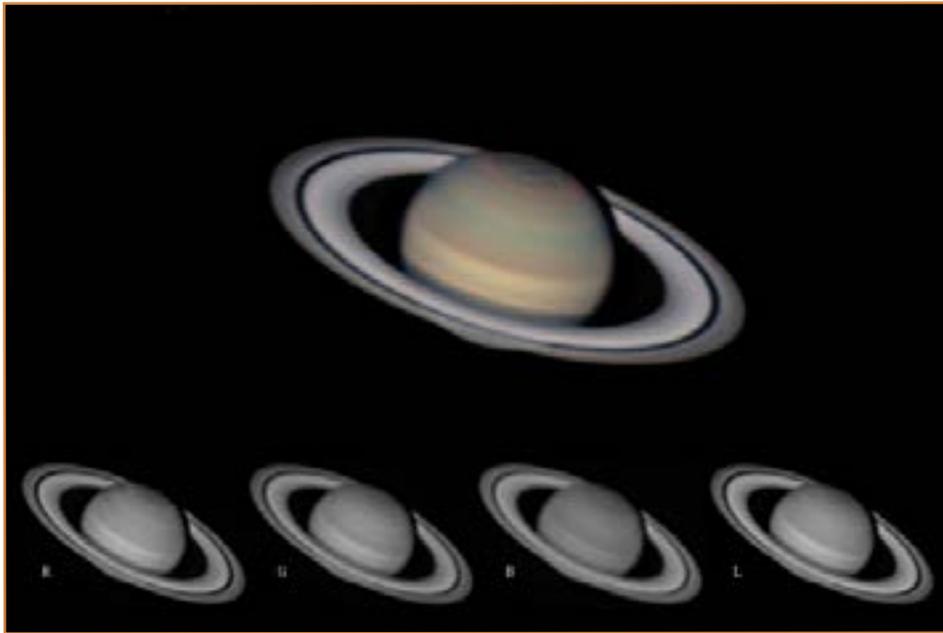




THE OBSERVER

East Valley Astronomy Club



Saturn is at opposition on May 10. Credit Efrain Morales, Aguadilla Puerto Rico on April 15

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Public Star Party - May 9*
 - Saturn at Opposition - May 10*
 - Evac Monthly Meeting - May 16*
 - Local Star Party - May 24*
 - Deep Sky Star Party - May 31*
- Check out all of the upcoming club events in the Calendars on page 12*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EVAC This Month *by Claude Haynes*

I really enjoyed Bill Dellinges' talk about his journey through 13 telescopes. I teased him later that I want to know whenever he holds a yard sale. It made me take inventory of mine. I don't have my first telescope. It was a Christmas gift from my wife; that she purchased at the Flandrau Planetarium in Tucson. It was a small refractor with a .95 eyepiece that I attached to a camera tripod. For a young couple just starting out it was a generous gift. It wasn't much of an observing device, but it was enough to find Halley's comet one Easter morning; something my

daughter still remembers. My next scope was also a Christmas present from my wife. It was a 10' dob. The skies in Tucson are darker than the Phoenix area. I found the Beehive cluster, marveled at Jupiter, and loved looking at the detail of the moon. I recall my unbridled joy when I happen on a blood red garnet star. After moving to Gilbert, I brought the base to a meeting where John Dobson autographed it. My second scope came about as a result of a cash bonus I received from building a new pricing tool in Excel at work. I went out to eBay and got a 90mm

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Evac This Month

Continued from page 1

for the Transit of Venus. I later found another eBay deal on a 10" LX 200. I loved doing the Messier Marathon with my son-in-law and the 10" dob, but if you want to move to fainter objects - star hopping is tough. I also own a pair of 10x30 image stabilized binoculars, and my most recent purchase is a 60mm Lunt solar scope. While it may not count as a telescope, I purchased an Astro Tracker to do wide angle astrophotography with my Canon camera. I have a Galileoscope for educational purposes, and a small refractor purely for derision. It is a Vivitar that I bought for \$12 at Walgreens. It has an incredibly flimsy mount, a non-adjustable finder scope, and two .95mm eyepieces. One is a 15mm and the other is a 5mm; which enables them to claim "magnifies up

to 150 times". I use this scope as my "what not to buy" at the annual "All I Want for Christmas is a Telescope" Sky Watch lecture. The box proves the point that for cheap telescopes, none of the pictures on the outside of the box were taken with the telescope in the box. The mount, eyepieces and lack of stability are used to point people toward better value. However, I was surprised at a school star party a bit later when a Jr. Hi student was using that very telescope. He had collapsed the mount and was holding it in his hand. He had removed the diagonal and was holding it up to look at the moon. The delight on his face made me realize there is no such thing as a bad telescope; only a telescope that isn't being used.

If It's Clear...

by Fulton Wright, Jr.

Prescott Astronomy Club

May 2014

If it's clear for May 2014

by Fulton Wright, Jr.

Prescott Astronomy Club

Celestial events (from Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy magazine, and anywhere else I can find information) customized for Prescott, Arizona. Remember, the Moon is 1/2 degree or 30 arc-minutes in diameter. All times are Mountain Standard Time.

This month you might be able to see the telescopic comet, C/2012 K1. See Sky & Telescope, May 2014, p. 50 and Astronomy, May 2014, p. 42 for more information.

On Monday, May 5, after about 9 PM, you can get a good look at the northern part of the Moon which is tipped toward us by libration. The viewing will also be good the day before and after.

On Tuesday, May 6, at 8:16 PM, the Moon is at first quarter phase. See if the Moon looks exactly half illuminated. It sets at 1:18 AM (Wednesday).

On Saturday, May 10, Saturn is at opposition, so it rises (7:08 PM) near sunset (7:22 PM) and is visible all night. See if the rings seem brighter for a few days around opposi-

tion, known as the Seeliger effect.

On Tuesday, May 13, after about 9 PM you can see the Moon and Saturn near each other. It is also a good time to view the terrestrial west of the Moon as libration has tipped that part of the Moon toward us.

On Wednesday, May 14, at 7:35 PM (10 minutes after sunset), the full Moon rises, spoiling any chance of seeing faint fuzzies for the night.

On the night of Tuesday, May 20, at 12:49 AM (Wednesday), the third quarter Moon rises.

On the night of Friday, May 23, there might be a new meteor shower. Predictions of the peak range from 11:30 PM to 12:40 AM (Saturday). The radiant is fairly close to Polaris. Meteor predictions are chancy. It could be a bust, but there is a small chance that it will be flashy. You better stay up and check it out. There is also a small chance that you will dress warmly enough to be comfortable lying there in your reclining lawn chair. See Sky & Telescope, May 2014, p.30 and Astronomy, May 2014, p. 37 for more than you want to know about the event.

On Wednesday, May 28, it is new Moon and you have all night to hunt for faint fuzzies.

The Backyard Astronomer

Welcome to the May Skies

by *Bill Dellinges*

Because we are not looking through the main plane of the Milky Way this time of year, there are only two really bright constellations that catch our attention – Leo the Lion and the Big Dipper. Of course the latter is an asterism consisting of the seven brightest stars of Ursa Major, the Great Bear. It's an interesting challenge to track down the rest of the Bear so that you can claim you know the full extent of the third largest constellation (after Hydra and Virgo). The Dipper is crossing the meridian and upside down now, pouring its contents onto Polaris in hopes of extinguishing this permanent, unmoving beacon. Leo is also crossing the meridian, nearly overhead. The constellation is one of few that somewhat resembles what it's supposed to be. In Greek mythology the creature was the Nemean Lion, whose tough skin was impervious to arrows. Hercules strangled it as the first of his Twelve Labors. The spring (and fall) skies, being clear of the Galactic plane ("Zone of avoidance"), give us a clear view of distant galaxies at the expense of open clusters and rich star fields. An especially interesting group of galaxies in Leo are M66/65 and NGC 3628. The "Leo Trio" is found just south of Theta Leonis in the Lion's hindquarters. An 8" telescope will reveal structure in the three galaxies, each taking on a noticeably different shape. Gamma Leonis in the Lion's chest is a beautiful double star. At 4.4" of separation, it will take 100x to split the two yellow suns.

There appear to be two large empty spaces west and

Evac Meeting Minutes

by *Marty Pieczonka*

Claude Haynes called the meeting to order at 07:30 PM on March 21. After visitor introductions, Dave Coshov gave a short report on the observatory and Lynn Young described upcoming events for April and May. The Grand Canyon Star Party will be held from Jun 21 thru June 28.

Steven Aggas gave a member presentation on "The Three Icons of Astronomy", John Dobson, Hamilton Arp and Jean Texereau who have passed away recently. John Dobson was famous for inventing the Dobsonian telescope and popularizing sidewalk astronomy. Hamil-

ton Arp was a professional astronomer famous for the controversies and catalog he created about "peculiar galaxies". Jean Texereau was a French optician who wrote the classic book on Telescope making: "How to Make a Telescope".

east of Leo. In the west, with careful examination, one can detect a nebulous glow (Tip: it's on a line from Pollux to Regulus). This is M44, the Beehive Cluster. It takes up a large chunk of space and is best seen in binoculars. The Beehive is 577 light years away and located at the center of Cancer, a small dim constellation challenging to identify even in a dark sky.

East of Leo and slightly up, lies another haze of light. This is the Coma Berenices star Cluster also known as MEL 111 (P.J. Melotte's star cluster catalog). This cluster is even bigger than M44. To see the full extent of it, you'll need a binocular with at least a 7 degree field. The cluster is huge because it's the third nearest star cluster to us (280 LY) after the Ursa Major Moving Cluster (80 LY) and the Hyades cluster in Taurus (120 LY). In antiquity this haziness represented the tuff of hair at the end of Leo's tail.

If you're a galaxy person, this is the time to go crazy. There are dozens of galaxies sprinkled throughout Leo, Virgo, Coma Berenices, Canes Venatici, and Ursa Major. A selection of showcase galaxies might include M51, M81/82, M104, NGC 2903 and NGC 4565. Don't pass up M3, a fine globular cluster in Canes Venatici and the planetary nebula NGC 3242 in Hydra. For the double star aficionado, a few gems are Cor Caroli (C. Ven.), Mizar (U. MAJ.), and Iota Cancri and Zeta Cancri.

Good hunting!

Bill Dellinges gave a presentation on "A Personal Telescope History - How I ended up with 13 Telescopes" which was a great hit.

NEW MOON ON APRIL 29 AT 2:14

FIRST QUARTER MOON ON MAY 6 AT 23:15

***FULL MOON ON MAY 14 AT 03:16**

LAST QUARTER MOON ON MAY 21 AT 08:59

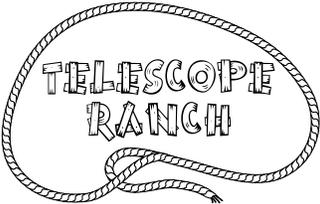
NEW MOON ON MAY 28 AT 02:40

Looking for that perfect weekend activity?

Why not resolve to getting involved?

Contact Dave Coshow to join the staff at GRCO

Email: grco@evaconline.org



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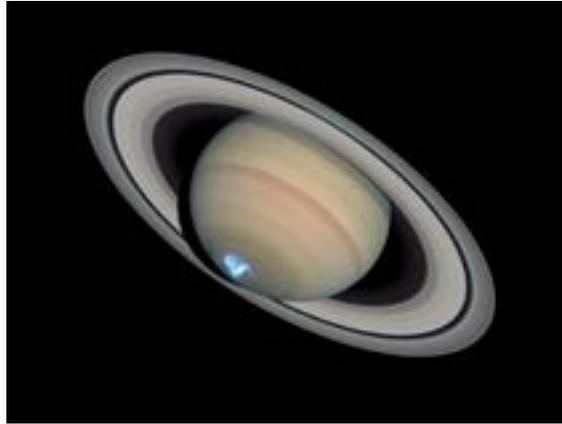


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Upcoming Meetings

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

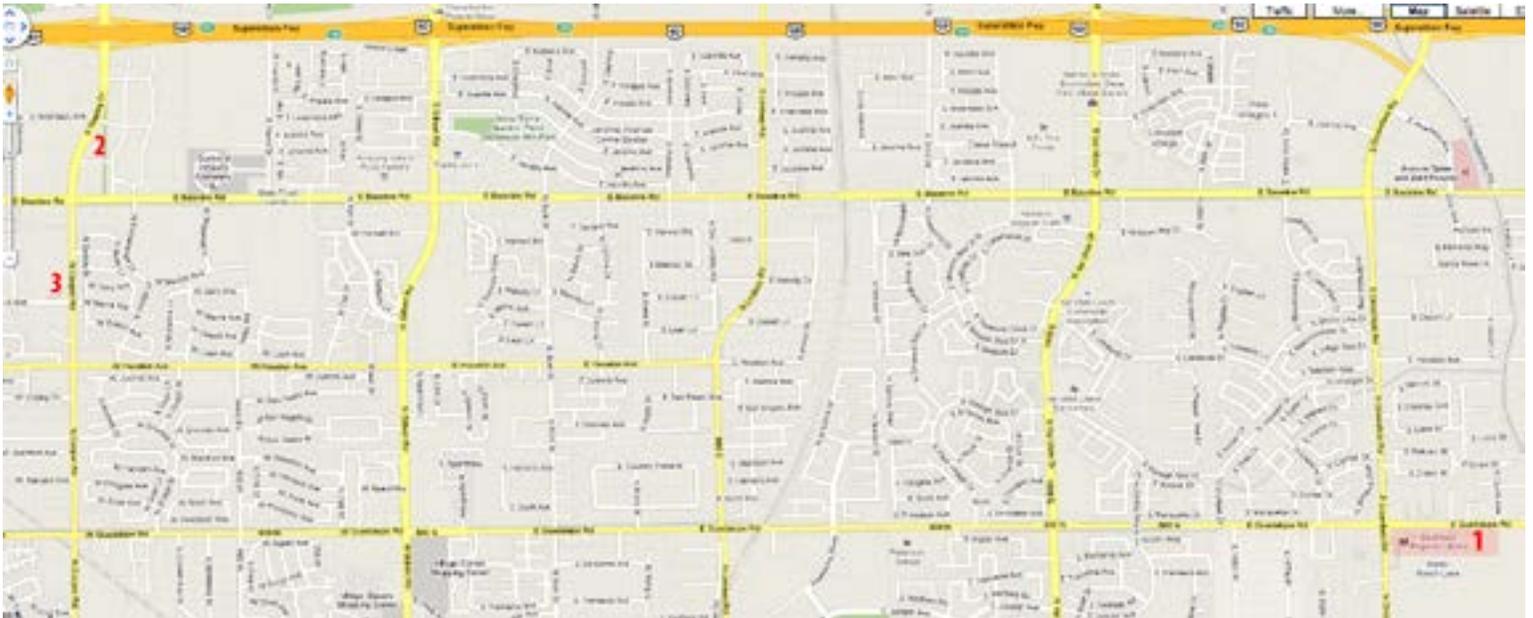
November 21

The monthly general meeting is your chance to find out what other club members are up to, learn about upcoming club events and listen to presentations by professional and well-known amateur astronomers.

Our meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at the Southeast Regional Library in Gilbert. The library is located at 775 N. Greenfield Road; on the southeast corner of Greenfield and Guadalupe Roads. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

All are welcome to attend the pre-meeting dinner at 5:30 pm. We meet at Old Country Buffet, located at 1855 S. Stapley Drive in Mesa. The restaurant is in the plaza on the northeast corner of Stapley and Baseline Roads, just south of US60.

Visitors are always welcome!



2

Old Country Buffet
1855 S. Stapley Drive
Mesa, Az. 85204

1

Southeast Regional Library
775 N. Greenfield Road
Gilbert, Az. 85234



MAY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 1 - East Valley Academy

May 9 - Riparian Public Star Party

May 16 - General Meeting at SE Library

May 24 - Local Star Party

May 31 - Deep Sky Star Party

JUNE 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 13 - Riparian Public Star Party/Skywatch

June 20 General Meeting at SE Library

June 21 - Local Star Party

June 28 - Deep Sky Star Party

East Valley Astronomy Club -- 2013 Membership Form

Please complete this form and return it to the club Treasurer at the next meeting or mail it to EVAC, PO Box 2202, Mesa, Az, 85214-2202. Please include a check or money order made payable to EVAC for the appropriate amount.

IMPORTANT: All memberships expire on December 31 of each year.

Select one of the following:

- New Member
 Renewal
 Change of Address

New Member Dues (dues are prorated, select according to the month you are joining the club):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 Individual January through March | <input type="checkbox"/> \$22.50 Individual April through June |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00 Family January through March | <input type="checkbox"/> \$26.25 Family April through June |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Individual July through September | <input type="checkbox"/> \$37.50 Individual October through December |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$17.50 Family July through September | <input type="checkbox"/> \$43.75 Family October through December |
- Includes dues for the following year*

Renewal (current members only):

- \$30.00 Individual**
 \$35.00 Family

Name Badges:

- \$10.00** Each (including postage) Quantity: _____

Name to imprint: _____

Total amount enclosed:

Please make check or money order payable to EVAC

- Payment was remitted separately using PayPal
 Payment was remitted separately using my financial institution's online bill payment feature

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email:

City, State, Zip:

- Publish email address on website

URL:

How would you like to receive your monthly newsletter? (choose one option):

- Electronic delivery (PDF) *Included with membership*
 US Mail **Please add \$10 to the total payment**

Areas of Interest (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Cosmology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunar Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Telescope Making |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planetary Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Astrophotography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep Sky Observing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please describe your astronomy equipment:

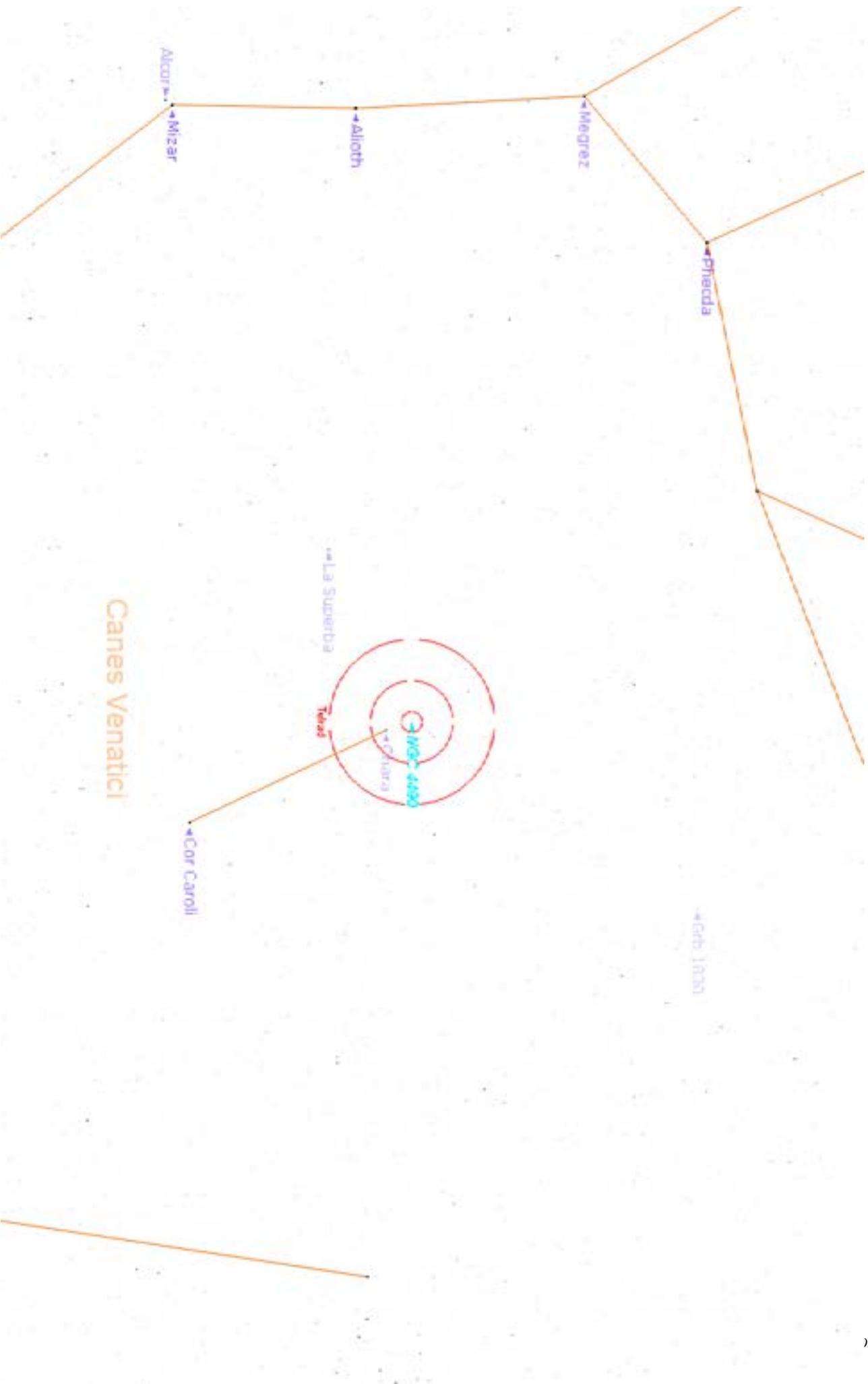
Would you be interested in attending a beginner's workshop? Yes No

How did you discover East Valley Astronomy Club?

PO Box 2202
Mesa, AZ 85214-2202
www.evaconline.org

All members are required to have a liability release form (waiver) on file. Please complete one and forward to the Treasurer with your membership application or renewal.

THE DEEP SKY OBJECT OF THE MONTH



NGC 4490 (Cocoon Galaxy) Galaxy in Canes Venatici

RA 12h 30m 36.4s DEC +41° 38' 37" Magnitude: 9.8 Size: 6.3' x 2.0'

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PO Box 2202
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