

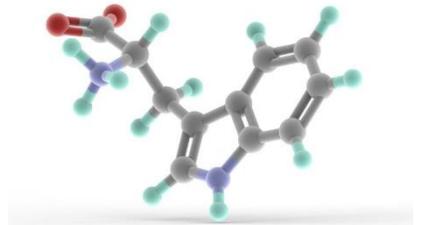


ASTRONOMY CLUB

November 2018

Don't blame the turkey...

Did you know that turkey has the same amount of tryptophan as chicken and beef? It turns out that turkey often gets blamed for post-Thanksgiving meal drowsiness. In fact, sesame seeds, nuts, eggs and cheese all have a much higher amount of this essential amino acid. It is likely the combination of the entire meal that generates exhaustion. If you are resistant to tryptophan and consider yourself an early riser, check out the Leonids meteor shower which peaks now through early-December. Head out before sunrise and look toward the constellation of Leo, high in the southern skies.



- Bill

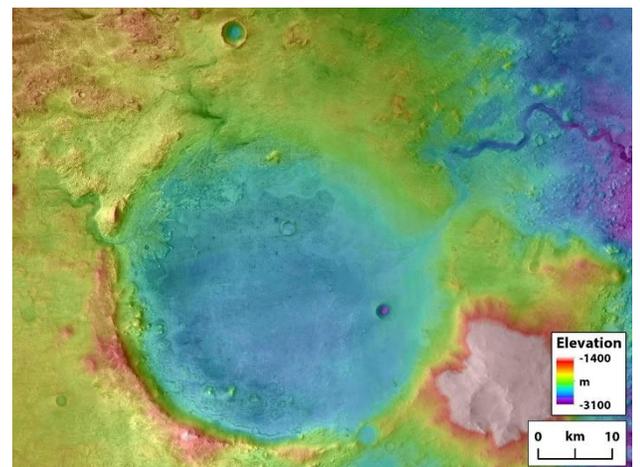
News and Current Events – What's going on in the world of space and astronomy

InSight has landed! – Congratulations! NASA has successfully landed the InSight spacecraft on Mars. Live-streamed to the world, the intrepid explorer made it through its EDL (Entry, Descent, and Landing) phase and set down on Elysium Planitia, a flat dusty area near the Martian equator. Keep an eye on the news as InSight starts its primary mission as a solar powered geologist sent to study the interior structure of the Red Planet.



Ancient Impact Crater Discovered in Greenland – Scientists have discovered a massive 20-mile wide impact crater hiding in plain sight under the Hiawatha Glacier in Greenland. After spotting satellite imagery of a round semicircular ice formation, the crater's existence was confirmed using airborne radar analysis. While research is ongoing, it is believed that this impact, created from an object almost a half a mile across, could date back to 12,000 years ago.

Up Next – Researchers have selected Jezero Crater as the landing site for the next Mars Rover mission, slated for 2020. Its mission is to seek out signs of vanished seas and possibly ancient habitable conditions.



Gadgets and Gear – Technology reviews and recommendations



Having an interest in astronomy, while living in Northeast Ohio, presents some challenges. How can we observe the night sky without freezing solid?

With Virtual Reality becoming more accessible and economical, there are increasingly more resources available to use this tool to learn about space. There are planetarium apps, space mission simulations, as well as immersive photographs and videos. While it will never replace being under the stars, it just may hold you over until spring.



Astro-tainment – Space and Media

This month, we reviewed the 2016 movie “Arrival”.

A thought-provoking movie about first contact with alien spacecraft, investigators must figure out a way to communicate to prevent a disaster.

While sometimes slow moving, it is definitely one to watch as we are forced to think about talking to someone, or something, truly outside the human experience.



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

Do you realize that at this very moment, you are traveling at over 800 miles per hour? That is the speed of our bodies as the Earth spins around the axis of our planet. While that is pretty quick, our planet is whipping around the Sun at over 66,000 MPH. Faster yet is the speed of our Sun as it orbits around a super massive black hole at the center of our Milky Way Galaxy. Our Sun is moving at over 514,000 MPH! This puts our combined speed of travel through the universe at 1.34 million miles per hour! Think about that the next time you get pulled over for speeding.



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 – December 12 at 7:30pm

Solstice with Santa – December 14 at 6pm

Astronomy Club – December 19 at 6:30pm

Family Astronomy Night – January 18 at 7:30pm

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