



# THE OBSERVER

## East Valley Astronomy Club



2016 Grand Canyon Star Party - South Rim  
Bill Dellinges

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Deep Sky Party - July 2*
  - Public Star Party - July 8*
  - EVAC Monthly Meeting - July 15*
  - Explore the Night Sky - July 18*
  - Local Star Party - July 30*
- Check out all of the upcoming club events in the Calendars on page 9.*

### EVAC This Month

*by Don Wrigley*

I want to begin by thanking all of those members who helped make the June "Starbeque" a big success this year. We had about forty EVACers and their guests in attendance, and lots of goodies to eat. Thanks everyone.

This month's meeting will feature a couple of short member presentations: Wayne Thomas will talk about Asteroid Occultations, then Lynn Young and Claude Haynes will give a presentation on Astronomy Applications for Laptops and Phones.

We are going forward with

plans for a field trip to Lowell Observatory on Labor Day Weekend. I am hoping to have a finalized agenda for the trip ready for the July meeting and plan to have a sign-up sheet at that meeting. We need to have some idea of how many people plan to attend the field trip by the end of this month's meeting, because the August meeting will be held at the Mesa Community College Planetarium instead of our usual meeting place and we will not have our usual business meeting that month. We will talk more about that event at the July meeting.

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# EVAC This Month

*Continued from page 1*

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Don Wrigley

## If It's Clear...

*by Fulton Wright, Jr. Prescott Astronomy Club*

July 2016

Celestial events (from Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy magazine, and anywhere else I can find information) customized for Prescott, Arizona. All times are Mountain Standard Time.

This month is a good time to look for Pluto. The Moon is out of the way for the first week of the month. Pluto is at opposition on July 7. You can see finder charts in July's magazines, p. 64 in Astronomy, p. 48 in Sky & Telescope. Pluto is very slowly getting dimmer each opposition, so catch it while you can.

On Sunday, July 3, it is new Moon and you have all night to hunt for faint fuzzies.

On Thursday, July 7, from dusk (about 8:30 PM) till 10:36 PM, Io's shadow will be on Jupiter. Jupiter sets at 11:00 PM. This may be the last chance to observe a shadow transit on Jupiter for a few months.

## The Backyard Astronomer

*by Bill Dellings (June 2016)*

### Return to the South Rim (GCSP)

After five years of participating in the Grand Canyon Star Party at the North Rim, I decided to try the South Rim this year. In my absence the event's location had changed from Yavapai Point to the Visitor Center and I was interested in how that might be working out – very well as it turned out. About the only advantage Yavapai had was that you could set up your scope next to your car. The downside was securing a parking space in competition with hundreds of tourists who for some reason felt they could only view sunset from that location. Then there were the Park's buses weaving their way through the parking lot until midnight, sometimes missing telescopes by only one meter!

On Monday, July 11, the Moon is at first quarter phase and sets at 12:21 AM (Tuesday).

On Friday, July 15, between dark and 2:30 AM (Saturday), the Moon passes within 3 degrees of Saturn.

On Saturday, July 16, Venus (magnitude -4) and Mercury (magnitude -1) are within 1/2 a degree of each other but are very low in the west north-west. The sun sets at 7:47 PM. Venus sets at 8:25 PM, Mercury at 8:28 PM.

On Tuesday, July 19, at 7:29 PM (12 minutes before sunset), the full Moon rises spoiling any chance of seeing faint fuzzies for the night.

On Tuesday, July 26, the Moon is at last quarter phase and rises at 12:12 AM (Wednesday).

The Park currently sets aside a large parking lot next to the Visitor Center for the telescopes. You are allowed to drive into the lot to set up your equipment but must move your vehicle to an adjacent bus parking lot. There were no buses there after dusk during my three night stay. And it's only minutes away from the telescope field thus easily reached for those items you may have forgotten when you set up your equipment. I'm not sure if the Park encourages it, but I noticed each night several gazers set up scopes in the bus parking lot apparently to avoid the somewhat chaotic conditions in the main lot which one night saw 58 telescopes in action. I used only

# The Backyard Astronomer

*Continued from page 2*

7x50 binoculars on a tripod my first night as I arrived late and was unfamiliar with this new South Rim arrangement, and there were cirrus clouds to contend with. The next night was clear and I used my Celestron Evolution 8 to snag 103 victims according to my counter. Later observing alone, I was amazed at how dark the sky was compared to sites around the Phoenix area – even Picketpost. In the scope the background sky was DARK and loaded with stars wherever I looked. It was like I had doubled my aperture (ok, that might be a slight exaggeration). But I also noticed something else. During star talks I often say the spring and fall skies are star poor regions because we're not looking directly through the main Galactic plane as we do in summer and winter. But that's truer for light polluted skies whose fainter stars don't shine through. At the Grand Canyon in June, we were looking primarily at spring constellations as the summer constellations were still rising in the east. I was rather shocked to notice the Grand Canyon's spring sky, while not hosting a great number of blazing suns (only Regulus and Arcturus) still displayed a LOT of stars! Lesson learned: I'm going to have to revise my star talks – in a dark sky there are myriad stars regardless of the season.

I saw a few familiar faces there. EVAC's Don Wrigley, Claude Haynes and Wayne Thomas were in attendance. Dean Ketelsen of the Tucson mirror lab was on the scene with his C-14 and its stencil reading "My other telescope is an 8 meter." Jim and Vickie Palmer who often assist Tony La-Conte at his stargazing programs at local parks in Phoenix, seemed to have set up a commune gathering in the bus lot. Joining them was Sky Watcher's Kevin Lagore, who in addition to his 6" Sky Watcher refractor, displayed a fine meteorite collection. The best view of Mars I saw was in a 4" Astro-Physics Traveler at 250x with a moon filter. There were two APM 27x100 APO binoculars on the field that looked absolutely stunning. They sported 90 degree eyepieces. They looked identical to the new Lunt 27x100 binoculars, except the latter has 45 degree eyepieces. The first pair was on an APM affair reminiscent of Televue's Telepod. The other was mated to a Celestron Evolution single fork mount – an innovative mating.

I thoroughly enjoyed my return to the South Rim Star Party and hope to return next year. Since there are no stairs involved I might even consider bringing my CPC-11. Unless of course, the sirens of the North Rim call me back.





# Explore the Night Sky

with East Valley Astronomy Club

Free Class!

*Participate in learning about the universe through an educational session and observatory viewing time*

For beginning astronomers, ages 7 to 80!

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, 7:00-8:30 pm

at Southeast Regional Library

May through August with new topics and viewings each month

## Find Out What's Happening – Join EVAC-Announce List

If you would like to receive email announcements about EVAC meetings and activities please join the EVAC–Announce mailing list. Click on the link below to subscribe. Enter your full email address in the box titled User Options and press OK. You will receive a confirmation email. Your privacy is respected by EVAC and we will never sell your email address, or use it for non-club relevant solicitations. This mailing list is designed for communication from EVAC, and does not enable users to respond to the message. If you wish to contact club officers, please use the list on the Contact-Us tab.

To subscribe to the EVAC – Announce mail group click:

<http://www.freelists.org/list/evac-announce>

To unsubscribe use the same link, enter your email address and select Unsubscribe from the “Choose An Action” list.

**NEW MOON ON JULY 4 AT 07:01**

**FIRST QUARTER MOON ON JULY 11 AT 20:52**

**\*FULL MOON ON JULY 19 AT 18:57**

**LAST QUARTER MOON ON JULY 26 AT 19:00**

## Classified Ads

For Sale: TeleVue 540mm refractor - very good condition with case, eyepieces/diagonals as in linked images. Includes Altaz mount plus Celestron Advanced GT equatorial mount. North Scottsdale.

<https://goo.gl/photos/1qGNk4D19VcS78Bd8>

Jeff Watters: [jhwatters615@gmail.com](mailto:jhwatters615@gmail.com)



5757 N. Oracle Road Tucson, AZ 85704 520-292-5010

[www.starizona.com](http://www.starizona.com)

***Looking for that perfect weekend activity?***

***Why not resolve to getting involved?***

***Contact Claude Haynes to join the staff at GRCO***

***Email: [grco@evaconline.org](mailto:grco@evaconline.org)***

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# Upcoming Meetings

July 15

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

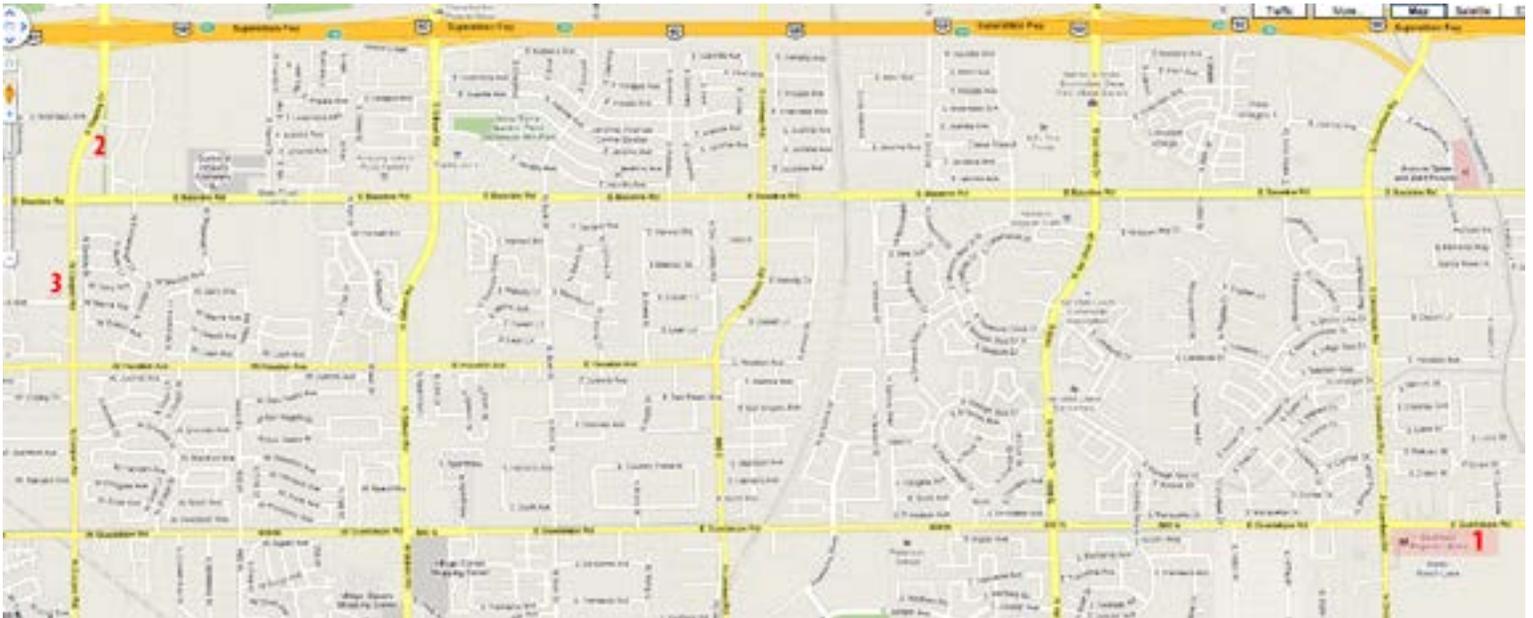
December 16

January 20

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.

***Visitors are always welcome!***



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



# JULY 2016

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

**July 2** - Deep Sky Party

**July 18** - Explore the Night Sky

**July 8** - Public Star Party

**July 30** - Local Star Party

**July 15** - EVAC Monthly Meeting

# AUGUST 2016

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

**Aug 6** - Deep Sky Party

**Aug 19** - EVAC Monthly Meeting

**Aug 12** - Public Star Party

**Aug 27** - Local Star Party

**Aug 15** - Explore the Night Sky

# East Valley Astronomy Club -- 2016 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"/> <b>\$30.00 Individual</b> January through March  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$22.50 Individual</b> April through June       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$35.00 Family</b> January through March      | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$26.25 Family</b> April through June           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$15.00 Individual</b> July through September | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$37.50 Individual</b> October through December |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$17.50 Family</b> July through September     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$43.75 Family</b> 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:

The Observer is the official publication of the East Valley Astronomy Club. It is published monthly and made available electronically as an Adobe PDF document the first week of the month.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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            |

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.evaonline.org](http://www.evaonline.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.

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[www.evaonline.org](http://www.evaonline.org)

East Valley Astronomy Club  
PO Box 2202  
Mesa, Az. 85214-2202

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