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GUIDESTAR August 2021

**Fostering the Science and Art of Astronomy
Through Programs that Serve our Membership
and the Community**

Comet NEOWISE

Image by HAS Member

Don Selle

from Custer South Dakota

Imaged with Canon 6D + Sigma Art 24mm f/1.4 lens

2 x 2 Mosaic



August Novice Presentation Via Zoom

"The Giants: Observing Jupiter and Saturn at Opposition."

with Debbie Moran

Many amateur and even professional astronomers will tell you that they became "hooked" on astronomy after the first time they observed either Saturn or Jupiter through a telescope. As awesome as these first observations can be, both of these huge planets are captivating when observed over and over again.

August 5 th 2021 at 7:00PM

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Alien Oceans on Earth and Beyond

Dr. Kevin Peter Hand

Planetary Scientist/Astrobiologist – Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech

Where is the best place to find living life beyond Earth? It may be that the small, ice-covered moons of Jupiter and Saturn harbor some of the most habitable real estate in our Solar System.

August 6, 2021, 7:00 PM

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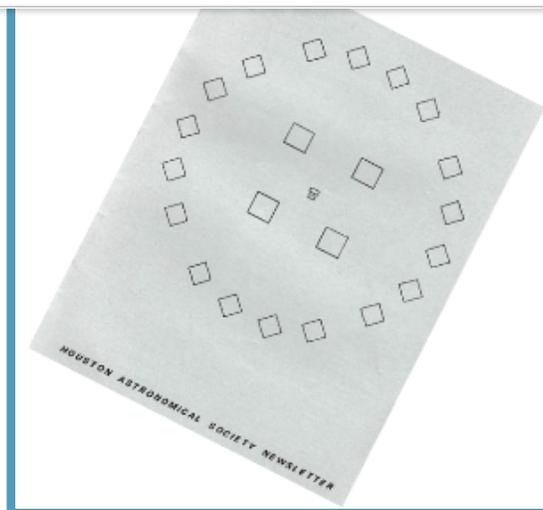


Letter from the President - August 2021

by Joe Khalaf - HAS President

AS I write this month's column, Boeing Starliner's Orbital Flight Test-2 (OFT-2) mission was supposed to launch earlier today on a mission to dock with the International Space Station (ISS). Unfortunately, an issue with Russia's new Nauka module caused a delay in the launch, and officials are now looking for a new launch date no earlier than August 3.

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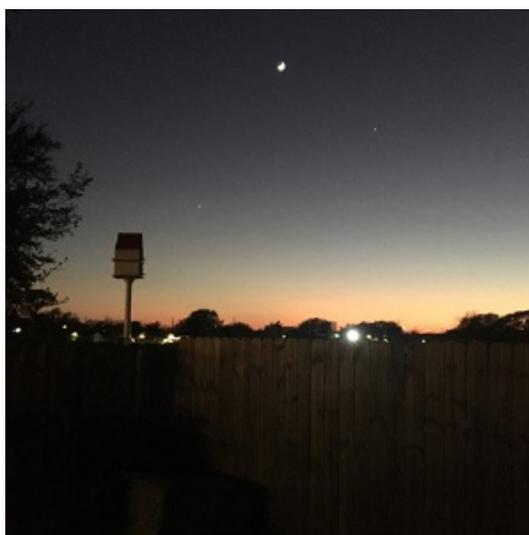


Do you have back issues of the Guidestar?

I've had a project on the back burner for years now, H.A.S. history buff that I am. Some urgent club business always seemed to pop up, though. Now, by golly, I and John Chauvin, are determined to scan and upload all the back issues of the Guidestar to the website. **But we need your help locating some missing issues.** Specifically issues from **August 1992 through April 1998** inclusive.

Rene Scandone Gedaly

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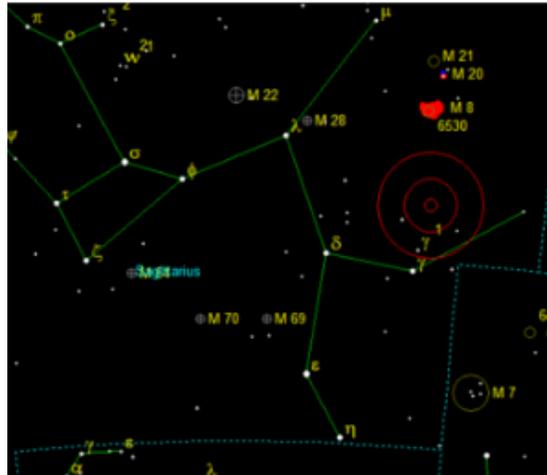
Master of My Backyard

by Celsa Canedo

image taken Dec. 17th, 2020, 6:03 pm – Pasadena, TX using an iPhone6s

The objective of this project is to get astronomers to look out in their own backyards when going to dark sites is not an option. It encourages naked eye observations so it is an activity any beginner could do while they gain mastery in using their scopes.

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Visual Challenge Object - August 2021

by Stephen Jones

Barnard 86 – Dark Nebula in Sagittarius

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Messier Objects - August 2021

by Jim King

We are playing a little catch-up this month and will finish the Messier late-summer observations.

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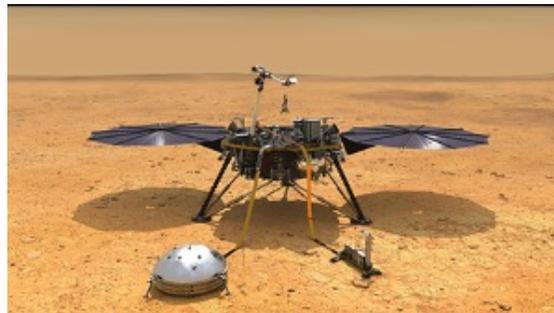
Corner the Great Square of Pegasus

by David Prosper

The Summer Triangle may be the most famous seasonal star pattern, but during early August evenings another geometrically-themed asterism rises: the Great Square of Pegasus. This asterism's name is a bit misleading: while three of its stars - Scheat, Markab, and Algenib - are indeed found in the constellation of the winged horse Pegasus, its fourth star, Alpheratz, is the brightest star in the constellation Andromeda!

This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

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Mars Revealed

InSight Seismometer Provides First Direct Evidence of Interior Structure

by: **William Sager**

On 5 May 2018, NASA blasted the \$828M InSight (INterior exploration using Seismic Investigations, Gravity, and Heat Transport) lander towards Mars with the audacious goal of gathering direct seismic evidence of the interior structure of the red planet. INSIGHT landed on 26 November 2018, deployed its seismic sensors, and began recording marsquake data in February of 2019. In the 23 July issue of the journal *Science*, INSIGHT seismic teams, a group of more than 40 scientists from around the globe, report preliminary results of the seismic experiment, giving the first direct measurements of the structure of another terrestrial planet. These results show planetary layering similar to Earth, but with several significant differences.

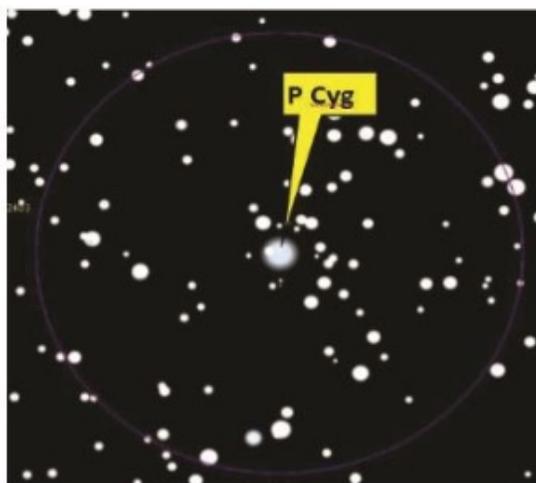
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Coat Hanger, Collinder 399

by [Steve Goldberg](#)

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Finder chart to right. Star charts generated by TheSkyX ©
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Shallow Sky Object of the Month

August 2021

P CYG – Luminous blue variable

by [Bill Pellerin](#)

Not much attention has historically been directed to a 5th magnitude star in a crowded field of stars, but in the year 1600 the star had the audacity to brighten to about 3rd magnitude, six times brighter than it was, and now is, at 5th magnitude.

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Notice of election to fill vacant Director seat at August meeting

After much deliberation and thought, Director at Large Ed Fraini has tendered his resignation from the Houston Astronomical Society so that he can focus on improving his health. I wish Ed well with his recovery and thank him for his many years of service to the club. Ed's thoughtfulness and wisdom will be missed at our board meetings, but he has promised to remain a fixture at our General meetings and at the dark site. Good luck and continued progression toward your recovery, Ed!

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