

The FBAC Observer

Volume 18, Issue 10

October, 2004

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Astronomy Day 2004

**George Observatory
Brazos Bend State Park
Saturday, October 23, 2004
3:00 – 11:00 PM**

**Indoor Presentations start at 4:00 PM
Outdoor Presentations start at 4:00 PM
Challenger Center Flight Simulations
Observing Sunspots and Solar Prominences
Observing the Moon, Galaxies and Nebulae
36-inch Telescope Viewing
Dozens of Telescopes to View the Skies
NASA "Rocks From Space" display
How to Purchase and Use Telescopes
Face Painting
Astronomy Buttons
Astronomy Handouts
Meet the Local Astronomy Clubs
Indoor Displays
Observatory Store**

State Park Entrance Fee - \$3/person

**For Information go to:
www.astronomyday.org**

or E-mail: astrobil@flash.net

Sponsors:

**Astronomical League
Astronomical Society of South East Texas
Fort Bend Astronomy Club
George Observatory
Houston Astronomical Society
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Johns Hopkins University / Applied Physics Lab
Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society
Kingwood College
Lunar and Planetary Institute
NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory
NASA Johnson Space Center
North Houston Astronomy Club
St. Thomas University
Texas Nautical: Land, Sea & Sky
United Space Alliance**

4th Annual Houston/Beaumont Regional Astronomy Meeting

(host: North Houston Astronomy Club)

Friday, October 22, 2004

8:00 PM

St. Thomas University

Scanlan Hall
Jerabeck Athletic Center

Main Speaker: "The Kid" Jay McNeil

McNeil's Nebula: Backyard Science and Serendipity

Program:

- 5:00 PM: Set-up
- 7:30 PM: Refreshments & Registration
- 8:00 PM: Video, Call to Order, Announcements, Presentation of the Logos
- 8:30 PM: Main Speaker
- 10:00 PM: Adjourn

Directions:

1. St. Thomas University is located west of Montrose Blvd. between Richmond and Alabama streets in the museum district west of downtown.
2. Jerabeck Athletic Center is northwest of the intersection of West Main St. and Mt. Vernon St.
3. Scanlan Hall is upstairs and can be accessed from the northern or southern entrance to the building.

A-day T-shirts:

The Astronomy Day 2004 T-shirts, complete with a Clyde Peterson cartoon on the front and a digital image on the back, will be available at 7:30 PM (\$20). Proceeds will be used to support the regional meeting and Astronomy Day events.

Parking:

1. All campus ground-level parking lots will be available at no charge after 7 PM.
2. Parking on the streets is available.
3. The Moran parking garage is southeast of the intersection of West Alabama St. and Graustark St. The charge is \$2.

Sponsors:

There are 16 sponsors of the regional meeting and Astronomy Day which are listed on the Astronomy Day 04 information sheet and website.

See: www.astronomyday.org

FULL MOON NAMES

Full Moon names date back to Native Americans, of what is now the northern and eastern United States. The tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full Moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred. There was some variation in the Moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names. Since the lunar month is only 29 days long on the average, the full Moon dates shift from year to year. Here is the Farmers Almanac's list of the full Moon names.

- **Full Wolf Moon - January** Amid the cold and deep snows of midwinter, the wolf packs howled hungrily outside Indian villages. Thus, the name for January's full Moon. Sometimes it was also referred to as the Old Moon, or the Moon After Yule. Some called it the Full Snow Moon, but most tribes applied that name to the next Moon.
 - **Full Snow Moon - February** Since the heaviest snow usually falls during this month, native tribes of the north and east most often called February's full Moon the Full Snow Moon. Some tribes also referred to this Moon as the Full Hunger Moon, since harsh weather conditions in their areas made hunting very difficult.
 - **Full Worm - March Moon** As the temperature begins to warm and the ground begins to thaw, earthworm casts appear, heralding the return of the robins. The more northern tribes knew this Moon as the Full Crow Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter; or the Full Crust Moon, because the snow cover becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. The Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. To the settlers, it was also known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last full Moon of winter.
 - **Full Pink Moon - April** This name came from the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring. Other names for this month's celestial body include the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and among coastal tribes the Full Fish Moon, because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn.
 - **Full Flower Moon - May** In most areas, flowers are abundant everywhere during this time. Thus, the name of this Moon. Other names include the Full Corn Planting Moon, or the Milk Moon.
 - **Full Strawberry Moon - June** This name was universal to every Algonquin tribe. However, in Europe they called it the Rose Moon. Also because the relatively short season for harvesting strawberries comes each year during the month of June . . . so the full Moon that occurs during that month was christened for the strawberry!
 - **The Full Buck Moon - July** July is normally the month when the new antlers of buck deer push out of their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur. It was also often called the Full Thunder Moon, for the reason that thunderstorms are most frequent during this time. Another name for this month's Moon was the Full Hay Moon.
- Full Sturgeon Moon - July** The fishing tribes are given credit for the naming of this Moon, since sturgeon, a large fish of the Great Lakes and

- other major bodies of water, were most readily caught during this month. A few tribes knew it as the Full Red Moon because, as the Moon rises, it appears reddish through any sultry haze. It was also called the Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon.
- **Full Fruit or Barley Moon - August** The names Fruit and Barley were reserved only for those years when the Harvest Moon is very late in September.
- **Full Harvest Moon - September** This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years it occurs in October. At the peak of harvest, farmers can work late into the night by the light of this Moon. Usually the full Moon rises an average of 50 minutes later each night, but for the few nights around the Harvest Moon, the Moon seems to rise at nearly the same time each night: just 25 to 30 minutes later across the U.S., and only 10 to 20 minutes later for much of Canada and Europe. Corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and wild rice the chief Indian staples are now ready for gathering.
- **Full Hunter's Moon - October** With the leaves falling and the deer fattened, it is time to hunt. Since the fields have been reaped, hunters can easily see fox and the animals which have come out to glean.
- **Full Beaver Moon - November** This was the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Another interpretation suggests that the name Full Beaver Moon comes from the fact that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter. It is sometimes also referred to as the Frosty Moon.
- **The Full Cold Moon; or the Full Long Nights Moon - December** During this month the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest. It is also sometimes called the Moon before Yule. The term Long Night Moon is a doubly appropriate name because the mid-winter night is indeed long, and because the Moon is above the horizon for a long time. The mid-winter full Moon has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite a low Sun.

There are many different names for the Full Moon. These are ones that are not often seen or heard. I thought that it might be interesting to know.

Leonard Pattillo, FBAC



AstroCalendar-October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Look for yellow star, Capella, a few degrees above the ne horizon.	2 Venus and Regulus 0.2 degrees apart 3 hours before sunrise in the eastern sky.
3 Draco, the Dragon's head rests high in the northwest-ern sky at nightfall.	4 Venus is racing away from Regulus, separated by more than a degree.	5 Mercury at superior conjunction today, reaching the far side of it's orbit from Earth, nearly in line with the Sun.	6 Last quarter Moon this morning at 5:12 a.m., CDT.	7 Find Luna in Can- cer, the Crab, tomor- row morning.	8 M44, the Beehive Clus- ter, 8 degrees to the right of the moon. You'll need bin- oculars to find it.	9 Eclipsing binary, Algol ¹ in Perseus reaches minimum brightness.
10 Check out the geometry when Luna, Venus, and Regulus form an isosceles triangle in the morning sky.	11 Jupiter emerges at dawn with a skinny moon 5 degrees above the planet.	12 Pegasus takes a ride across the eve- ning sky.	13 A new Moon and a partial solar eclipse...in northeastern Asia and the north pacific.	14 Can you find Lacerta, the lounge lizard, nestled between Cygnus and Cas- siopeia? Good luck! The brightest star is mag 4.	15 <u>There is NO club meeting this month.</u>	16 Catch one last glimpse of Antares, the heart of Scorpius, low in the western sky.
17 Observe the Moon and it's Mare Crisium and Fecunditatis. Tran- quillitatis is only par- tially lit. ²	18 Luna moves through Sagittarius over the next 2 nights.	19 Beginning of the Orionid meteor shower. Check the predawn hours for streakers.	20 First quarter Moon at 4:59 p.m. CDT.	21 Can you believe it? Mars is back. Three degrees above the hori- zon 45 minutes before sunrise.	22 Fill in the blank: Scutum, the _____ ³ <u>All clubs meeting at St. Thomas Univ.</u>	23 Venus and Jupiter stand 13 degrees apart and will be closing in the next few weeks.
24 It is now officially "eclipse season", the time of year best for eclipses.	25 Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto all above the horizon by early evening.	26 Total Lunar eclipse tomorrow.	27 Total Lunar Eclipse tonight	28 Total Lunar eclipse yesterday.	29 The moon is still around and rises 50 minutes after sunset.	30 Convert from Day- light Savings Time to Daylight Wasting Time at 2:00 a.m. tomorrow.
31 Stay up until 2:00 a.m. and check out Orion for an extra hour.	¹ Eclipsing binary stars orbit in such a way that one periodically passes in front of the other.	² Ever wonder why all those names are such tongue twisters?	³ Who named this con- stellation? Hint: his initials are J.H.			

Minutes Of The September FBAC Club Meeting

As I arrived at the end of Dennis' novice presentation I am not quite sure of the timeline to that point so:

Dennis pinch hit for a not-feeling-well Tracy for the novice presentation. Discussed, using Power-point slides, was tips on materials and tools needed to build your own dob style telescope.

After a short break Don Pearce, one of the founding members of FBAC, entertained us with a great presentation on the science of comets with the intention of visually observing them. Explained was the differences between the ion and dust tails, the visual structure of the coma and a detailed explanation of the so-called anti-tail.

The business meeting followed with the following discussed:

Tracy Knauss has re-vamped the new member packets and distributed a few to new members present at the meeting.

David Jenkins welcomed new members to the club.

The annual all-clubs meeting was announced for Oct 22 at St. Thomas U. Details can be found on the clubs web site.

A vote was taken on NOT having our regular Oct meeting and was approved by the majority.

Astronomy day (Oct. 23rd) logistics were discussed.

The FBAC Asteroid team announced ~20 new discoveries for the previous month, including a potential Mars-crosser, way to go team!

Joe Dellinger announced he has donated a UPS for the East-dome, which is attached to the shutter power which will allow the shutter to be closed in case of a power failure. Thanks Joe!

The East-Dome committee announced that they replaced all of the domes rollers, quite a task if I may add, to help quiet down the noisy rotation we have been experiencing. Thanks to Dennis, Dan, Don, Bill and Terry for their hard work!

Wes Whiddon asked once again for help with articles and also to get everyone capable of receiving the newsletter electronically to do so. Let Wes know if you would like to be taken off of the printed list.

Dennis Borgman announced that an informal star-party was planned for Oct new moon in West Texas. Check with Dennis for details.

We ended the meeting at ~10:15 with everyone enjoying a piece of cake celebrating FBAC's 20th anniversary. Congratulations to the club!

At least I think this is how the meeting went :o)

Keith Rivich

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Dedicated to the acquisition and dissemination of information pertaining to the science of astronomy

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 281-468-8491

The **Fort Bend Astronomy Club** meets on the third Friday of every month except for those months when special meetings are called. The next regular meeting will be at 7:30 PM on November 19, 2004 at the First Colony Conference Center, 3232 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX. Dues are \$30/year for the first member, \$5 per additional household member. Student dues are \$15/year.

The **Houston Astronomical Society** meets the first Friday of the month in room 117 of the University of Houston Research Building. The novice program begins at 7:00 PM and main meeting at 8:00 PM.

For the **Johnson Space Center Club**, refer to the JSCAS web site for meeting times and sites. There is a link on the FBAC web site.

North Houston Astronomy Club meets on the 4th Friday of the month at Kingwood College. The meeting starts at 6:45 PM, main meeting at 7:30 PM.

What Do Wheels Have To Do With It?

As most of us know, Astronomy On Wheels has not been one of the prime movers and shakers in FBAC for some time. But it's time now to get things rolling again.

In an effort to jump start AOW, Leonard Pattillo and I met last week with what appeared to be most of the grade school science teachers in the Fort Bend Independent School District. We previously met with the department heads but this was the first time we had direct contact with the teachers. And, as Ms. Stewart, diva of food, culture, and Imclone stock sales, would say from Camp Cupcake, it was a good thing.

Leonard explained the capabilities we possess as an organization, namely the ability to, on a fairly short notice, whip up a star party. There were lots of questions and most of the teachers seemed to have more than a passing interest. But here's the rub.

If AOW is to become once again a viable part of FBAC, it will take more than Leonard and I hawking our wares in front of a passel of teachers. Granted it's a good place to start but there must be club members who are part of organizations that can use our resources. And an important part of that viability is participation. AOW can't be restarted without help from members.

Look at our club motto: Dedicated to astronomy by teaching, sharing, and observing. This is our creed. Please help out if and when you are called upon.

—Wes Whiddon

We're On The Web
[Http://www.fbac.org](http://www.fbac.org)



You are invited to submit your opinions for inclusion on this page. Please be thoughtful and respectful of others in your comments. Rants will not be published. All articles should be 450 words or less and are subject to editing for clarity and length before publication. Please submit in Word format to:
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