



The President's Corner

Congratulations, you get a reprieve from the limericks this and next month, due to not having meetings (remember, no meetings in July and August.)

So, what shall we talk about? October nominations for club board positions? It's never too early. How about something a little more exciting, a new outreach event being proposed by the *Park Service at Grand Canyon*? Steve Rottas has been contacted by the *Park Service* dark sky coordinator about assistance with something that other national parks have been engaged in: "*The Star Train*." The idea is that the Park, in conjunction with *Xanterra* (who operate the train at the *Grand Canyon*), would host a trip *FROM* the *S. Rim* for visitors to take to a location south several miles where we and other clubs would have on the order of 20 telescopes set up for the visitors' enjoyment. The proposed date for the first of these from the *S Rim* is October 9th, 10th, and 11th. Steve will have more details of the event as they are finalized.

What we need from SAC members is a count of those who would commit to attending with a scope, or to assist with cellphone nightscape photography. SAC members would be able to camp onsite (no telling if any facilities will be there, such as port-a-potties) and those members wanting nicer accommodation would have some benefit provided them for the *S Rim* park.

The site is the Wallaha siding which is approximately 9 miles N of Valle, and 7 miles west of St. Rt. 160, about 19 miles south of the park. *Xanterra* and the *Park Service* are very interested in this project, with *Xanterra* making plans to grade the area at Wallaha to accommodate our scopes and visitors. More than that, we do not know at this time. This could be the start of something very fun.

Just so you are aware, this might be the same weekend as the *All Arizona Star Party*, hosted annually by the *East Valley Astronomy Club (EVAC)*.

More on this as time goes on but let Steve know if you can commit to the event for the 3 nights.

Then, as always, please let Rick Rotramel and Mike Willmoth know of your interesting astronomy activities for inclusion in the monthly newsletter, and/or SAC's *Facebook* page, respectively.

Until next month's missive, clear skies!

Tom Curry



Photo: Susan Trask



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

Quick Calendar

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

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

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The Astronomical Calendar,
©2025 By Guy Ottewill

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With *PayPal* Link (Via the SAC
website)

Header image © 2000-2013 Stellarium Developers

* Scorpius setting in the southwest.

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Editor Notes



Hi Folks,

Such-A-Deal has eight old ads, check them out.

Bits & Pisces has the June 26th 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



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.



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, 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 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 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



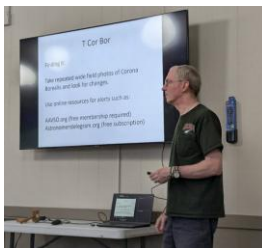


Bits and Pisces

SAC General Meeting, June 26, Meeting Minutes

Report by SAC Secretary, Michael Poppre

- Meeting called to order by President Tom Curry at 7:10 pm.
- Twelve members in attendance including one visitor and one returning member.
- Jack Jones gave the treasurer's report. The club has a total of \$5,089 in the account. We have an outstanding debt of \$262 to the BLM for the headcount at the Spring Star Party.
- Next, Tom Curry showed slides of the recent Venus/Jupiter conjunction.
- Paul Lind gave a short recap of the ATM meeting. Three persons in attendance. They discussed ways to test the 14" mirror that the group has been working on. According to Paul all grinding and polishing has been completed.
- Michael Poppre presented a short "reminder" about the expected eruption of T Coronae Borealis. This included various web resources that can be used to get alerts when the star brightens.



Michael Poppre, photo: Tom Curry

- Steve Rottas spoke about the recently completed Grand Canyon Star Party. SAC had partnered with TAAA (The Tucson group). He said that everything went very well overall. TAAA reported a total of 68,900 "clicks" indicating the number of discrete visitor interactions by each observer. There were also 105 telescopes set up at the viewing area. The group was not clouded out at all that week which allowed viewing every night. Finally, he reported the dates for next year will be May 29 to June 5 (earlier than this year).
- Last up, Terry Shay shared many photos with the group he took during the GCSP. It looked like a great time.
- Reminder: no meeting in July or August.
- Tom Curry told the group there will be a featured speaker in September. Ken Zoll from the Verde Valley Archeological Museum will have a presentation about Route 66 missing meteorite museums.
- See you on September 25th at the Clubhouse.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:33 pm.

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

2026 JULY

1222.901	Jul	1	Wed	10	Mercury at aphelion; 0.4667 AU from the Sun
1225.771	Jul	4	SAT	7	Mars 0.11° SE of Uranus; 38° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 1.3 and 5.8
1225.827	Jul	4	SAT	7:52	Moon at ascending node; longitude 330.7°
1227.945	Jul	6	Mon	11	Saturn at west quadrature, 90° from the Sun
1228.247	Jul	6	Mon	18	Earth at aphelion; 1.0167 AU from the Sun
1228.458	Jul	6	Mon	23	Moon 4.2° NNW of Neptune; 101° and 100° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.5 and 7.9
1228.815	Jul	7	Tue	8	Neptune stationary in longitude; starts retrograde motion
1229.208	Jul	7	Tue	17	Moon 6.0° NNW of Saturn; 91° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.2 and 0.8
1229.312	Jul	7	Tue	19:30	Last quarter Moon
1229.516	Jul	8	Wed	0	Neptune stationary in right ascension; starts retrograde motion
1231.458	Jul	9	Thu	23	Venus 0.97° NNE of Regulus; 43° and 42° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.1 and 1.4
1232.5	Jul	11	SAT	0	Moon 1.18° N of Pleiades; 48° and 49° from Sun in morning sky
1232.750	Jul	11	SAT	6	Moon 5.3° N of Uranus; 45° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -8.0 and 5.8
1233.083	Jul	11	SAT	14	Moon 5.3° N of Mars; 40° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -7.7 and 1.3
1234.556	Jul	13	Mon	1	Mercury at inferior conjunction with the Sun; 0.573 AU from Earth; latitude -6.20°
1234.563	Jul	13	Mon	2	Mars 5.3° N of Aldebaran; 41° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 1.3 and 0.9
1234.646	Jul	13	Mon	4	Moon 3.5° N of M35 cluster; 18° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.9 and 5.3
1234.832	Jul	13	Mon	7:57	Moon at perigee; distance 56.31 Earth-radii
1235.813	Jul	14	Tue	8	Moon 6.8° S of Castor; 4° and 10° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.4 and 1.5
1235.906	Jul	14	Tue	9:44	New Moon; beginning of lunation 1281
1236.021	Jul	14	Tue	13	Moon 3.6° S of Pollux; 3° and 7° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.4 and 1.2
1236.688	Jul	15	Wed	5	Moon 1.91° NNE of Jupiter; 11° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -5.2 and -1.8
1236.942	Jul	15	Wed	11	Moon, Jupiter, and Beehive within circle of diameter 4.47°; about 13° from the Sun in the evening sky; magnitudes -6, -2, 4
1236.979	Jul	15	Wed	12	Moon 0.72° NE of Beehive Cluster center; 15° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -5.6 and 3.7
1238.520	Jul	17	Fri	0:28	Moon at descending node; longitude 150.2°
1238.542	Jul	17	Fri	1	Moon 0.58° SE of Regulus; 36° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -7.3 and 1.4
1239.146	Jul	17	Fri	16	Moon 1.83° SSW of Venus; 44° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -7.8 and -4.1
1242.579	Jul	21	Tue	2	Sun enters Cancer, at longitude 118.36° on the ecliptic

Continued next page...

**SAC Observing**

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1242.604	Jul	21	Tue	3	Moon 2.16° SSW of Spica; 86° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -9.9 and 1.0
1242.962	Jul	21	Tue	11:05	First quarter Moon
1243.152	Jul	21	Tue	16	Mercury at southernmost latitude from the ecliptic plane, -7.0°
1244.300	Jul	22	Wed	19	Sun enters the astrological sign Leo, i.e. its longitude is 120°
1245.216	Jul	23	Thu	17	Mercury stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion
1245.455	Jul	23	Thu	23	Mercury stationary in longitude; resumes direct motion
1246.417	Jul	24	Fri	22	Moon 0.59° SE of Antares; 128° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -11.2 and 1.0
1246.503	Jul	25	SAT	0	Mars at ascending node through the ecliptic plane
1247.191	Jul	25	SAT	17	Moon at apogee; distance 63.59 Earth-radii
1247.677	Jul	26	SUN	4	The equation of time is at a minimum of -6.56 minutes
1247.989	Jul	26	SUN	12	Asteroid 3 Juno at opposition in longitude; magnitude 9.2
1248.261	Jul	26	SUN	18	Saturn stationary in longitude; starts retrograde motion
1248.386	Jul	26	SUN	21	Pluto at opposition in longitude; magnitude 14.4; declination -23.3°
1249.399	Jul	27	Mon	22	Saturn stationary in right ascension; starts retrograde motion
1251.017	Jul	29	Wed	12	Jupiter at conjunction with the Sun; 6.301 AU from Earth; latitude 0.56°
1251.108	Jul	29	Wed	14:36	Full Moon
1252.667	Jul	31	Fri	4	Southern Delta Aquarid meteors; ZHR 25; 2 days after Full Moon
1252.996	Jul	31	Fri	11:54	Moon at ascending node; longitude 329.8°
1253.278	Jul	31	Fri	19	Venus at descending node through the ecliptic plane



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!

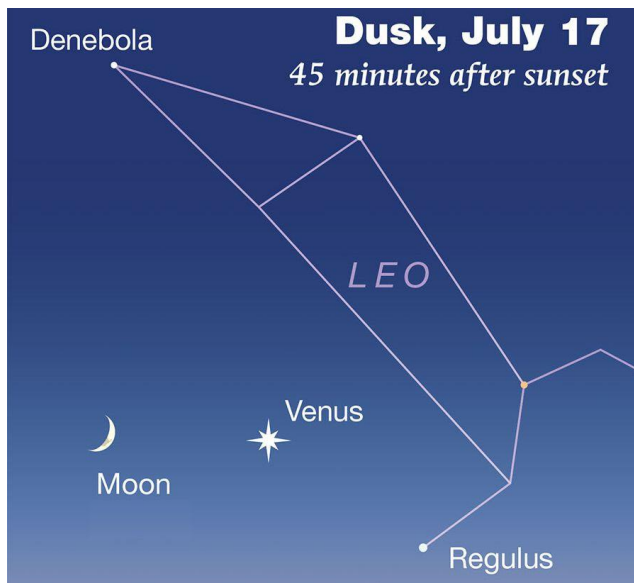
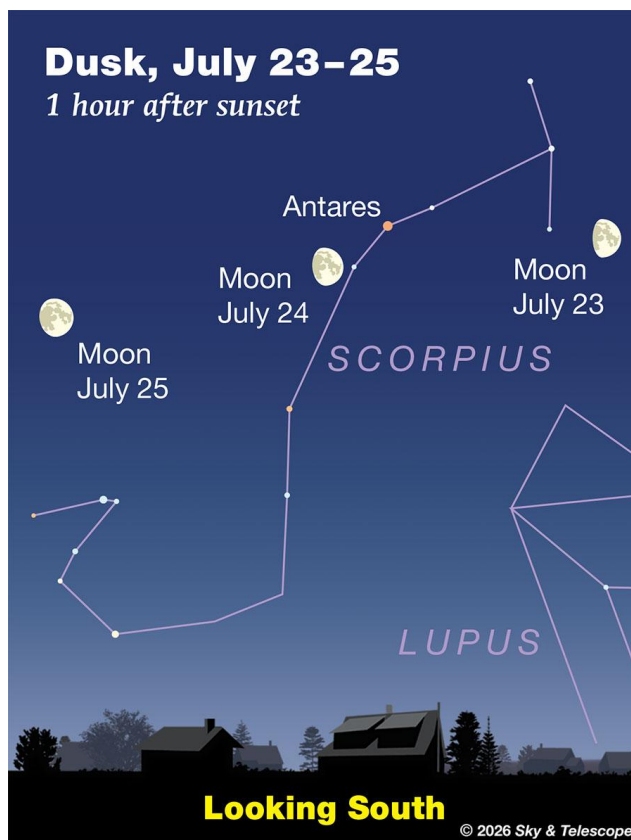
Website: <https://chiricahuaskyvillage.com>

Email: chiricahuaskyvillage@gmail.com





SAC Sky





2026 SAC Officers and Contacts

Board Members

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

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: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

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

2013-2026 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



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