



**Saguaro Astronomy
Club, Phoenix, AZ
Volume 50, Issue 8
August 2026**

The President's Corner

There once was an astronomer from Azerbaijan, ...
Oh wait, I promised no limericks while we were on
summer vacation. Good thing too, I was having rhyming
issues.

I don't know if you've found a way to get out for
some stargazing, but it seems weather is trying to keep
me inside and won't even let me go up north to cooler
climates. Hopefully, that will change later this month
(after this letter has been written.)

If you want something to try, you can check out the
web link below for an interesting site that is using SAC
data, and has acknowledged it properly, as we request
of users. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20277252>
The builder was nice enough to send a thank you with
the link to try the site. I had to work a little to figure it
out, but it is worth investigating.

In an effort to clean up the newsletter, we are
notifying those who have had astronomy equipment
listed for sale for long periods that they should reduce
their prices for quicker sales, or if not wanting to do
that, we will remove their items. That being said, we are
getting a number of donations of telescopes and other
gear that we need to find homes for. Should we sale
them at prices guaranteed to move, or donate them, or
use them for raffle prizes at future Spring star parties?
Any suggestions? Please let us know what you think.

For those who might not have seen it, the West
Valley Astronomy Club (WVAC) is hosting a November
7th Alamo Lake star party. Check out their web site for
more information. If the weather forecast and my
calendar allows, I will be there.

Quick Calendar

At the clubhouse, 3030 Mission Ln, Phoenix, AZ:

Note: No SAC General Mtgs. in July or August!

As always, please let Rick Rotramel and Mike
Willmoth know of anything interesting you've done in
the astronomy arena, or want to write/post about for
the newsletter or Facebook page, respectively.
Especially if you found a clear sky area for the Perseid
meteor shower.

Otherwise, clear skies.

Tom Curry



Photo: Susan Trask

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The Astronomical Calendar 2026
The Astronomical Calendar,
©2025 By Guy Ottewill

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With *PayPal* Link (Via the SAC
website)



SAC on Facebook:

SAC has a Facebook moderator!

Mike Willmoth

Header image © 2000-2013 Stellarium Developers

* Scorpius setting in the southwest.

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Editor Notes



Hi Folks,

Such-A-Deal has three old ads, and one new, check them out.
SAC Observing has daily astronomy data from *The Astronomical Calendar*.

SAC Sky has info on the stars and planet locations this month for you all.

Enjoy,

Rick Rotramel



Schedule of Events 2026

SAC General Meetings

Jan 9	Feb. 6	March 6	April 10
May 29	June 26	July 24 (Cancelled)	August 21 (Cancelled)
Sept. 25	Oct. 23 Nominations	Nov. 20 Elections	XmasParty Sat, Dec. 12

Meetings held at the Heritage Heights Clubhouse
 3030 E Mission Ln, Phoenix, AZ
 (SE of State Route 51 and 32nd Street)

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

View video recordings of the *past* Zoom meetings here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEKTfI0gwebABZXwKbhe9oA>

SAC Officers



< Left: SAC Webmaster, Terry Shay



Right: SAC ATM Leader, Paul Lind >

Photos (3): Susan Trask



President: Tom Curry >

Vice President: (Open Position) >

SAC-Forum Email Discussion Group

Join this email discussion group for all SAC business and newsletter release notifications.

Go to Groups.io, search for the group SAC-Forum (or "SAC Forum"). Click on the button down the page to join the group. Your application will be accepted in a day or so by the moderators. Alternatively, send an email to:

SAC-forum+subscribe@groups.io

After your membership is set, go to the Subscription tab on the left. Set your preference as to how you should receive messages.

For help, email SAC-forum+help@groups.io

Secretary: Michael Poppre >



Treasurer: Jack Jones >



Properties: Ken Milward >



Photos: Susan Trask (2), Sandy Milward (2)



Such-A- Deal

Ads placed here are free to SAC members and friends. SAC is not responsible for the quality of the items. If you wish to place an ad here to sell your telescope or an astronomy related items, contact the editor at: rrotramel601@gmail.com

For Sale - Meade LX200 GPS, 8" Telescope/Eyepieces

Good condition. Includes Autostar, UHC coatings and case of eyepieces.

Scope is about 10 years old, used sparingly.

Location: Phoenix area. Not interested in shipping.

Will deliver within local area or arrange for pick up.

Owner is motivated to sell.

Asking \$1300.00 as a package.

For questions/inquiries call Stephan at 310-339-4586



For Sale - 1. LX200 8 inch telescope with tripod.

2. LX200 10 inch telescope, f6.3 with tripod

3. Losmandy mount with rings for 10 inch scope

4. Telrad

5. Meade 8X50 alignment (finder scope)

6. Mini-Borg 50, 50mm f5 finder scope

7. Dew shield with power

8. SBIG CFT-8A With filter wheel RGB

9. SBIG ST-i guide camera

10. Wedge for LX-200 10"

11. Extra power cords for LX-200s

Asking \$3000 for all items as a package.

contact Frank (480) 882-3485

Astronomy Equipment Big Sale

[For Sale](#) (Ctrl+Click for info)

Contact me at eridanibrew@gmail.com for questions or to make an offer. I am pretty firm on these prices; I think they are pretty low.



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<mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com>

ZWO ASI120MM Mini Monochrome Astronomy Camera/Guider

- Costs \$199 new
- Includes ZWO supplied cables
- This doesn't include shipping
- A UV/IR filter is not included
- The auto-guider is in very good condition
- Cash or check only
- Jim Waters
- Jimw85044@gmail.com

- **Asking \$90 or Best Offer**





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Telescope Equipment For Sale

** Ads on this page were submitted through the SAC Website*

Meade 8" LS8-8ACF

- ACF (Advance Coma Free) optics with UHTC coatings (Ultra High Transmission Coatings)
- LightSwitch Technology: Once the scope is turned on, it permits the scope to automatically level itself and find north (Meade calls this Level/North Technology), then with the use of its internal ECLIPSE CCD camera and on board GPS, align itself to the night sky without any user intervention. The steps are simple, flip the switch. Once the scope is turned on, you're greeted by the "Astronomer Inside". The "Astronomer Inside" gives you a brief introduction step of the way during the alignment
- Eyepieces: Meade 8.8mm view
- Tele Vue Qwik Point Finder
- Tripod
- 602 736-9221
- I'm near 7th St. and Thun
- **\$ Best Offer \$**

Email Contact – Click Link Below:

<mailto:lorraine.drobny@cox.net>

Lorraine Drobny

602 736-9221



Orion 80mm ED Refractor with case

- Orion 80mm, f/7.5, F.L. 600mm Telescope
- With hard case
- **\$ Best Offer \$**

Lorraine Drobny, 602 736-9221 lorraine.drobny@cox.net



All unsold items on this page were
Donated to the Saguaro Astronomy Club
By the Seller

, Eyepieces & Misc.

Telescopes **Sold!**

hments **Sold!**

- Meade Flip Mirror System, Model 644 **Sold!**
- Meade Deep Sky Imager, Mono CCD Camera

- **\$ Best Offer \$**

- Lorraine Drobny , 602 736-9221

lorraine.drobny@cox.net





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<mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com>

Telescope For Sale:

Vintage Unitron 60mm f15 Telescope

- OTA with four eyepieces, rotating eyepiece mount, barlow, finderscope and wooden carrying case.
- WITH tripod.
- "I think it is the 114 model from the late 1950's or early 1960's with the original box..."
- Paul Jorgenson, KE7HR
- Email Contact: ke7hr@cox.net
- **Asking \$250.00**



This ad was deleted
by the seller by
request.

Celestron C-14 on a Losmandy G11GT Mount

- It is in excellent working condition with very good optics. The Gemini II was recently upgraded to the latest firmware by Losmandy.
- The OTA is on a Losmandy dove tail and it comes with the heavy duty folding tripod.
- It sadly sits in my garage more than under the stars.
- I know the GC Star party is coming up. Since I live in Mesquite, NV, I can bring it to the North Rim if there is someone interested in purchasing it. They can inspect both the mount and optics with no pressure to purchase.

- I am **asking \$6000**
- Thank you for reading this,
- Vince Clements
- (209) 224-1894
- teachu2ride@gmail.com



SOLD!





Bits and Pisces

SAC General Meeting, Meeting Minutes

Report by SAC Secretary, Michael Poppre

There was no SAC general meeting
in July due to summer vacation.

**SAC Observing****Astronomical Calendar 2026****2026 AUGUST**

1254.833	Aug	2	SUN	8	Mercury at westernmost elongation; 19.5° from Sun in morning sky; magnitude 0.2
1255.688	Aug	3	Mon	5	Moon 4.4° NNW of Neptune; 127° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.3 and 7.8
1256.458	Aug	3	Mon	23	Moon 6.2° NNW of Saturn; 117° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.0 and 0.6
1256.875	Aug	4	Tue	9	Jupiter 0.82° SSW of Beehive Cluster center; 4° and 5° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -1.8 and 3.7
1258.598	Aug	6	Thu	2:22	Last quarter Moon
1258.750	Aug	6	Thu	6	Mercury 7.6° S of Pollux; 19° and 21° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -0.4 and 1.2
1259.813	Aug	7	Fri	8	Moon 1.29° N of Pleiades; 74° and 75° from Sun in morning sky
1260.146	Aug	7	Fri	16	Moon 5.4° N of Uranus; 70° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -9.3 and 5.7
1261.771	Aug	9	SUN	7	Moon 4.4° N of Mars; 48° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -8.1 and 1.3
1261.858	Aug	9	SUN	9	Moon, Mars, and M35 cluster within circle of diameter 4.89°; about 46° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -8, 1, 5
1262.021	Aug	9	SUN	13	Moon 3.6° N of M35 cluster; 44° and 45° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -7.9 and 5.3
1262.212	Aug	9	SUN	17	Mercury at ascending node through the ecliptic plane
1262.971	Aug	10	Mon	11:18	Moon at perigee; distance 56.96 Earth-radii
1263.208	Aug	10	Mon	17	Moon 6.8° SSW of Castor; 28° and 29° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.7 and 1.5
1263.409	Aug	10	Mon	22	Sun enters Leo, at longitude 138.28° on the ecliptic
1263.438	Aug	10	Mon	23	Moon 3.6° S of Pollux; 25° and 26° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.5 and 1.2
1264.104	Aug	11	Tue	15	Moon 1.99° NNE of Mercury; 16° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.6 and -0.9
1264.342	Aug	11	Tue	20	Moon, Mercury, and Beehive within circle of diameter 4.23°; about 13° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -5, -1, 4
1264.417	Aug	11	Tue	22	Moon 0.79° NE of Beehive Cluster center; 11° and 12° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.2 and 3.7
1264.458	Aug	11	Tue	23	Moon, Jupiter, and Beehive within circle of diameter 1.87°; about 11° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -5, -2, 4
1264.521	Aug	12	Wed	1	Moon 1.35° NNE of Jupiter; 10° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.0 and -1.8
1265.208	Aug	12	Wed	17	Perseid meteors; ZHR 100; near New Moon
1265.234	Aug	12	Wed	17:36	New Moon; beginning of lunation 1282; total eclipse of the Sun
1265.318	Aug	12	Wed	20	Venus dichotomy (D-shape)
1265.915	Aug	13	Thu	9:57	Moon at descending node; longitude 149.8°
1265.958	Aug	13	Thu	11	Moon 0.56° S of Regulus; 10° and 9° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -5.0 and 1.4
1266.625	Aug	14	Fri	3	Mercury, Jupiter, and Beehive within circle of diameter 2.30°; about 13° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -1, -2, 4

Continued next page...

**SAC Observing**

1266.708	Aug	14	Fri	5	Mercury 0.45° S of Beehive Cluster center; 14° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -1.1 and 3.7
1266.885	Aug	14	Fri	9	Mercury at perihelion; 0.3075 AU from the Sun
1267.458	Aug	14	Fri	23	Mars 0.62° S of M35 cluster; 50° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 1.3 and 5.3
1267.755	Aug	15	SAT	6	Venus at easternmost elongation; 45.9° from Sun in evening sky; magnitude -4.3
1267.958	Aug	15	SAT	11	Mercury 0.55° NNE of Jupiter; 13° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -1.2 and -1.8
1268.163	Aug	15	SAT	16	Mars at northernmost declination, 23.70°
1268.813	Aug	16	SUN	8	Moon 1.87° SSW of Venus; 46° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -7.9 and -4.3
1269.732	Aug	17	Mon	6	Mars and Uranus at heliocentric conjunction; longitude 62.5°
1269.958	Aug	17	Mon	11	Moon 2.25° SSW of Spica; 60° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.7 and 1.0
1272.615	Aug	20	Thu	2:45	First quarter Moon
1273.729	Aug	21	Fri	6	Moon 0.70° SE of Antares; 102° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.4 and 1.0
1274.856	Aug	22	SAT	9	Moon at apogee; distance 63.44 Earth-radii
1275.370	Aug	22	SAT	21	Middle of eclipse season: Sun is at same longitude as Moon's descending node, 149.8°
1275.597	Aug	23	SUN	2	Sun enters the astrological sign Virgo, i.e. its longitude is 150°
1277.090	Aug	24	Mon	14	Mercury at northernmost latitude from the ecliptic plane, 7.0°
1278.063	Aug	25	Tue	14	Mercury 1.30° NNE of Regulus; 3° and 2° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -1.8 and 1.4
1280.202	Aug	27	Thu	17	Mercury at superior conjunction with the Sun; 1.362 AU from Earth; latitude 6.74°
1280.282	Aug	27	Thu	18:46	Moon at ascending node; longitude 329.8°
1280.680	Aug	28	Fri	4:19	Full Moon; partial eclipse of the Moon
1281.426	Aug	28	Fri	22	Uranus at west quadrature, 90° from the Sun
1282.875	Aug	30	SUN	9	Moon 4.3° NNW of Neptune; 153° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -12.0 and 7.8
1283.625	Aug	31	Mon	3	Moon 6.3° NNW of Saturn; 144° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.8 and 0.5



ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR 2026



Chiricahua Sky Village

Dark Sky Astronomy in the High Desert of Arizona



- Communally owned dark sky site in SE Arizona
- Enjoy your own dedicated dark sky site
- Have your own Personal Remote Observatory [PRO]
- Enjoy breathtaking visual observations
- Create stunning astrophotography images
- Become part of a great astronomy community

New Members and Visitors Are Always Welcome!

Website: <https://chiricahuaskyvillage.com>

Email: chiricahuaskyvillage@gmail.com

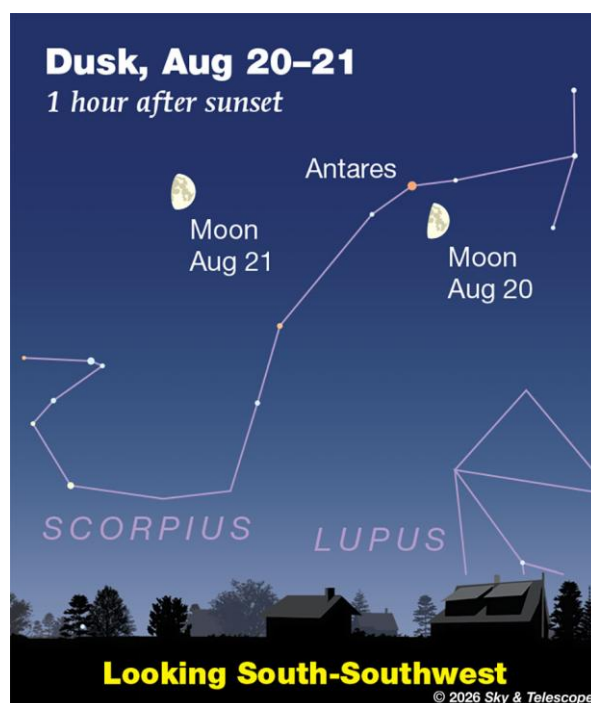
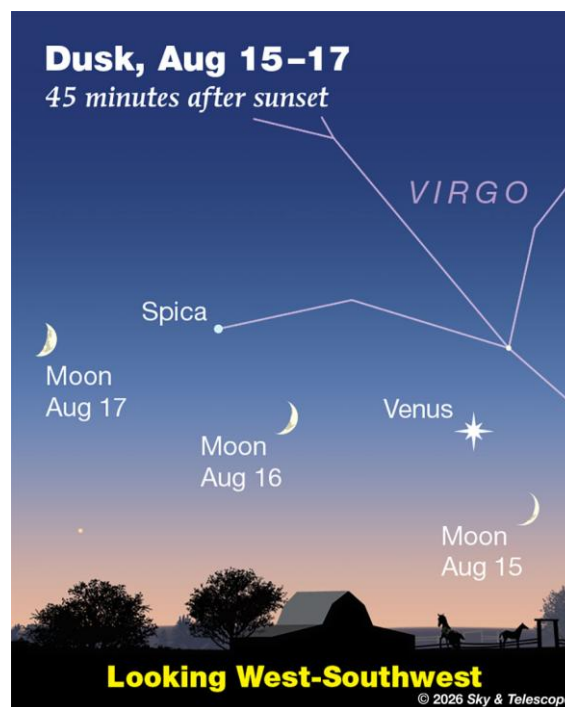
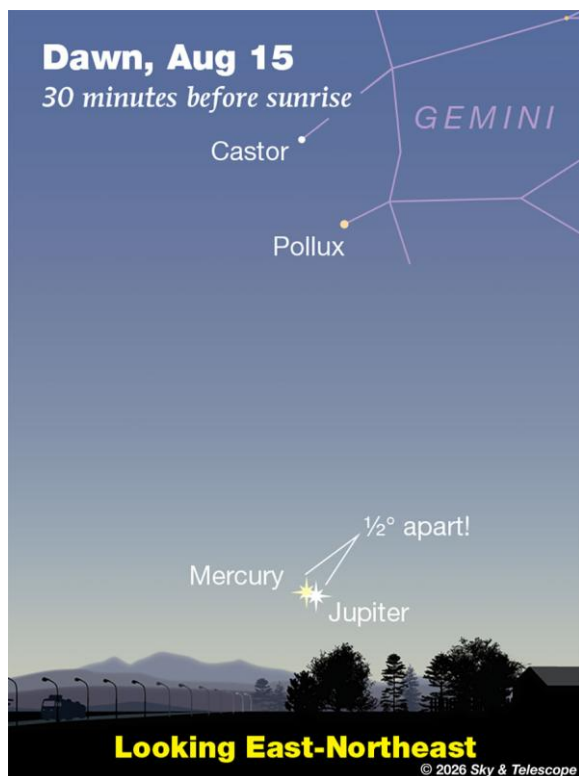




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SAC Sky





2026 SAC Officers and Contacts

Board Members

President	Tom Curry	mailto:tomcurry@saguaroastro.org
Vice-President	Open	
Treasurer	Jack Jones	mailto:jackjones@saguaroastro.org
Secretary	Michael Poppre	
Properties	Ken Milward	mailto:kenmilward@saguaroastro.org

Non-board Positions

Novice Leader	Steve Dodder	mailto:fester00@hotmail.com
Newsletter	Rick Rotramel	mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com
Outreach	Sandy Milward	
Webmaster	Terry Shay	mailto:terryshay@saguaroastro.org

SAC on Facebook:

Moderator, Mike Willmoth <mailto:mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

2026 Board Meetings:

* Board meetings will be called by the SAC President and will contact the board members for the meeting time and date.

Saguaro Astronomy Club

Saguaro Astronomy Club (SAC), Phoenix, Arizona, was formed in 1977 to promote fellowship and the exchange of scientific information among its members-amateur astronomers. SAC meets monthly for both general meetings and star parties and regularly conducts and supports public programs on astronomy. Membership is open to anyone with these interests.

Saguaro Skies is posted as a pdf file monthly on the SAC website,

<https://www.saguaroastro.org/newsletter/>

for browsing or downloading for SAC members and friends of SAC. A email announcement of the monthly newsletter release is included with membership.

Direct all membership inquiries to the SAC Treasurer by using the membership form found in this newsletter. For editorial and SUCH-A-DEAL advertising inquiries, contact the Saguaro Skies Editor.

Meeting Location: The Clubhouse, 7:00 PM, 3030 E. Mission Lane, Phoenix, AZ



Saguaro Skies Staff

Editor: Rick Rotramel;
Photographers: Tom Curry, Sandy Milward, Tom Polakis, Michael Poppre, Rick Rotramel and Susan Trask.

2013-2025 Contributors: Bob Christ, Mike Collins, AJ Crayon, Tom Curry, Paul Dickson, David Dillmore, Steve Dodder, Richard Harshaw, Dean Ketelsen, Kevin Kozel, Joan McGue, Sandy Milward, Andrew Perry, Tom & Jennifer Polakis, Michael Poppre, Jimmy Ray, Rick Rotramel, Steve Rottas, SAC Imagers & Observers

Contacting This Issue's Authors

If you wish to write to an author in this month's issue, contact them by sending your message to the editor of Saguaro Skies, Rick Rotramel, at: rrotramel601@gmail.com

I will then forward your questions or comments to the author.



Saguaro Astronomy Club Membership Services

Membership -- Memberships are for the calendar year and are pro-rated for new members as follows:
Jan - Mar: 100%; Apr - Jun: 75%; Jul - Sep: 50%; Oct - Dec 25%.

- ☐ \$40 Individual Membership
☐ \$50 Family Membership

Note: You can now pay with PayPal through the SAC Website. Click Below: 

<https://www.saguaroastro.org/join-sacpaypal/>



Please print all information legibly

Date: ____/____/____ For the year of: 20__

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ Check here if this is updated information

Make check payable to: SAC

Please bring your completed form to a meeting or mail it with payment to:

Jack Jones
3222 W. Lucia Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85083

