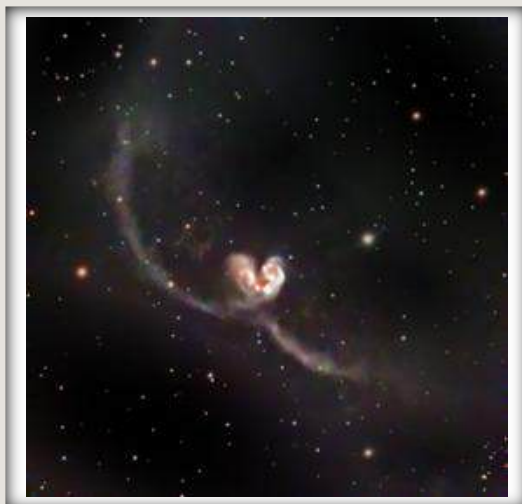
## Clusters, Comets)



*Leo Triplet M65, M66, NGC3628  
from Chiefland, FL  
by Peter McLean*



*M63 Sunflower Galaxy  
from Chiefland Astro Ranch, FL  
by Jamie Kenas*



*NGC4039 Antenna Galaxy  
from Zephyrhills, FL  
by Johnny White*



*M10 Globular Cluster  
from Willow Oak, FL  
by Peter McLean*

## Nebula

*IC434 Horsehead Nebula  
from Tampa, FL  
by Ron Jones*



*NGC1499 California Nebula  
from Chiefland, FL  
by Richard Tobin*



*NGC2359 Thor's Helmet  
from Palm Harbor, FL  
by Janusz Kwasny*

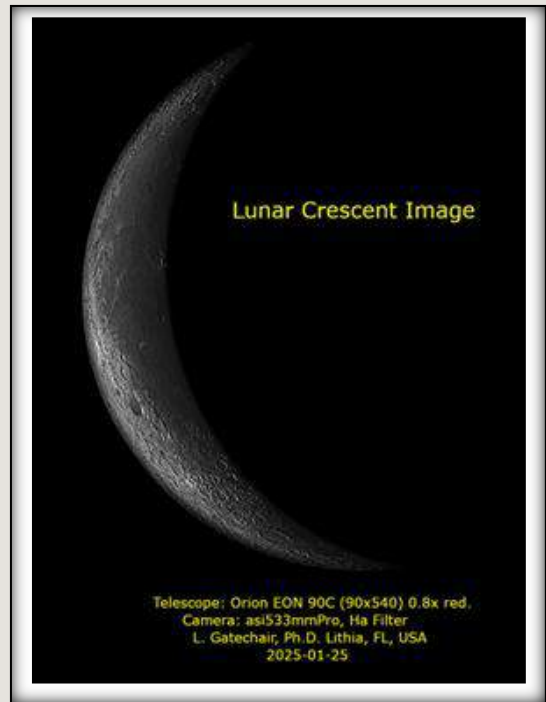


*NGC2244 Rosette Nebula  
from Hudson, FL  
by Yervant Parnagian*

# Planetary-Lunar-Solar



*Solar System Collage Update  
by Guy Earle  
from Riverview, FL*



*Lunar Clair Obscur X and V  
from Apollo Beach, FL  
by Joe Reichle*



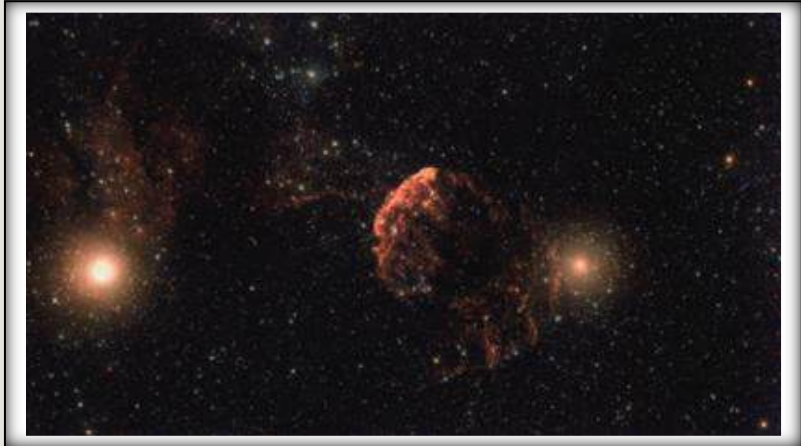
*Lunar Eclipse 14 March 2025  
from Hudson, FL  
by Yervant Parnagian*

# Smart Telescope



*Leo Triplet M65, M66, & NGC3628*  
*Seestar S50*  
*by Joe Canzoneri*

*Jellyfish Nebula*  
*Dwarf III Image*  
*by Guy Earle*



*IC434 Horsehead Nebula*  
*Dwarf III*  
*by Guy Earle*



*Rosette Nebula*  
*Seestar S30*  
*by Bob Stelmock*

## *Outreach in Gulfport*

On Friday, March 7, Liz and I and Andy and Bonnie Watts were in Gulfport with our telescopes for the first of the bimonthly “Gulfport Night Markets” (first Friday and third Saturday of the month), when craft vendors line the main street and restaurants are open late. We’ve been doing sidewalk astronomy in Gulfport for these events for over 20 years now, and we always have a huge crowd at our telescopes. Last Friday was no exception.



With the waxing gibbous Moon and Jupiter—our main targets—up near the zenith, my 11-inch Celestron SCT and Andy’s Orion 12-inch Dobsonian looked like a couple of squat cannons pointing up into the sky! I was on the Moon most of the night, with a lot of “Wows!” and “Ooos!” to be heard. Andy had a line of folks waiting to see Jupiter and all four of the Galilean satellites through his big Dob. Also, I took time to slew my scope over to a razor-thin crescent Venus low in the west. Through my 13-mm Nagler, the view was stunning! Most people had never seen such a dramatic sight.

The sky was beautifully clear and cool that night, and we couldn’t have asked for better weather. Another successful Gulfport sidewalk astronomy night! (We hope to be there again on March 22, weather permitting, for the second of the bimonthly Gulfport Night Markets.)



My Celestron CPC1100 and Andy’s Orion 12-inch Dobsonian waiting for dark.



I was able to track the Moon even before the skies darkened.



A line quickly formed even before it was fully dark at Andy's scope trained on Jupiter.







## For Sale

### For Sale: Celestron C11 Telescope and Celestron CEM-DX Mount with Tripod Plus Accessories

#### Celestron C11 Telescope

This high-quality Celestron C11 telescope offers exceptional clarity and precision for both amateur and professional astronomers. With its advanced optics and sturdy construction, it is perfect for deep sky observation and astrophotography.

#### Celestron CEM-DX Mount with Tripod

Just back from overhaul at Celestron ... works like it's new.

#### Included Accessories

- Dew shield to prevent condensation on the optics
- Carrying case for the scope
- Bahtinov masks for needle sharp focusing
- Dew zapper
- Extra Losmandy dovetail for attaching accessories
- Fiberglass tactical case for the mount (Ugly but bullet proof)

#### Condition

Everything in perfect working order. Some minor cosmetic details. Can't see them in the dark.

#### Price

Asking Price: \$1,500

#### Contact Information

Call Kelly @ 813-760-1720 or email to [kander13@verizon.net](mailto:kander13@verizon.net)



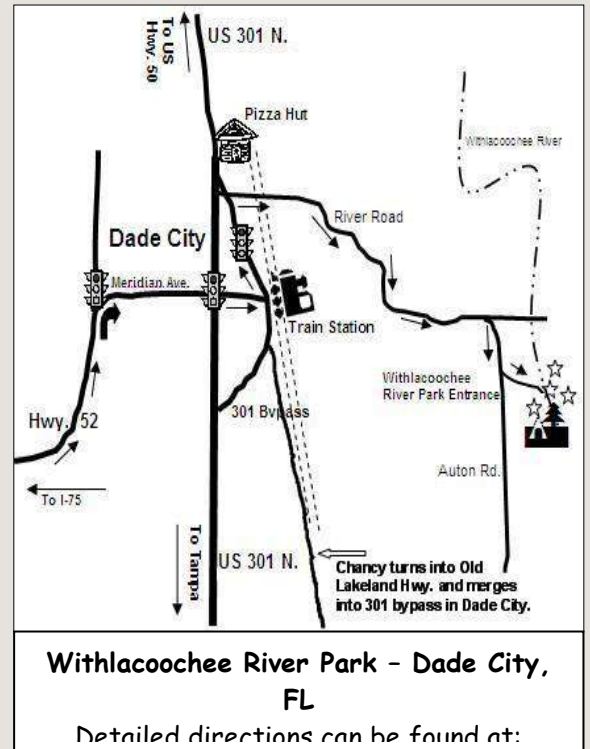
SPAC Business Meeting 🗳️

Our next business meeting is **Wed., April 9th, at 8:00 PM** via conference call; details upon request. 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	<a href="#">Mike Partain</a>
Vice Pres.	<a href="#">Guy Earle</a>
Secretary	<a href="#">Peter McLean</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Christian Rubach</a>
Dir.-at-Large	<a href="#">Allen Maroney</a>
Dir.-at-Large	<a href="#">Steven Gaber</a>
Dir.-at-Large	<a href="#">Jack Fritz</a>
SPACE Editor	<a href="#">Guy Earle</a>
Public Relations	<a href="#">John O'Neill</a>
Membership Chair	<a href="#">Peter McLean</a>
Mirror Lab Chair	<a href="#">Paul McNabb</a>
Outreach Chair	<a href="#">Steven Gaber</a>
Star Party Chair	<a href="#">Mike Partain</a>
Librarian	<a href="#">Ralph Craig</a>
Club Webmaster	<a href="#">Allen Maroney</a>
Dark Sky Chair	OPEN

*Click on the name to send email*



## *Withlacoochee New Moon Weekends*

There's no need for reservations. However, the park closes at sundown, so you will need to arrive before then. The park rangers will give you the gate-code once you're inside the park. Please do not call for the gate code as they are not allowed to give it out over the phone.



Please join us! All astronomy enthusiasts are welcome. You do not need to be a club member to attend. Please refer to our [Club Calendar](#) for details and scheduled dates. There is a small fee to the park for using electricity, reduced even further for club members, which you can pay on our club website [HERE](#).



# St. Petersburg Astronomy Club

## Recognition of Patrons & Benefactors

Walter Brinkman	Benefactor	Peter & Jaclynn Dimmit	Patron
Dave & Deborah Catalano	Benefactor	Guy & Kelly Earle	Patron
Stephanie Colon &		Joseph & Pamela Faubion	Patron
Jack & Roni Fritz	Benefactor	Darla & Peter Flynn	Patron
Michael Haworth & Melanie Otte	Benefactor	Steve & Cindy Fredlund	Patron
Matt Hughes & Manuel Ordonez	Benefactor	Steve Gaber & Karen Sell	Patron
Valerie Hyman	Benefactor	Richard & Mary Garner	Patron
Craig & Roberta Jameson	Benefactor	Timothy & Mary Ann Harris	Patron
Jamie Kenas	Benefactor	Charlie & Linda Hoffman	Patron
David Knowlton	Benefactor	Eric Houghton	Patron
Laura & Roy Lanier	Benefactor	Mark Kepka	Patron
Tod Markin	Benefactor	Matt Labadie & Jennifer Willman	Patron
Kelly McGrew	Benefactor	Willy & Beth Lebian	Patron
Kevin & Karen Mulford	Benefactor	Dave & Mary MacKenzie	Patron
David & Kathryn Musser	Benefactor	Steve & Jeri Maiaroto	Patron
Rath, Damon & Jean Futch	Benefactor	Joseph Mandara	Patron
Vincent Risalvato &		Allen Maroney & Tracee Elliott	Patron
Tabitha Castillo	Benefactor	Ralph & Molly Merritt	Patron
Mike Rozycki	Benefactor	Steven Miller & Lisa Alessi	Patron
Christian & Wendy Rubach	Benefactor	Herb Monroe & Martha Stewart	Patron
Doug and Teri Sliman	Benefactor	Leeann Muszynski	Patron
Garrison & Ruth Smith	Benefactor	Stephen Oros	Patron
Jill & Robin Sumner	Benefactor	Yervant & Jo-Ann Parnagian	Patron
Andrew & Bonnie Watts	Benefactor	Michael & Carli Partain	Patron
*****		Brad & Lisa Perryman	Patron
Bill & Norma Amthor	Patron	Alan Polansky	Patron
Steven Balke	Patron	Gregory Satchwell	Patron
Michael Brennan	Patron	Tom Spano	Patron
Michael Callahan	Patron	Anthony Staiano	Patron
Ralph & Christine Craig	Patron	Jonathan Stewart	Patron
Glynis Dilaire	Patron	Tom & Michelle Sweet	Patron

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Jose & Mary Torres	Patron	Shawn Wilson	Patron
Alexie Velez & Yanira		Elizabeth Wood	Patron
Hernandez-Velez	Patron	Pete Zapadka & Amy Johns	Patron
Skip & Kim Walker	Patron		



## St. Petersburg Astronomy Club Membership Form

Membership in St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc. (SPAC) is open to anyone, regardless of age, who is interested in astronomy. Benefits of membership include a monthly subscription to the SPAC Examiner newsletter, reduced camping rates and use of the club's bunkhouse at our dark sky site at Withlacoochee River Park, the ability to serve on the SPAC board and voting privileges. Dues are considered donations and are non-refundable. Membership options are available as listed below.

You are now able to choose how you wish to renew your membership:

Preferred On-line Website Option: New instructions as our website has been updated.

Go to [https://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/Sign\\_In.php](https://www.stpeteastronomyclub.org/Sign_In.php) on the SPAC website where you can view and update your membership profile, provide payment, and print your membership card.

Adult 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of Children under 18: \_\_\_\_\_

### Memberships:

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.

Student:  FREE. SPAC offers free membership to full time high school and college students.

Expected date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Submitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your SPAC Membership Card is required for reduced fees at the campground.