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The Shoreline Observer
August 2024

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CLUB NOTES

Club Notes - for August 2024

July was a productive month for SAAA. We sponsored some public observing at Holland State Park, as well as at the Hemlock Observatory. We are adding a solar telescope to be operated on it's own mounting just outside the observatory. It will be a valuable addition to our site.

Plans have been made for "Meteors and S'mores", which is an event sponsored by Michigan State Parks each August. This year on August 7, beginning at 9 pm, SAAA will be at the basketball court at the north end of the park. Members with telescopes will be available for park visitors and guests to do some observing (with SAAA supervision). If we are lucky and the sky is clear all the way to the horizon, we may be able to spot a thin, Crescent Moon and the planet Venus very low in the western sky. This is when binoculars are very helpful. And, of course, let's hope to see a meteor or two. Lawn chairs are quite useful for this activity.

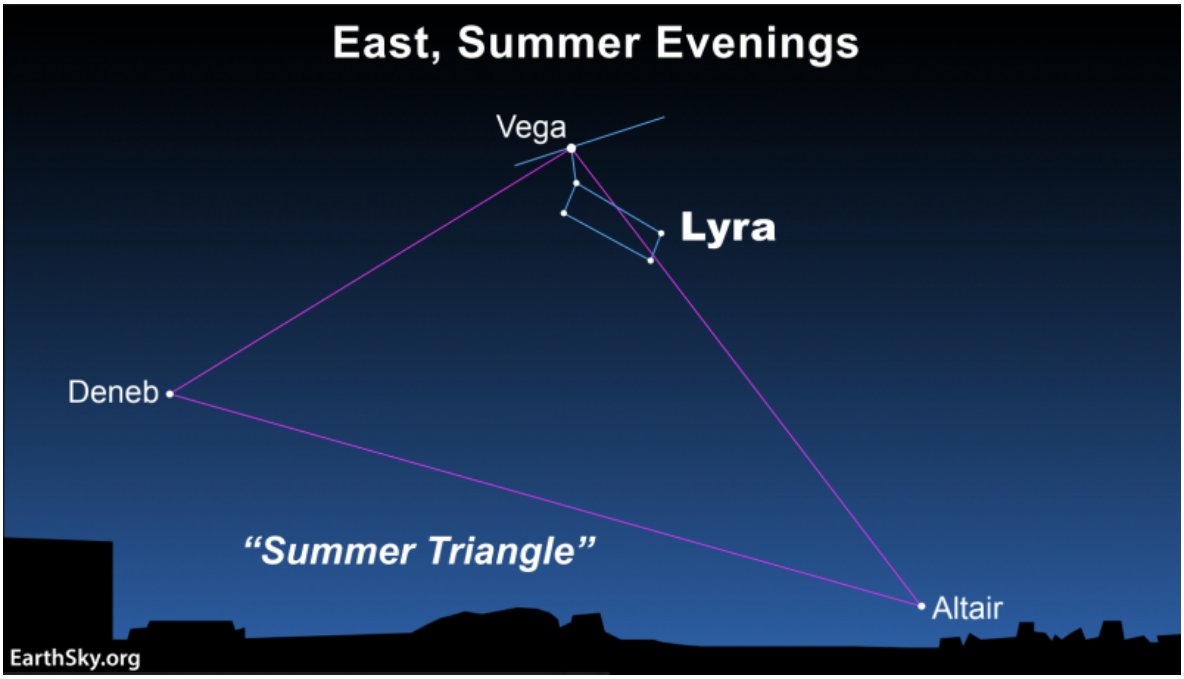
I look forward to seeing everyone on August 7.

Peter Burkey
President, SAAA

The Night Sky: August

from EarthSky.org

More about this 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 14th). 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.

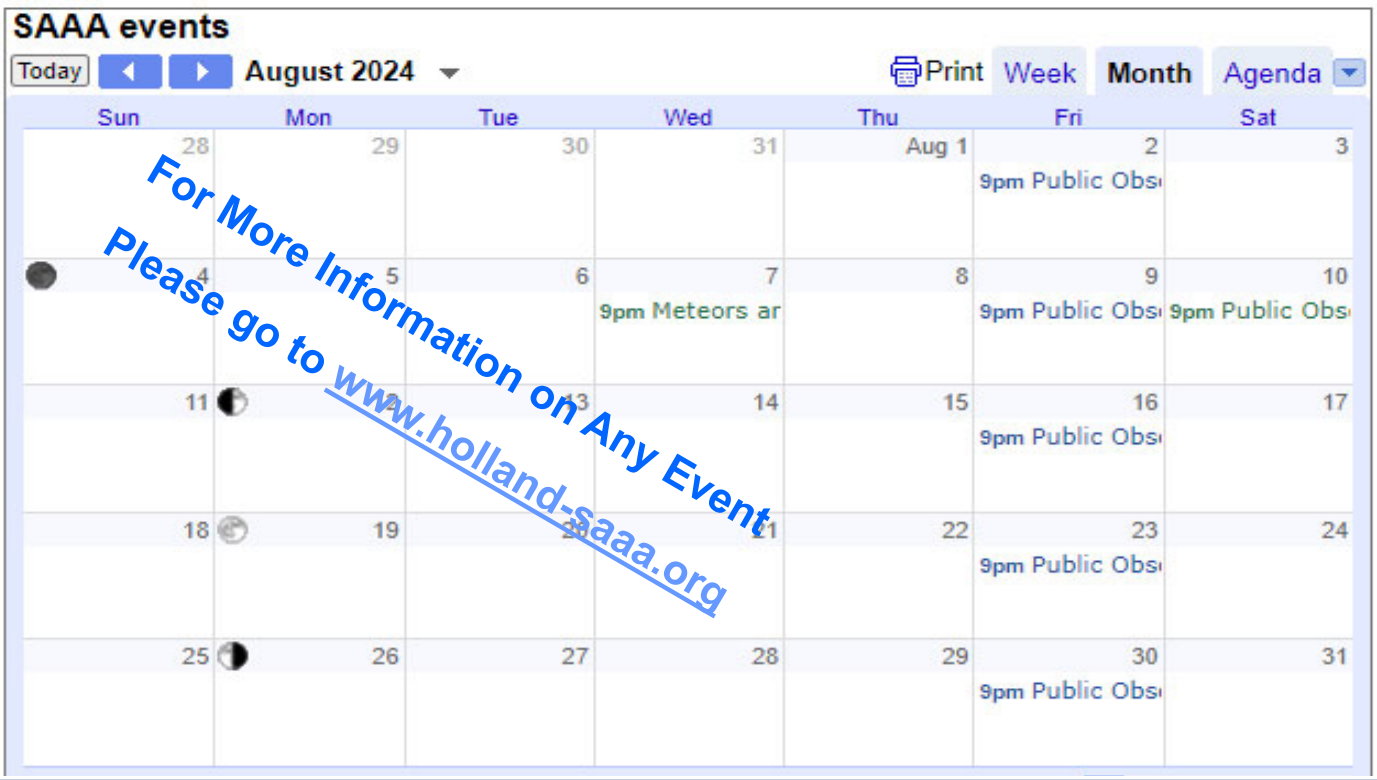
Visible night sky objects: planets, the Moon, deep sky objects like galaxies, star clusters and planetary nebulae.

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 the public, is September 12th.

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/

Upcoming Events



Kids Corner

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/

This Month in Club History: Oct '91

STAR HOPPING

Star hopping is a commonly used method to get around the night sky. The following are a few handy rough measures that might help: With your hand at arms length your little finger covers about 1 degree of sky, three fingers cover 5 degrees, your fist covers 10 degrees, if you spread your fingers, the distance between your index and little fingers will be about 15 degrees. You can check these rough measurements against the big dipper. The top of the cup is 10 degrees across. Its 25 degrees from the tip of the handle to tip of the cup. The cup is 5 degrees deep.

Stepping off with fields of view is another handy method almost everyone uses sooner or later. A question that needs answering before this can be used to best advantage is, what is the angular field of view for the telescope and eyepiece I am using? I first used the following method over 25 years ago. This method is also mentioned periodically in *Sky and Telescope*. It works great for me!

A star on or near the celestial equator moves westward at the rate of 15 degrees every hour or 1 degree every 4 minutes. To find the field of view of your telescope and any given eyepiece or the field of view of your spotter scope, perform the following procedure. If you have an equatorial mount, set the scope up and polar align it as you would for an evenings observing. Turn the scope to point at a right angle to the polar axis. It will now be pointed along the celestial equator. Find any convenient star near the equator and position it at the western edge of the field of view. NOTE THE TIME. Let the star drift to the east side. NOTE THE TIME. Divide the time in minutes that it took the star to drift across the field by 4 to get the degrees of angular field of view!

EXAMPLE: If it takes 6 minutes for a star to drift across the field, the angular field of view is 6/4 =1.5 degrees. If you have an altazimuth mount you will need to use a star chart to find a star along the celestial equator. This method works with any type of telescope and any combination of eyepieces etc.

2024 Lecture Schedule

Date	Time	Title	Presenter
Aug 10	dusk	Observatory: Public Night	SAAA Members
Sep 14	8 pm	Lecture: Astronomy in Art	Frank Roldan
Oct 12	7 pm	Lecture: Finding Things in the Night Sky	Barry Schoenfelner
Nov 9	7 pm	Lecture: Telescope Basics	Frank Roldan

M57 the Ring Nebula

Photograph above is courtesy of SAAA member, Mike Cortright, one of our talented amateur astronomers.

This Month in Astronomy

This Month in Astronomy History:

August 2: First televised liftoff of lunar module - Apollo 15's "Falcon" - 1971

August 6: Curiosity rover lands on Mars - 2012

August 12: Echo 1 satellite launched - 1960

August 12: Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter launched - 2005

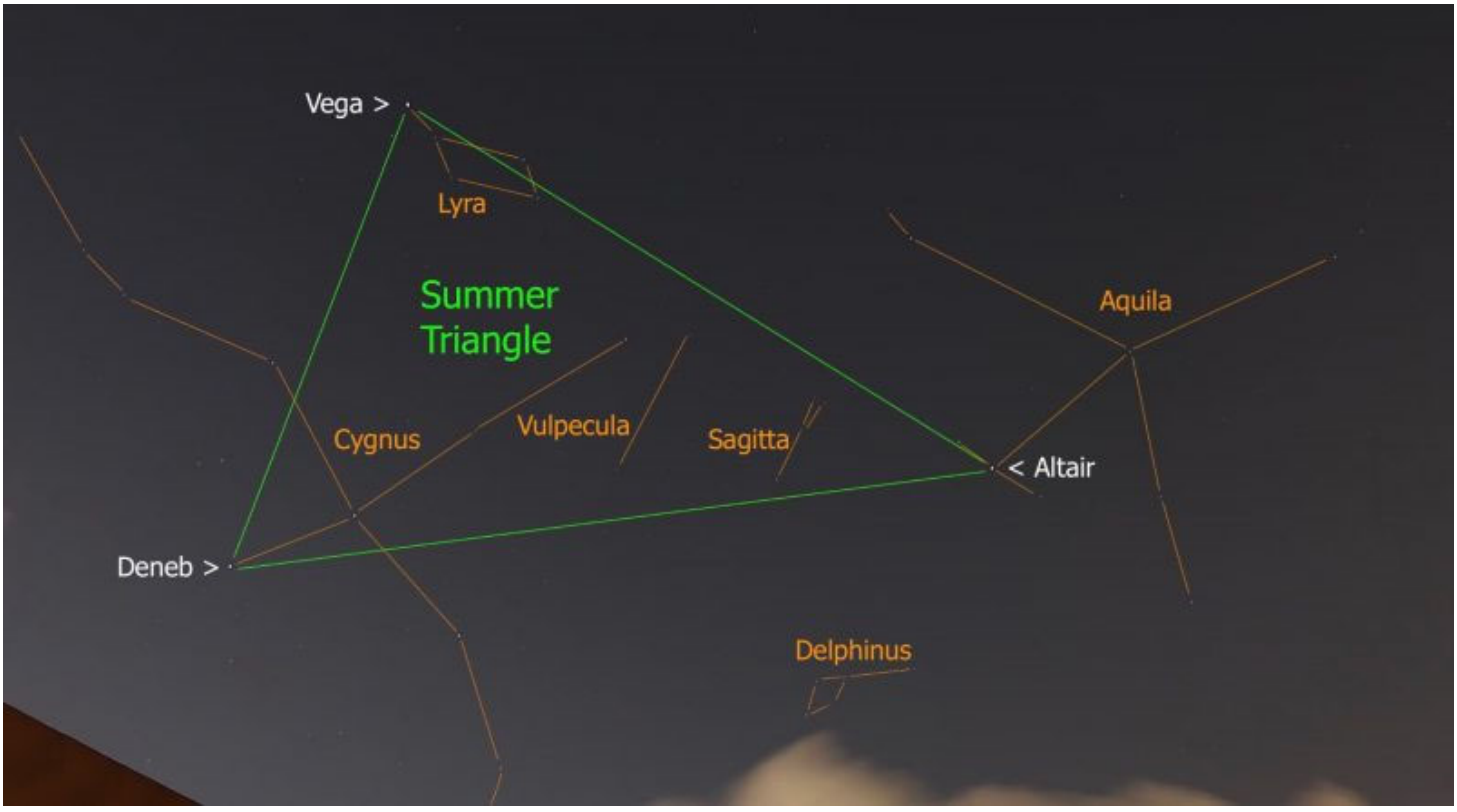
August 18: Helium discovered in the Sun - 1868

August 25: Voyager 2 flies past Neptune - 1989

August 28: Galileo spacecraft flies past asteroid Ida - 1993

Continued from page 1… from EarthSky.org

More about t his appears on page 1 at the bottom (evening sky looking East)

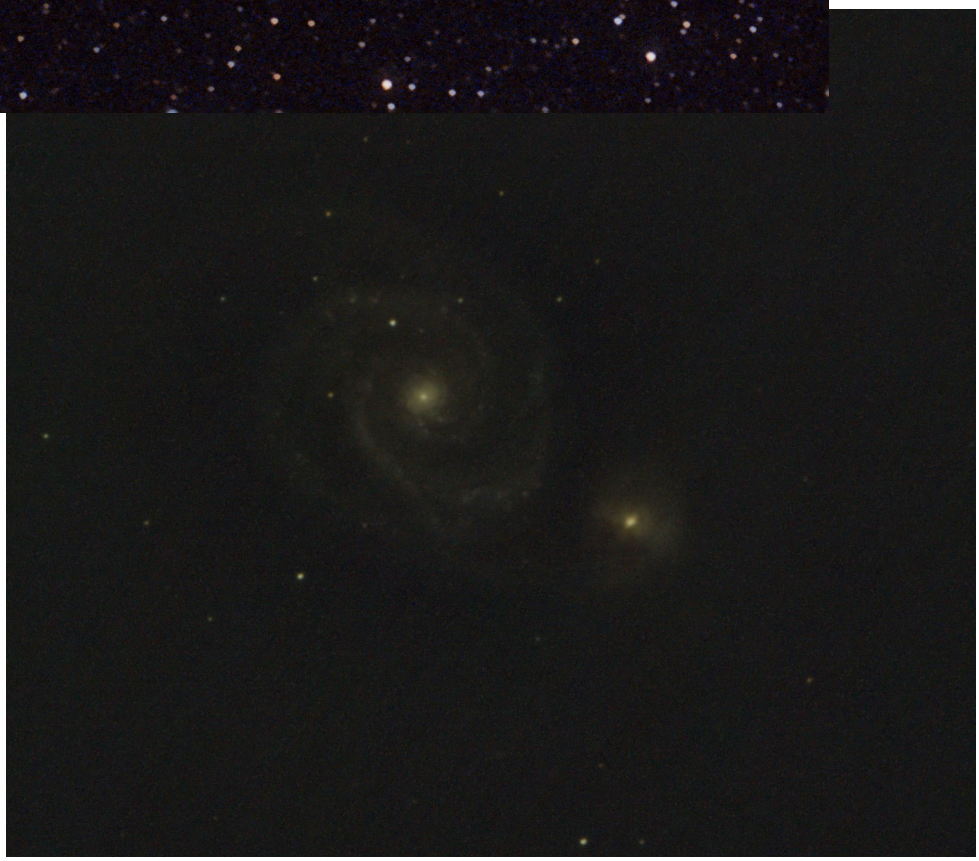


Deep Sky Photos from our Club!

On Sunday June 30th into the night of July 1st Francisco Roldan, Barry Schoenfelner, Travis McGeehan and Karl Rijkse used the 16" Meade telescope of the Hemlock Observatory to make pictures of some deep sky objects.
They used the ZWO deep sky digital camera owned by SAAA for this and had a great time learning the ropes of digital astro photography.
All photos are 60x1”

M27 The Dumbbell Nebula (above)

M51 The Worlpool Galaxy (immediately right)



M57 The Ring Nebula (below)

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

*Not sure received your copy of R*eflector, 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/