



THE OBSERVER



[Fred J. Lombardo - Iris Nebula \(NGC 7923\)](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

GRCO Monthly Star Party - August 8th
EVAC Monthly Club Meeting - August 15th

For more details, and to see all of the upcoming club events, check out the [events page](#) on our website or the [Calendar](#) page of this newsletter.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Desk of the President

by Steve Bradshaw

This past month, I stumbled onto something interesting—and kind of fun to look at. It was a walk through our club's history back in the early 1990s, and I thought I'd share some of it here.

A few weeks ago, a woman emailed me saying she was helping clean out her next-door neighbor's house after he had passed away. While working in the house, she came across a bunch of astronomy "stuff" and asked if I'd like to take a look. I said, "yes."

A few days later, we met up so I could go through it. Most of it turned out to be printed materials rather than telescope gear. He had decades' worth of Sky & Telescope

magazines, along with a dozen or so astronomy books on various topics—including several on telescope making. If you're interested in any of the telescope making books, let me know. I saved them "just in case."

He also had two three-ring binders filled with printed EVAC monthly newsletters from over the years. It was fascinating to look through them. The earliest one I found was from March 1993, and it included some interesting highlights (see figure 1 below).

One feature in that newsletter was a list of all 61 club members. Privacy and safety were apparently less of a concern back then—not only did it list every member, it also included

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From the Desk of the President

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their phone numbers and addresses. At least it didn't include Social Security numbers, first pet names, mothers' maiden names, or the names of everyone's elementary school! For comparison, we have just under 200 club members today and we keep a lot of member information private.

Another notable entry was an announcement for the first-ever Messier Marathon. The article conveyed excitement about this being the first big multi-club event, joining forces with the Tucson and Saguaro clubs. It even speculated whether it might become an annual tradition. As we all know now, it absolutely did.

The newsletter also featured an article by Don Wrigley (see figure 2 below)—apparently a long-time EVAC member. Anyone want to guess what he wrote about? If you said, "the Moon," then ding, ding, ding! You're a winner! I've never met anyone who knows the Moon like Don. He's a treasure chest of lunar knowledge.

There was also an announcement for the upcoming 3rd annual Grand Canyon Star Party, sponsored by the Tucson club. Considering they just held the 35th annual event, I'd say it's been a resounding success. I hope to finally attend it next year.

Although not in the March 1993 issue, other newsletters from that year featured articles written by Tom Polakis—clearly another long-time EVAC member. Flipping through these old publications was a fun tour through our club's history. I hope that 30 years from now, someone else will stumble upon our recent newsletters and enjoy reading about the era when we made our mark.

PS: Most of the club's old newsletters are available on the EVAC website; unfortunately, the March 1993 edition isn't among them.

Until next month enjoy looking up, learning, and connecting with others,
Steve

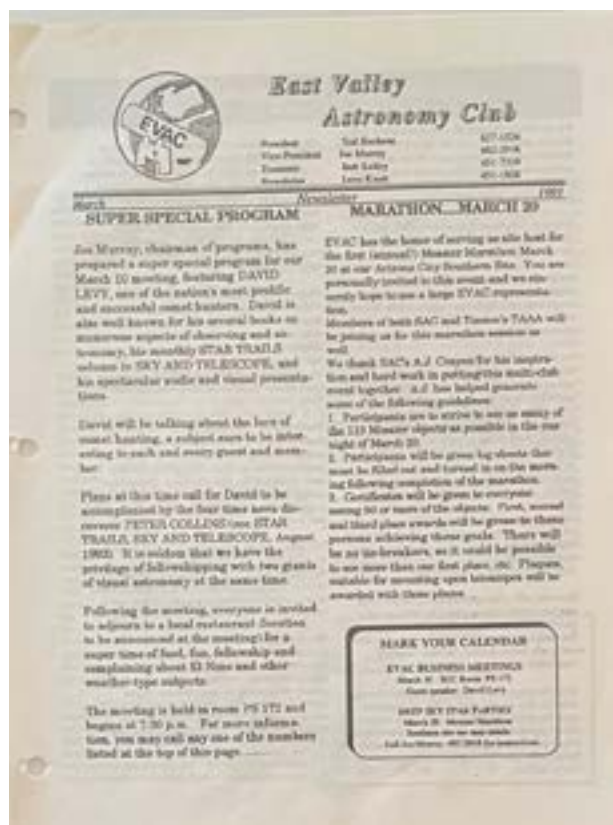


Figure 1

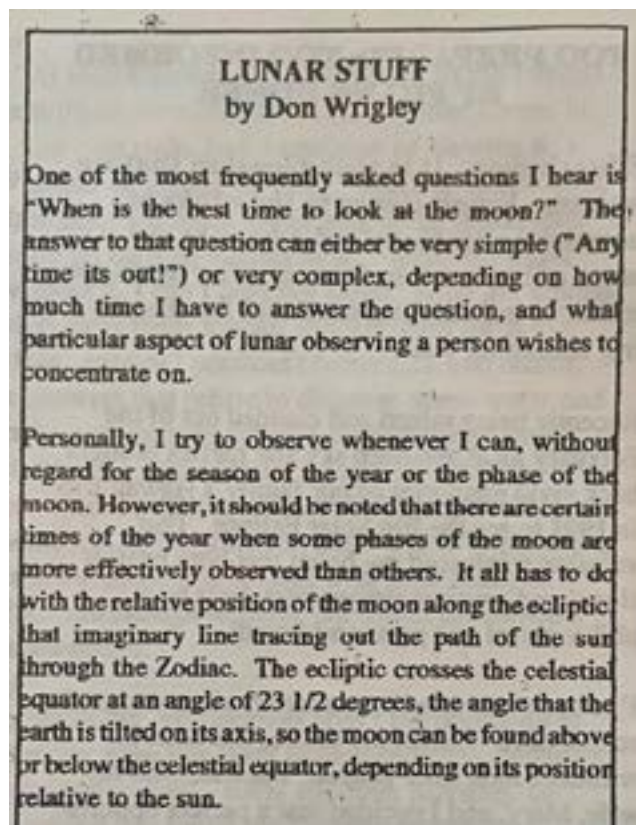


Figure 2

Moon Phases August 2025



First Quarter Moon

August 1st

5:41 AM



**Full "Sturgeon"
Moon**

August 9th

12:54 AM



Third Quarter Moon

August 15th

10:12 PM



New Moon

August 22nd

11:06 PM

What Do You Call an Extra Quarter Moon?

The East Valley Astronomy Club is thrilled to present 25% more Moon in August. The Moon typically goes through four primary phases in a lunar month: New Moon; First Quarter; Full Moon; and Third Quarter.

These occur about once every 7 to 8 days, with the entire lunar cycle lasting approximately 29.5 days—which closely matches the length of most calendar months. That's why most months have four main phases.

Occasionally, a calendar month can include five distinct phases. This happens when the timing of the New Moon or First Quarter falls in the first couple days of the month, and another phase lands at the very end. August 2025 is a perfect example.

It's a bit of a lunar oddity—but unlike the "Blue Moon" (which refers to two full moons in one month), there's no widely recognized name for two First Quarter Moons in the same calendar month.



First Quarter Moon

August 30th

11:25 PM

(NAME THAT MOON!)

August 2025 is pulling a celestial stunt: two First Quarter Moons—on the 1st and the 30th! While there's no official name for this quirky occurrence, we think it's time to change that.



QUARTERBACK MOON

Got a better name? Send us your moon-naming magic! Our top pick might earn its place in the stars (or at least in next month's newsletter).



Some astronomy enthusiasts might playfully call it a "Double Half Moon" or a "Split Quarter," but those are informal and not officially adopted terms.

With a nod to the upcoming football season, I propose calling it the "Quarterback Moon"—it charges in twice, holds the line between waxing and waning, and doesn't fumble the lunar schedule. And because...you know...the **Quarter** Moon is **Back**.

Got a better name? Send us your moon-naming magic! Our top pick might earn its place in the stars (or at least in next month's newsletter).

This Month in Space

by Morgan J. Moran

Question: What do Sturgeons, Soviet cosmonauts, and a celestial conga line have in common?

Answer: August!

AUGUST 2025 ASTRONOMY HIGHLIGHTS

August 1 – First Quarter Moon - Great for lunar observing—craters and shadows pop dramatically.

August 9 – Sturgeon Moon - Named after the ancient fish, this full moon glows just past midnight in Arizona.

August 11–13 – Perseid Meteor Shower Peak - Despite moonlight interference, bright fireballs may still dazzle pre-dawn skies.

August 12 – Venus-Jupiter Conjunction - Catch two sky-gems within 0.5° of each other—perfect for early risers and astrophotographers.

August 18 – Six-Planet Parade - Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn & Uranus line up in the morning sky. A cosmic conga line!

August 26 – Mars-Crescent Moon Conjunction - Look west just after sunset for a poetic pairing.

August 22 – Black Moon - A rare “third New Moon in a season with four”—a curious calendrical twist.



HISTORIC AUGUST SPACE MOMENTS

August 20 & 25, 1977 – Voyager Launches - NASA's iconic spacecraft began their interstellar odyssey—Voyager 2 first, then Voyager 1 five days later.

August 6, 1961 – Vostok 2 Mission - Gherman Titov orbited Earth for 25 hours, becoming the youngest person in space at age 25.

August 21, 2017 – Great American Eclipse - A coast-to-coast total solar eclipse wowed millions across the U.S.—a reminder of nature's grandeur.

EVAC Outreach Events - August 2025

by Alice Kobe

August Star Parties:

- August 8th - Sundown til 9:30 PM - GRCO 2nd Friday Public Star Party
- August 13th - 8:00 PM til 9:00 PM - Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center Star Party

Details can be found on the EVAC website - evaconline.org/events-meetings.

Updates, reminders, etc. associated with outreach events are done via email. To sign up and receive these emails go to freelists.org/list/evac-outreach to be added on the mailing list.

Just a few reminders for all star party events:

1. After signing up on the EVAC outreach email list, always check your email before leaving for an event for any updates, changes, or cancellations.
2. Arrive early enough to have your equipment setup before start time of the event.
3. We do not allow any public viewing until the sun is completely below the horizon.
4. No lasers mounted on telescopes. Volunteers are allowed to use lasers to point out objects in the night sky by holding the laser above your head while using. Do not give the laser to visitors to operate.



EVAC Starry Rewards Outreach Volunteer Recognition Program

Rewards Luncheon October 11th from Noon to 1:15 PM at Rancho de Tia Rosa

According to the score sheet, **the following club members have accumulated the required 10 points for the luncheon:** Adam Baum (16), Alice Klobe (35), Brooks Scofield (13), Claude Haynes (25), David Patroit (15), Don Wrigley (22), Gordon Rosner (35), John Dunegan (16), Josh Eyre (17), Steve Bradshaw (23), Yesenia Galeana (12).

These members have between 5 and 9 points and still have plenty of time to qualify by October: Andrea Matthias (8), Bill Delinges (6), David Kennerly (5), Jeff Foreman (7), Jeff Hardee (6), Jessica Ayala (7), Joaquin Sanchez (8), John Flynn (7), Morgan Moran (7), Nathan Eskey (7), Nicole Park (5), Orlando Payne (6), Rick Warburton (7), Steve Feist (6), Ted Blank (6).

And these members have between 2 and 4 points: Betty Rhodes (3), Brandon Feldman (4), Chris Giles (4), Damien Schulz (2), Derek Youngson (3), Jake LeAlcala (2), John Jenzen (3), Jonathan Eskey (4), Kathryn Johnson (3), Kaylin Washburn (4), Kearan Gibbs (3), Krissy Elwood (3), Kristi Jencks (3), Logan Carlson (2), Marty Pieczonka (3), Merrill Jencks (2), Michael Nixon (2), Nahla Washington (1), Rachel Neglia (3), Rick Wilt (4), Tom Mozden (3).

EVAC Monthly Club Meeting Minutes - July 18, 2025

by Jeff Foreman

Meeting Minutes

YouTube: Many EVAC monthly meetings can be viewed on YouTube. Just search for the East Valley Astronomy Club on the YouTube website to locate the recordings, or select this [link](#) for the recordings.

Welcome

- EVAC President, Steve Bradshaw, invited everyone to the meeting.
- There weren't any new guests recognized.
- There were 81 people in attendance and 23 on the Zoom call.
- Events Coordinator, Alice Klobe, reviewed past and future public outreach events for the club.
- Tucson Road Trip Recap (Steve Bradshaw)
- Steve gave a short presentation detailing the recent EVAC trip to the Mirror lab, Science Center and Planetarium in Tucson.

Member Presentations

Phil Strout - How smart telescopes are shaping the future of astrophotography:

Phil shared his experience with the ZWO Seestar S50. He highlighted its ease of use, integrated camera, and image stacking capabilities. Various astrophotography images taken with the Seestar S50 were shown, including the Moon, Andromeda and the International Space Station transiting the Sun.

Peter Monson - Chiricahua Sky Village: Dark Sky Astronomy in the High Desert of Arizona:

Chiricahua Sky Village was introduced as a communally owned site in southeastern Arizona.

- Offering affordable dark sky opportunities for astronomers.
- Members buy shares to access observing sites for tents, RVs, cabins, or observatories.
- The site boasts dark skies and a mild climate.
- The concept of Personal Remote Observatories was also discussed.

Main Presentation

Ted Blank - More Planets Than Stars: The Discovery and Characteristics of Exoplanets:

Ted's presentation focused on exoplanets. He discussed various methods for detecting them. Including: Radial Velocity Method, Transit Method, Direct Imaging, and Microlensing Method. The presentation also touched upon the "habitable zone" and concluded that the high number of exoplanets suggests a high probability of life in the universe.

Used Equipment For Sale at Great Prices

The East Valley Astronomy Club (EVAC) has used astronomy equipment for sale. Please note that equipment sales are **“as is”** and are **“pick-up only”**.

For more details and to answer any questions, contact the EVAC Property Director, James Yoder (properties@evaonline.org) or visit the EVAC Sales webpage [HERE](#). This page includes a brief description of the items, photos and reference materials (e.g. users manuals, etc.).

Equipment being offered for sale this month includes:

- [Celestron 5" White Tube SCT](#) (Sale Price = \$350)
- [Celestron Astro Fi 90mm Refractor Telescope Kit](#) (Sale Price = \$150)
- [Atik Horizon Cooled Camera - 4/3 CMOS](#) (Sale Price = \$250)
- [Celestron Eyepiece Kit: Case, 4 Eyepieces, 6 Color Filters](#) (Sale Price = \$100)
- [Thousand Oaks Type 2 Solar Filter ID=308mm](#) (Sale Price = \$30)

Non-EVAC Equipment for Sale (This is mostly member sales, EVAC is neither responsible for, nor endorses this equipment).

- [Orion Scenix 7 x 50 Binoculars](#) (Sale Price = \$40)
- [8 x 40 Camo Binoculars](#) (Sale Price = \$20)

EVAC Equipment Rental Program - Select [THIS LINK](#) to submit a request to reserve equipment.

Equipment rental is available to East Valley Astronomy Club (EVAC) members. Equipment rental rate is \$25/week for up to four weeks at a time. The following equipment is available:

Telescopes

- [Celestron C-8 with Nexstar GoTo mount](#) (Telescope Package SCT01)
- [Celestron 10" Dobsonian Telescope](#) (Telescope Package DBB01)

Imaging Packages

- [Celestron Origin Intelligent Home Observatory](#) (Imaging Package ST01)
- [SeeStar S50 All-In-One smart telescope](#) (Imaging Package S50)
- [Planetary & Moon Imaging Kit](#) (Imaging Kit 01)

Visual Filters Kit

- [Twelve 1.25" filters for deep sky objects](#) (Filters Kit VFR01)

EVAC Equipment Restrictions and Requirements

- Must be EVAC member in good standing (dues are current).
- Rent is on a weekly basis and not to exceed four consecutive weeks.
- Equipment Pick-up and Drop-Off location and times will need to be coordinated with the EVAC property manager.
- Rental fee is due upon pick up of equipment.
- A security deposit is required for equipment being rented (see equipment details for amount).
- Each package has an associated Rental Agreement that must be completed and signed.



SkyPi Remote Observatory

The darkest, most Pristine, sky in the continental U.S. !

At the site: Bathroom facilities, running water, 5 pads w110v, wifi, acres of grassy camp sites.

From the site: Very Large Array 42mi E, The Astronomical Lyceum 55mi E, MRO Observatory 80mi East.

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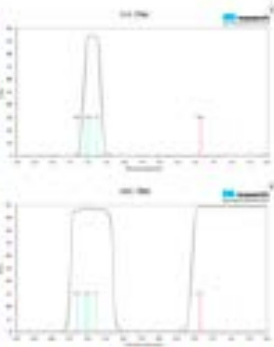

Apache-Sitgreaves Observatory

Overgaard, Arizona

Largest Public
Observing
Telescope
in
Arizona



Critical products for visual observing, too!



A-S Research Nebula Filters: See More Nebulosity!

www.apache-sitgreaves.org

Monthly Meetings will be held in person and also presented live online using Zoom. See the EVAC Web-site for updates.

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 7:00 pm.

Meetings are also available online via Zoom.

Visitors are always welcome!



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



August 2025

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						

August 8th - Sundown to 9:30 PM - EVAC/GRCO Monthly 2nd Friday Star Party

August 13th - 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM - Apache Junction Multigenerational Center Star Party

August 15th - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM - EVAC Monthly Meeting

September 2025

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				

September 12th - 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM - EVAC/GRCO Monthly 2nd Friday Star Party

September 19th - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM - EVAC Monthly Meeting

September 20th - 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM - Apache Junction Multigenerational Center Star Party

East Valley Astronomy Club - 2024 Membership Form

Member Dues (Based on the month you are joining the club)

	Individual	Family	Student (18yr+ with ID)
January - June	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$20.00
July - December (<i>Renew in January</i>)	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$10.00
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Renewal Dues (Current Members Only)

Astronomical League: \$10.00 Annually: ☐

Individual	Family	Student (18yr+ with ID)
\$30.00	\$35.00	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name Badges: Quantity: _____

☐ \$10.00 Each

Name to imprint: _____

Total amount enclosed:

Please make check or money order payable to EVAC.

Payment will be made using PayPal: ☐

Name:

Phone:

Address:

Email:

City
State
Zip

URL

For website:

Would you be interested in our outreach program?

Yes

☐

No

☐

How did you discover East Valley Astronomy Club?

Liability Release Form

In consideration of attending any publicized Star Party hosted by the East Valley Astronomy Club (hereinafter referred to as "EVAC"), the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby affirm that I and any related entities, predecessors, successors, affiliates, attorneys, guarantors, insurers, transferees, assigns, parents, spouses, children, subsidiaries, accountants, officers, directors, employees, agents, shareholders, members, and trustees, past and present, hereby forever release, acquit and discharge to hold EVAC and its related entities, predecessors, successors, affiliates, attorneys, guarantors, insurers, transferees, assigns, parents, spouses, subsidiaries, accountants, officers, directors, employees, agents, shareholders, members, and trustees, past and present, from any and all causes of action, claims, losses, damages, liabilities, expenses (including attorneys' fees) and demands of any nature whatsoever, known or unknown, that in any way relate to, arise out of, or concern EVAC and/or my presence on the premises of any EVAC Star Party and related areas, whether or not those causes of action, claims, damages, liabilities, and demands are part of the specific subject matter of EVAC or any EVAC Star Party. This release is intended to and does cover all injuries and damages, and the consequences thereof, whether known or unknown at the time of the execution of this release, which have occurred or may hereafter occur or which may hereafter be discovered, and which may have been caused or may be claimed to have been caused by the said incident, and specifically includes, but is not limited to, bodily injuries, mental and emotional injury, pain and suffering, medical treatments, and loss of earnings or income.

My signature upon this form also indicates agreement and acceptance on behalf of all minor children (under 18 years of age) under my care in attendance. EVAC only recognizes those who are members or invitees and who also have a signed Liability Release Form on file as participants at an EVAC Star Party.

Signature _____

Date _____

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 in the Contact-Us area on the Home page of our EVAC website. 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. Another list to consider is AZ-Observing@groups.io, simply click on this link <https://groups.io/g/AZ-Observing> and follow the instructions. EVAC also has a Facebook Group where members may share ideas, photos, and Astronomy related information. Click on the link to join: [East Valley Astronomy Facebook Group](#).

The Gilbert Rotary Centennial Observatory (GRCO) also has a Facebook Group. To visit, please click on [Gilbert Rotary Centennial Observatory - GRCO](#). The Observatory is open on Friday and Saturday from sunset until 9:30pm. We need volunteers. Training is provided. Help us engage the community in the wonders of the night sky. Email grco@evaonline.org for information.

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www.evaonline.org

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