

Saguaro Skies



Saguaro Astronomy
Club, Phoenix, AZ
Volume 50, Issue 9

The President's Corner

September is here, thank the Lord.
Two months have gone by, were you bored?
Clouds upon clouds,
And temp's were not mild.
Though without a limerick you endured.

It's starting quite badly you say.
Some Canyon water line washed away.
The Park has been hit,
With all kinds of ... stuff,
Our hope's that it's better one day.

But back to the matter at hand,
Our lack of a VP can't stand.
Elections are near,
Next year I do fear,
Will be one where meetings are bland.

Dig deep and help lead YOUR club.
You can do this, I know you can, Bub.
But without a VP,
You'll be listening to me,
Go on and on, that's the rub!

On another subject, let's talk.
Donated gear we can hawk.
We have quite a bit,
Of gear that will sit,
Until we agree what's not schlock!

Our end of the year party is in December.
An invitation is here for each member.
How about you attend?
It makes for a great end.
2026 will be a year to remember!

You thought I was done asking you,
To step up as VP, ain't it true?

Quick Calendar

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

SAC General Meeting, September 25th, 7:00 pm

You'll not get off easy,
I'm prepared to be cheesy.
Next month, volunteer, ... can do?

Yes, we're back for the start of Fall, and I am so looking forward for some drop in night temperatures in the desert, but more so for a decrease in clouds which don't even allow us to go up north for a respite.

We were looking forward for a new experience, the Star Train. Steve Rottas will have a disappointing update on that. Flooding in the Canyon is not new, but this last one was a humdinger! Where it leaves the S Rim facilities, employees, and extracurricular activities, well, we will just need to wait and see.

I alluded to some donated telescopes and assorted gear. There is a nice assortment of beginner equipment. What do we want to do with it? Farm it out to schools? Sell it to members at rock bottom prices (most did not sell when listed in the newsletter,) or save it for raffle/silent auction at our Spring Star Party? (IF for star party auction/raffle, someone will need to transport the mass I have, I do not have room in my vehicle. Think about it and let's talk it over in the meeting.

With Fall comes time to think about election of next year's board members. We seriously need a VP, and I would not mind someone taking over the Presidency. Think about it. Nominations in October, elections in November.

December there is no meeting, but we do schedule our end of year celebration get together. How about you all coming?

And, as always, please send our newsletter editor articles about what you have been up to, and items to our Facebook manager for posting. For those of you who don't mind public speaking, we'd also like to have more member presentations at our meetings.

Until then, clear skies, Tom Curry



Photo: Susan Trask



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

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The Astronomical Calendar 2026
The Astronomical Calendar,
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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



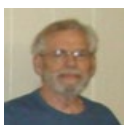
Hi Folks,

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

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

Enjoy,

Rick Rotramel



< 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 (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>

All Arizona Star Party

Fri. & Sat, Oct. 9 & 10, Hovatter Rd. Site

<https://www.evaonline.org/events-meetings> for information

SAC Officers



President: Tom Curry >

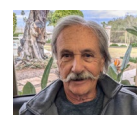
Vice President: (Open Position) >



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.



Such-A- Deal

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<mailto:rrotramel601@gmail.com>

ZWO ASI120MM Mini Monochrome Astronomy Camera/Guider

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

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



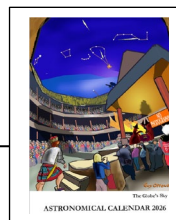


Bits and Pisces

SAC General Meeting, Meeting Minutes

Report by SAC Secretary, Michael Poppre

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

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

2026 SEPTEMBER

- 1285.058 Sep 1 Tue 13 The equation of time is 0
1285.521 Sep 2 Wed 1 Venus 1.48° SSW of Spica; 45° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -4.5 and 1.0
1287.042 Sep 3 Thu 13 Moon 1.26° N of Pleiades; 100° and 101° from Sun in morning sky
1287.417 Sep 3 Thu 22 Moon 5.4° N of Uranus; 95° and 96° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -10.4 and 5.7
- 1287.827 Sep 4 Fri 7:51 Last quarter Moon
1287.993 Sep 4 Fri 12 Venus at aphelion; 0.7282 AU from the Sun
1289.313 Sep 5 SAT 20 Moon 3.6° N of M35 cluster; 70° and 71° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -9.4 and 5.3
1290.333 Sep 6 SUN 20 Moon 2.96° NNE of Mars; 57° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -8.7 and 1.2
1290.364 Sep 6 SUN 20:44 Moon at perigee; distance 57.74 Earth-radii
1290.542 Sep 7 Mon 1 Moon 6.8° S of Castor; 54° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -8.5 and 1.5
1290.750 Sep 7 Mon 6 Moon 3.6° S of Pollux; 51° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -8.3 and 1.2
1291.771 Sep 8 Tue 7 Moon 0.77° NE of Beehive Cluster center; 38° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -7.4 and 3.7
1292.208 Sep 8 Tue 17 Moon shows minimum libration for the year, 3.48°
1292.313 Sep 8 Tue 20 Moon 0.88° NE of Jupiter; 30° and 31° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -6.9 and -1.8
1293.303 Sep 9 Wed 19:17 Moon at descending node; longitude 149.8°
1293.354 Sep 9 Wed 21 Moon 0.63° S of Regulus; 17° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes -5.7 and 1.4
1294.188 Sep 10 Thu 17 Uranus 6.9° NW of Aldebaran; 102° and 98° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 5.7 and 0.9; quasi-conjunction
1294.200 Sep 10 Thu 17 Uranus stationary in right ascension; starts retrograde motion
1294.204 Sep 10 Thu 17 Uranus stationary in longitude; starts retrograde motion
1294.344 Sep 10 Thu 20 Uranus at northernmost declination, 21.10°
- 1294.643 Sep 11 Fri 3:26 New Moon; beginning of lunation 1283
1295.5 Sep 12 SAT Rosh Hashanah, 1st day of Hebrew year 5787 A.M.
1295.688 Sep 12 SAT 5 Moon 3.4° SSW of Mercury; 13° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -5.3 and -0.6
1297.333 Sep 13 SUN 20 Moon 2.21° SSW of Spica; 33° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -7.0 and 1.0
1298.000 Sep 14 Mon 12 Moon 0.52° NE of Venus; 41° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -7.6 and -4.5

Continued next page...

***SAC Observing***

1299.365 Sep 15 Tue 21 Neptune crosses equator southward
1300.491 Sep 16 Wed 24 Mercury at descending node through the ecliptic plane
1300.625 Sep 17 Thu 3 Sun enters Virgo, at longitude 174.26° on the ecliptic
1301.063 Sep 17 Thu 14 Moon 0.65° SE of Antares; 76° and 75° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -9.4 and 1.0

1301.167 Sep 17 Thu 16 Mars 5.9° S of Pollux; 61° from Sun in morning sky; magnitudes 1.2 and 1.2

1302.363 Sep 18 Fri 20:43 First quarter Moon

1302.440 Sep 18 Fri 23 Venus shows greatest illuminated extent, 318 square seconds

1302.627 Sep 19 SAT 3 Moon at apogee; distance 63.38 Earth-radii

1306.231 Sep 22 Tue 18 Venus brightest; magnitude -4.56°

1306.505 Sep 23 Wed 0:07 Sun enters the astrological sign Libra, i.e. its longitude is 180°

1306.505 Sep 23 Wed 0:07 September (northern autumn) equinox

1307.612 Sep 24 Thu 2:41 Moon at ascending node; longitude 329.6°

1309.5 Sep 26 SAT 0:00 Day and night equal, at latitude 40° north

1309.559 Sep 26 SAT 1 Neptune at opposition in longitude; magnitude 7.8; declination -0.1°

1309.854 Sep 26 SAT 9 Mercury 0.89° NNE of Spica; 21° from Sun in evening sky; magnitudes -0.1 and 1.0

1310.130 Sep 26 SAT 15 Venus at southernmost latitude from the ecliptic plane, -3.4°

1310.146 Sep 26 SAT 16 Moon 4.3° NNW of Neptune; 177° and 178° from Sun in morning midnight sky; magnitudes -12.7 and 7.8

1310.201 Sep 26 SAT 16:49 Full Moon

1310.792 Sep 27 SUN 7 Moon 6.2° NNW of Saturn; 172° from Sun in morning midnight sky; magnitudes -12.5 and 0.3

1310.869 Sep 27 SUN 9 Mercury at aphelion; 0.4667 AU from the Sun

1313.850 Sep 30 Wed 8 Spring equinox for Mars north hemisphere

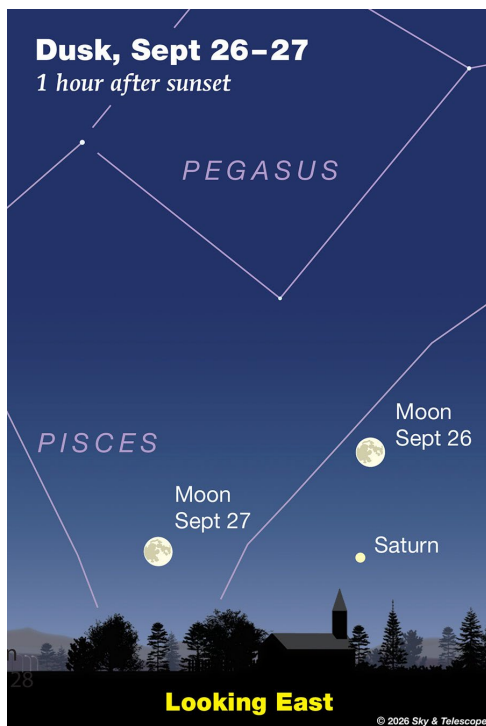
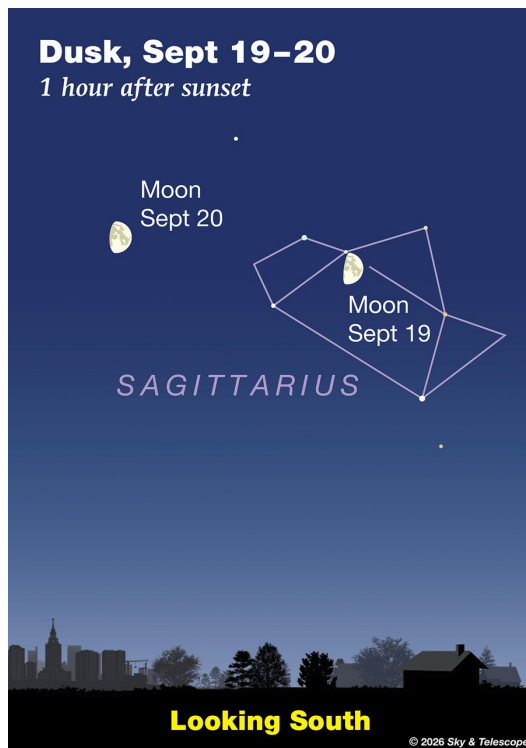
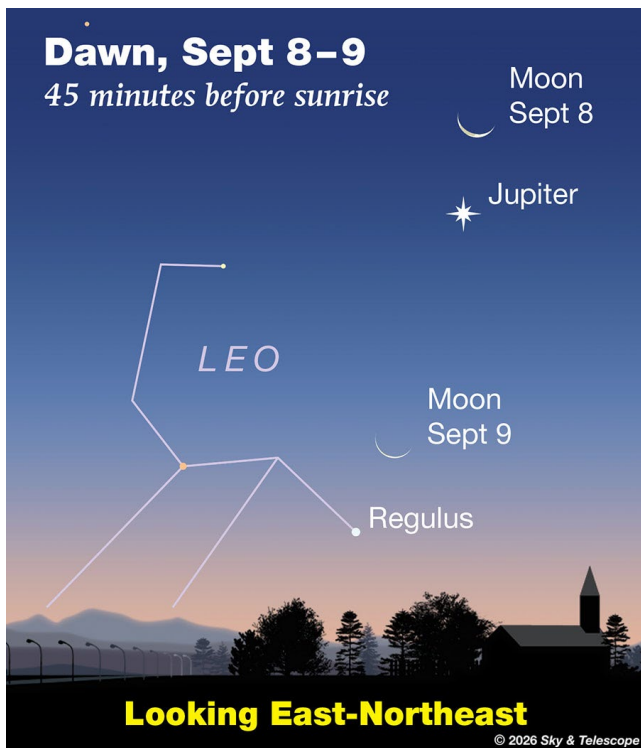
1314.271 Sep 30 Wed 19 Moon 1.14° N of Pleiades; 127° from Sun in morning sky



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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.

Saguaro Skies Staff

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

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

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.



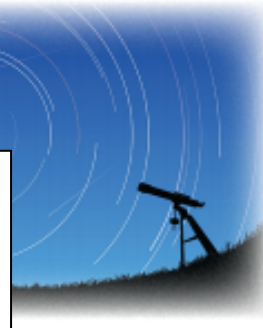
Saguaro Astronomy Club Membership Services

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

