



**Saguaro Astronomy
Club, Phoenix, AZ
Volume 50, Issue 10**

The President's Corner

The time has come to nominate,
Not the time to procrastinate!
Help us here,
Don't let the fear
Of working for the club dominate.

I'm entertaining as you can see,
Do you want to keep listening to me?
Do all a good deed,
Fulfill the club's need,
As the military says, "Be all you can be!"

To be VP is an honor for sure.
You can find our next speaker, du jour!
Your selection will be unique,
And our interest they should peak,
When you help the club endure.

October is the month for nomination,
Not my time for domination.
You can be VP or P,
By P I mean "me."
End this quest and our frustration.

When November comes time for a vote,
I hope from you we can quote:
I accept the position,
Without fear of rendition,
Remember, we're all in the same boat.

OK, no more on the VP.
There's actually some fun to be.
Our holiday party,
We feel will be hearty,
With cheer and food, you will see.

Then next year there must be plans.
The astronomy community demands,
For a *Spring Star Party* to be fun,
We'll hit the ground on the run.
And make it a great time for the club's fans.

One last limerick to annoy,
My wit I'd hoped to employ.
Getting members involved,
And some issues resolved.
November will be one to enjoy.

Enough of that. We either get some new board members in November, or we do not. If not, then who knows. It's up to you all.

On another note, if you managed to make it to the *All AZ Star Party*, although it got cancelled by EVAC on Thursday, some of us were out early and got a couple nights of OK viewing at the Hovatter Rd site. Days were brutal sitting in the hot shade waiting for sunset. I didn't find out until I got home that I should have slathered on the sunscreen (which I had in my vehicle), and I had really gotten a sunburn from the UV rays bouncing off the ground into our faces while we sat in the shade.

Friday night more people showed up, and at one point there might have been as many as 14 people there, still a good turnout for a cancelled event. Clouds rolled in and out Friday night so viewing was interrupted off and on. Then around midnight, someone noticed that there had been a launch at Vandenberg and we had a couple minutes of watching the faint rocket travel across the southwestern sky. That was pretty neat.

Saturday morning, most were gone well before coffee time, but Steve Rottas and I stayed until it began to rain around 1 p.m. Despite the miserable temperatures, I think most of us still had fun. Now we need to plan for the *Spring Star Party*. Think about it, and volunteer when we ask to assist in making it happen.

Speaking of making it happen, let's start talking about our December holiday party. Anyone interested? We have two months to finalize plans if we want one.

That's it from here. See you at the meeting. Clear skies.

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The Astronomical Calendar,
©2025 By Guy Ottewill

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With *PayPal* Link (Via the SAC
website)

Quick Calendar

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

SAC General Meeting, October 23rd, 7:00 pm
Note: 2027 SAC Officer Nominations



Photo: Susan Trask



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, check them out.

Bits & Pieces has the September 25 SAC general meeting minutes.

SAC Imaging has images of the August Partial Lunar Eclipse.

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



g



< 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.

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



President: Tom Curry >

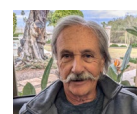
Vice President: (Open Position) >



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.



Bits and Pisces

SAC General Meeting, Meeting Minutes

Report by: SAC member, Rosemary Shay

- Sept. 25, 2026, Start 7:03pm, Number in attendance 18. One guest, Kathy Barrow, Auston's Mom.
- Financial Report: \$5089.22 with \$18.81 in PayPal* Don't get excited, a lot of bills are coming due.
- Updates from SAC President, Tom Curry:
- Star Parties and other clubs:
- Oct. 9 & 10 – All Arizona Star Party; Oct. 24 - Huachuca Astronomy Club Sale, members said there were some great deals in the past, contact Tom for more information and Nov. 7th, West Vally Astronomy Club - Alamo Lake Star Party, ctrl + click here for info: <https://wvac.net/mc-events/lake-alamo-state-park-night-under-the-stars/>
- Outreach: Nov. 14 at Arcosanti - *Satyr Entertainment* Looking to hire telescopes for a wedding; Open at *Greater Phoenix Mensa* Looking for speakers for age groups 5-18 years old, Email from NC if anyone knows Warren Kutok? (some people knew him)
- Club Business: Elections are coming!!! We need a Vice President !!! Also other positions will need filling; *Messier Marathon/Spring Observing Party*, looking to put together a committee, volunteers please! What to do with donated equipment, Two 8" Dobsonians, Orion eyepieces, 10" Meade, etc Discussion, but no decisions.
- Member Speakers: ATM did not meet; Terry Shay: Partial Lunar Eclipse Aug. 28, Astrophotography, taken with a Pentax K1 DSLR- Eclipse with landscape shot. Did not work, lunar and landscape exposures were too far apart.
- *Continued next page...*



Bits and Pisces

SAC General Meeting, Meeting Minutes, continued

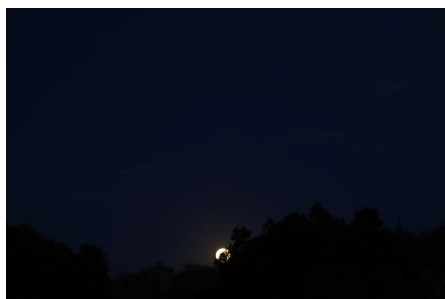
- Terry Shay – Partial Lunar Eclipse sequence shot taken at every 10-minute intervals- nice - Eclipse pictures showing different color balancing options; Rocket Lunch from Vandenberg SFB, CA Video, Sept. 19 taken with iPhone; Spring or Fall Equinoxes, a few minutes after sunset are good times to get Vandenberg rocket launch videos in Phoenix. Website has global rocket launch information; Darksites.com has Demo dark sky map - shows light pollution viewing the horizons not just the zenith - All kinds of great stuff, search darksites on youtube for a how to video - <https://darksites.com/> & Steve Rottas - *Grand Canyon Star Train Party* canceled because of water pipeline damage, hoping to reschedule possible in the spring.
- Guest Speaker - Ken Zoll, His primary focus is prehistoric astronomy. His talk, “The Rise and Fall of Route 66 Meteorite Museum” - History of Route 66 in the Southwest covering US Army Camel Corps. How it went by Meteor Crater before it was rerouted to I-40 - Meteor Crater History: First thought crater was just caused by steam vents, later proved by Gene Shoemaker the crater was formed by a meteorite. Bought by Daniel Barringer in hope to mine iron ore thinking there must be a huge iron meteor buried there. Several museums were started but none survived because of financial issues - Harvey Nininger enters the history as the US’s premier meteoriticist. Studies Meteor Crater for 18 years and gathering many, many meteorites from all over the world. Part of his collection was eventually sold to the British Museum and the remainder to ASU. Ken is a wonderful storyteller, has published many books, and his current project is the *International Dark Sky Discovery Center* in Fountain Hills, AZ due to open in early 2027.



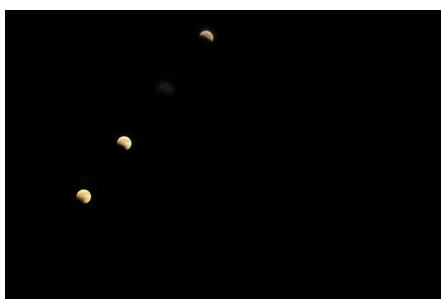
SAC Imaging

Partial Lunar Eclipse on August 28, 2026

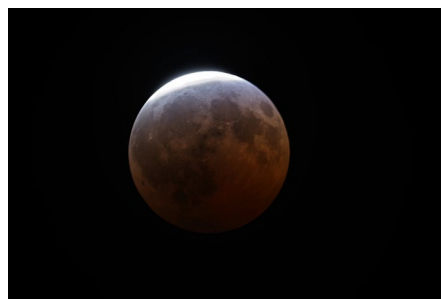
SAC Member, Terry Shay, Taken with a Pentax K1 DSLR



135 mm lens



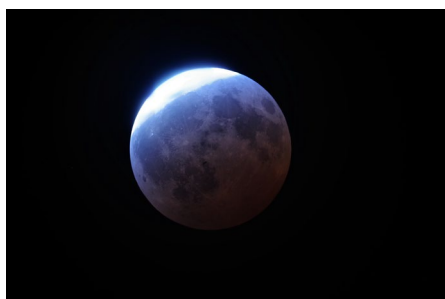
135 mm lens



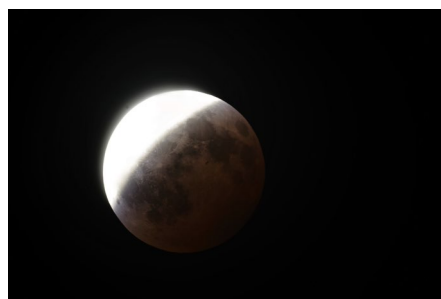
90 mm Maksutov



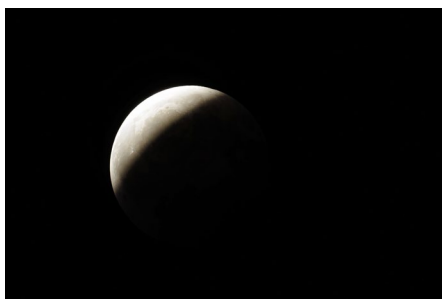
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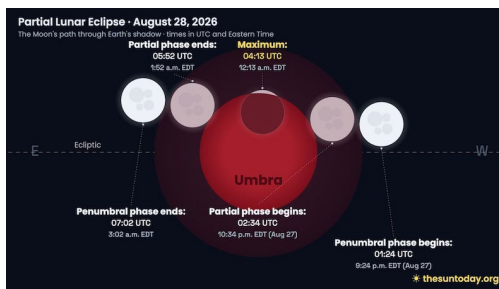
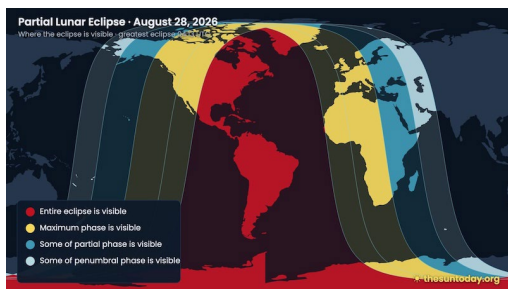
90 mm Maksutov



90 mm Maksutov



← 90 mm Maksutov



**SAC Observing**

2026 OCTOBER

1314.646 Oct 1 Thu 4 Moon 5.3° N of Uranus; 122° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.2 and 5.6

1315.366 Oct 1 Thu 20:47 Moon at perigee; distance 57.91 Earth-radii

1316.068 Oct 2 Fri 14 Venus stationary in right ascension; starts retrograde motion

1316.521 Oct 3 SAT 1 Moon 3.4° N of M35 cluster; 97° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.5 and 5.3

1316.800 Oct 3 SAT 7 Venus stationary in longitude; starts retrograde motion

1317.059 Oct 3 SAT 13:25 Last quarter Moon

1317.771 Oct 4 SUN 7 Moon 6.9° SSW of Castor; 81° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -9.8 and 1.5

1318.000 Oct 4 SUN 12 Moon 3.7° S of Pollux; 78° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -9.7 and 1.2

1318.013 Oct 4 SUN 12 Saturn at opposition in longitude; magnitude 0.3; declination 2.0°

1318.771 Oct 5 Mon 7 Moon 1.10° NNE of Mars; 68° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -9.2 and 1.1

1319.000 Oct 5 Mon 12 Moon, Mars, and Beehive within circle of diameter 3.42°; about 66° from the Sun in the morning sky; magnitudes -9, 1, 4

1319.021 Oct 5 Mon 13 Moon 0.61° NNE of Beehive Cluster center; 64° and 65° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -9.1 and 3.7

1319.898 Oct 6 Tue 10 Asteroid 2 Pallas at opposition in longitude; magnitude 8.2

1319.958 Oct 6 Tue 11 Moon 0.36° E of Jupiter; 52° and 53° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -8.4 and -1.9

1320.233 Oct 6 Tue 18 Venus at southernmost declination, -21.30°

1320.555 Oct 7 Wed 1:19 Moon at descending node; longitude 149.1°

1320.646 Oct 7 Wed 4 Moon 0.60° S of Regulus; 44° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -7.8 and 1.4

1320.688 Oct 7 Wed 5 Mercury 5.0° NNE of Venus; 25° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -0.0 and -4.5

1322.167 Oct 8 Thu 16 Draconid meteors; ZHR 5; 2 days before New Moon

1323.468 Oct 9 Fri 23 Pluto at southernmost declination, -23.64°

1324.159 Oct 10 SAT 15:49 New Moon; beginning of lunation 1284

1324.708 Oct 11 SUN 5 Moon 2.18° SSW of Spica; 8° and 7° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.7 and 1.0

1325.042 Oct 11 SUN 13 Mars 0.10° S of Beehive Cluster center; 71° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 1.1 and 3.7

1325.708 Oct 12 Mon 5 Moon 2.84° NNE of Venus; 19° and 20° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -5.8 and -4.3

1325.911 Oct 12 Mon 10 Mercury at easternmost elongation; 25.2° from Sun in evening sky; magnitude -0.0

1326.189 Oct 12 Mon 17 Asteroid 4 Vesta at opposition in longitude; magnitude 6.3

1326.313 Oct 12 Mon 20 Moon 2.05° S of Mercury; 26° and 25° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -6.4 and 0.0

1328.396 Oct 14 Wed 22 Moon 0.47° SE of Antares; 49° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -8.0 and 1.0

**SAC Observing**

1329.146 Oct 15 Thu 15 Pluto stationary in longitude; resumes direct motion
1329.419 Oct 15 Thu 22 Pluto stationary in right ascension; resumes direct motion
1330.454 Oct 16 Fri 23 Moon at apogee; distance 63.44 Earth-radii
1331.121 Oct 17 SAT 15 Mercury at southernmost latitude from the ecliptic plane, -7.0°

1332.175 Oct 18 SUN 16:12 First quarter Moon
1334.871 Oct 21 Wed 8:54 Moon at ascending node; longitude 328.1°
1334.875 Oct 21 Wed 9 Orionid meteors; ZHR 20; 3 days after First Quarter Moon
1336.902 Oct 23 Fri 10 Sun enters the astrological sign Scorpius, i.e. its longitude is 210°
1337.5 Oct 24 SAT 0 Moon 4.3° NNW of Neptune; 152° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -12.0 and 7.8
1337.651 Oct 24 SAT 4 Venus at inferior conjunction with the Sun; 0.273 AU from Earth; latitude -2.45°
1337.797 Oct 24 SAT 7 Mercury stationary in longitude; starts retrograde motion
1337.989 Oct 24 SAT 12 Mercury stationary in right ascension; starts retrograde motion
1338.042 Oct 24 SAT 13 Moon 6.1° NNW of Saturn; 158° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -12.2 and 0.4
1338.5 Oct 25 SUN Clocks back 1 hour (Britain)

1339.675 Oct 26 Mon 4:12 Full Moon
1341.583 Oct 28 Wed 2 Moon 1.00° N of Pleiades; 154° from Sun in morning sky
1341.896 Oct 28 Wed 10 Moon 5.2° N of Uranus; 149° and 150° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -12.0 and 5.6
1342.257 Oct 28 Wed 18:11 Moon at perigee; distance 57.13 Earth-radii
1343.792 Oct 30 Fri 7 Moon 3.2° NNE of M35 cluster; 124° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -11.3 and 5.3

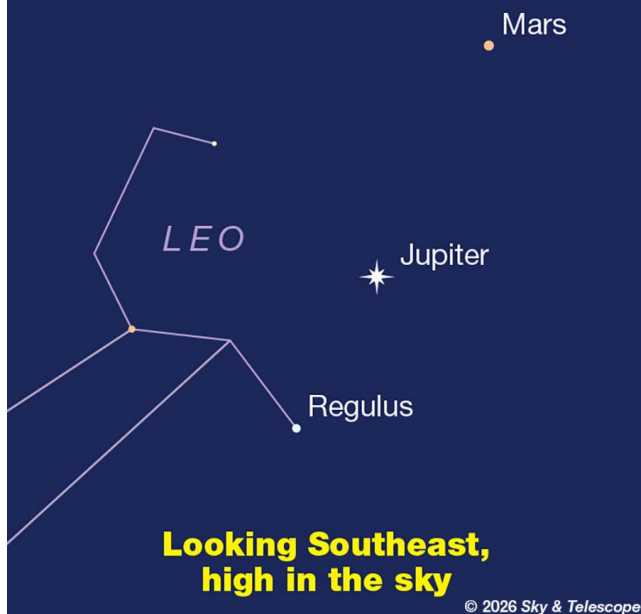
1344.5 Oct 31 SAT Halloween
1344.823 Oct 31 SAT 8 Sun enters Libra, at longitude 217.90° on the ecliptic
1345.000 Oct 31 SAT 12 Moon 7.1° SSW of Castor; 108° and 107° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.8 and 1.5
1345.229 Oct 31 SAT 18 Moon 3.9° S of Pollux; 105° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.7 and 1.2



SAC Sky

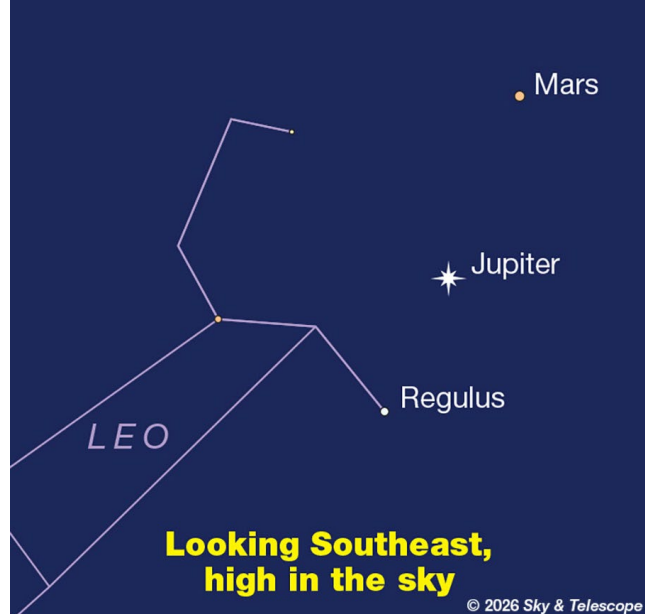
Dawn, Oct 17

1 hour before sunrise



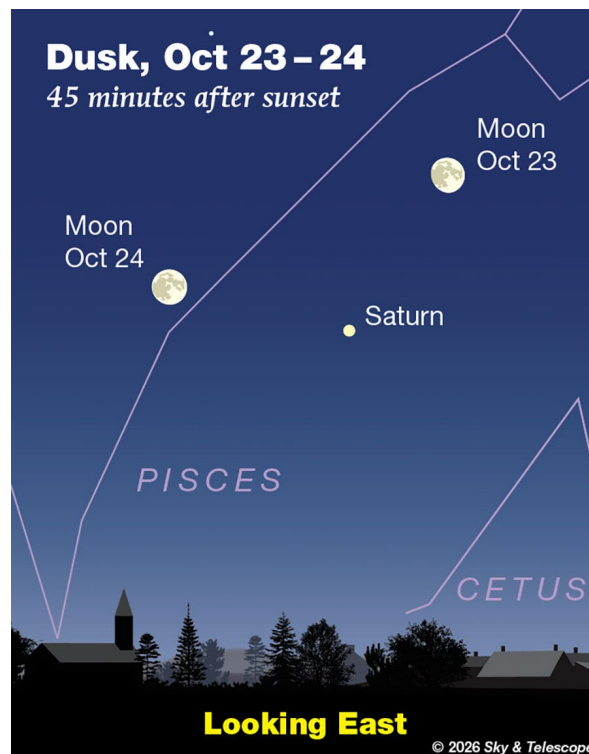
Dawn, Oct 24

1 hour before sunrise



Dusk, Oct 23 – 24

45 minutes after sunset





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



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, Rosemary & Terry Shay, 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

