

THE OBSERVER

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 5



[M3 ~ Richard Jacobs in Chandler, AZ](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

GRCO Monthly Star Party - May 9th
 EVAC Monthly Club Meeting - May 16th

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

Are you interested in telescopes and their accessories? Do you enjoy tinkering, learning new skills, and working with your hands? Would you like to be more involved with the club but need something flexible that fits your schedule?

Well, to paraphrase the famous line from The Godfather, let me make you an offer you can't refuse.

At our April club meeting, I announced that James Yoder has decided to retire from his role as EVAC's property manager. James has dedicated years to this position, and we are incredibly grateful for his service and the outstanding work he has done. Thankfully, he will remain active — teaching classes, leading

outing to the Picketpost Trailhead observing site, and organizing the Hyman Rim Ranch star party in the fall.

Now, as much as I'd love to step into the property manager role myself, I'm already busy as club president. But what about you? This position comes with some exciting opportunities!

As property manager, you'll gain hands-on experience working with a variety of telescopes. Our club receives donations throughout the year, ranging from refractors and reflectors to SCTs. These OTAs come with different mounts — equatorial, alt-az, and Dobsonian — in both push-to-go and go-to configura

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From the Desk of the President

tions. You'll have the chance to test each one, determining whether they're fit for resale or best suited for scrap.

Additionally, you'll gain expertise in operating equipment from telescope manufacturers like Celestron, Sky Watcher, Meade, and Orion. Over time, you'll develop the skills to assist fellow members at star parties, becoming the go-to person for telescope troubleshooting and advice.

If you're wondering what's required for the role, here's a breakdown:

- **Training & Support:** No worries if you're new to this! James is happy to pass on his knowledge and provide guidance as you learn the ropes.
- **Internet Access:** James will also train you on taking pictures and creating ad text to submit to James for inclusion on his telescope sales website.
- **Physical Ability:** You'll need to lift and move telescopes, with components ranging from 5 to 35 pounds.
- **Transportation:** A vehicle is necessary to transport telescopes.
- **Storage Space:** Some short-term storage at home is required while evaluating telescopes for resale. Longer-term storage is available at GRCO.
- **Tools:** Basic small hand tools—pliers, screwdrivers, allen wrenches, box-end wrenches, etc.— will be helpful.

- **Flexible Time Commitment:** Some months may require 10 hours of work, while others might only take a few. The schedule varies based on the number of donations.

This position plays a vital role in supporting EVAC. Besides our public outreach events, accepting donations is one of our key connections with the community. As property manager, you'll be one of the public faces of EVAC—helping to grow interest in astronomy and fostering engagement.

Additionally, telescope resales account for about one-third of our club's income. This funding makes club-sponsored trips possible, including visits to ASU, the Mirror Lab, and the Hyman Rim Ranch star party. To keep these exciting opportunities available, we need someone passionate and committed to the role of property manager.

So, if this sounds like something that excites you, I encourage you to step into this rewarding role. Let's keep EVAC thriving — together!

If interested, please respond to president@evaonline.org.

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

EVAC Starry Rewards Outreach Volunteer Recognition Program

Rewards Luncheon scheduled for 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 (10), Alice Klobe (23), Brooks Scofield (10), Claude Haynes (15), David Patroit (13), Don Wrigley (13), Gordon Rosner (23), John Dunegan (10), Josh Eyre (13), Steve Bradshaw (14).

These members have between 5 and 9 points and still have plenty of time to qualify by October: Andrea Matthias (5), Jeff Foreman (5), Jeff Hardee (5), Joaquin Sanchez (6), Orlando Payne (5), Yesenia Galeana (7).

And these members have between 1 and 4 points: Andrew Thorpe (1), Bill Dellinges (4), Brandon Feldman (2), Chris Giles (3), David Kennerly (2), Dennis Miller (1), Derek Youngson (1), Jake LeAlcala (2), Jessica Ayala (4), John Flynn (4), Jonathan Eskey (2), Kathryn Johnson (1), Kaylin Washburn (3), Kearan Gibbs (3), Keith Krueger (1), Kent Bell (1), Marty Pieczonka (1), Michael Nixon (2), Morgan Moran (4), Nathan Eskey (2), Nicole Park (3), Rachel Neglia (2), Rick Warburton (4), Rick Wilt (2), Steve Feist (4), Ted Blank (3), Tom Mozden (1), Tom Polakis (1), Wayne Thomas (1).

EVAC Outreach Events

by Alice Klobe

May Star Parties:

- May 9th - Sundown til 9:30 PM - EVAC/GRCO Monthly 2nd Friday 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 the start time of the event.
3. For safety reasons, we do not allow any public viewing until the Sun is completely below the horizon.



First Quarter Moon on May 4th at 6:51 AM

Full "Flower" Moon on May 12th at 9:55 AM

Third Quarter Moon on May 20th at 4:58 AM

New Moon on May 26th at 8:02 PM

EVAC Monthly Club Meeting Minutes - April 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 welcomed club members to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. New visitors were recognized and welcomed.

Announcements

- **Visitor Recognition:** no new visitors
- We had 67 people in attendance and 35 on the Zoom call
- **EVAC Website Highlights** (<http://eastvalleyastronomy.org/>)
- **Public Outreach Events (Alice Klobe)-Events Coordinator**
- Gilbert Rotary Centennial Observatory (GRCO)
 - Friday and Saturday (weather permitting) dusk to 9:30pm
 - To volunteer email observatory manager at grco@evaonline.org to get on mailing list
 - 2nd Friday of every month is the public star party with members telescopes
- Recent Public Star Party Events-Alice shared photos of volunteers at four recent events, including the lunar eclipse at GRCO, and explained what happens at these public outreach events.
- Listed upcoming Public Star Party Events. (Can be found on the [EVAC Calendar](#))

Fountain Hills Dark Sky Festival Recap

- Saturday March 29, 4pm-9pm
- EVAC member Steve Fiest attended the festival with his telescope and gave a 60-second report about his experience volunteering at the event.

Group Tour Opportunity Tucson-University of Arizona (52 People Max.)

- Saturday June 28. Two tours options available.
- Tour Package 1: Space Imagery Center & Richard F Caris Mirror lab.
- Tour Package 2: Science Center Museum & Flandrau Theater Planetarium Show.
- Cost is \$40. Includes transportation, 2 tour tickets and lunch.
- Tours are from 10am to 1pm
- The bus leaves from the library at 7:45am and returns at 4:15pm
- Sign-up was available in person at the meeting or online via email president@evaonline.org
- Payment by May 16 to hold your seat.

Member Presentation: Artificial Intelligence & Astrophotography (Sid Frede)

Sid's presentation focused on the practical applications of AI tools in enhancing various aspects of astrophotography. Sid covered several topics including image processing, Star removal, Deblurring and color enhancement. Throughout his presentation, Sid uses examples of his own astrophotography to demonstrate the capabilities of AI in these different areas. He emphasizes that while AI is a powerful tool, it's still important for astrophotographers to understand the underlying principles of image processing.

Feature Presenter: Chasing the Aurora (Vincent Ledvina)

Vincent Ledvina, also known as "The Aurora Guy," is a professional aurora chaser and photographer based in Alaska. Currently he is pursuing a Ph. D in space physics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where his thesis research focuses on auroral beads. Vincent covered several topics like, what is space weather, how do auroras form, what causes the different colors in the aurora and what are sub-storms. The presentation included several of his amazing photos, timelapse videos and tips on how to photograph the aurora.

Deep Sky Targets May 2025: 7 Constellations and their Deep Sky Targets

from starwalk.space

The average low [temperature](#) for May in the Phoenix metro area is 69° F. May 26th is a new moon with astronomical twilight ending at 9:09 PM and starting at 3:42 AM, giving us 6 hours and 33 minutes of dark-sky imaging time that night.

We are in the final month of “Galaxy Season” (March through May) as many deep sky objects position themselves high in the night sky. I have used StarWalk to identify 7 constellations that have bright stars and deep sky objects which make amazing targets to explore in May. Below is a list of Northern Hemisphere constellations with links to more information including star maps and infographics.



Constellation	Brightness	Brightest Star	Deep Sky Objects
Crux	Very Bright	Acrux (0.9)	Jewel Box (mag 4.2), Coalsack Nebula (magnitude not applicable).
Virgo	Very Bright	Spica (1.0)	M87 (mag 8.6), the Sombrero Galaxy (mag 8.0).
Centaurus	Very Bright	Alpha Centauri (-0.3)	Omega Centauri (mag 3.7), NGC 3766 (mag 5.3), Centaurus A (mag 6.8).
Corvus	Moderate	Gienah (2.6)	Lawn Sprinkler Nebula (mag 10.9), Antennae Galaxies (mag 11.2).
Musca	Moderate	Alpha Muscae (2.7)	NGC 4833 (mag 7.8), Spiral Planetary Nebula (mag 8.2).
Canes Venatici	Moderate	Cor Caroli (2.8)	M3 (mag 6.4), the Whirlpool Galaxy (mag 8.4).
Coma Berenices	Might need binoculars	Beta Comae Berenices (4.3)	Coma Star Cluster (mag 1.8), M53 (mag 7.6).

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)
- [iOptron CEM25 Equatorial GoTo Mount](#) (Sale Price = \$200)
- [iOptron iEQ45 GoTo Mount Tripod and Case](#) (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 = \$50)

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

- [ZWO Carbon Fiber Tripod and Pier Extension](#) (SOLD)

EVAC Equipment Rental Program

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

- [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.

Select [THIS LINK](#) to submit a request to reserve equipment.



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.

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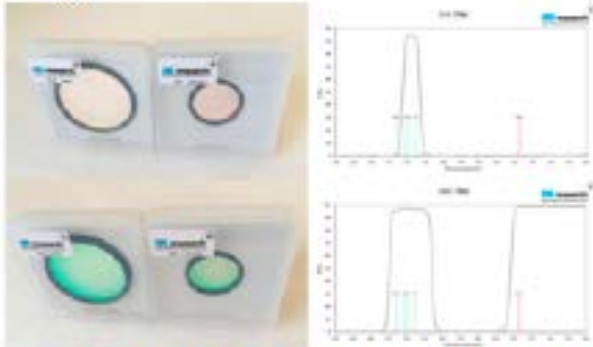
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A-S Research Nebula Filters: See More Nebulosity!

The complex block contains a title for the Apache-Sitgreaves Observatory, a photograph of a man sitting next to the world's largest public observing telescope, and an advertisement for nebula filters. The filter advertisement includes four images of filters (two orange/red, two green) and two spectral graphs showing transmission curves for different filters.

www.apache-sitgreaves.org

Monthly Meetings will be held in person and also presented live online using Zoom. See the EVAC Website 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



May 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

May 9th - Sundown til 9:30 PM - EVAC/GRCO Monthly 2nd Friday Star Party

May 16th - 7:00 PM til 9:00 PM - EVAC Monthly Meeting

June 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					

June 4th - 8:00 - 9:00 PM - Apache Junction Multigenerational Center

June 13th - Sundown til 9:30 PM - EVAC/GRCO Monthly 2nd Friday Star Party

June 20th - 7:00 PM til 9:00 PM - EVAC Monthly Meeting

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 gco@evaonline.org for information.

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The East Valley Astronomy Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

www.evaonline.org

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