



September 2016

Editor -Jack Fritz

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, has been the center of family astronomy in the Tampa Bay Area for decades. Its 290 adult members are dedicated to promoting and sharing the wonders and science of astronomy. We host dark-sky and local star parties, telescope-making workshops, science lectures, astronomy lectures, educational outreach sessions and much more.

President's Message

KYLE BRINKMAN

★ The Fall season means the end of these Summer weather patterns. We are expecting more frequent clear nights and seeing clearer morning skies already. The days are getting shorter now, and this ushers in the best season for Florida astronomers. This Summer has been a long cloudy disappointment in St Petersburg.



Our club's activities are also picking up. Our outreach programs are going strong, so; please take note of the calendar of events to see where you can participate. The next event at the Science Center is the International Observe the Moon Night. This event starts setting up at 7 PM on Saturday, October 8th. The October meeting on the fourth Friday is also our annual Fall picnic with telescope observing. Be sure to come and bring some interested friends. If you need help with your telescope, please bring it along. Some of our members will be happy to help you understand how to use it.

Preparations are underway for next year's Orange Blossom Special Star Party. Please be

on the lookout for announcements in the newsletter for registration information. This is a big event for our club and a fun event for all who attend.

We depend upon our volunteers for all of these things that our club does. There are more things that our club can do, but we will need more help to take them on. If you would like to join in with the events on a regular basis or ad hoc basis, please let us know. May we call on you?

New Members

We would like to welcome Taylor Eicher and Claire & Benjamin Smith to our family of members.

General Meeting

This month's meeting will take place on Friday, September 23rd at 8:00 PM, at the Science Center of Pinellas County, 7701 22nd Ave. N, St. Petersburg, FL.

Main Program - General Relativity, Gravity, and Gravitational Waves, by Dr. Kevin MacKay, University of South Florida.

Upcoming Programs

October - Annual Meeting, Election of Officers, Fall Picnic, and Sidewalk Astronomy. Please remember that our Annual Meeting begins at 7:00 PM, one hour earlier than normal.

Irving Nadelhaft

Irving Nadelhaft of Largo, long-time SPAC member, left the physical world in the early morning of September 6, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Carol Nadelhaft; his four children, Marilyn, Edith, David, and Robert; and his five grandchildren, Rachel, Abigail, Tanner, Addison, and Crosby. He had completed 88 trips around our star.

From the Editor

JACK FRITZ

★ You will notice that I have not included Kyle's *Member Appreciation* column this month. That's because it's time we recognize Kyle for all the hard work he puts into our club. Just coming up with interesting speakers and topics is almost a full-time job. He also provides the leadership necessary to move us forward, and he is the first President since I've been a member to conduct planning meetings. I wanted to let him know that we appreciate everything he is doing to help us grow. Thank you for all you do.

It's that time again. Time to think about who will lead our club in the coming year. David Pearson, Director-at-Large, chairs our Nominating Committee. Isn't it time you consider serving in a leadership position? Please call David at 727-215-1526 or email him at DavePearson1000@gmail.com if you are willing to serve.

2017 Orange Blossom Star Party

Registration will open on October 1st. You will want to register early to get a good spot. Please check the website for more information.

Club Meeting Hurricane Policy

Hurricane season is upon us. We may cancel the meeting if a hurricane is threatening Pinellas County. If that happens, we will send a cancellation notification via email. Alternatively, you may call Allen Maroney at 727 867-4781 or Jack Fritz at 813 508-5680 to check on the status of the meeting.

Member Appreciation

KYLE BRINKMAN

★ Please see *From the Editor*.

Examiner Subscriptions

JACK FRITZ

★ Please remember that beginning in January, membership renewals will include a \$25 subscription fee for those members electing to receive the newsletter via US Mail.

October Astronomical Events

STEVE ROBBINS

★ Saturday, October 15th is the opposition of Uranus. Unfortunately, it corresponds tightly with the Full Moon. Better viewing would be a week before or after.

Wednesday, October 19th find Aldebaran .3° south of the Moon.

Friday the 21st is the peak of the Orionid Meteor Shower with an average 20 ZHR rate. The last quarter moon rises about midnight, making the convenient part of the night Moon-free!

Tuesday, October 25th, see Regulus 1.7° north of the Moon.

October's full Moon is the Full Hunters' Moon. Get yer shootin' iron workin'. Soon the snows close in, and we can hunt no more.

The Moon

- First Quarter - October 9, 00:32
- Full Moon - October 16, 00:23
- Third Quarter - October 22, 15:13

- New Moon - October 30, 13:38

Long Range Planning

KYLE BRINKMAN

★ We had a good group meet for the 2nd Long Range Planning Meeting. The meeting started with a review of the proposals made last year. We looked at what worked well, what didn't and the overall impact upon our club.

The good news is that we are continuing our "Bring Your Telescope Nights." These events have become an important part of our outreach program and contributed to meeting new members.

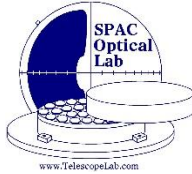
Dave Richmond is scouting a location for observing the 2017 solar eclipse. The plan is to announce the location, and members can find their way there.

The club has a need for volunteers. Assistance is needed for hosting meetings and outreach events. We can do more with more people.

Mirror Lab

RALPH CRAIG

★ We lost one of our long-time members of the astronomy club and mirror lab this month, Irv Nadelhaft.



He passed away on September 6th. Irv had ground several mirrors and built several telescopes over the years and was at the lab most every Saturday. I'll remember Irv for enjoying several of our field trips that the mirror lab had taken over the years. Our trip to the Stellafane Convention in Vermont in 2007 was one he particularly enjoyable. Irv you will be missed.

Pictures are on the mirror lab web page at <http://www.telescopelab.com/>, on Mike Davis's web page at <http://www.mdpub.com/> and also on Allen Maroney's web page <http://www.knology.net/amaroney/>.



Irv Nadelhaft

The award-winning Mirror Lab welcomes interested visitors to their facility at the Science Center's rear annex. The lab is open on Saturdays between noon and 4:00 pm. Several experienced and skilled tutors are there to give you support, help & instruction. For more information, call Ralph Craig 727 384-2086; Paul McNabb 727 345-5713; or Allen Maroney 727 867-4781

If you have any surplus telescope parts, the mirror lab could use them for various projects.

Outreach

JIM HUNTER

★ School started early this year, but the change to standard time isn't until November 6th so star parties may be slow until 2017. I have the following scheduled:

- Saturday, November 19th, Little Manatee River State Park, near Sun City - for you Brandon/Riverview members. This is a first-time event
- Wednesday, December 7th, Stewart Middle School - near the river in Tampa. This is our fourth year.

New Moon at Withlacoochee

KELLY ANDERSON

★ Between the hot weather, and vacations, this month's New Moon Weekend was a complete bust. No one showed up.

NASA News

STEVE ROBBINS

Talk about a cliffhanger. Rosetta's lander, Philae, has been lost since its last radio call in July 2015. ESA announced that it probably would never be found. As Rosetta spiraled down from wider, safer orbits in preparation for its eventual landing/collision with Comet 67P, [Churyumov-Gerasimenko](#), its high-resolution camera revealed the Philae lander wedged into a dark crack on the comet.

Not to be upstaged (much), NASA launched its own solar system probe, OSIRIS-REx, headed for the NEO asteroid Benu. What's Benu? Why was it chosen? [It's a very interesting story.](#)

Sitting in its elliptical introductory orbit of Jupiter, Juno is still preparing for the October 19 maneuvering burn that will put them in their final 14-day science orbit so close to the cloud tops. Meanwhile, it passed its closest approach to Jupiter on August 27th, coming to within 2,500 miles of Jupiter's cloud tops. This gave it a supreme opportunity to do research in Jupiter's south polar region, never before imaged or studied. Do I need to say that they found the unexpected? There is no sign of the familiar latitudinal bands or zone and belts. This image, hardly recognizable as Jupiter, is just a teaser. It's orbit number one, and we're, as usual, flabbergasted by what we find. Isn't space great?

International Observe the Moon

This year's event will take place on October 8th. The Moon will be in the first quarter. We are planning a public viewing at the Science Center. Please bring your telescopes and enjoy an evening of star gazing with us.

St. Petersburg Science Festival

JOHN O'NEILL



Oct 22nd • 10am - 4pm • USF Bayboro Harbor
Grab your scope and come join us.
more info - john@oneilladvertising.com

★ The 2016 Science Festival is being held at the USF St. Petersburg Campus along the Bayboro Waterfront (4th street south) on the 22nd of October (Saturday) this year. Times are 10 AM to 4 PM. If you would like to bring your scope, let me know. It is a really fun event with over one hundred cool exhibits. I have to work the WEDU-TV booth this year, so I am asking for some help. Email me at john@oneilladvertising.com if you would like to help. Note: You get a free parking pass and help with transporting your gear.

SPAC Business Meeting 

The Business Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 12th, at 8:00 PM at the Science Center. All interested members are invited to attend. All club business decisions are made at the business meeting so as not to encumber the general meeting.

Officers & Directors

President:	Kyle Brinkman	727 455-6931
Vice Pres.:	Jack Fritz	813 508-5680
Secretary:	Paul McNabb	727 345-5713
Treasurer:	Jim Hunter	813 909-7013
Dir.-at-Large:	Mike Davis	727 474-6785
Dir.-at-Large:	David Pearson	727-215-1526
Dir.-at-Large:	Allen Maroney	727 867-4781
SPACE Editor	Jack Fritz	813 508-5680
Public Relations	John O'Neill	727 637-5945
Membership Chair	Shirley Vuille	727 864-2624
Outreach Chair:	Jim Hunter	813 909-7013
Librarian:	Ralph Craig	727 384-2086
Club Webmaster:	Chris Curran	813 653-2604

Click on the name to send email

Recognition of Patrons & Benefactors:

Clifford B. Benham	Benefactor
David & Mina Swan	Benefactor
Jack & Roni Fritz	Benefactor
Antonio & Cherish Paris	Benefactor
Tommy & Amy Ming	Benefactor
Alexie & Yanira Velez	Patron
Anthony Staiano	Patron
Gustav J. Waffen	Patron
Joe Ortiz-Bradley	Patron
Kyle Brinkman	Patron
Lindsey & Alyssa McKeown	Patron
Matt Labadie	Patron
Robert Myers	Patron
Robert & Debora Csere	Patron
Ruggero & Carla Santilli	Patron
Thomas Tobin	Patron

Examiner Staff

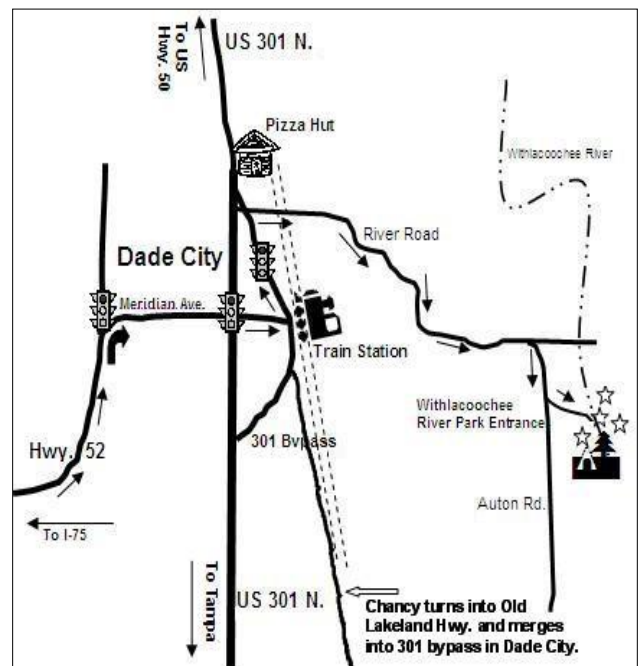
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In the News	Steve Robbins	386 736-9123
Mirror Lab	Ralph Craig	727 384-2086

Withlacoochee New Moon Weekend

Our next New Moon Weekend falls on September 30th and October 1st.

The park gate is locked at Sundown, so you will need to arrive before then. The year-round camping fee with electrical use is \$10/night for club members and \$20 for non-members. Tent camping without electric is \$5/night.

Be reminded that if you are not camping, you must pay the \$2/vehicle fee. Vehicles displaying the handicap parking tag are exempt. For further information, contact Bill or Nancy Huff. starhopr3@msn.com or 813 621-3606.



Withlacoochee River Park - Dade City, FL
 Detailed directions can be found at:
www.StPeteAstronomyClub.org



15406 Stonecreek Lane
Tampa, FL 33613

SPAC, INC. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, Inc. is open to anyone, regardless of age, who is interested in astronomy. Dues are considered donations and are non-refundable. Membership options are available as listed below:

To join or renew your membership:

Complete the following form and return it with your payment to: Jim Hunter - Treasurer, 17316 Oak Ledge Dr., Lutz, FL 33549-7626 - Telephone number (813) 909-7013 (checks should be made payable to SPAC, Inc.)

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Spouse: _____ Children (*Under 18*): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St. ____ Zip: _____

E-Mail address: _____ Newsletter Preference: Email [] US Mail []

Single: [] \$ 20.00/YR. Includes one adult, minor children, the "SPACE" newsletter, and all the rights and privileges of membership.

Family: [] \$ 25.00/YR. Includes two adults, minor children and the above rights and privileges.

Patron: [] \$ 50.00/YR. A Patron member is entitled to the above rights and privileges.

Benefactor: [] \$100.00/YR. A Benefactor member is entitled to the above rights and privileges.