Saguaro Skies

Saguaro Astronomy Club, Phoenix, AZ
Volume 50, Issue 4
April 2026

The President's Corner

Let's try this again. I hope you all are preparing for our April 17th thru 19th Spring Star Party and Messier Marathon. We still have some planning to do, but we'll talk about that at the April meeting.

Individually, what will you be looking at? Doing the Messier Marathon, or maybe Tom Polakis' Globular Cluster marathon, or maybe working on your attempt at the Herschel 400 objects? Next month, how about putting together a short talk on your night's successes, or if not interested in public speaking, an article for Rick Rotramel's newsletter.

And now, for the dreaded limericks, I warned you!

So, April is when we will be gathering
For a weekend of robust palavering.
Did I mention a VP?
Not one from the TV,
But a SAC one so I stop my weird blathering!

It goes on without much competition,
And each month I give some rendition,
Of what the club needs,
With the hope that it seeds
A volunteer we need for the position.

As I spoke with my friend the Dali Llama,
I asked him what caused all the drama,
Being VP is easy,
But makes members queasy,
His answer was "Go ask yo Momma!"

This can't go on. Pretty soon someone will consider this abuse. So, someone needs to pony up and take over the duties of VP.

Remember there are volunteer outreach opportunities available for those interested. I get pretty much one a month.

OK, that's it for this month. Make your plans for the star party and I hope to see you there. Clear skies.

Tom Curry

Photo: Susan Trask

Inside this issue:

Quick Calendar

At the clubhouse, 3030 Mission Ln, Phoenix, AZ:
SAC meets **Friday, April 10th, @ 7:00 pm.**
Guest speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

SAC on Facebook:
SAC has a Facebook moderator!
Mike Willmoth

Header image © 2000-2013 Stellarium Developers

* Scorpius setting in the southwest.

Editor Notes

Hi Folks,

Such-A-Deal has two new ads and six old ads, check them out.
Bits & Pisces has the March 6 SAC general meeting minutes.
SAC Observing has for you 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

< Left: SAC Webmaster, Terry Shay

Right: SAC ATM Leader, Paul Lind >

Photos (3): Susan Trask

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**

Schedule of Events 2026

SAC General Meetings

Jan 9	Feb. 6	March 6	April 10
May 29	June 26	July 24	August 21
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/UCEKTf10gwebABZXwKbhe9oA

Arizona Spring Star Party & Messier Marathon

@ Hovatter North, April 17 & 18
Saturday, April 18th: Dinner, Raffle & Swap Meet
Arizona Spring Star Party and Messier Marathon – Saguaro Astronomy Club (Ctrl+Click for info)

Grand Canyon Star Party

June 6 – 13, (North Rim portion cancelled, re: *DRAGON BRAVO FIRE*.)
Update: Park Closures at South Rim: (Water pipe)
Alerts & Conditions - Grand Canyon National Park (U.S. National Park Service) (Ctrl+Click for info)

SAC Officers

President: Tom Curry >

Vice President: (Open Position) >

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.

- **See next page for start of ads for this *Big Sale***

Astronomy Equipment Big Sale (continued)

Xx

Telescopes for sale:

Celestron Edge 11" HD with Homeyer Cradle Price: $1200 (Orig. Cost: $3700)

Andy Homeyer used to make beautiful telescope cradles out of 1/2" aluminum to hold SCTs on their mounts, replacing the typical dovetail rails. These eliminated pretty much all flexure in the mounting.
Image 2 shows the C11 in the Homeyer cradle with an extra Losmandy dovetail visible. The Edge is strapped securely into the cradle, then the cradle is bolted directly to the Paramount Versa plate. My TPoint flexure (especially in the piggy backed refractor) was completely eliminated.
It also shows the FSQ106 piggy backed on top via a second Losmandy rail. The Optec focuser and STF8300M are on the back of the C11.
Image 3 shows someone else's C14 cradle without the OTA (mine looks slightly different). The cradle originally cost $800, but I am including it with the C11 since I can't use it for anything else.



SOLD!

Takahashi FSQ106EDX-III Price: $1500 (Orig. Cost: $3500)

This is my premium wide field imaging scope. It is a 530mm f5 with FeatherTouch focuser.
The second image shows the current configuration. The Tak is piggy backed onto the Edge 11 using a Losmandy rail and Tak clamshell. I added screws in the clamshell base to allow alignment of the Tak with the Edge 11. Focusing is done with an EasyFocus focuser running a Robofocus motor. A Pyxis Rotator is next, followed by a QSI683 camera with filter wheel and off axis guider.
The third image shows the Robofocus motor connected directly to the FeatherTouch focuser via the knob axle (the knob has been removed). The EasyFocus controller and RoboFocus motor are included.



SOLD!

Takahashi Sky90 Price: $300 (Orig. Cost: $1800)

Doublet Apochromat. 50mm aperture. Large back focus adjustment. I should have the FSQ attachment, I have to look through my parts.
I used this for several years, first mounted on a NexStar 11, then on the Edge 11. I was very happy with the results. Eventually moved up to the FSQ106.

SOLD!

William Optics Zenith Star 80mm Price: $100 (Orig. Cost: $500)

80mm f6.8. Used as a guide scope before installing the dome. Includes case, nice mounting rings.

SOLD!

SBig Guide Scope Price: $25 (Orig. Cost: $250)

This is a small scope/lens similar to an St-i, with a mounting bracket and small USB camera. The product was intended to provide an easy autoguider in a small package.
Unfortunately, the image scales did not work at all for my setup. I expect it should work OK with a main imaging camera with 3 or more arcsecond/pixel.

Astronomy Equipment Big Sale (continued)

Cameras for sale:

SBig STF8300M ***Price $1500 (original cost $3500)***

Includes filters (Astrodon LRGB, Ha, Oiii, Sii) in 8 position filter wheel. Original ST-i guider failed, replaced with QHY5III290 (available separately). Added aluminum threaded rings to guide port to help focus.
Includes Pelican Case, cables.

QSI683-wsg ***Price $1400 (original cost $3000)***

Includes filter wheel with filters, guide port. Has a partial column of bad pixels, easily fixed with dark/bias frames

SBig ST2000XM ***Price $200 (original cost $1200)***

My first quality camera - it is wonderful. I used it for quite awhile. 100,000 e- well depth produces excellent contrast in images. USB connection. Image shows my camera with CFW10 filter wheel attached to a Takahashi Sky90. Only design problem - the guide chip is behind the filters, so I often can't guide with it (especially narrow band). The guide chip no longer works on this unit. Includes CFW10, with original LRGB filters. W/Pelican case & desiccant packs.

QHY5III290 ***Price $50 (original cost $250)***

SOLD!

I have used this as both a monochrome planetary camera and as a guide camera. It works very well. In the second image the camera is installed in the STF8300M guide port. The aluminum rings I made to help focus are visible.

ZWO ASI120M ***Price $50 (original cost $250)***

Monochrome camera used primarily as the guider for the QSI683. Worked very well.

ZWO ASI290MC ***Price $75 (original cost $350)***

SOLD!

Color planetary camera. Used very little (I stopped doing planetary).

Fishcamp Guide camera ***Price $10 (original cost $300)***

This was a very solid, well built guide camera. It uses the same chip as the original Orion guider, but does it much better.
Unfortunately, at Windows 7? 8? the driver didn't work anymore and I couldn't find a replacement driver.
This could be a fun project to write a driver for it. Or, at least it comes in a nice case.

Canon EOS Rebel 450D with Hotech Halpha mod for astronomy. ***Price $50 (original cost $500)***

Astronomy Equipment Big Sale (continued)

Mount for sale:

Software Bisque Paramount MX *Price $5000 (original cost $9000,* currently costs $12-18000 *)*

This is the original MX, not the Version II
It has sat for awhile, so it likely needs replacement of the two rubber drive belts. Here in Arizona I need to replace them every couple of years.
I have the original shipping boxes.
Includes TPoint, a truly magnificent tool. TPoint also handles alignment of the mount to great precision.
Includes 2 large counterweights and the shaft extension.

Dome for sale:

ExploraDome *Price $1500 (original cost $8000)*

This is the 8 foot dome with aluminum roof panels for a 10 foot square building. I used a pre-existing building.
Has an 8 foot pier (2 four foot sections) with Paramount adaptor plate to hold the mount high.
Originally automation hardware/software by Foster Systems to open the shutter and rotate the dome.
Replaced the tracking and shutter controllers with Arduino based systems. Image 4 shows the Arduino tracking controller (smaller black box) on top of a 12V power supply. Image 5 shows the Arduino Shutter controller.
Modified the tracking system to improve reliability and accuracy. Figure 3 shows an added fence on the rotation motor. Originally the dome position was determined by counting the holes in the track. This gives 1 cm precision on the dome position instead of the original 4 cm.
Wrote a VB.NET ASCOM driver to drive the 2 Arduino controllers.
Includes dome and 10' wide building panels around top of roof.
The Dome was painted with a special Arizona paint to reflect the sun, cooling the building. Originally the building was at 135 F.
Images 3 and 5 show Home Depot radiant barrier material fastened to the dome interior to further reduce Arizona heat. This stuff is amazing! The building is now down to 90 F, so the 2 air conditioners can get it down to 82 F.
Figure 6 shows someone else's dome, showing how the top shutter slides back over the dome and the lower shutter hinges open.
Buyer needs to remove dome, ship it to destination.

Astronomy Equipment Big Sale (continued)

Miscellaneous:

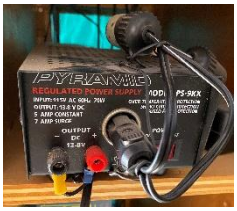
Optec Focuser *Price $300 (original cost $1200)*

2" Crayford style; very solid.
Includes adaptor to connect to Edge 11".
Connects via RS232 cable.
Edgeport USB to RS232 converter box available (See below).

EdgePort USB-RS232 Converter *Price $50 (original cost $250)*

Some equipment (especially older things) still use RS-232 connections. This box takes a single USB port and provides 4 COM ports.

Pyramid 12V 5 Amp Power Supply *Price $25 (original cost $100)*



Typical 12V power supply.

Has connector to run 2 cigarette plugs, or wire directly as seen in the image.

Samlex 12V 30 Amp Switching Power Supply *Price $150 (original cost $300)*

In the first image this is the larger black box under the dome rotation controller.
This is a higher 30 Amp power supply. I run the output through a RigRunner (visible on the right of the first image) to supply power to the dome rotation motor, the dome shutter motors, and a couple of other minor things. My dome motors require 10 Amps.
The RigRunner is included.

Optec Pyxis 2" Rotator *Price $250 (original cost $1200)*

This is the original Pyxis rotator from Optec.

Modjack RS232 input.

Edgeport USB to RS232 converter box available (See above).

WiFi DAP-1552 Bridge *Price $25 (original cost $150)*

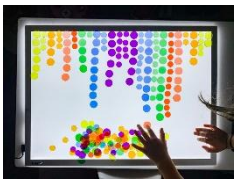
My dome is perhaps 60 feet from the router in the house. This is too far to get router WiFi reception. Instead of running a cable from the house, this bridge receives the router WiFi, amplifies it, and provides 4 ethernet ports to the systems in the dome.

Astronomy Equipment Big Sale (continued)

Home Built LED Light Panel *Price $50 (original cost $100)*

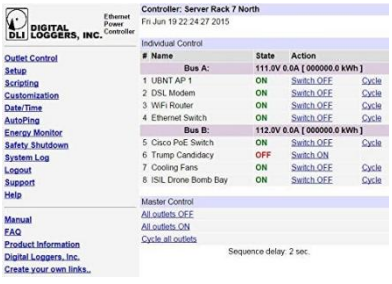
This is my fifth attempt at building a Light Panel to automate taking calibration bias and per-filter flat images. This one actually works pretty well. It is built around a 2 foot by 2 foot industrial LED lighting panel intended for ceilings of office buildings (like fluorescent light fixtures). The intensity of the light can be controlled by a resistor (a dimmer switch). The small pink box contains an Arduino and digital resistors (included). The Arduino connects to the computer via USB**.** The panel is mounted on a table fixture allowing adjustment in 3 axes to get it perpendicular to the OTA. This is important - the OTA needs to be perpendicular to the light panel, or you get off center frames. In a small dome you can't just hang the panel on the wall and be positioned appropriately relative to the telescope. The LED panel is very bright even at low settings. Two translucent 1/4" acryllic panels slide into the frame to dim it further. One or both panels can be removed as needed. I wrote a (VB.NET) software utility to determine the correct resistor setting and exposure for each filter (LRGB and narrowband) with about a 3 second camera exposure. Once these settings are determined they are re-used for each calibration run. Since I run ACP, these settings are easy to put into the ACP calibration script. The closed dome is dark enough that frames can be shot during the day, even on Arizona-bright days. I wrote a script to run calibrations during the day rather than waste darkness hours. Depending on the night's target, I typically run 25 bias and 25 of each filter needed for the night. I might need both 1x1 and 2x2 binning, so potentially I need 1600 frames although typically a few hundred. This takes 30-60 minutes. A PixInsight script assembles the individual frames into master frames for use that evening.

LEDLightTable *Price $10 (original cost $150)*



I originally bought this for one of my earlier attempts for a light panel for exposing calibration images (like the Light Panel above). It didn't work - it is too bright and not controllable from the computer. In addition, it runs the screen by scanning down the LEDs by row, so an exposure shows the panel partially lit depending on where you caught the scanning process.
It is intended to be used as a children's toy, and to do tracing work.
Includes power cable.

DLI Internet Power Controller *Price $150 (original cost $500)*



OK, you need one of these. This lets you power up/down equipment from *ANYWHERE* on the Internet.
There are 16 switchable standard outlets in the back of the unit, 8 banks of 2 outlets (second image). Each bank is switchable; for example, perhaps you have a camera and its focuser plugged into one bank. A single command will turn on both devices.
The unit has an ethernet port in front which attaches to your local network (first image). It also has switches to manually control each bank of outlets.

From a browser you access the device by its IP address (i.e., 192.168.2.100). You get the screen in the third image (there are several screens to configure the device). Now you can access all of the devices through the network. For example, I can be in Los Angeles and power everything up for the night. When I am running from the house it is easier to turn things on and off rather than running out to the observatory.

There are more “miscellaneous” other items for sale, you can find them on my website.

Copy and paste this link into your web browser:

For Sale (brewsky.space) (Ctrl+Click to follow link))

eridanibrew@gmail.com Robert Brewington

Such-A- Deal

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mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com

Telescope Equipment For Sale

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

Meade 8" LS8-8ACF

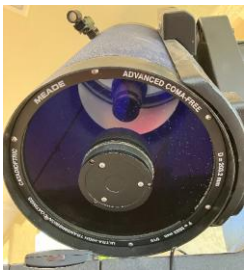
- ACF (Advance Coma Free) optics with UHTC coatings (Ultra High Transmission Coatings)
- LightSwitch Technology: Once the scope is turned on, it permits the scope to automatically level itself and find north (Meade calls this Level/North Technology), then with the use of its internal ECLIPSE CCD camera and on board GPS, alight 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 to the LS 8, and informs you of each and every step of the way during the alignment process.
- Eyepieces: Meade 8.8mm and 24mm UWA Series 5000, 82° apparent field of view
- Tele Vue Qwik Point Finderscope
- Tripod
- 602 736-9221
- I'm near 7th St. and Thunderbird. Buyers pick up.
- ***$ 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

Celestron Focus Motor, Meade Imager, Eyepieces & Misc. Attachments

- Focus Motor for SCT and EdgeHD Telescopes Sold!
- Several Eyepieces and Misc. attachments 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

Such-A- Deal

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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**

Celestron C-14 on a Losmandy G11GT Mount

- It is in excellent working condition with very good optics. The Gemini ll 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

Bits and Pisces

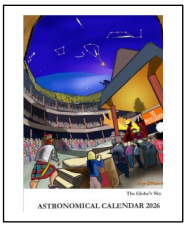
SAC General Meeting, March 6, Meeting Minutes

Report by SAC Secretary, Michael Poppre

- Meeting called to order by President Tom Curry at 7:05 pm.
  20 attendees including 3 visitors.
- Treasurer's report: not available.
- Tom made several announcements:
  -*Fountain Hills star party* looking for 'scope hosts (held on 3/28).
  -*ISEF* accepting applications for science fair judges and large event in Phoenix held between May 9 and 15. Apply at the *ISEF* webpage.
  -Private event is looking for some 'scopes for people to look through during event. This was explored by a SAC member but the organizers had already hired a different group.
- Discussion about the upcoming *Spring Star Party and Messier Marathon* scheduled for March 20/21. NOTE: this event was cancelled due to extreme heat forecast for that weekend. Plans are to hold it in April.
- Rheta Peiser (SP?) announced she was looking for a power cord for an old *Celestron* drive that had a *Byer's* drive.
- ATM - Paul Lind updated the group on the effort to finish a 14" mirror. The glass showed some astigmatism during a *Foucault* test. Paul showed how the group made a new lap and poured pitch to make the "waffle" channels.
- Steve Rottas reported an update on the *South Rim Star Party* for 2026. He covered how interested members could find information on the *Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association's* web page. He also reported that all members of the *Arizona Congressional* delegation are pushing hard for the *North Rim* facilities efforts to be "fast tracked".
- Ken Milward recapped his and Sandy's visit to the *ASU Earth and Space Science Center's* exhibits and planetarium. This was open to other SAC members but only a few were able to participate.
- Finally, SAC member Scott Cunningham gave a demonstration of the homemade power boxes he designed and built. These allow an operator to automate the control of several components of the observing set. The units are also *ASCOM* compatible. These type of solutions exist commercially but are much more expensive.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

SAC Observing

Astronomical Calendar 2026



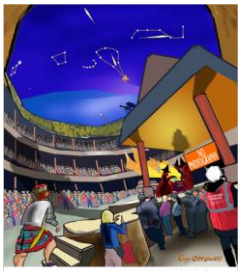
2026 APRIL

1131.5	Apr	1	Wed		Passover begins at sundowny
1132.592	Apr	2	Thu	2:12	Full Moon
1133.5	Apr	3	Fri		Good Friday
1133.563	Apr	3	Fri	2	Moon 1.69° SSW of Spica; 168° and 169° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -12.3 and 1.0
1134.434	Apr	3	Fri	22	Mercury at westernmost elongation; 27.8° from Sun in morning sky; magnitude 0.3
1134.931	Apr	4	SAT	10	Mercury at aphelion; 0.4667 AU from the Sun
1135.5	Apr	5	SUN		Easter
1136.429	Apr	5	SUN	22	Jupiter at east quadrature, 90° from the Sun
1137.354	Apr	6	Mon	21	Moon 0.65° SE of Antares; 126° and 127° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.2 and 1.0
1137.848	Apr	7	Tue	8	Moon at apogee; distance 63.49 Earth-radii
1140.704	Apr	10	Fri	4:54	Last quarter Moon
1141.724	Apr	11	SAT	5	Venus at ascending node through the ecliptic plane
1143.255	Apr	12	SUN	18	Mars crosses equator northward
1143.750	Apr	13	Mon	6	Mars 0.32° NNW of Neptune; 21° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 1.2 and 8.0
1143.875	Apr	13	Mon	9	Mars, Saturn, and Neptune within circle of diameter 4.49°; about 19° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes 1, 1, 8
1144.489	Apr	13	Mon	23:45	Moon at ascending node; longitude 338.1°
1146.105	Apr	15	Wed	15	The equation of time is 0
1146.125	Apr	15	Wed	15	Moon 4.6° NNW of Mercury; 25° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.5 and 0.0
1146.142	Apr	15	Wed	15	Moon, Mercury, and Neptune within circle of diameter 4.59°; about 24° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -6, 0, 8
1146.242	Apr	15	Wed	18	Moon, Mercury, and Mars within circle of diameter 5.06°; about 23° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -6, 0, 1
1146.292	Apr	15	Wed	19	Moon 3.5° NNW of Neptune; 23° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.3 and 7.9
1146.300	Apr	15	Wed	19	Moon, Mars, and Neptune within circle of diameter 3.66°; about 22° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -6, 1, 8
1146.417	Apr	15	Wed	22	Moon 3.3° NNW of Mars; 21° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.1 and 1.2
1146.442	Apr	15	Wed	23	Moon, Saturn, and Neptune within circle of diameter 5.45°; about 21° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -6, 1, 8
1146.558	Apr	16	Thu	1	Moon, Mars, and Saturn within circle of diameter 4.67°; about 20° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -6, 1, 1
1146.604	Apr	16	Thu	3	Moon 4.7° NNW of Saturn; 19° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.9 and 0.9
1147.604	Apr	17	Fri	3	Mercury 1.32° SE of Neptune; 24° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -0.0 and 7.9
1147.667	Apr	17	Fri	4	Mercury, Saturn, and Neptune within circle of diameter 4.81°; about 23° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes 0, 1, 8

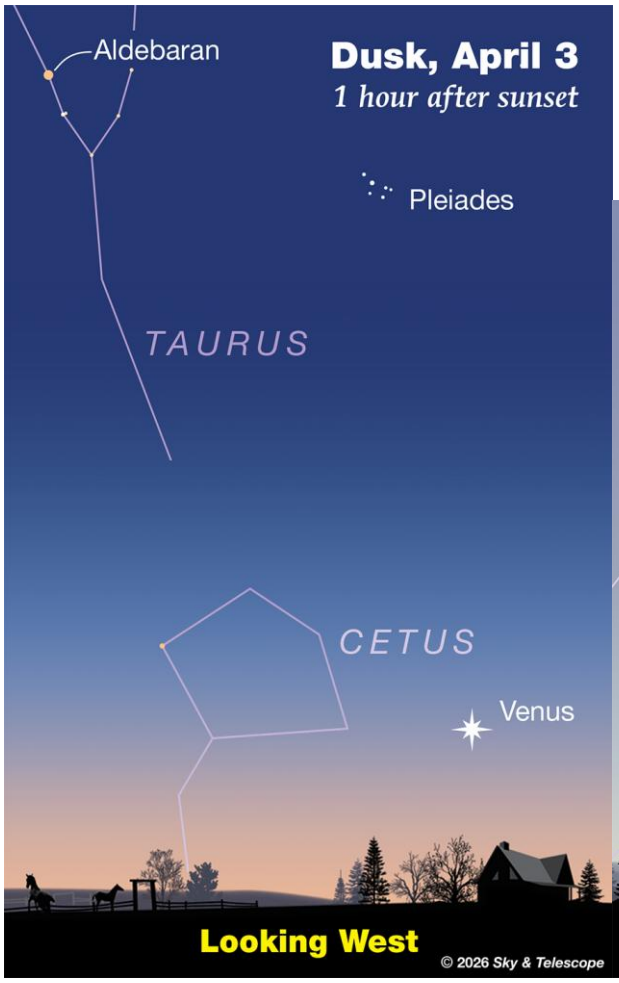
Continued next page…

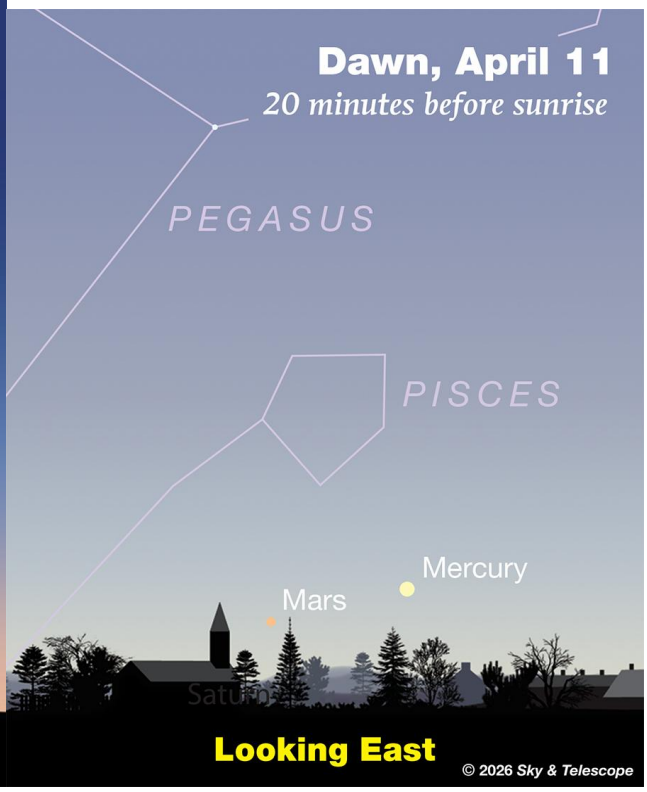
SAC Observing

1147.875	Apr	17	Fri	9	Mercury, Mars, and Neptune within circle of diameter 3.19°; about 23° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes 0, 1, 8
1147.995	Apr	17	Fri	11:53	New Moon; beginning of lunation 1278
1149.734	Apr	19	SUN	6	Sun enters Aries, at longitude 29.19° on the ecliptic
1149.790	Apr	19	SUN	6:58	Moon at perigee; distance 56.70 Earth-radii
1149.792	Apr	19	SUN	7	Moon 4.6° NNW of Venus; 25° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -6.5 and -3.9
1150.158	Apr	19	SUN	16	Moon, Uranus, and the Pleiades within circle of diameter 5.22°; about 31° from the Sun in the evening sky; magnitudes -7, 6, 3
1150.167	Apr	19	SUN	16	Moon 5.2° N of Uranus; 31° and 30° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -7.0 and 5.8
1150.229	Apr	19	SUN	18	Moon 1.08° N of Pleiades; 31° from Sun in evening sky
1150.438	Apr	19	SUN	23	Mars 1.19° NNW of Saturn; 22° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 1.2 and 0.9
1150.567	Apr	20	Mon	2	Sun enters the astrological sign Taurus, i.e. its longitude is 30°
1151.000	Apr	20	Mon	12	Mercury 0.46° SE of Saturn; 23° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -0.2 and 0.9
1151.458	Apr	20	Mon	23	Mercury, Mars, and Saturn within circle of diameter 1.65°; about 23° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes 0, 1, 1
1151.479	Apr	20	Mon	24	Mercury 1.65° SE of Mars; 22° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -0.2 and 1.2
1152.396	Apr	21	Tue	22	Moon 3.7° N of M35 cluster; 61° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.9 and 5.3
1152.958	Apr	22	Wed	11	Lyrid meteors; ZHR 18; 2 days before First Quarter Moon
1153.479	Apr	22	Wed	24	Moon 3.5° NNE of Jupiter; 75° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -9.6 and -2.1
1153.646	Apr	23	Thu	4	Moon 6.4° S of Castor; 78° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -9.7 and 1.5
1153.875	Apr	23	Thu	9	Moon 3.2° S of Pollux; 81° and 80° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -9.8 and 1.2
1154.562	Apr	24	Fri	1	Neptune crosses equator northward
1154.583	Apr	24	Fri	2	Venus 0.75° NNW of Uranus; 26° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -3.9 and 5.8
1154.606	Apr	24	Fri	2:32	First quarter Moon
1154.917	Apr	24	Fri	10	Moon 1.29° NE of Beehive Cluster; 94° and 93° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.3 and 3.7
1155.083	Apr	24	Fri	14	Venus 3.4° SE of the Pleiades; 26° from Sun in evening sky
1155.183	Apr	24	Fri	16	Mercury at southernmost latitude from the ecliptic plane, -7.0°
1155.660	Apr	25	SAT	4	Winter solstice for Mars north hemisphere
1156.125	Apr	25	SAT	15	Venus, Uranus, and the Pleiades within circle of diameter 4.24°; about 25° from the Sun in the evening sky; magnitudes -4, 6, 3
1156.583	Apr	26	SUN	2	Moon 0.33° E of Regulus; 115° and 114° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.9 and 1.4
1157.109	Apr	26	SUN	14:37	Moon at descending node; longitude 157.4°
1160.833	Apr	30	Thu	8	Moon 1.66° SSW of Spica; 164° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -12.2 and 1.0



SAC Sky





2026 SAC Officers and Contacts

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President	Tom Curry	mailto:president@saguaroastro.org
Vice-President	Open	
Treasurer	Jack Jones	mailto:treasurer@saguaroastro.org
Secretary	Michael Poppre	
Properties	Ken Milward	mailto:properties@saguaroastro.org

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Newsletter	Rick Rotramel	mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com
Outreach	Sandy Milward	
Webmaster	Terry Shay	mailto:webmaster@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

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 Skies Staff

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