



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

ASTRONOMY CLUB

Astronomy Club is 1 year old!

April 2019



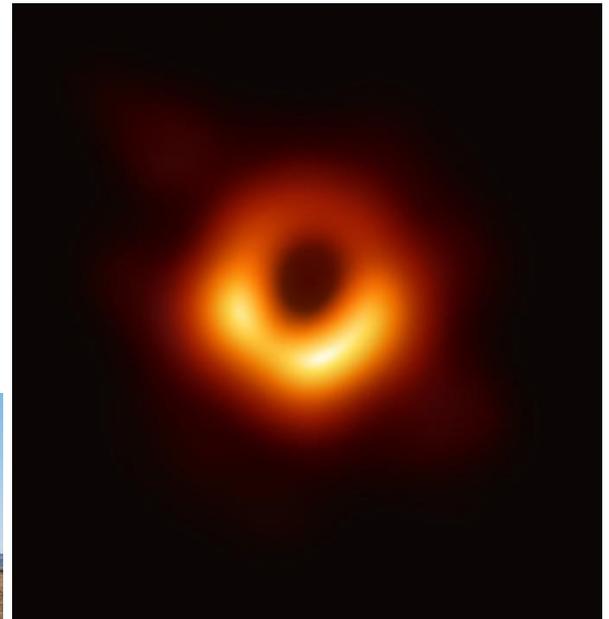
It was one year ago this month that we launched Astronomy Club at the Center. It has taken a lot of sweat, thankfully no tears, and a little blood (although that may have been Sriracha sauce). I've met some great people the past year, and I have certainly learned a lot. Hopefully you have as well. I would like to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to all of you whether you have come to just one meeting or all of them. I'll see you soon and please continue to test yourselves and stay curious about this amazing universe of ours.

- Bill

News and Current Events – What's going on in the world of space and astronomy

Scientists have captured the first ever image of a black hole!

– The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) is a planet sized array of ground-based radio telescopes designed to capture images of a black hole. A black hole is a region of space with gravity so immense, that not even light can escape. In this image, the gold ring is the event horizon, which is considered the "boundary" or "point of no return" for a black hole. This object lies 55 million light years from Earth and is 100 billion kilometers wide. Larger than our entire solar system it has a mass 6.5 billion times that of our own Sun.



Maiden flight of Stratolaunch – On April 13, over Mojave California, the Stratolaunch aircraft took the skies for its first flight lasting 2 ½ hours. The huge aircraft has a width of 385 feet which is longer than a football field including the endzones and is the largest aircraft that has ever flown (by wingspan). Designed to serve as an air-launch platform for small spacecraft and satellites, the company was founded late Microsoft co-founder, Bill Allen.

Gadgets and Gear – Technology reviews and recommendations



Anybody want an awesome telescope? – Have you ever considered making your own? Using a set of commercial mirrors and material readily found at most hardware stores, you can build your own telescope with performance surpassing most store bought instruments. Contact the club for more info.

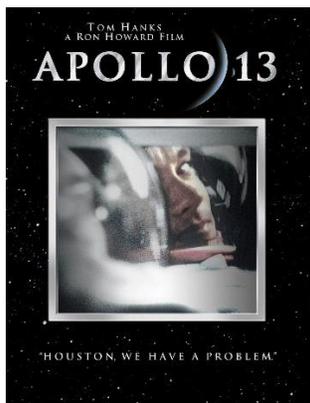


Astro-tainment – Space and Media

Our review this month is of the film documentary “Apollo 13”

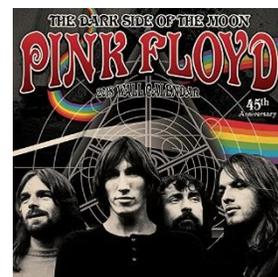
NASA must devise a strategy to return Apollo 13 to Earth safely after the spacecraft undergoes massive internal damage putting the lives of the three astronauts on board in jeopardy.

While this mission never landed on the Moon, it did showcase the talents and dedication of the men and women of NASA to safely recover our astronauts from a damaged spacecraft and get them home to Earth.



Wrap your brain around this... - Mind blowing facts

What “Dark Side”? – In reality, both sides of the Moon see the same amount of sunlight however only one face of the Moon is ever seen from Earth. This is because the Moon rotates around on its own axis in exactly the same time it takes to orbit the Earth, meaning the same side is always facing the Earth



Moon Trees? – In 1971, Apollo 14 astronaut Stuart Roosa took a bunch of tree seeds with him while orbiting the Moon. Upon returning to Earth, the seeds were germinated, and the seedlings were sent to Forestry organizations all over the world. Today, there is a living Moon tree in Jefferson County, OH. One of only 77 known out of over 400 planted.

Lunatic: The term derives from the Latin word lunaticus, which originally referred mainly to epilepsy and madness, as diseases thought to be caused by the moon.

Become a Member!

Members of Lake Erie Nature & Science Center receive access to Astronomy Club events and resources including:

- Monthly Meetings
- Star Parties (telescope viewing)
- Movie Nights
- Telescope Loan Program

\$60/year per family

Additional Membership benefits:

- Early access program registration
- Discounts on select programs and events
- 4 free admission passes to daily shows at Schuele Planetarium
- Access to Birthday Parties and Room Rentals
- Promotional discounts to Wild Birds Unlimited (*Center location only*)

Upcoming Events

Astronomy Club – May 15 @ 6:30 pm

Telescope Night – May 18 @ 8:30 pm

SkyQuest – June 12 @ 7:30pm

To become a member, please call 440-871-2900 or visit www.lensc.org/support.