Skylights

Newsletter of the Astronomical Society of Northern New England

July 2023

Member of NASA's Night Sky Network

Astronomical League

ASNNE MISSION

ASNNE is an incorporated, non-profit, scientific and educational organization with three primary goals:

1) To have fun sharing our knowledge and interest with others.

2) To provide basic education in astronomy and related sciences to all who are interested.

3) To promote the science of Astronomy.

What's Up In July

By Bernie Reim

The month of July is named for Julius Caesar. July is always the first full month of summer for us in the northern hemisphere. The days are getting shorter again, but they are still quite long and the nights are short in July. However, there will be many interesting highlights to catch under the skies of the warm July summer nights, so make sure you get outside and observe some of them for yourselves.

These include our next-door neighboring planets Mars and Venus putting on a show each evening as they will approach to within less than 4 degrees on the first of the month. Venus reaches its greatest brilliancy of -4.7 on the 7th. It will be about 200 times brighter than Mars which is only 1.8 magnitude. Mercury joins the show late in the month, getting as close as 5.5 degrees to Venus on the 25th. Our first planet, Mercury will be about 6 times brighter than Mars.

Saturn begins the month rising before midnight and ends the month rising before 10 pm on the way to its opposition on August 27 when it will rise at sunset. Then Jupiter is not far behind rising around 2am on the first and midnight by the end of the month on the way to its opposition on November 3. Our largest and brightest asteroid, Ceres, at 600 miles across will be passing through Virgo shining at 8.8 magnitude. Then you can see Comet 237P/LINEAR carving its way through Aquila this month at 11th magnitude if you have a good telescope. A whole parade of 5 much brighter comets is on the way soon starting with Comet Lemmon at 8th magnitude next month, then Comet 103P/Hartley 2 at 7th magnitude in November and possibly 3 binocular comets by the spring.

To top all of that off, you have not one or two, but 3 meteor showers to look forward to catching this month after a long but expected drought of good meteor showers so far this year. The best one will be the July 30 Delta Aquarids peaking at about 15 meteors per hour. Then there are two lesser known and more minor ones at only 5 meteors per hour, just above the background rate of stray meteors from anywhere in the sky of 2 to 3 per hour. These are the July 28 Pisces Austrinids and the July 27 Alpha Capricornids caused by Comet NEAT.

Venus was gaining on Mars all of last month but could never quite catch it. Watch them play tag with each other in the constellation of Leo the lion all month long. Venus was at greatest eastern elongation from the sun and exactly half lit last month and now it is getting thinner and closer to us each day reaching its greatest brilliancy for the year on the 7th at magnitude minus 4.7. We will lose our sister planet to the western evening twilight by early next month. Venus is the same size as Earth, 8,000 miles across, but has a very different and completely inhospitable atmosphere with 900 degree F temperatures on its surface and highly corrosive sulfuric acid rain.

On a happier note, it may be raining diamonds 8,000 km below the surface of our ice giants Uranus and Neptune where hydrogen and carbon are squeezed together at incredible pressures. It may also be raining rubies and sapphires on the tidally locked hot Jupiter planet called WASP 121b orbiting a star 850 light years away.

We are planning to launch a mission around October of this year to the metal-rich asteroid named 16 Psyche which is one of several million asteroids orbiting the sun in the belt between Mars and Jupiter. Discovered by an Italian astronomer in 1852, Psyche is named for Greek goddess of the soul. This potato-shaped rare asteroid is 140 miles in diameter and may contain enough iron, nickel, and gold to be worth 10 quintillion dollars. That is a one with 19 zeroes after it. That would literally make each one of the 8 billion of us currently living on earth worth exactly 1 billion dollars if we could mine all of it and divide it evenly. Over 50 years ago Buckminster Fuller said that each one of us is already a potential millionaire if we could just harness the power of our own sun a little more efficiently.

"Continued on page 2"

Inside This Issue

Club Contact List	**pg. 2**
Moon Data	**pg. 3-5**
Observer's Challenge	
Meteor Showers in 2023	**pg. 6**
Club Merchandise for Sale	
Find A Ball of Stars	**pg. 7,8**
Astro-imaging with a Point & Shoot	**pg. 9,10**
Club Meeting Minutes for June	**pg. 11-15**
Club Info & Directions to ASNNE	**pg. 16**
ASNNE Club & Library Resources	**pg. 17**
Become a Member	**pg. 18**

Club Contacts

Officers:

President:
Ian Durham
idurham@anselm.edu

Vice President:
Bernie Reim
berniereim@kw.com

Secretary:
Carl Gurtman
cgurtman@maine.rr.com

Treasurer:
Ian Durham
idurham@anselm.edu

Board of Directors:

Gary Asperschlager
gasperschlager@gmail.com

Larry Burkett
larrybu32@yahoo.com

Keith Brown
silverado93@twc.com

Star Party Co-ordinator:

Carl Gurtman
cgurtman@maine.rr.com

Skylights Editor:

Paul Kursewicz
pkursewicz@myfairpoint.net

Website Manager:

Paul Kursewicz
pkursewicz@myfairpoint.net

NASA Night Sky Network Co-ordinator:

Joan Chamberlin
starladyjoan@yahoo.com

JPL Solar System Ambassador:

Joan Chamberlin
starladyjoan@yahoo.com

E-mail coordinator
David Bianchi
dadsnorlax@yahoo.com

What's Up "*Continued from page 1*"

All of this just shows us how many great riches already exist in our nearby solar system.

Most of the other asteroids are made of rock and ice, but 16 Psyche is special because it is the exposed metallic heart of a dead planet that was stripped of its mantle by a huge collision long ago. The mission will be powered by the largest solar panel array ever used by NASA and is scheduled to get there by 2026, about the same time that we will be walking on the moon again, this time on a regular basis.

Saturn is slowly getting a little brighter and closer each evening, gaining a half magnitude of brightness this month. It is in Aquarius the Water-bearer now, where it will hang out for two years after spending the last 2 years in Capricorn. It spends a little over 2 years in each of the 12 zodiac constellations since it takes 29 years to orbit the sun. Saturn already started its retrograde or westward motion against the background of stars last month on June 17 and it will return to its normal, direct, eastward motion on November 4 of this year. Opposition always marks the exact midpoint of this retrograde loop for each of the superior planets.

Its spectacular ring system is now only tilted about 7 or 8 degrees relative to us and it is gradually getting less and less tilted so that our view of them will be directly edge-on by 2025. That happens every 29 years since that is its orbital period. I remember when the rings completely disappeared for a while in 1996 and Saturn looked more like Jupiter with no rings.

NASA is planning a 5 billion dollar mission called Orbilander to the 6th largest moon of Saturn, Enceladus, at 300 miles in diameter. We just found 62 new moons of Saturn, so its total is now 145, passing Jupiter's 95 moons. We already knew that Enceladus has a warm salty ocean with organic matter just below its surface since it is spewing geysers of this water into space from its south pole forming a much wider diffuse watery ring around Saturn well beyond its visible rings of rock and ice. They just found another critical ingredient in these plumes, phosphorus. Along with carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur these 5 common elements make up 98% of living matter on Earth, so the prospects for life in the oceans under Enceladus just went way up.

This mission will not launch until 2038, about the time we will be walking around on Mars. Then it will be taking a slower approach to the ringed planet so it can use a smaller rocket to launch and will not get there until 2050. Orbilander should orbit the moon for 200 days taking samples of these plumes of rich ocean water and then it will land on its south pole for two years to get close up pictures and samples to see if there really is life there and how it might have formed and evolved.

Jupiter is now in Aries the Ram, still traveling in its direct eastward motion until September 4. The king of the planets is also getting a little larger and closer and brighter each night along with Saturn as we are catching up with these two giants in our orbits. There will be several transits of its large moons, Io and Ganymede this month visible in a telescope.

The best of the 3 meteor showers this month will be the Delta Aquarids, which peak on July 30 but last from the middle of July to the middle of August. You will also see some early Perseid meteors late this month if you look for them. The Perseids always peak on August 11 to 12. Caused by Comet 96P/Machholz, you can expect about 15 Delta Aquarids per hour from a dark sky site. The moon will be waxing gibbous and not set until 4 am, so you will need to wait until then to see more of these meteors.

July 3. Full moon is at 7:39 a.m. EDT. This is also known as the Hay or Thunder moon.

July 4. Henrietta Swan Leavitt was born on this day in 1879. She was a famous member of the Harvard Computers that established the spectral classification system to classify all the stars. She went farther and also discovered the period-luminosity relationship of Cepheid variables so that we can use them to determine distances to nearby galaxies out to about 100 million light years, also known as Leavitt's Law. The moon is at perigee or closest to the earth this evening at 223,786 miles, so this is almost a super moon which is defined as the full moon within one day of perigee. We will have two super moons next month. The August 31 full moon will be the closest and brightest super moon of this year and also a blue moon. On this day in the year 1054 a supernova in Taurus exploded known as the Crab nebula or M 1 on Charles Messier's list of 110 celestial objects. It is 6500 light years away, so it actually exploded 7500 years ago. If a supernova explodes closer than 100 light years to Earth it would cause some serious damage to the sensitive life here and closer than about 50 light years would cause a mass extinction. That may have been the cause of at least one of our 5 mass extinctions so far.

July 5. On this day in 1687 Newton published his Principia, describing the laws of universal gravitation and many other principles of math and physics.

July 6. Earth is at aphelion, or farthest from the sun today at 94.5 million miles. We get as close as 91.5 million miles in early January and we average 93 million miles, which is one astronomical unit. The moon passes just 3 degrees south of Saturn tonight.

July 9. Last quarter moon is at 9:48 p.m.

July 10. Mars passes less than one degree north of Regulus this morning.

July 11. The moon passes 2 degrees north of Jupiter this evening.

July 16. The first of 21 fragments of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 hit Jupiter on this day in 1994. Then another kilometer-sized fragment would hit about every 6 hours. I saw 5 of them as they created giant, earth-sized black spots on Jupiter.

July 17. New moon is at 2:32 p.m.

July 19. Edward Charles Pickering was born on this day in 1846. He led the famous group of Harvard Computers, who also made many other important discoveries about stars including that the sun has helium.

July 20. Humans first landed on the moon on this day in 1969. We last landed there in December of 1972. Now we will go back there with humans landing there again on a regular basis around 2025 with the Artemis missions, the mythological twin sister of Apollo. The moon passes 8 degrees north of Venus and 3 degrees north of Mars tonight.

July 23. Vera Rubin was born on this day in 1928. She first discovered the galaxy rotation problem that led to dark matter as the explanation, first theorized by Fritz Zwicky in the 1930's.

A new sky survey telescope is named in her honor which was formerly called the Large Synoptic Sky Survey Telescope. It is scheduled to see first light in October of next year. It has the largest CCD camera ever made and it will take a complete wide field sky survey every few nights with its 8.4 meter mirror. It will keep doing this so that a more three dimensional image of our nearby universe will emerge as it is constantly changing.

July 25. First quarter moon is at 6:07 p.m.

July 26. Mercury passes 5 degrees north of Venus tonight.

July 28. Mercury passes just 0.1 degrees south of Regulus tonight.

July 30. The southern Delta Aquarid meteor shower peaks tonight. ★

Moon Phases

July 3
Full

July 9
Last Quarter

July 17
New

July 25
First Quarter

Moon Data

July 4
Moon at perigee

July 6
Saturn 3° north of Moon

July 8
Neptune 1.7° north of Moon

July 11
Jupiter 2° south of Moon

July 12
Uranus 2° south of Moon

July 19
Mercury 4° south of Moon

July 20
Moon at apogee

Venus 8° south of Moon

Mars 3° south of Moon

OBSERVER'S CHALLENGE* – July, 2023

by Glenn Chaple

NGC 6217 Galaxy in Ursa Minor (Magnitude 11.2, Size 3.0' X 2.4')

When it comes to offering galaxies for the backyard observer, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor are at opposite ends of the spectrum. *Sky and Telescope's Pocket Sky Atlas* plots several dozen in Ursa Major, nine in the Bowl alone, compared to just one in the entirety of Ursa Minor. Our July Observer's Challenge is that lone Ursa Minor galaxy, NGC 6217.

NGC 6217 was discovered by William Herschel on December 12, 1797, and is bright enough to be included in the Herschel 400 observing program. Its 2000.0 coordinates are: RA $16^h32^m39.2^s$, Dec $+78^\circ11'53.6''$. Star-hoppers can find their way to NGC 6217 by working their way 2.5 degrees ENE from Zeta Ursae Minoris or a similar distance NNE from Eta Ursae Minoris.

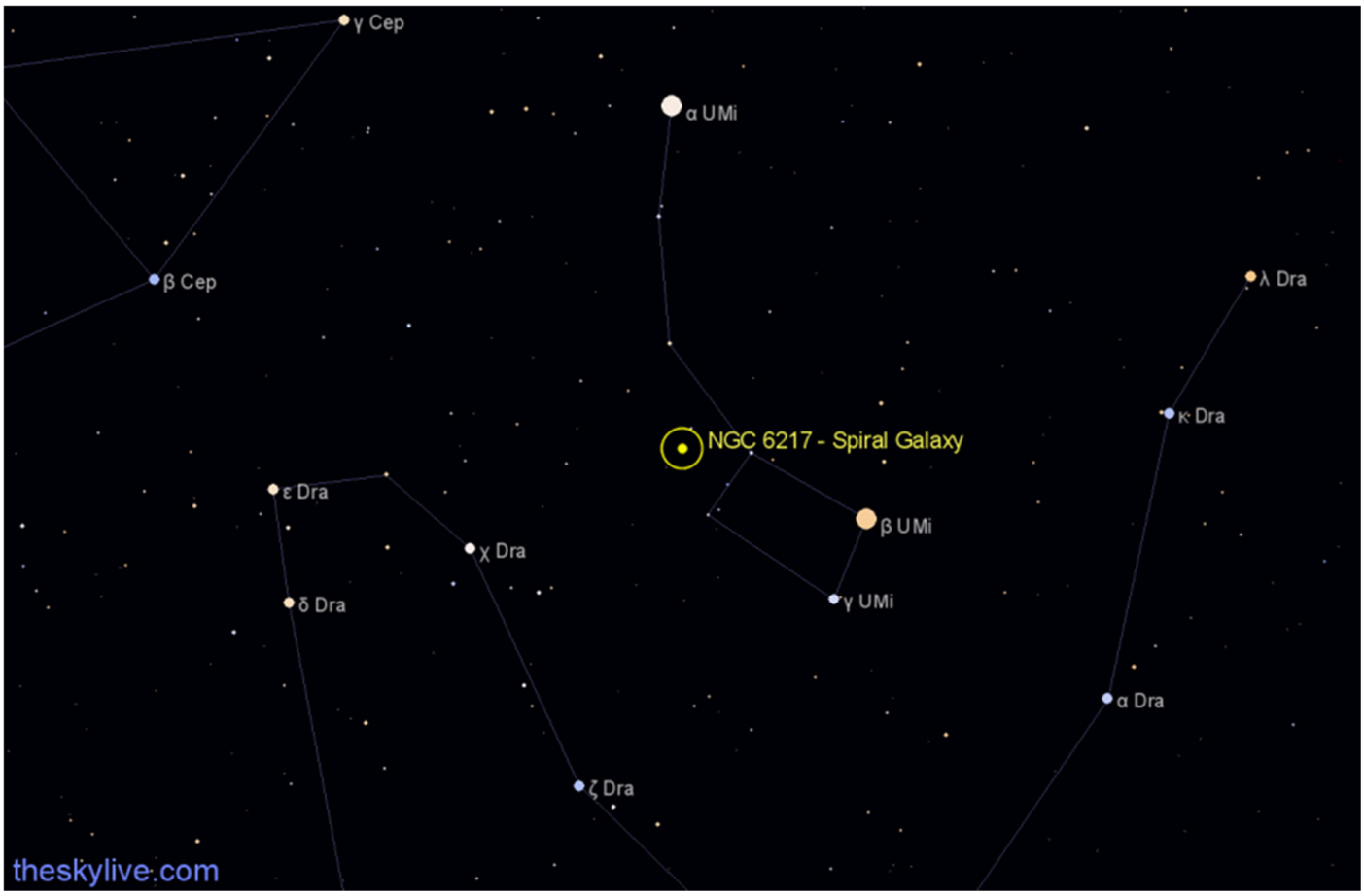
I observed NGC 6217 on the evening of June 19, 2023, using a 10-inch f/5 reflecting telescope and a magnifying power of 139X. Under my suburban magnitude 5 skies, I was able with averted vision to make out a pair of starlike specks surrounded by a faint oval-shaped haze oriented in a NW to SE direction. Upon returning indoors, I checked my resources and learned that the central-most speck was the galaxy's nucleus, while the other was a foreground Milky Way star.

Classified as a barred spiral galaxy, NGC 6217 is undergoing a high rate of star formation. Assuming a distance of 67 million light years, it has a diameter of 55,000 light years.

*The purpose of the Observer's Challenge is to encourage the pursuit of visual observing. It is open to anyone who is interested. If you'd like to contribute notes, drawings, or photographs, we'd be happy to include them in our monthly summary. Submit your observing notes, sketches, and/or images to Roger Ivester (rogerivester@me.com). To find out more about the Observer's Challenge, log on to rogerivester.com/category/observers-challenge-reports-complete.

"Continued on page 4"

NGC 6217 Finder Chart



"Continued on page 5 "

Photo submitted by Mario Motta

NGC6217, an interesting barred spiral 67 MLY away in Ursa Minor.

This is a starburst galaxy, and also reported to have a "false outer ring" to which I believe is the blue spiral outer arms seen in my image encircling the inner galaxy.

This was taken with my 32 inch scope, with ZWO ASI6200 camera with R/G/B and Lum filters. I also added some Ha filter imaging, but little showed. I read recently that for galaxies red shifting away from us, after 50-70 MLY, the "red Ha" is red shifted out of the narrow band pass that the filter will transmit, and this may explain why even if a starburst galaxy, Ha regions appear less intense at this distance away. Total integration time is about 4 hours.

Processed with CCD stack, then PixInsight.

Mario Motta

Principal Meteor Showers in 2023

January 4
Quadrantids

April 22
Lyrids

May 6
Eta Aquarids

July 30
Delta Aquarids

August 12
Perseids

October 9
Draconid

October 21
Orionids

November 9
Taurids

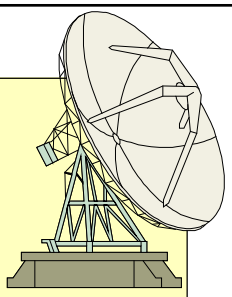
November 18
Leonids

November 26
Andromedids

December 14
Geminids

December 22
Ursids

Note: Dates are for maximum



Got any News?

Skylights Welcomes Your Input.

Here are some suggestions:

Book reviews -- Items for sale -- New equipment -- Ramblings -- Star parties -- Observing -- Photos.

Benefits of Membership

- Attend our monthly meetings and club star parties
- Our Monthly Newsletter: *Skylights*
- Discounts on *Sky & Telescope. and Astronomy magazine subscriptions*
- Automatic subscription to the Astronomical League's quarterly newsletter, *The Reflector*
- With proper training, access to the equipment at ASNNE's Talmage Observatory at Starfield.
- By special arrangement, free admission to the Southworth Planetarium at USM in Portland

Enjoy sharing your interest and have fun learning about Astronomy!

Our Club has Merchandise for Sale at: www.cafepress.com/asnne

All money raised goes to our operating fund.
Any design can be put on any item.

Contact David Bianchi dadsnorlax@yahoo.com for further details.

This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.org to find local clubs, events, and more!

Find A Ball of Stars

Linda Shore, Ed.D

French astronomer Charles Messier cataloged over 100 fuzzy spots in the night sky in the 18th century while searching for comets – smudges that didn't move past the background stars so couldn't be comets. Too faint to be clearly seen using telescopes of the era, these objects were later identified as nebulas, distant galaxies, and star clusters as optics improved. Messier traveled the world to make his observations, assembling the descriptions and locations of all the objects he found in his *Catalog of Nebulae and Star Clusters*. Messier's work was critical to astronomers who came after him who relied on his catalog to study these little mysteries in the night sky, and not mistake them for comets.

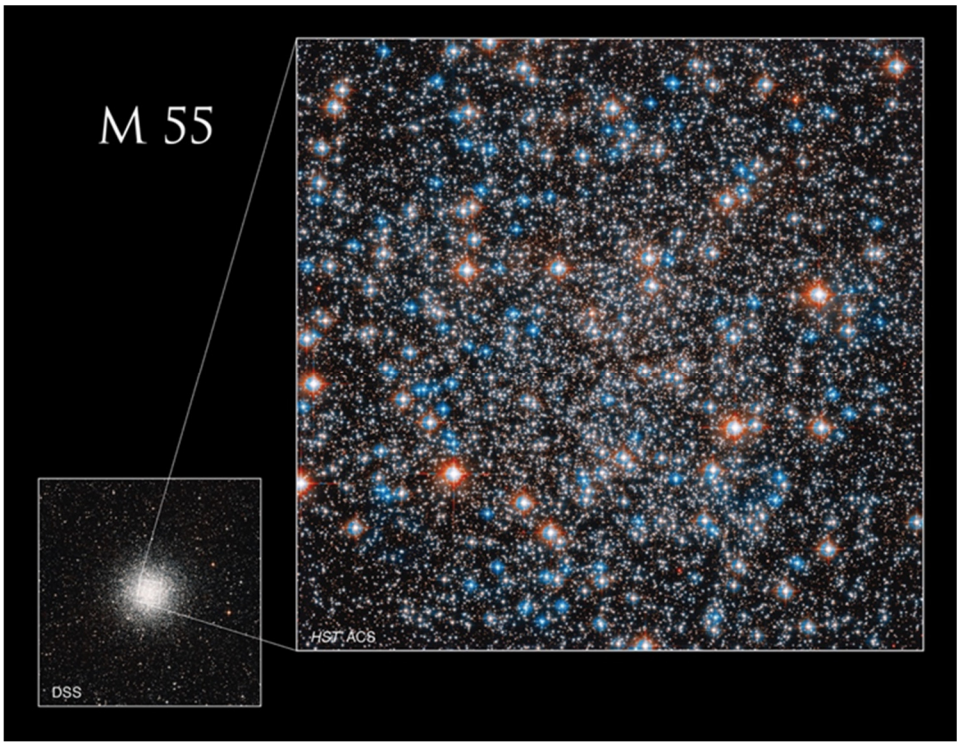
Most easily spotted from the Southern Hemisphere, this "faint fuzzy" was first cataloged by another French astronomer, Nicholas Louis de Lacaille in 1752 from Southern Africa. After searching many years in vain through the atmospheric haze and light pollution of Paris, Charles Messier finally added it to his catalog in July of 1778. Identified as **Messier 55 (M55)**, this large, diffuse object can be hard to distinguish unless it's well above the horizon and viewed far from city lights.

But July is great month for getting your own glimpse of M55 – especially if you live in the southern half of the US (or south of 39°N latitude). Also known as the "Summer Rose Star," M55 will reach its highest point in northern hemisphere skies in mid-July. Looking towards the south with a pair of binoculars well after sunset, search for a dim (mag 6.3) cluster of stars below the handle of the "teapot" of the constellation Sagittarius. This loose collection of stars appears about 2/3 as large as the full Moon. A small telescope may resolve the individual stars, but M55 lacks the dense core of stars found in most globular clusters. With binoculars, let your eyes wander the "steam" coming from the teapot-shaped Sagittarius (actually the plane of the Milky Way Galaxy) to find many more nebulas and clusters.

As optics improved, this fuzzy patch was discovered to be a globular cluster of over 100,000 stars that formed more than 12 billion years ago, early in the history of the Universe. Located 20,000 light years from Earth, this ball of ancient stars has a diameter of 100 light years. Recently, NASA released a magnificent image of M55 from the Hubble Space Telescope, revealing just a small portion of the larger cluster. This is an image that Charles Messier could only dream of and would have marveled at! By observing high above the Earth's atmosphere, Hubble reveals stars inside the cluster impossible to resolve from ground-based telescopes. The spectacular colors in this image correspond to the surface temperatures of the stars; red stars being cooler than the white ones; white stars being cooler than the blue ones. These stars help us learn more about the early Universe. Discover even more: https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2023/hubble-messier-55

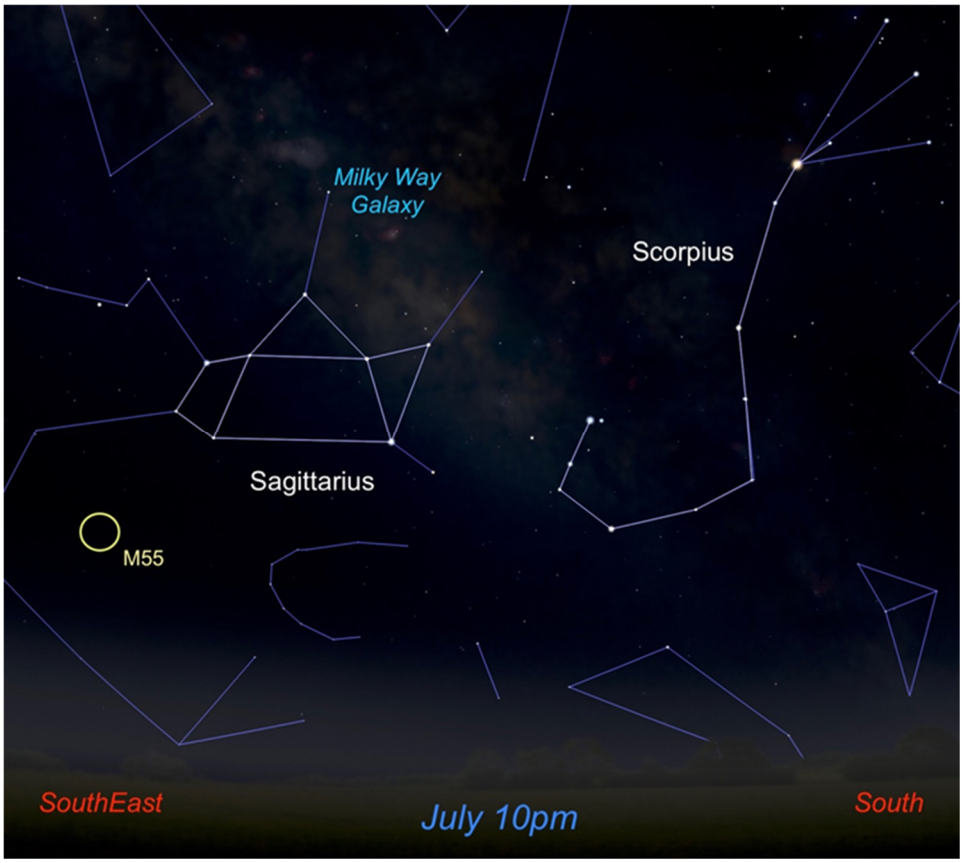
The Hubble Space Telescope has captured magnificent images of most of Messier's objects. Explore them all: https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/hubble-s-messier-catalog/

"Continued on page 8 "



The large image shows just the central portion of M55 taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. Above Earth's atmosphere, this magnificent view resolves many individual stars in this cluster. How many can you count through binoculars or a backyard telescope?

Original Image and Credits: NASA, ESA, A. Sarajedini (Florida Atlantic University), and M. Libralato (STScI, ESA, JWST); Smaller image: Digital Sky Survey; Image Processing: Gladys Kober



Look to the south in July and August to see the teapot asterism of Sagittarius. Below the handle you'll see a faint smudge of M55 through binoculars. More "faint fuzzies" can be found in the steam of the Milky Way, appearing to rise up from the kettle.

Image created with assistance from Stellarium: stellarium.org

Point and Shoot Camera Astroimaging (no telescope)

Canon Powershot SX50 HS

Image & write-up submitted by Paul Kursewicz

Globular Cluster M13 and the Propeller

Slightly Cropped, RAW mode, FL 1200mm, f/3.5, ISO 1600, 26 x 30 seconds, 6-15-23

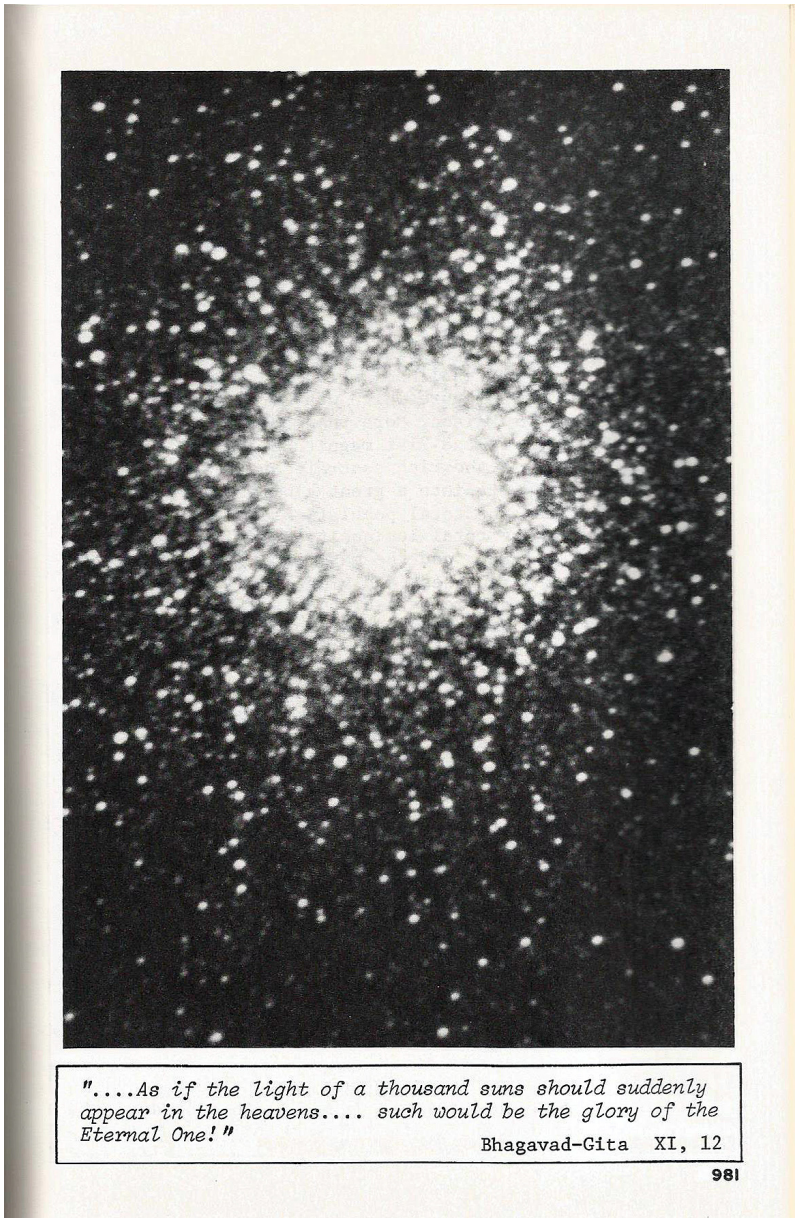
M13 is the finest of all Globular Clusters in the northern skies and is just visible to the naked-eye in dark skies. In my picture, the brightest members of the cluster are Red giants, around 11th magnitude and having a luminosity of about 2000 Suns. Our Sun would appear as a 19th magnitude star at M13's distance of 25,000 ly. It has a diameter of 160 ly and about a half a million stars. There is an *unique oddity* associated with this cluster called the **Propeller**. It's not easy to see through a telescope, or in a photograph. Most photos over expose the central core of the cluster, thereby not only eliminating the stars there, but also eliminating the Propeller. I was able to capture the Propeller by limiting my exposures to 30 seconds, then stacking them. I created the below inset which shows its exact location. I darkened the Propeller so it would be easier to see. Now, when you look at my image above you should be able to see it.

If you still cannot see the Propeller in my image zoom in on it.

"Continued on page 10"

From the pages of "Burnham's Celestial Handbook" copyright 1978

Hercules Cluster (M13)



The Great Globular Star Cluster in Hercules as it appears on a plate made with the 200-inch telescope at Palomar. Unfortunately, the core of the cluster is greatly over exposed. The caption is a quote taken from the Bhagavad-Gita, a 700-verse Hindu scripture, which is part of the Mahabharata. There is a similar passage in the Bible which is one of my favorites, Psalm 19:1-3, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard."*

Astronomical Society of Northern New England (ASNNE) Membership Meeting

Minutes of 2 June 2023

NOTE: When we arrived, unbeknownst to us, our usual Meeting Room was being used by the New School to prepare the New School's young women for their Prom, which was being held at another location. Carl spoke to a Social Studies teacher, who assured him, that our Meeting Room would be cleared of their material, and ready for our use by 7:30. It was. It would be nice if we knew, in advance, of New School activities on our Meeting nights.

Business Meeting: The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:53 pm by President Ian Durham.

Directors Present: Ian Durham, President & Treasurer
Bernie Reim, Vice-President
Carl Gurtman, Secretary
Gary Asperschlager, Director
Ron Burk, Director
Bern Valliere, Director

Plus: David Bianchi, ASNNE E-Mail Manager

Others Present: There were an additional four people present at the Business Meeting.

Secretary's Report: The previous Minutes had been e-mailed out. There were no comments. The Secretary's Report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer provided a detailed breakdown of ASNNE's annual expenses, (See Attachment (1)), with the exception of our rent payments to the New School. The total annual expenses come to over $2,900. Ian also reported that we usually have about 35 Members, who pay annual dues of $35.00; hence an income of $1,225, leaving us with an annual shortfall of $1,675.

David pointed out that Ian was omitting donation gathered during our Observing Sessions, and at some of our Presentations. That income is deposited, but often not entered into our accounts as income. Carl remembered at just one Star Party for a family last year, a $1,000 donation was received.

And of course, we had, last year, earned approximately $5,000 by providing Presentations and Star Parties at two for-profit "glamp-grounds".

"Continued on page 12"

Old Business:

Presentations at "Glamp-grounds": Gary reported that Point Sebago will not hire us for this summer for Presentations and Star Parties.

Internship Request: Carl e-mailed George Grech. No response was received. This is now a closed issue.

Observatory Sign Down: The Observatory sign on Rte. 35, at the end of our driveway, is now back in place.

Retention of Minutes: Carl retains all of his old ASNNE Meeting Minutes. But he does not know how to upload them to our "io" account; or if that is even possible. If anyone knows how to do that, please e-mail that information to Carl, and he will upload the past Minutes.

New Business:

Volunteers and E-Mail Responses: Carl introduced this topic, and David picked it up, and expanded upon the issue. David, as our ASNNE E-Mail Manager, is the person who receives all e-mail addressed to us, including, of course all inquiries about Open Observing Sessions, and requests for Star Parties. David then e-mails our Membership, asking for Member support at our events. Or, in the case of requests for information, an appeal for a knowledgeable Member to respond to the questioner. Unfortunately, the usual response is **Nothing!** Without unduly belaboring the point, this is unacceptable, and must be addressed to our General Membership. It would be difficult for a single Member to run a Star Party, but if several Members volunteer, the difficulty level rapidly drops. As a first step, David should never agree to holding any event, unless and until, he has a cadre of dependable Members to support it.

The Business Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

See Attachment (1); ASNNE Annual Expenses

"Continued on page 13"

Regular Meeting:

Regular Meeting: The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by

President Ian Durham.

Directors Present: Ian Durham, President & Treasurer

Bernie Reim, Vice-President

Carl Gurtman, Secretary

Gary Asperschlager, Director

Ron Burk, Director

Bern Valliere, Director

Plus: David Bianchi, ASNNE E-Mail Manager

Others Present: There were an additional 22 people physically present, for a total of 29. An additional person participated on Zoom. A very good attendance!

Introductions: Ian had everyone present, whether in person, or on Zoom,

introduce themselves. The introduction were brief. Some people were drawn to this Meeting to hear our Presenter.

Presentation:

Carl introduced our Presenter, Ms Peggy Schick. First, he credited April, who suggested that we have an astrologer address us. Thank you, April!

Ms Schick is a professional astrologer who serves individual clients through her private practice in Topsham, Maine. Ms Schick is currently a doctoral student in depth-psychology, which informs her work. She also teaches astrology classes and offers presentations through non-profit organizations. She is certified in Archetypal Astrology through the Institute of Transpersonal and Archetypal Studies, New York.

Ms Schick started out by describing her education. Receiving an undergraduate degree in biology, she followed that up with an MBA. Although from a family with many engineers, her study of biology and the wonder of the complexity of the human cell, led her to a less mechanical view of the world.

She is also, in addition to her knowledge of astrology, trained in regression therapy, and is a Reiki master.

"Continued on page 14"

Ms Schick became fully involved with astrology about five years ago.

There are different types of astrology. Astrology is most informative about the "right brain", which involves intuition and feeling, than the "left-brain"; the more logical part of our psyche. Ms Schick emphasized very strongly that astrology is not a science; at least not yet. It is an art. Ms. Schick's opinion is that astrology should be used to deepen our understanding of ourselves, not for predictive uses.

She then sketched out the history of astrology, starting about 5,000 BC. The early history of astrology is intertwined with the history of astronomy, the two disciplines being indistinguishable. People considered that they were controlled by celestial objects, which were living beings. The "planets", then including the Sun and the Moon, were most important.

By the time of the Greek Hellenistic Age, the planets were identified with the gods of the Greek pantheon, as they still are today.

Ms Schick emphasized the role of Chiron, a celestial body, half asteroid, and half comet. In astrology, Chiron is a centaur, a horse-man, and is the "wounded healer". He represents deep pain, either physical or spiritual, (or both), and for some people, is an important key to understanding themselves.

Ms Schick ended her presentation by showing a traditional Natal Chart, showing all of the Houses of Astrology, the planets, the more recent additions and refinements, and explaining how they are used. She quoted Einstein about synchronicity, suggesting its link to the power of astrology, and how all living creatures, and the entire Cosmos, may be bound together.

A Question and Answer period followed. Many questioners showed an understanding, and reliance, upon astrology.

Ms Schick's Presentation was very well-received.

"Continued on page 15

Refreshments: There was a break for Refreshments. Watermelon, provided by Ian.

"What's Up?":

Bernie gave his usual thorough, comprehensive, and complete discussion of what's in store for us in the skies of June.

Because Bernie's excellent presentation, in its entirety, can be found, this month, and every month, in *Skylights*, ASNNE's professional-quality newsletter; [editor, Paul Kursewicz]. Since "What's Up?" already exists in print. I will no longer excerpt it in the ASNNE Minutes. *Skylights* may be found at: http://www.asnne.org/newsletter.php

Astroshorts: There were a few Astroshorts.

Additional: ASNNE Members stepped up, at David's request, to provide support for the Open Observing Sessions. Thank you!

Next Meeting:

ASNNE's next Meeting will be on Friday, 7 July, 2023 at 7:30 pm at the New School in Kennebunk, Maine. There will be a short Business Meeting prior to the Regular Meeting, at 7:00 pm, at the same location. As always, all Members are always welcome at the Business Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Gurtman

Club Meeting & Star Party Dates

Date	Subject	Location
July 7	**ASNNE Club Meeting:** **Business Meeting starts prior to Club meeting.** **Club Meeting (in house & on Zoom): 7:30-9:30PM** **Guest Speaker: TBD** **Bernie Reim** - What's UP **Astro Shorts:** (news, stories, jokes, reports, questions, photos, observations etc.)	**The New School, Kennebunk, Me.**
Last Month	**Last month we met at The New School and had several members attending via Zoom. Our guest speaker was Ms Peggy Schick. Ms Schick is a professional astrologer and after her presentation there was a question and answer period. Bernie did "What's Up" and that was followed by astro shorts.**	
TBD	**Club/Public Star Party:** Dependent on the weather.	**Talmage Observatory at Starfield West Kennebunk, Me.**

Directions to ASNNE event locations

Directions to The New School in Kennebunck [38 York Street (Rt1) Kennebunk, ME]

For directions to The New School you can use this link to the ASNNE NSN page and then click on "get directions" from the meeting location. Enter your starting location to generate a road map with complete directions. It works great. http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-view.cfm?Club_ID=137

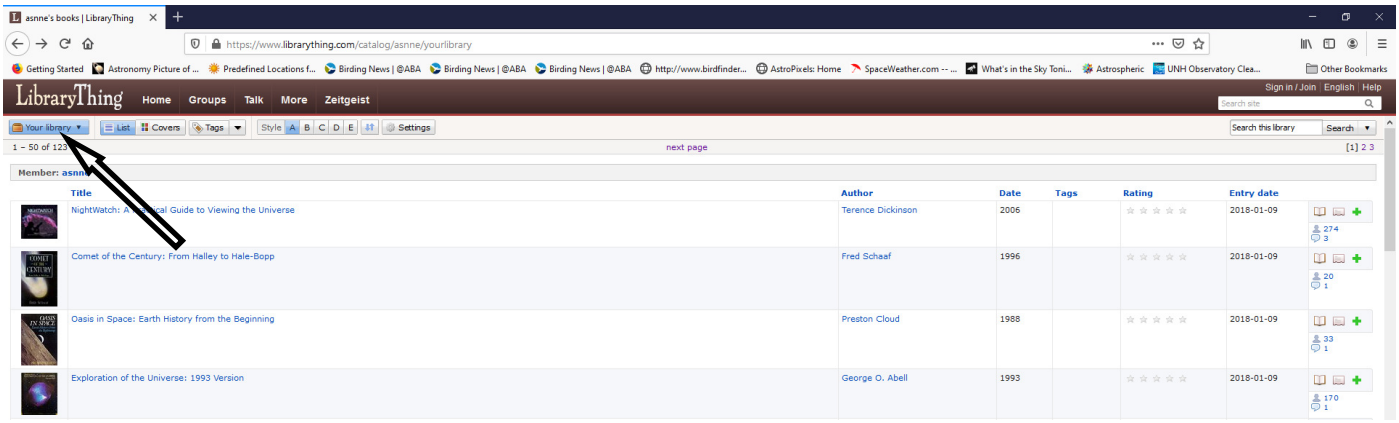
Directions to Talmage Observatory at Starfield [Alewive Road, Kennebunk, ME]

From North:
Get off turnpike at exit 32, (Biddeford) turn right on Rt 111. Go 5 miles and turn left on Rt 35. Go 2 miles on Rt 35 over Kennebunk River to very sharp 90 degree left turn. The entrance to the Starfield Observatory site is at the telephone pole at the beginning of the large field on the left. Look for the ASNNE sign on the pole.

From South:
Get off the turnpike at exit 25 in Kennebunk. After toll both turn right on Rt 35. Go up over the turnpike and immediately turn right on Rt 35. About 4 miles along you will crest a hill and see a large field on your right. Continue until you reach the end of the field. Turn right into the Starfield Observatory site at the last telephone pole along the field. Look for the ASNNE sign on the pole. If you come to a very sharp 90 degree right turn you have just passed the field.

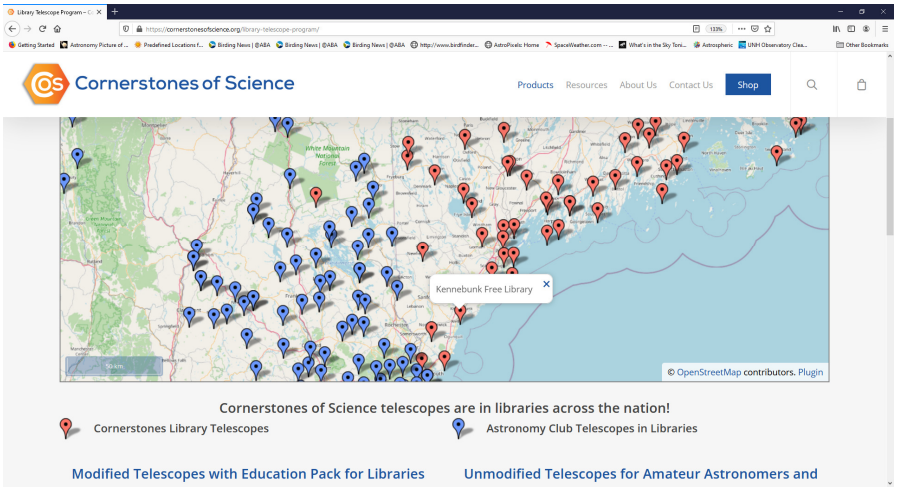
Astronomy Club & Library Resources

Our club has a library of astronomy books which are stored at The New School in Kennebunk, Maine (our monthly club meeting location). To request a book(s), contact one of the club officers. A listing of books is provided here: https://www.librarything.com/profile/asnne . After clicking on the link, a window will open. Click on "Your library" near the upper left corner (as shown by the arrow below). Then scroll down to the end of the page to go to the next page.



Would you like to borrow a telescope? While many astronomy clubs may have a scope to lend out, there are also many libraries which have telescopes for their guests to use. Here are a couple of links.

The following link will bring up an active map (see screen shot below) of the USA showing the libraries which have telescopes to lend out: https://cornerstonesofscience.org/library-telescope-program/



The below link will show a list of known participating library locations for the state of Maine.
https://www.librarytelescope.org/locations/usa/maine

To join **ASNNE**, please fill out the below membership form. *Checks should be made payable to: Astronomical Society of Northern New England (A.S.N.N.E).* For more details, please visit our website: **http://www.asnne.org**

Astronomical Society of Northern New England
P.O. Box 1338
Kennebunk, ME 04043-1338

2023 Membership Registration Form

(Print, fill out and mail to address above)

Name(s for family): _____

Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone # _____

E-mail: _____

Membership (check one):
Individual $35 _____ Family $ 40 _____ Student under 21 years of age $10 _____ Donation_____

Total Enclosed_____

Tell us about yourself:
1. Experience level: Beginner____ Some Experience ____ Advanced_____

2. Do you own any equipment? (Y/N) And if so, what types?

_____
3. Do you have any special interests in Astronomy?

_____
4. What do you hope to gain by joining ASNNE?

_____
5. How could ASNNE best help you pursue your interest in Astronomy?

_____
6. ASNNE's principal mission is public education. We hold many star parties for schools and the general public for which we need volunteers for a variety of tasks, from operating telescopes to registering guests to parking cars. Would you be interested in helping?
Yes_____ No_____

7. ASNNE maintains a members-only section of its web site for names, addresses and interests of members as a way for members to contact each other. Your information will not be used for any other purpose. Can we add your information to that portion of our web site?

Yes_____ No_____