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CLUB NOTES

Dear members,

I will start my first newsletter introduction by wishing you and your families a healthy, happy and clear skies New Year. It is amazing how quickly 2024 went by and a New Year with opportunities is ready for us. Clear skies haven't been available in Michigan. We haven't had a Public observing Friday since November 8!

Despite this, we are looking forward to an exciting year and start on January 4th at 7 pm at Hemlock Nature Center with a presentation from Mike Cortright about NASA's new mission to the Jupiter Moon Europe.

On January 9, we have our first membership meeting of 2025 also starting at 7 pm at Macataw Middle School in Holland.

We have some nice surprises waiting for you at our first meeting and I will share with you my trip to Patagonia and pictures of the Southern Constellations.

I want to share with you the three (3) goals I want to reach over the two (2) year term you gave me.

- Dedicated membership evening for observing. I will send out a separate email about this.
- More visibility within our community for the SAAA.
- Engage people in actively participating in our club.

We have a great club with the availability of a digital Planetarium, a library and scopes to lend, as well as a nice Observatory with digital cameras and a solar scope.

Let's grow this together.

Regards,
Karl Rijkse
President, SAAA



Calendar and Upcoming Events



Public Observing

When Weather Permitting Every FRI evening starting between 6:30 and 7PM.

Where Hemlock Crossing Public Observatory, 8115 W Olive Rd, West Olive, MI 49460, USA

Description The observatory is open from our start time until 11 PM (weather and clear sky permitting, see note after October 14th). There are no entry fees. Please be aware that the park gate closes automatically at 8 PM sharp, therefore visitors must arrive before 8 PM to enter the park. You will be able to leave as you wish.

Visible night sky objects: planets, the Moon, deep sky objects like galaxies, star clusters and planetary nebulae.

January Club Lecture

Please make plans to join Mike Cortright Saturday, January 4th, 7PM, at Hemlock Crossing County Park Nature Center for a presentation on the Europa Mission.

In October 2024 the Europa Clipper mission launched and begin its near 6-year journey to Jupiter's moon Europa. In this program we will take a closer look at Jupiter and its moons and what we have learned in the last decade from Junomission, which has provided us with huge amounts of science related to Jupiter and its moons. It is also focused on the purpose of the Europa mission and exploration of the water/ice moon and potential for development and support of life.

Looking Ahead: February Lecture

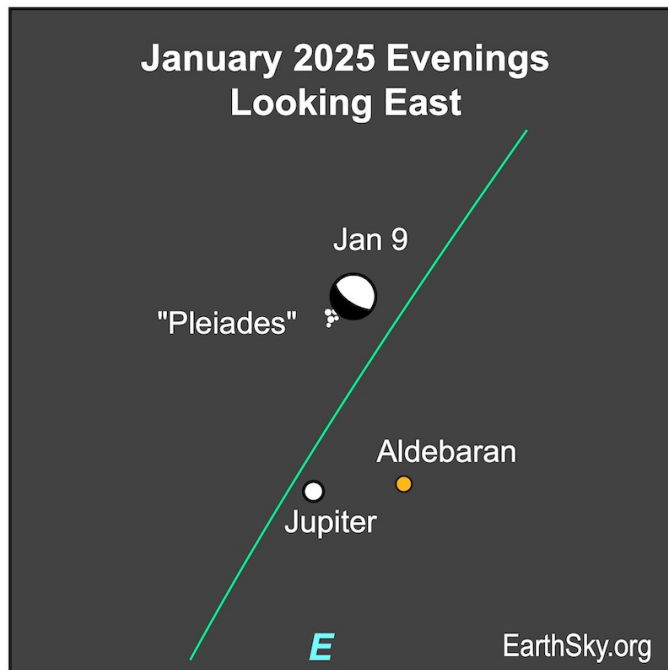
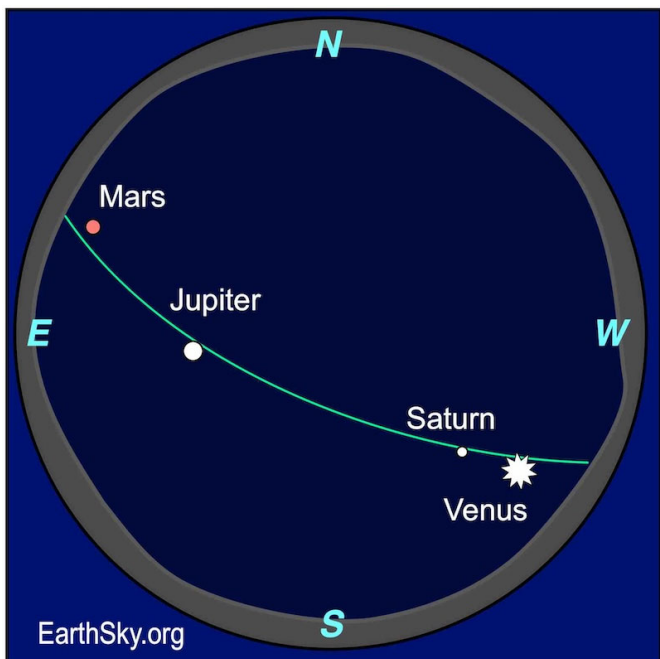
James Webb Telescope Update, Saturday, February 1, 2025 7:00 – 8:00pm, by Mike Long, at Hemlock Crossing at the Nature Center.

January 2025

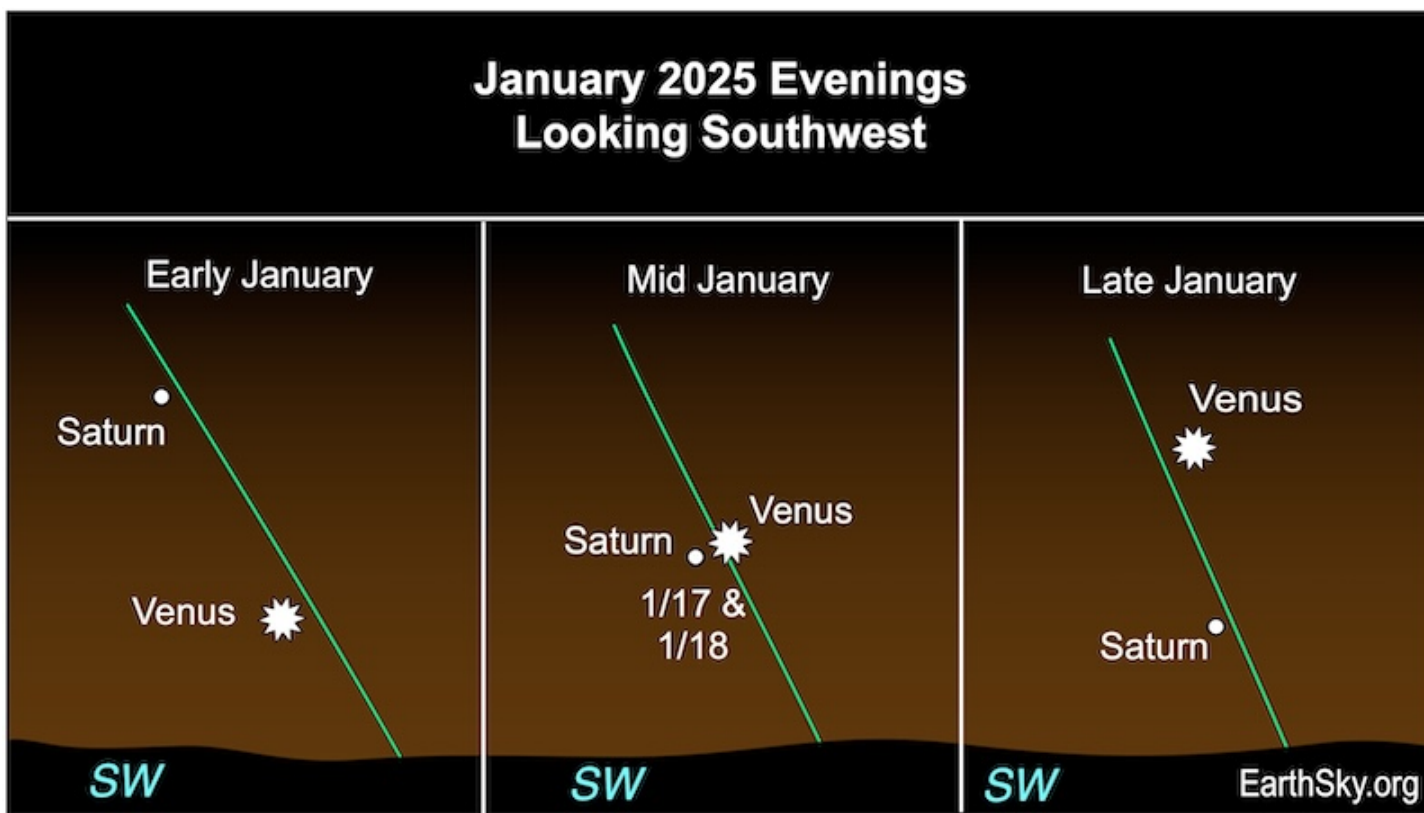
SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED Jan 1	THU 2	FRI 3 ● 7pm Public C	SAT 4 ● 7pm Europa
5		7	8	9 ● 7pm Club Me	10 ● 7pm Public C	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 ● 7pm Public C	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 ● 7pm Public C	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 ● 7pm Public C	Feb 1 ● 7pm James

For More Information on Any Event
Please go to www.holland-saaa.org

What's Up in the Sky: January



January Night Sky





Kids Corner

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/> A place where kids and grown-ups have fun with technology.

NASA Climate Kids: It's all about climate.

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>



SciJinks: It's all about weather! <https://scijinks.gov/>

Kids, do you know our Moon?

The answers and pictures can be found on Page 6 (from NASA!)

What is a Blood Moon?

When is a Blue Moon?

When does the Harvest Moon occur?

Why does a Supermoon Happen?

This Month in Club History January 1991

Dimestore Refractors

This article was obtained from the Astronomical League Computer Bulletin Board. Pass it on to a friend if he or she has an inexpensive refractor and wants to get some serious use out of it...Ed.

The second project for 1989 for the Saint Louis Astronomical Society telescope makers group has been the modification of several typical 60 mm department store refractors for improved usability.

This type of telescope, unfortunately, is sold with

- . a marginal finder
- . high magnification eyepieces
- . a barely adequate alt-az mount

A great discussion of this covered three (3) pages, 2-4, in the January 1991 issue! If you are interested, this issue can be found in it's entirety at:

<https://www.holland-saaa.org/newsletter>

Download the 1991 zip file, then (if you have virus protection, it should automatically launch, then download a zip file). Proceed to your download, and click to unzip the file. Then click the January issue.

This Month in Astronomy History

On This Day ...

Jan. 1: Asteroid Ceres discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi - 1801

Jan. 4: NASA cancels further production of Saturn V rockets - 1970

Jan. 13: Galileo discovers Ganymede, moon of Jupiter - 1610

Jan. 19: New Horizons spacecraft launched on its journey to Pluto - 2006

Jan. 27: Apollo 1 astronauts Chaffee, White and Grissom die in fire in capsule-1967

Jan. 28: Seven astronauts killed when Space Shuttle Challenger explodes during launch - 1986

Club Photos

Photos by Mike Cortright

Thank you so much for this great photo, Mike! This is a photo from October 2020 of Pleiades (aka, Seven Sisters).



Kid's Corner Extra: Full Moons: Supermoon, Blood Moon, Blue Moon and Harvest Moon

From <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/full-moons/en/>

A full moon occurs when the side of the Moon facing Earth is fully lit up by the Sun. But did you know that not all full moons look the same?

Sometimes, the Moon may appear to glow red. Other times, the Moon may appear larger than usual in our night sky. The Moon itself is not changing colors or sizes. Its changes in appearance are usually due to its position in relation to the Sun and Earth. Here are descriptions of a few of those unusual full moons:

Blood Moon

One meaning of a "blood moon" is based on its red glow. This blood moon occurs during a total lunar eclipse. During a total lunar eclipse, Earth lines up between the Moon and the Sun. This hides the Moon from the sunlight.

When this happens, the only light that reaches the Moon's surface is from the edges of the Earth's atmosphere.

The air molecules from Earth's atmosphere scatter out most of the blue light. The remaining light reflects onto the Moon's surface with a red glow, making the Moon appear red in the night sky.

The name "blood moon" is also sometimes used for a Moon that appears reddish because of dust, smoke or haze in the sky. And it can be one of the full moons of autumn when the leaves are turning red.



Supermoon

A "supermoon" appears to us as a larger-than-usual Moon in our night sky. A supermoon looks larger just because it's a bit closer to Earth. "Supermoon" is actually just a nickname for what astronomers call a perigean full moon – a moon that is full and at its closest point in its orbit around Earth.

Blue Moon

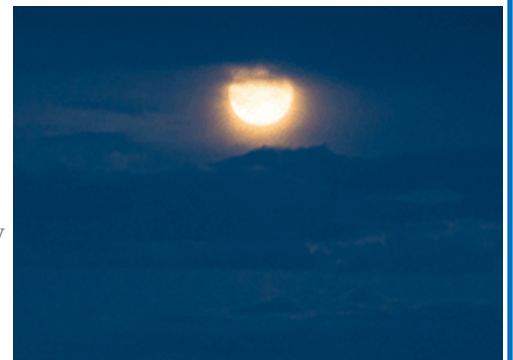
When you hear someone say, "Once in a blue moon ..." you know they are talking about something rare. A blue moon is not blue in color. In fact, a blue moon does not look any different than a regular, monthly full moon.

Rather, a blue moon is special because it is the "extra" Moon in a season with four full moons. This usually only happens every two-and-a-half years. Since the 1940s, the term "blue moon" has also been used for the second full moon in a calendar month. This usually happens only every two-and-a-half years.



Harvest Moon

The term "harvest moon" refers to the full, bright Moon that occurs closest to the start of autumn. The name dates from the time before electricity, when farmers depended on the Moon's light to harvest their crops late into the night. The Moon's light was particularly important during fall, when harvests are the largest.





Selling Equipment?

If you want to sell your telescope or other astronomy equipment, we will provide space here, on this page of our newsletter.

Any member interested in selling their astronomy equipment to other members they can do this via the Newsletter. SAAA will not be otherwise involved or responsible for any bidding/selling transactions. The member should list the asking price, a picture and phone number to be reached at in order to be contacted directly. Please send to Barb/Editor (barbwbrown@hotmail.com) before seven (7) days before the end of any month.

Keyholder Schedule

for Private Observatory Time for Members see our membership roster for contact information to schedule.

DATE	NAME
JAN 5-11	Karl Rijkse
JAN 12-18	Frank Roldan
JAN19-25	Barry Schoenfelner
JAN 26-FEB 1	Michael Long
FEB 2-8	James Reier
FEB 9-15	Harold Reitsema
FEB 16-22	Karl Rijkse



Have you missed a copy, or lost one, or just want to browse old issues of Astronomical League's *Reflector*? **Astronomical League's quarterly *Reflector* magazine:**

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>

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Editor is appointed by the SAAA board. Email: barbwbrown@hotmail.com

Previous Issues of our newsletters are found on our website at: Holland-saaa.org

*Not sure received your copy of *Reflector*, or, looking for a past issue?*

*Digital copies of the Astronomical League's quarterly *Reflector* magazine can be found at:*

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>