



ASTRONOMY CLUB

It's time to get out and observe the night sky

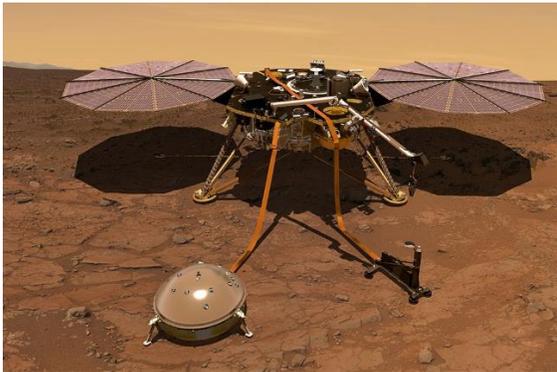
May 2019



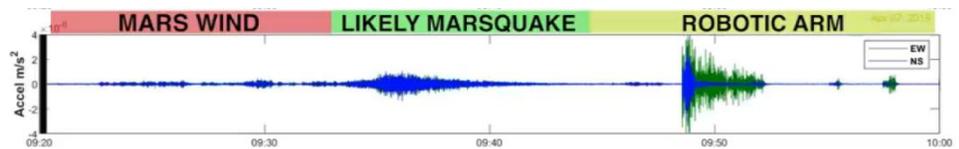
As spring moves forward, we've finally had a few good nights to get out under the stars and do some observing. Take a look about 45° up in the west and look for Castor and Pollux, the bright stars of the Gemini Twins. High in east, look for the trapezoid shape of Hercules and with a pair of binoculars or a small telescope, and see if you can spot the most impressive globular cluster in the northern skies, M13 or the Hercules Cluster. A great resource for free charts is skymaps.com.

- Bill

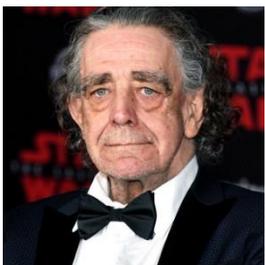
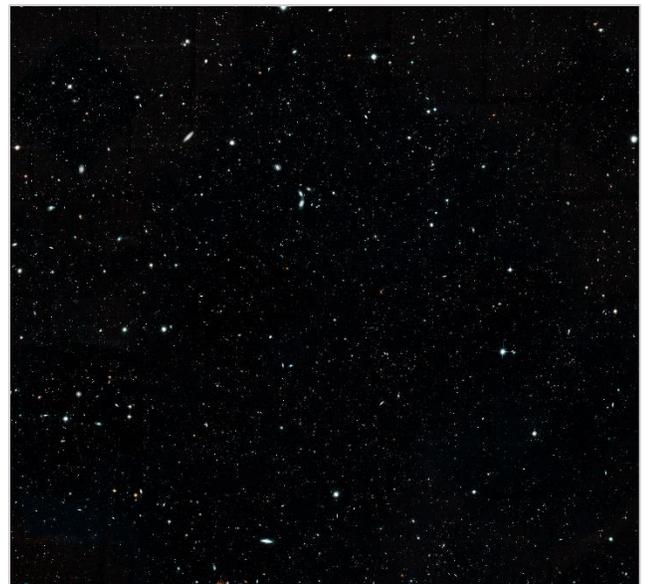
News and Current Events – What's going on in the world of space and astronomy



The Mars InSight Lander detects its first Marsquake! – On April 6, our intrepid interplanetary geologist, using its Seismic Experiment for Interior Structure (SEIS) instrument, detected its first Martian subsurface vibrations. Scientists still are examining the data to determine the exact cause of the signal emanating from what is thought of as a geologically extinct world.



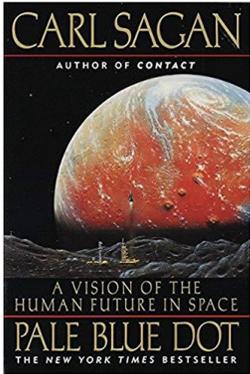
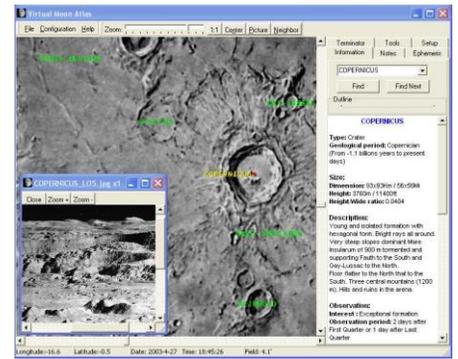
The Hubble Space Telescope continues to amaze – This recently released deep-sky mosaic is created from nearly 7,500 individual exposures. Providing a wide portrait of the very distant universe, it contains 265,000 galaxies that stretch back over 13 billion years! Every speck of light in this image is a galaxy composed of billions of individual stars. This image represents an area of the sky just smaller than the Moon. So, when you next see the full Moon in the sky, there are a quarter million galaxies hidden behind it.



Farewell to Peter Mayhew – This month we said goodbye to a literal giant of a man. This 7'3" English American was the actor who portrayed Chewbacca in the original Star Wars trilogy inspiring millions of people to look upward and imagine other worlds. You will be missed.

Gadgets and Gear – Technology reviews and recommendations

Are you “loony” about the Moon? – While using a powerful telescope to scan the heavens for the deepest, faintest and most obscure objects is fun for some, we are all still blown away by our closest astronomical neighbor, the Moon. Find out everything you ever wanted to learn about our natural satellite by using **Virtual Moon Atlas**. This open source free software, for PC, displays a 3D lunar globe which can be magnified, rotated, and navigated. The program includes an incredible amount of information about the lunar surface with an amazing level of detail, which includes its dimension, position, its craters and formations.



Astro-tainment – Space and Media

Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space (1994) – Carl Sagan

When I read this book over 20 years ago, I was so impressed with the ability of the author to mix both science and philosophy in a way that is easily palatable to most of us who may not have extensively studied either. In 1990, Voyager 1 took a photo of Earth from beyond the orbit of Neptune. This image shows a “Pale Blue Dot” in a beam of light which contains all of human history and accomplishment. This is great read for those of us who wonder, not only what is out there, but why we’re looking.

Member Report - Interstellar Interlopers – By Sherrill Shaffer

Occasionally, we see objects arriving from outside our solar system. Oumuamua is famous as the first object that was recognized as having an interstellar origin at the time it was spotted. It appears to be accelerating from solar radiation pressure in a way that suggests it is either a very thin sheet (rather than a solid object) or else a very fluffy foam (1% as dense as air). A few other smaller objects have been identified after the fact as interstellar, by their photo or radar tracks. Avi Loeb of Harvard recently reported that a 1-meter half-ton meteor that caused a fireball in our upper atmosphere was going too fast to have originated within our solar system. Other studies have similarly reported tracks of micrometeorites (dust particles) that seemed to have an interstellar origin. One such object even apparently originated outside our Milky Way galaxy, thus becoming the first known intergalactic meteor.



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

SkyQuest – June 12 @ 7:30 pm

Telescope Workshop – June 15 @ 6:30 pm

Telescope Night – June 22 @ 8:30 pm



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