



Volume: 65

Issue: 4

April 2024

FWAS Web page: <http://fortwayneastronomicalsociety.com>

General Meeting Tuesday April 16, 7:30pm, Visitors Welcome

Purdue Fort Wayne Walb Student Union Building Room G-21, Free Parking in P2

(Note Meeting Room moved to Room G-21)

PRESENTATION Show and Tell



Fun night of show and tell by the club members. Bring pictures or some favorite item to share and talk about.

The Society Welcomes New Member:

Kathryn Anderson, Michael & Sarah Gayle,
Paula & Larry Hughes-Schuh, Roger Laird,
Kevin Ryan, Brian Smith, Susan Towsley,
Kelley VanBuskirk

Meetings & Events

April

General Meeting Tuesday April 16.

Board Meeting Tuesday April 23.

May

General Meeting Tuesday May 21.

Board Meeting Tuesday May 28.

Public Saturday Night Stargazing

Jefferson Township Park every clear Saturday night starting 1 hour after sunset and continuing for 2 hours, April through November

Member Deep Sky Nights

Special Friday observing nights are scheduled, close to new Moon, for members and their guests to observe fainter objects in the night sky, along with projects in astrophotography and spectroscopy.

Our Observatory Co-director, Neil Ainslie, reminds **Observatory Training**

April 26 (Friday), 7 PM

May 17 (Friday), 7 PM

(Must RSVP by emailing sciencepastorneil@gmail.com or

Call/text Neil at 260-740-9162).

Rain or Shine. Classes RSVP only.

Upcoming Star Parties

If you would like to volunteer, please email sciencepastorneil@gmail.com or

Neil call/text 260-740-9162.

- April 19 (Friday), 9 PM – A Night at Joe's Celestial Bar, Star*Quest Observatory (members can come to view Joe's Challenge Objects for April... see the April Eyepiece for the list).
- June 7 (Friday) - Deep Sky Star Party at Star*Quest Observatory for FWAS Members.
- May 3 (Friday) – Deep Sky Star Party at Star*Quest Observatory for FWAS Members.
- May 10 (Friday), 9:30 PM – A Night at Joe's Celestial Bar, Star*Quest Observatory (members can come to view Joe's Challenge Objects for April... Watch your Email and May's Eyepiece for the list).

OFFICERS

President.....Julie Kaufman...juliek46774@gmail.com.....260-579-1777
Vice-President.....Mike Arata.....mikearata@aol.com.....260-750-5656
Secretary.....Jim Spalding.....jimspald@gmail.com.....756-210-5565
Treasurer.....Phil Hudson.....graphicad1@mac.com.....260-484-7000

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Observatory
Director.....Neil Ainslie.....sciencepastorneil@gmail.com.....260-740-9162
Web Master.....Sarah Suraci.....suraci.sarah@gmail.com.....260-797-2726
Star*Quest
Project Manager.....Jim Spalding.....jimspald@gmail.com.....756-210-5565
Membership.....Phil Hudson.....graphicad1@mac.com.....260-484-7000
Social Media.....Adriane Day.....dayadriane@hotmail.com.....260-442-6602

NEWSLETTER "the Eyepiece"

Editor Distribution.....Julie Kaufman.....juliek46774@gmail.com.....260-579-1777

Submissions to the Eyepiece are cheerfully accepted by e-mail (preferred) on other media, or on paper. Submissions may be edited for space or style.

Challenges for April 2024

Hello FWAS imagers and visual observers! It's April and time for some clear skies and new challenges!

Orion and Canis Major are almost gone and Leo approaches the meridian with Virgo rising. Spring has sprung!

Special Events for April

Solar Eclipse April 8th (hope you saw it!)

New Moon 7th, 1st Quarter 15th, 23th Full Moon

Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks, closest approach is April 24th

.Naked eye visible? Yes.

Lyrid Meteor Shower, April 21 but a near full moon

Galaxies

Com: M100

CVn: M51 (Whirlpool), NGC 4151 & NGC4156

Crv: NGC4038&4039 ring-Tail.

Hya Hydra I Galaxy Cluster centered on NGC 3311 (8 galaxies)

Leo: Leo Triplet M65, 66 & NGC3628, NGC 2903, M95, 96 & 105

UMa: M101 M81/ M82, NGC2841

Vir M104, M87 in the Virgo galaxy cluster, NGC4565, M46, M99

Nebula, Planetary & Bright & Reflection

Crv: NGC 4361 (Lawn Sprinkler)

Dra: NGC 6543 (Cat's Eye)

Gem: Clown Face Nebula, NGC2392, NGC2371&2

Per: M76, NGC1499, California Nebula, NGC1491

Uma: M97 (Owl)

Globular Clusters

Auriga: IC 405 Flaming Star; N1893 Cluster+Neb; N1664 OC; N1857 OC; N1893 OC; M36; M37; M38 OC

Boo NGC 5466

Com Star Cluster Melotte 111, open cluster, west of Gamma Com (HD 108381)

Cancer: Beehive Cluster, M44

Stars

Aur Σ 929 (Struve 929)/ HD 46482A/ HIP 31454.

Double star, mag 7.20 & mag 8.60. Very nice, bright yellowish-white and blue stars.

Boo: 36-eta Boo / HD121370 mag4.9 & mag 2.8 Golden & greenish pair.

CVn: 2 CVn/ HD 106690, mag5.8 & mag 8.1. Gold & blue pair.

Leo: 88 Leo (HD 100180) mag6.4 & mag8.4. Yellow & blue pair.

Gama LEONIS (ALGIEBA): Algieba is one of the stars that make up the mane of Leo. Binoculars show a wide companion, a telescope at 100x will show two golden components.

If you have favorite challenge objects or other comments, or information on the listings let me know.

Enjoy the challenge! Please bring your images on a thumb drive. FWAS Observing Challenge Director Joe Novosel; joe.novosel55@gmail.com.

Gene Springer and Laura Ainslie gave an excellent presentation on the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse for PBS Fort Wayne with Station Manager Bruce Haines.



Getting setup for the show. They were well prepared and represented the club extremely well.

The April 8th Solar Eclipse at Star+Quest Observatory

We had an estimated 300 cars parked at Jefferson Township Park and 900 - 1000 people to observe the eclipse. Channel 55 came out to cover the event.



Public Viewing



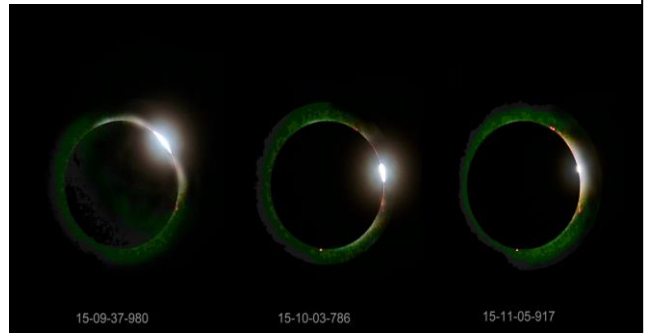
Gabby at the SunSpotter



Early picture with Channel 55 taking interview video. The reaction of the crowd was electric during the eclipse.



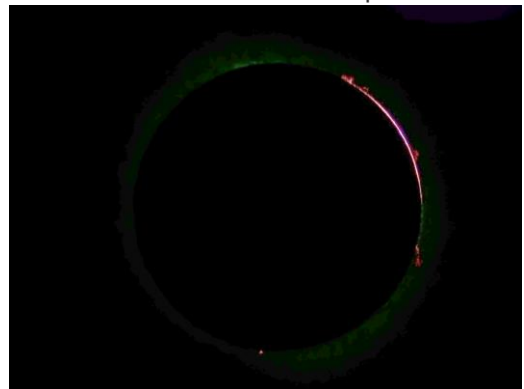
Adriane Day's Robotic Scope



Phil Eclipse Shots



Dave Wilkins Eclipse Shot



Phil's "Mid Eclipse" exposure @ 3:09:48.771. Brightness has been increased to show flairs.

Proposed Program - 2024 Fort Wayne Astronomical Society

This is a very preliminary program and changes are likely to be made.

January – Pulsars, Ben Zitzer

February – Planet Nine, Mike Arata

March – Solar Eclipse, Laura Ainslie

April – Show and Tell

May – Basic instruction in the use of telescopes (at the observatory), speaker TBD

June – Sean Griffin (possibly), not confirmed.

July – Meet and Greet (at observatory) vs. possible NASA speaker

August – History of the FWAS – Gene, confirmed

September – Chris Corbally-VATT, confirmed

October – Spectroscopic Binaries, Richard Gray - not confirmed

November – Factors to consider when purchasing a telescope, speaker TBD

December – Christmas Party