



Sunset Astronomical Society

The Sunset Gazette

Serving the Tri-Cities since 1975

Volume 13, Issue IV

January 2016

Meeting information:

Meetings are at the Delta Planetarium, Bay City. The meetings will usually be on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:00 PM. Watch the newsletter for changes in dates and times. Membership is not required to participate in meetings and activities. **See Last Page for this month's meeting site.**

Membership

Information:

Our club has switched to e-mailing our newsletters. For those wishing to receive a hard copy mailed an additional dues of \$10.00 per year is required.

Membership Rates:

5\$ per Year (Individual)

10\$ per Year (Family)

Treasurer's address for renewals and subscriptions:

Lynn Dumbrille
6184 Stansbury Lane
Saginaw, MI 48603



Comet C/2013 US10 (Catalina), photographed on the morning of December 11. The Canon 6D camera with a 300 mm f/5.6 telephoto lens was fixed on a tripod. To minimize motion blur, the exposure time was kept short at 2 s. With an ISO of 25,600, a single image would have been way too noisy, so 98 shots were combined using the Deep Sky Stacker software. The comet shows both an ion tail (top) and a dust tail (bottom).

(Photo: A. Mellinger)

President's Corner

Greetings and Happy New Year, Sunset Astronomers! I hope you are all enjoying the holidays. Despite the unusually warm temperatures, the weather hasn't been too astronomy-friendly in recent weeks, but if you have a chance, get up early, grab your binoculars or telescope and try to find comet C/2013 US10 (Catalina). On January 1, it is located right next to bright star Arcturus in the constellation of Bootes, from where it will move towards the handle of the Big Dipper. It will pass the star at the end of the handle (η UMa, Alkaid) on January 15.

January is our traditional potluck month. Due to changes in Delta College's policy, we can no longer meet in the Space Explorer's Hall, as we have done in the past. Instead, the potluck will be held at the Auburn City Park Pavilion (see last page for details). But don't worry, we will be back in the Planetarium for our February meeting. The potluck starts at 7 pm on Friday, Jan. 8. Please bring your own plates and silverware, and a dish to share (some of you have already signed up to do so). We plan to show some astronomy pictures from 2015, so if you have any photographs that you would like to show, please email me a copy.

And, of course ... a final reminder that your SAS membership is up for renewal. If you have not yet done so, please send your check to our treasurer Lynn Dumbrille (see address on the left), or pay at the potluck. One of the membership benefits is free admission to most planetarium shows, but you must have paid your dues!

Finally, I would like to thank all our club officers, directors and volunteers (including our newsletter editor Martin Grasmann) who donated countless hours of their time to the club.

Best wishes for the New Year, and Clear Skies,

*Axel Mellinger
SAS President*

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SERVING THE TRI- CITIES SINCE 1975



Newsletter Editor - Martin Grasmann
martin.grasmann@sbcglobal.net

This issue can be accessed in color on the website
of the SAS!!!

Elected Officers for the SAS:

President - Axel Mellinger	axel.mellinger@cmich.edu
Vice President / Activities - Rich Jankowski	drjankow@hotmail.com
Secretary - Sue Nearing	bookwoman72@yahoo.com
Treasurer - Lynn Dumbrille	lhdbit@gmail.com
Directors -	
Bill Albe	billalbe@gmail.com
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Ed Sederlund	sederlund@sbcglobal.net
Steve VanTol (Webmaster)	StevenV106@aol.com
Garry Beckstrom (Program Advisor)	garry@beckstromobservatory.com

SAS Meeting + Potluck

Start: 7:00 PM

Friday January 8th 2015

**Auburn City Park Pavilion
435 S. Auburn Rd.
Auburn, MI**

Note the location!

AGENDA:

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Potluck
Please bring your own plates and silverware, and a dish or dessert to share.
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Questions and Answers
Ask your astronomy-related questions!
5. Presentation: Best astronomy pictures of the year
6. Adjournment

What's up in the Sky

Dec 17 Evening: Algol at minimum brightness for roughly two hours centered at 10:48 pm EST.

Dec 18: First Quarter Moon

Dec 21: Longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Winter begins at solstice at 11:48 pm EST.

Dec 23 Morning: Look out for Mars which rises at midnight about 3 deg to the upper left of Spica.

Dec 25: Full Moon

Dec 28 Night: Regulus shines ca 7 to 8 deg to the lower left of the waning gibbous Moon.

Dec 30 Night: Moon rises before midnight with Jupiter trailing behind it.

Jan 2: Last Quarter Moon

Jan 3 Morning: Moon forms a triangle with Mars and Spica, both very close in brightness.

Jan 3-4 Night: The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks around 3 am EST on the 4th.

Jan 6 Night: Algol at minimum brightness for roughly two hours centered at 10:31 pm EST.

Jan 7 Dawn: Watch out for the waning crescent Moon to the left of Venus and Saturn still 2 deg apart but closing.

Jan 8: New Moon

Jan 9 Dawn: Look out for Venus and Saturn less than 1/2 deg apart in the southeast before sunrise.

Jan 16: First Quarter Moon

Jan 19 Evening: Waxing gibbous Moon occults Aldebaran at ca 9:10 pm EST. Best viewed with a telescope. Aldebaran will disappear on the dark side of 82% lit Moon, so it is a little bit more difficult to observe.

Jan 23: Full Moon

Jan 25 Night: Regulus ca. 3 deg away to the right from the waning gibbous Moon.

Jan 27 Night: Moon ca 4 deg below Jupiter in Leo.

Jan 29 Night: Algol at minimum brightness for roughly two hours centered at 9:05 pm EST.

Jan 30 Dawn: Waning gibbous Moon ca 4 deg to upper left of Spica. Mars can be found ca 1.5 deg from the fainter Alpha Librae.

Jan 31: Last Quarter Moon

Don't forget to watch out for Comet Catalina in the morning sky:

Dec 23-24 Morning: Catalina crosses into Boötes

See a good sky chart following the link:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/comet-catalina-sails-into-northern->

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 12 club meeting:
Astrophotography presentation (Lynn Dumbrille)