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CLUB NOTES

Club Notes - for September 2024

August began for SAAA events at the Holland State Park where we celebrated the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's celebration of "Meteors & S'mores". There were plenty of great s'mores and even a meteor. Several members brought their telescopes for the public to use.

There is some great news from Mac Bay Middle School. They will be completely updating the planetarium. This will include not only new whistle seats but also a new instrument to project the stars on the dome. This will be a digital machine and represent the latest in this type of technology. However, this will also mean that the planetarium will not be accessible for our September meeting. An alternative location will be determined next week.

Autumn is often a great season for observing. It gets dark later, the weather is usually mild, and there are many interesting objects to observe.

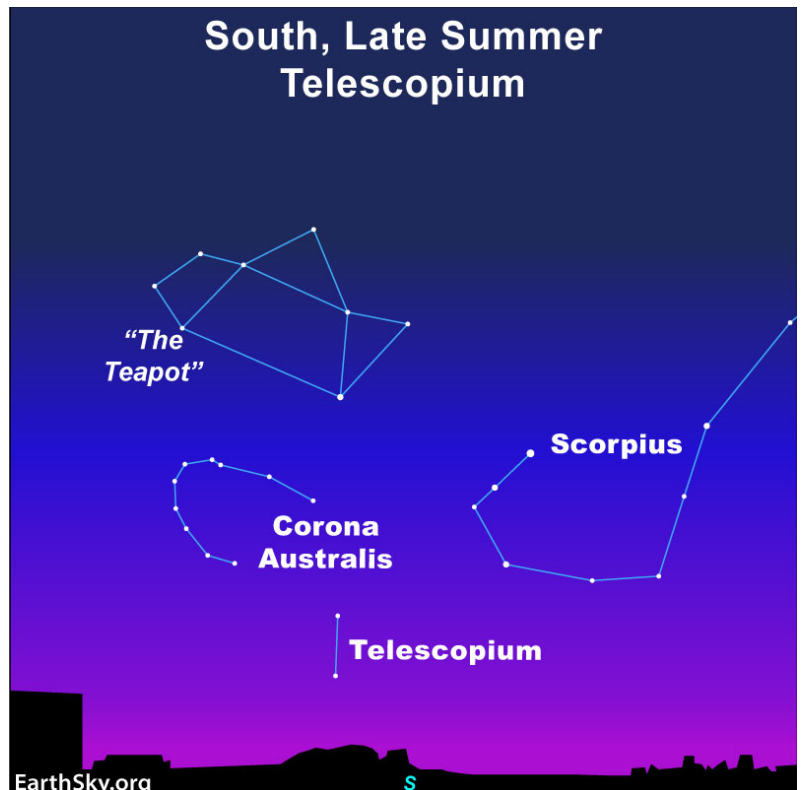
I look forward to seeing everyone on September 12.

Peter Burkey
President, SAAA



The Night Sky: September

from EarthSky.org



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 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/>

SAAA events

Today ◀ ▶ September 2024 ▼ Print Week Month Agenda ▼

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6 8pm Public Obs	7
	9	10	11	12 7pm Club Meeti	13 8pm Public Obs	14 8pm Astronomy
15	16	17	18	19	20 8pm Public Obs	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 8pm Public Obs	28
29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4 8pm Public Obs	5

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

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York



A Look Back in Club History:

The article appeared in the May 23, 1989 Grand Rapids Press - Lakeshore Edition ...continues on page 7

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STAR STRUCK

Amateur astronomers to sponsor open house

HOLLAND

By Lydia Smigielski
The Grand Rapids Press

Whether peering through a telescope to outline the hazy edges of distant planets or spending an evening with the aurora borealis, a group of amateur astronomers is bringing a bit of the heavens back to earth.

For several members of the newly formed and growing Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association, the penchant for the cosmos began with childhood.

Michael Cote, a district geologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in Plainwell, recalled how his affair with the universe was sparked.

"It was in first or second grade and the teacher asked what we wanted to do when we grew up, when it was my turn, I said I wanted to be an astronomer," he said.

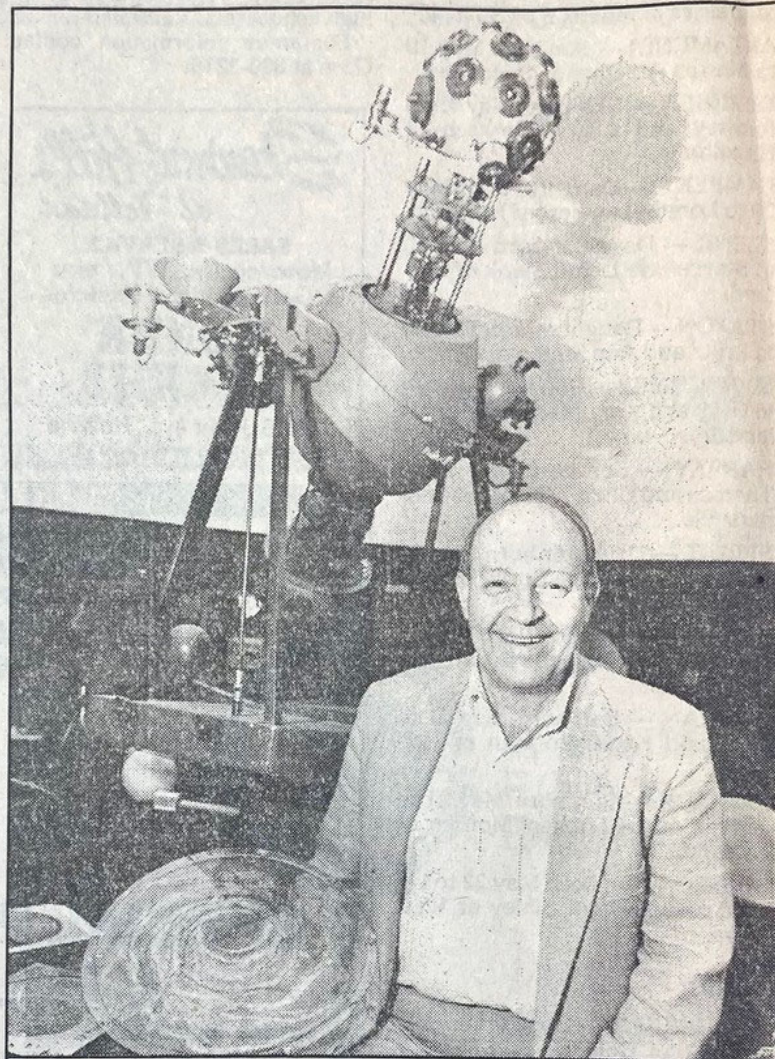
Cote, however, grew up to deal with the earth's problems and today helps regulate the oil and gas industry and its contamination of the environment.

Phillip Hill, an astronomy teacher at West Ottawa High School for the past 10 years and the president of the 25-member group, said his love for the skies started south of Lansing, where he spent long summer evenings as a youngster gazing upward.

Not much has changed for today's youngsters: "I think kids have been excited about space ever since we heard that beep, beep, beep from the Sputnik," he said.

Cote, Hill and Mark Logsdon, head custodian at the high school, "kept bumping into people who were interested in astronomy," said Hill. Last November, several amateur astronomers sat down for serious talk of forming an organization to study the universe.

Since the first informational meeting in late January, when about 30 people appeared, the



PRESS PHOTO/JEFFREY FOLTICE

West Ottawa teacher Phillip Hill is president of the new Shoreline Amateur Astronomical Association.

group has fashioned a constitution and is seeking to secure the status of a non-profit organization.

"They are all people who are very, very interested in astronomy," said Hill, who is also a member of the 100-year-old Astronomical Society of the Pacific in San

Francisco. "They're interested at looking at the sky and looking through the telescope."

Hill, 53, has a packaging engineering degree from Michigan State University; a master's degree

see STARS, page 2



Kids Corner

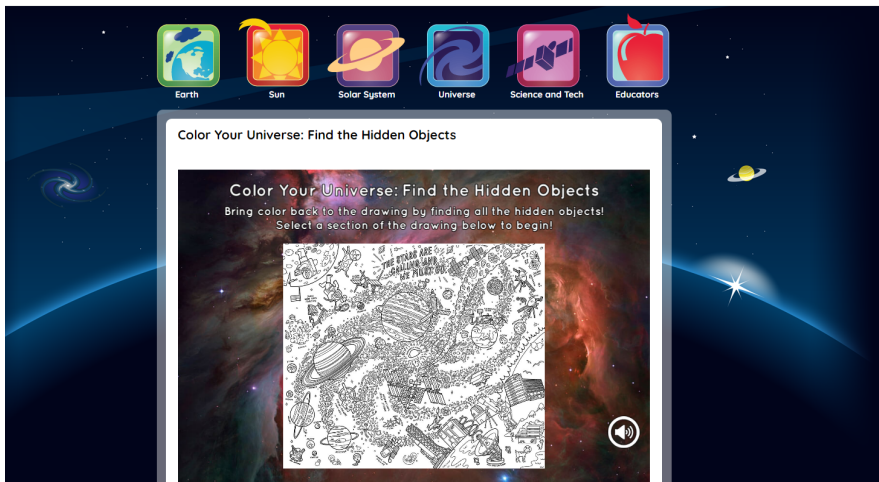
<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/> A place where kids and grown-ups have fun with technology.

NASA Climate Kids: It's all about climate.

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



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



Exploring space through NASA's site for kids. A fun game for kids who are aspiring astronomers, or perhaps just interested.

FROM: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/color-your-universe-game/en/>

2024 Lecture Schedule

Date	Time	Title	Presenter
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

This Month in Astronomy

September 1: Pioneer 11 is first spacecraft to fly past Saturn - 1979

September 3: Last two Apollo Moon landings canceled by NASA - 1970

September 8: Voyager 1 launched - 1977

September 10: Surveyor 5 lands on Moon - 1967

September 23: Premier of "The Jetsons" - 1962

September 25: 59 - day Skylab 3 mission ends - 1973

Update: Installation of Coronado Solar Telescope

The construction of the permanent pier for the Coronado solar telescope has been completed. Members Mike Long, Armando Mercado, Karl Rijkse, Frank Roldan and Barry Schoenfelner prepared the site on the south side of the observatory, dug a hole and placed a 4-foot-long section of Sonotube form. They mixed the concrete and poured the pier. Mark Dykstra Concrete of Hudsonville poured the three new additional sections to connect the existing patio to this new section.

The pedestal, designed by member Mike **Curtright** and built by Porter Steel and Welding of Muskegon, was installed. This was followed by the installation of the adapter that connects the Celestron equatorial mount to the pedestal. Finally, it was leveled and aligned with the north celestial pole.

As soon as we get a very good dry, cloudless, and clear day, the telescope will be installed. In the meantime, member Frank Roldan is building a movable outdoor enclosure to protect the pedestal and storage cases for the telescope dovetail and the equatorial. These two items along with the telescope will be stored in the mechanical room at the back of the bathroom building.



Featured Photos from our Talented Club Members

Photo Credit: Mike Cortright



Diamond Ring from April 8th Eclipse (above)

Comet 12P - Pons Brooks (below)



*Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks
April 4, 2024
Explorer Scientific EDB0 Triplet
ASI2600 MC PRO DUO
AS16R Pro Plus
A163
Mike Cortright
Amateur Astronomer/Astrophotographer*

A Look Back in Club History:

The article appeared in the May 23, 1989 Grand Rapids Press - Lakeshore Edition ...continued from page 3

STARS

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in education from MSU and a doctorate in education from the University of Michigan.

He has been teaching astronomy at the high school since 1975 and also teaches algebra and trigonometry. He had been the director of district's planetarium, housed in the Middle School, for 10 years.

Robert Wade, a senior research chemist at Parke-Davis, a division of Warner-Lambert Co., said the group is meant "to educate the public on the joys and pleasures of astronomy."

Wade said he began his hobby 22 years ago while looking at the rings of Saturn through a telescope.

A former member of a Kalamazoo astronomy club, Wade said he

responded to a newspaper advertisement promoting the Shoreline club.

The group, which meets monthly at the planetarium, is hoping to get the word out to others who love spending their nights with the stars. So they've organized a special open house Wednesday at the Herrick Public Library.

The event is slated from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. and will include a slide presentation on the solar system and deep space objects. Famed astronomer John Dobson, inventor of the Dobsonian telescope, will be on hand to answer questions.

In the near future, the group hopes to become involved with an effort to stomp out light pollution, where too many lights at night impede on sky watching, and in the long-run, hopes to construct an observatory.

Publication Information

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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/>