Saguaro Skies

Saguaro Astronomy Club, Phoenix, AZ
Volume 50, Issue 3
March 2026

The President's Corner

ARE YOU READY TO RUMBLE!!! Rumble up North Hovatter Road to the *Spring Observing Party and Messier Marathon*? The road is rough, but passable for sedans, so it will be a rumble, but worth the effort.

This year's event will be similar to those past, with a Saturday evening meal of Steve Rottas' famous smoked pulled pork sandwiches, and sides, for those attendees who want to support funding the event. The cost will be nominal, relative to eating out somewhere, and relieve you from needing to bring your own food for dinner that evening.

What other activities will be, have not been determined at this time, but will be discussed and planned for in the March meeting. Do we want a raffle, or a silent auction? What about a swap meet earlier in the afternoon for those with items to sell or swap? What about a bounce house? OK, not a bounce house. But you can suggest activities at the meeting, or volunteer to assist with those that will occur.

Whatever we do, the weekend will hopefully be clear skies and a great time for observing! Of course, port-a-lets and a hand wash station will be there for your creature comfort. They should be set at the site Wednesday or Thursday so come out early if you want to get in more nights of viewing. I plan to get there early. And, as SAC tradition has it, we will have the event no matter the weather forecast. We've been fooled before.

And now, by popular demand, this month's limerick lament:

This spring event will make precedent.
Without, so far, a vice president.
The planning will continue
To host the same venue,
But what will occur once it's imminent?
Or,
My efforts to find a vice president,
Should now demonstrate what is evident.
Our Board will be small,
But that's fine with ya'all.
So speakers we'll find not so imminent.

And now for some sad news. For those of us who frequent *Starizona* in Tucson, and maybe have not received the email, Donna Koenig, wife of Dean, and fixture at the store, has passed away. I have sent condolences to Dean and the *Starizona* family on the club's behalf but encourage those of you who are patrons of *Starizona* to forward your condolences too. You can easily find information regarding Donna by Googling her name.

Sorry to end on the sad note, but that is the way it is. See you at the March meeting, or at the *Spring Star Party*, or, sometime. 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:
SAC meets **Friday, March 6th, @ 7:00 pm.**
Guest speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

Inside this issue:

* Scorpius setting in the southwest.

Editor Notes

Hi Folks,

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

Bits & Pisces has a report on the Feb. 6 SAC general meeting .

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

Amateur Telescope Makers Mtg.

Tuesday, Mar. 3, 6:30 pm
Paul Lind's Shop, 210 W. Tierrra Buena Ln.
Phoenix, AZ 85023; cell: 602-350-6190

March Spring Observing Party and Messier Marathon

@ Hovatter North, Mar. 20 & 21

Grand Canyon Star Party

June 6 – 13, (North Rim portion cancelled, *DRAGON BRAVO FIRE*.)

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

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Astronomy Equipment For Sale

I am closing my BrewSky Observatory in Casa Grande, AZ. All the equipment needs to be sold, so I am offering very competitive prices. Go to the link below for a complete list of items being sold. If you need something small, maybe I have that too...

1 Takahashi FSQ106 $1500

brewsky.space/BigSale/ForSale.html

Questions? Contact Robert Brewington at *eridanibrew@gmail.com*

3 Paramount MX $5000

2 SBig STF8300M $1500

7 Celestron Edge 11" HD $1200

5 Optec TCF-S Focuser $300

6 QSI686-wsq $1400

4 Light Panel $50

8 ExploraDome 8' Automated Dome $1500

Continued next page...

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:

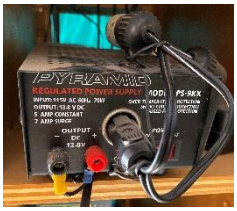
Optec Focuser *Price $300 (original cost $1200)*

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)*

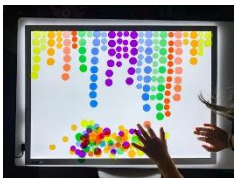
My dome is perhaps 60 feet from the router in the house. This is too far to get router WiFi reception. Instead of running a cable from the house, this bridge receives the router WiFi, amplifies it, and provides 4 ethernet ports to the systems in the dome.

Astronomy Equipment Big Sale (continued)

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

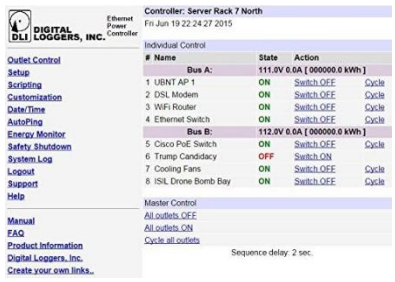
This is my fifth attempt at building a Light Panel to automate taking calibration bias and per-filter flat images. This one actually works pretty well. It is built around a 2 foot by 2 foot industrial LED lighting panel intended for ceilings of office buildings (like fluorescent light fixtures). The 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)

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

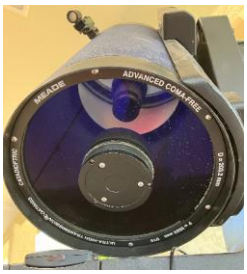
- ACF (Advance Coma Free) optics with UHTC coatings (Ultra High Transmission Coatings)
- LightSwitch Technology: Once the scope is turned on, it permits the scope to automatically level itself and find north (Meade calls this Level/North Technology), then with the use of its internal ECLIPSE CCD camera 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

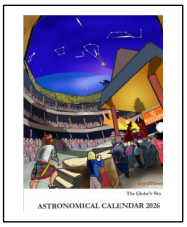
SAC General Meeting, Feb. 6, Meeting Minutes

Report by SAC Secretary, Michael Poppre

- Meeting opened at 7:06 pm by President Tom Curry.
- 15 attendees including one visitor.
- Jack Jones gave the Treasurers report. The club has a total balance of $4,434.80.
- Tom announced that Steve Dodder, long time SAC member and Novice Group director decided to step down from that role for personal reasons. Tom thanked Steve on behalf for the club for his years of service to the Novice group. Thank you, Steve!
- Tom also announced this year's Fountain Hills Dark Sky festival will be March 28 and they are looking for 'scope hosts. Information can be found at the festival website: https://fhdarksky.com/events/festival/
- The International Science and Engineering Fair will be held in Phoenix May 9 to 15. They are looking for judges. Interested parties can contact Tom through this website at the President's address: mailto:president@saguaroastro.org
- The Messier Marathon is planned for March 20/21 at the North Hovatter Road site. Plans this year's include a dinner, raffle, swap meeting and (maybe) T shirts.
- Paul Lind gave an update about the ATM project to grind and finish a 14" mirror. Austin and Joe showed up to help with this, eat cookies and general chin wagging.
- Steve Rottas had hoped to give an update on the Grand Canyon Star Party but there was a mix-up with sending him the Zoom meeting information, so he had nothing to report on that topic. Stay tuned.
- Several members of the group reported finding a possible new dark sky site west of Phoenix 8 to 10 miles northwest of the current Hovatter site. This is BLM land also. (Since this meeting, several members did visit this new site in the evening/night and reported that it looks promising.) The coordinates are 33.69580, -113.44819
- The final event of the evening was a video off You Tube featuring a lecture (or series of lectures) on the speed of light and its relationship to space-time. Interestingly, this was an AI generated video featuring the words of physicist Richard Feynman. Discussion followed not only on the topic of the video but the pros and cons of such AI derived content.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

SAC Observing

Astronomical Calendar 2026



2026 MARCH

1101.152	Mar	1	SUN	16	Mercury at northernmost latitude from the ecliptic plane, 7.0°
1102.063	Mar	2	Mon	14	Moon 0.45° ENE of Regulus; 169° and 168° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -12.5 and 1.4
1102.692	Mar	3	Tue	4:37	Moon at descending node; longitude 159.0°
1102.985	Mar	3	Tue	11:38	Full Moon; total eclipse of the Moon
1106.208	Mar	6	Fri	17	Moon 1.71° SSW of Spica; 142° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.7 and 1.0
1106.956	Mar	7	SAT	11	Mercury at inferior conjunction with the Sun; 0.627 AU from Earth; latitude 6.18°
1107.000	Mar	7	SAT	12	Venus 0.07° N of Neptune; 14° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -3.9 and 8.0
1107.125	Mar	7	SAT	15	Venus, Saturn, and Neptune within circle of diameter 1.48°; about 15° from the Sun in the evening sky; magnitudes -4, 1, 8
1107.5	Mar	8	SUN		Clocks forward 1 hour (America)
1108.063	Mar	8	SUN	14	Venus 0.91° NNW of Saturn; 15° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -3.9 and 1.0
1110.021	Mar	10	Tue	13	Moon 0.73° S of Antares; 100° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.4 and 1.0
1110.072	Mar	10	Tue	14	Moon at apogee; distance 63.40 Earth-radii
1110.594	Mar	11	Wed	2	Jupiter stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion
1110.625	Mar	11	Wed	3	Jupiter stationary in longitude; resumes direct motion
1110.903	Mar	11	Wed	9:40	Last quarter Moon
1111.375	Mar	11	Wed	21	Moon at southernmost declination in year, -28.41°
1111.756	Mar	12	Thu	6	Sun enters Pisces, at longitude 351.67° on the ecliptic
1113.016	Mar	13	Fri	12	Jupiter at northernmost declination, 22.94°
1115.313	Mar	15	SUN	20	Mercury 3.4° NNW of Mars; 16° and 15° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 2.2 and 1.2
1116.5	Mar	17	Tue	0:00	Day and night equal, at latitude 40° north
1116.5	Mar	17	Tue		St. Patrick's Day
1117.100	Mar	17	Tue	14	Moon, Mercury, and Mars within circle of diameter 4.01°; about 17° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -6, 2, 1
1117.142	Mar	17	Tue	15:24	Moon at ascending node; longitude 339.0°
1117.188	Mar	17	Tue	17	Moon 1.81° SE of Mercury; 17° and 18° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.8 and 1.7
1117.375	Mar	17	Tue	21	Moon 1.37° NNW of Mars; 15° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.5 and 1.2
1118.559	Mar	19	Thu	1:25	New Moon; beginning of lunation 1277
1118.792	Mar	19	Thu	7	Moon 3.3° NNW of Neptune; 4° and 3° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.3 and 8.0
1118.900	Mar	19	Thu	10	Moon, Saturn, and Neptune within circle of diameter 4.36°; only about 5° from the Sun; magnitudes -4, 1, 8
1118.958	Mar	19	Thu	11	Moon 4.4° NNW of Saturn; 6° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.6 and 0.9

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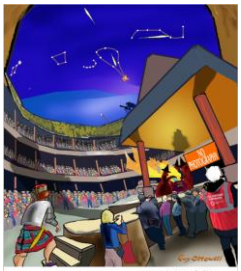
SAC Observing



1119.321	Mar	19	Thu	20	Mercury stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion
1119.898	Mar	20	Fri	10	Moon 4.1° NNW of Venus; 18° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -5.8 and -3.9
1120.115	Mar	20	Fri	14:45	Sun enters the astrological sign Aries, i.e. its longitude is 0°
1120.115	Mar	20	Fri	14:45	March or vernal (northern spring) equinox
1120.312	Mar	20	Fri	19	Mercury stationary in longitude; resumes direct motion
1121.973	Mar	22	SUN	11	Neptune at conjunction with the Sun; 30.879 AU from Earth; latitude -1.35°
1121.989	Mar	22	SUN	11:43	Moon at perigee; distance 57.52 Earth-radii
1122.742	Mar	23	Mon	6	Moon, Uranus, and the Pleiades within circle of diameter 5.32°; about 57° from the Sun in the evening sky; magnitudes -9, 6, 3
1122.750	Mar	23	Mon	6	Moon 5.3° N of Uranus; 56° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.7 and 5.8
1122.896	Mar	23	Mon	10	Moon 1.18° N of Pleiades; 58° from Sun in evening sky
1124.553	Mar	25	Wed	1	Mercury at descending node through the ecliptic plane
1124.874	Mar	25	Wed	9	Saturn at conjunction with the Sun; 10.489 AU from Earth; latitude -2.35°
1125.146	Mar	25	Wed	16	Moon 3.9° N of M35 cluster; 88° and 87° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.1 and 5.3
1125.304	Mar	25	Wed	19:18	First quarter Moon
1125.801	Mar	26	Thu	7	Mars at perihelion; 1.3813 AU from the Sun
1126.083	Mar	26	Thu	14	Moon 3.8° NNE of Jupiter; 100° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.5 and -2.3
1126.353	Mar	26	Thu	20	Saturn crosses equator northward
1126.396	Mar	26	Thu	22	Moon 6.2° SSW of Castor; 104° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.7 and 1.5
1126.625	Mar	27	Fri	3	Moon 2.98° S of Pollux; 107° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -10.8 and 1.2
1127.688	Mar	28	SAT	5	Moon 1.44° NNE of Beehive Cluster; 121° and 120° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -11.2 and 3.7
1128.5	Mar	29	SUN		Clocks forward 1 hour (Britain)
1128.5	Mar	29	SUN		Palm Sunday
1129.354	Mar	29	SUN	21	Moon 0.43° ENE of Regulus; 141° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -11.7 and 1.4
1129.984	Mar	30	Mon	11:37	Moon at descending node; longitude 158.8°

SAC Sky

https://skyandtelescope.org/observing

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

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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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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

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