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# CLUB NOTES

## Club Notes - for July2024

As was reported last month, we have the first of two observing activities at Holland State Park coming up this month - Public Observing on July 11 and “Meteors and S’mores” on August 7. At both events, members and guests will get a chance to observe the night sky, assuming clear skies, of course. Already several members have volunteered to bring their telescopes for public use. If you are able to attend, be sure to bring a pair of binoculars.

In August, the treats are courtesy of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the activities are mainly trying to spot meteors.

We hope can join us.

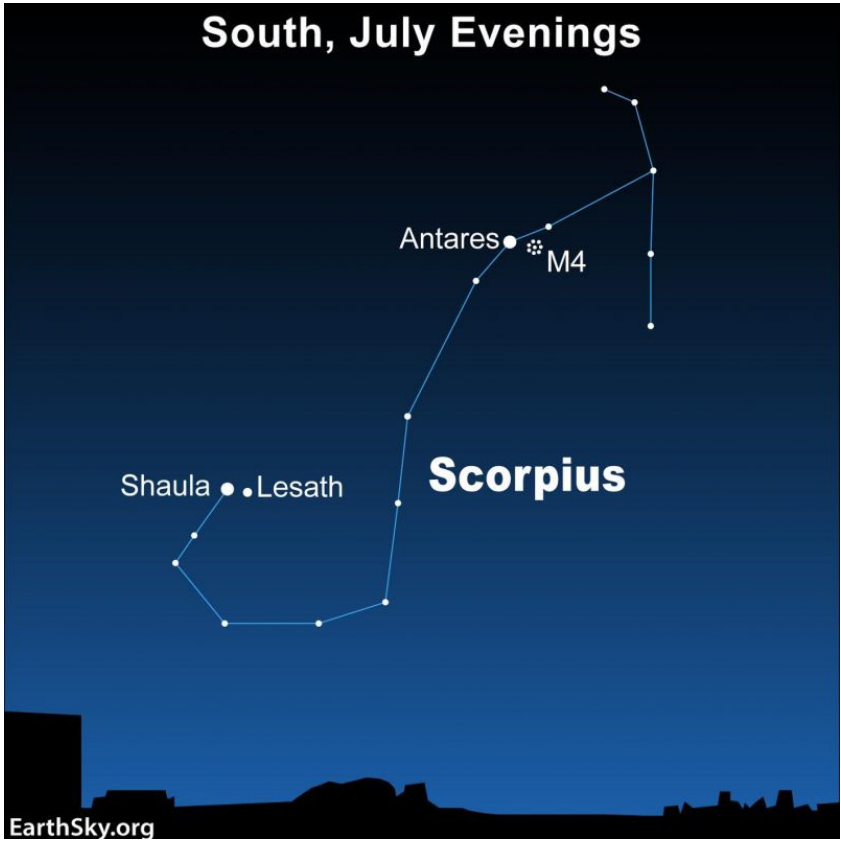
Peter Burkey  
President, SAAA



# The Night Sky: July

To see “ the Morning Sky In July”, please see Page 7. Both diagrams are from EarthSky.org

More evening diagrams appears on page 5 at the bottom.



# Calendar and Upcoming Events



## Public Observing

**When** Weather Permitting Every FRI evening 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 above after October 14<sup>th</sup>). There are no entry fees. Please be aware that the park gate closes automatically at 10 PM sharp, therefore visitors must arrive before 10 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.

## NEW PUBLIC EVENT July 11th \*\*\*

All members and the general public are invited to a special Public Stargazing evening at Holland State Park. where we will be hosting an informal observing opportunity for members and beachgoers alike, from 9 to 11 pm Please join us!

## Next Club Meeting September 12th

There are no club meetings in the summer months (June – July – August). Our next Club Meeting, which is open to all club members, is September.

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/>

## SAAA events

Today ◀ ▶ July 2024 ▼ Print Week Month Agenda ▼

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5 9pm Public Obs	6
7	8	9	10	11 9pm Public Star ***	12 9pm Public Obs	13 9pm Public Obs
14	15	16	17	18	19 9pm Public Obs	20
21 ☾	22	23	24	25	26 9pm Public Obs	27 ☾
28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2 9pm Public Obs	3

For More Information on Any Event  
Please go to [www.holland-saaa.org](http://www.holland-saaa.org)



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

NASA Climate Kids: It's all about climate.  
<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>



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

## Club History Moment: From 1991

written by our own Peter Burkey, and appeared in the *Holland Sentinel*

### A Golden Anniversary

It's rather incredible to me that it has been fifty years since I saw that static-filled image of a man in what looked like a white deep sea diving suit hopping off a short ladder to step onto the surface on the Moon. July 20, 1969, was a Sunday and NASA wisely scheduled the first lunar "excursion" during prime time. It was also no accident that the engineers had mounted a television camera on a drop-down platform on one of the legs of the lander. Viewers first saw a blank screen with a message like "no signal detected" and then all of a sudden we were looking at a stark image of black sky, bright grey landscape, and a short ladder down one of the lander's legs. A short time later we watched as Neil Armstrong descended the ladder and stepped off of it and onto the lunar surface.

It had been about six hours between the time Armstrong said "Tranquility base here, the Eagle has landed" and, "That's one small step for man . . ." so we were all able to plan our evening and set aside the time to watch him emerge from the spacecraft and take the historic "step off the LEM".

Be aware that this was the most highly anticipated and universally witnessed event in history. During a decade when tumultuous events (war, civil rights protests) threatened the fabric of our society, the space program was something we could all get excited about. Besides, it was a race with the Russians and we all wanted to win it.

There were many sources of information on how to record both sound and images of Armstrong's first step. Of course, black and white broadcast television was the only source of the images so I had my 35 mm camera with black and white film mounted on a tripod in front of the television set. I also recorded the audio on a portable cassette recorder. And although anyone can now watch video and listen to recordings of the mission with a few mouse clicks, those original, personal recordings of the event are still rather special.

And then there's the ". . . one small step . . ." line which was also highly anticipated. We are all familiar with the first words spoken from the Moon, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind", but some think Armstrong actually blew his line. He had planned to say, "That's one small step for a man . . ." because "for man" and "for mankind" seemed redundant. At the time I even had

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## 2024 Lecture Schedule

Date	Time	Title	Presenter
Jul 13	dusk	Observatory: <a href="#">Public Night</a>	SAAA Members
Aug 10	dusk	Observatory: <a href="#">Public Night</a>	SAAA Members
Sep 14	8 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Astronomy in Art</a>	Frank Roldan
Oct 12	7 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Finding Things in the Night Sky</a>	Barry Schoenfelner
Nov 9	7 pm	Lecture: <a href="#">Telescope Basics</a>	Frank Roldan



*Photograph left is from  
Mike Cortright Amateur Astronomer*

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*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/>*



# This Month in Astronomy

July 3: Apollo 17 geologist/astronaut, Harrison Schmitt born - 1935

July 4: Mars Pathfinder lands on Mars - 1997

July 9: Voyager 2 flies past Jupiter - 1979

July 20: Humans walk on Moon for the first time - 1969

July 24: First rocket launched from Cape Canaveral - 1950

July 25: Svetlana Savitskaya becomes first woman to walk in space - 1984

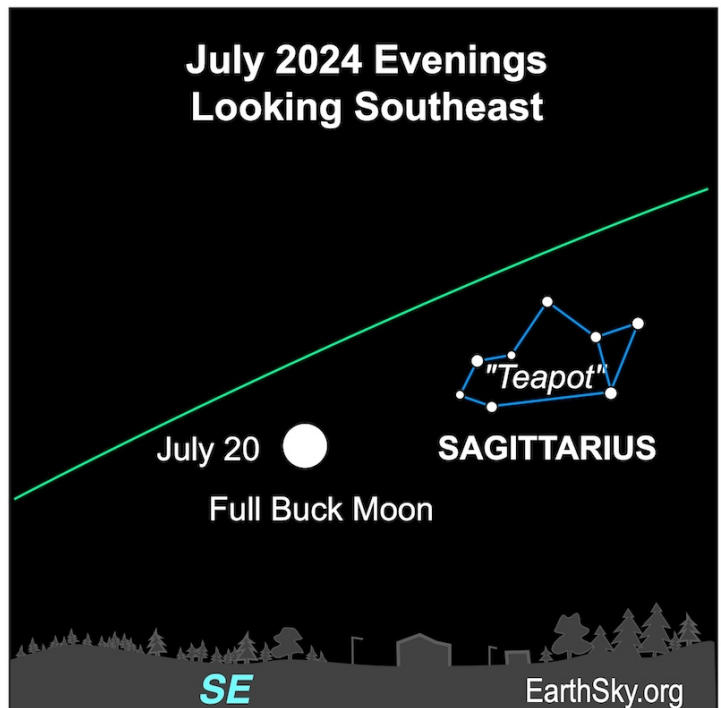
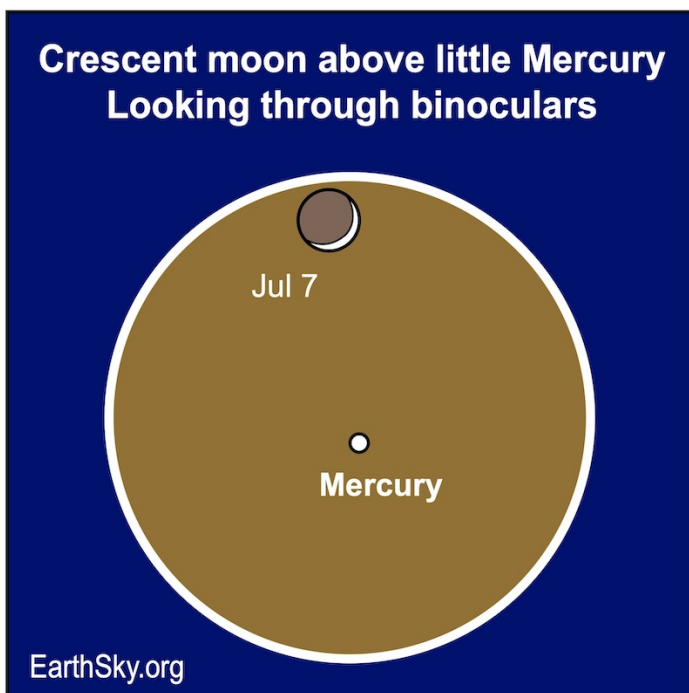
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a poster with the quote on it, including the “. . . small step for a man” quote in question. There was discussion about it for a short time but it is now viewed to have been lost in the static of the transmission.

Another interesting tidbit that has recently come out is that lunar dust smells like caps or firecrackers that had just gone off. Most of the moonwalking astronauts would comment on the smell, the result of lunar dust, which had existed in a vacuum for billions of years, coming into contact with oxygen in the command module. Its properties were completely unknown so steps were taken to ensure it did not ignite during cabin re-pressurization. The astronauts even slept in their helmets and gloves to avoid the irritation from the dust.

There are those who may question the value of some space missions, but the lunar landing will always be humans' first physical exploration of what's up in the sky.



# A Thank You to our Club!

## Fostering a New Generation

Thank  
You

Good evening,

I wanted to send a quick message of thank you. I am the Physics and Astronomy teacher at Holland Christian High School. My Physics students complete a project at the end of the school year where they focus on an area of interest we had not been able to cover during the rest of the semester. One of the options in Astronomy. As a part of this project they're required to talk to an outside source. I want them to know that asking questions of others outside of their teacher or friends can be extremely beneficial. There are so many

others out there who have an expertise in an area that might interest them.

On the exam I ask them to write about the one most important thing they learned from their project. This could be about Astronomy itself (one essay was about galaxies) or about a life skill they may have learned. I received two essays that were about my student's visit to Hemlock Crossings. One wrote about how passionate and welcoming everyone was and how everyone was so willing to show them something interesting and welcome them. She focused on the amazing variety of objects they were able to see and how it went beyond what she had expected.

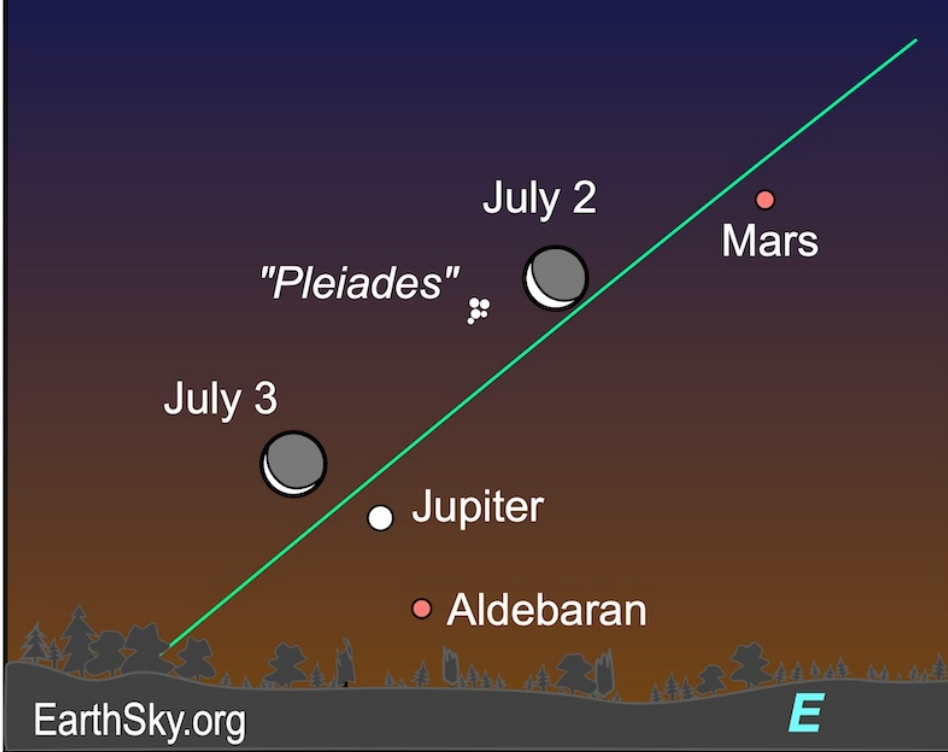
The other student specifically mentions you and your advice. Here is a quote from what she wrote "Mr. Roldan was also very encouraging and said that although understanding the sky took a lot of patience, anyone could do it. But the most important thing that this visit taught me was that star-watching is a lifelong hobby. As we were walking back to our car to leave, Mr. Roldan yelled out "Come back soon! We need more young astronomers!". At the end of her essay she calls herself a young astronomer. Those words really stuck out to her.

Thank you for all that you do and for being so welcoming. Any time a student tells me that they visited they have such positive things to say. I live pretty evenly between GRAAA and SAAA. While I have intended to make it out your direction in the past I have often had a conflict. This is a helpful reminder to me as well to make sure I get out there myself!

Again, thank you for what you do.

Anna Boorsma

# July 2024 Mornings Looking East



Diagrams from EarthSky.org

# July 2024 Mornings Looking Northeast

