

Skylights

Newsletter of the Astronomical Society of Northern New England



SEP2026

Skylights Editor:
Paul Kursewicz



Member of NASA's
Night Sky Network



**Astronomical League
Member**

ASNNE MISSION

ASNNE is an incorporated, non-profit, scientific and educational organization with three primary goals:

- 1) To have fun sharing our knowledge and interest with others.
- 2) To provide basic education in astronomy and related sciences to all who are interested.
- 3) To promote the science of Astronomy.

What's Up In September

By Bernie Reim

The month of September always marks the beginning of autumn for us in the northern hemisphere. This month that will happen at exactly 8:05 pm EDT on Tuesday the 22nd. That is also called the autumnal equinox when the sun on the ecliptic path crosses over the celestial equator on a downward path. After that we only have 3 more months until winter starts on the winter solstice December 21.

The fall and spring equinoxes are the only 2 days each year when the sun will rise due east and set due west for everyone on Earth except near the poles. The days will also be 12 hours long within a few days of that date for everyone on Earth except near the poles. The days and nights will be closest to an equal 12 hours long on the 25th this month. The reason this is off by a few days is that the earth is orbiting the sun in ellipses and not perfect circles and that we are tilted on our axis at 23.5 degrees. It would match exactly if we orbited in perfect circles and had no tilt.

Summer will be over soon and the leaves will begin to turn to their wonderful shades of red and orange in a few more weeks. The colors are predicted to be about average this year, even though we had a warmer than average summer. Even an average foliage forecast still gives us a month or so of vibrant and exciting colors and countless great opportunities for photographs starting later this month. It is important to enjoy and appreciate and learn more about the terrestrial aspects of our planetary home in the solar system along with the greater celestial events that are always going on above us and how they relate to us on Earth. We need to keep the cosmic perspective in mind at the same time that we exercise good stewardship on this rare and precious home planet that all 8.3 billion of us are currently inhabiting.

The highlights for this month will not hold a candle to the 3 incredible events that happened last month, but they will still be interesting and well worth looking for, especially as the nights are getting a little cooler and less humid now. We had a partial solar eclipse, a very favorable Perseid meteor shower with no moon to interfere, and a near total lunar eclipse last month.

These highlights include Neptune reaching opposition on the 25th, Venus at its greatest brilliancy for the year on the 18th, Saturn getting very close to its own opposition early next month, Comet Tempel 2 remaining a great late-night target in Pisces Austrinus, some nice conjunctions of the moon and the brighter planets, and the beginning of the 3-month time window to be able to see the faint and elusive cone-shaped glow of the zodiacal light about an hour before sunrise in the east. This ethereal light always

follows the ecliptic since it is the sum total of sunlight reflected off trillions of tiny dust particles from all the comets and asteroids that have passed through the ecliptic plane of our solar system. This month that cone or pyramid of light will stretch up into Leo towards where Jupiter is located on the ecliptic.

I attended the annual Stellafane Astronomy Convention in Springfield, VT during the middle of last month around the new moon and the peak of the Perseid Meteor shower. This is truly a pilgrimage for thousands of amateur astronomers from around the country and some other parts of the world. Most of them attend as often as they can, not just once in a lifetime. The numbers were down a little this year because many of the true enthusiasts were off in Greenland, Iceland, and Spain chasing a short total eclipse of the sun near sunset.

Stellafane, which means "Shrine to the Stars", is the oldest annual gathering of amateur telescope makers and night-sky enthusiasts in all of North America. It was started by Russel Porter and the Springfield Telescope Makers on Breezy Hill in southeastern Vermont back in 1926 as a more technical convention to share new ideas on making telescopes and the many other aspects that go with that field. There are still many great hands-on workshops and talks offered there, but it now also includes wonderful deep-sky observing from this very dark night sky site about 1300 feet above sea level. There were hundreds of different telescopes available to look through from little 2-inch refractors all the way up to a 32-inch Dobsonian reflector.

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What's Up "Continued from page 1"

Russell Porter, who lived from 1871 to 1949, was an American artist, engineer, architect, cartographer, amateur astronomer, and Arctic explorer. He designed and built the biggest observatory in the world at the time to house the 200-inch Mt. Palomar telescope designed by George Ellery Hale and dedicated in 1948.

There are many other engineers and telescope makers that influenced this great convention positively and made it what it now is 100 years later. Stellafane also serves as a wonderful inspiration to thousands of people of all ages in many aspects beyond just making telescopes and viewing some of the wonders of the night sky in more detail than you could ever see by yourself without these instruments called telescopes.

I have been there 8 or 9 times now, and each time I learn and experience many new aspects of astronomy (I once saw a quasar 1.2 billion light years away through a 17-inch Obsession telescope there), see many new and jaw-dropping views of celestial objects that I could never see through smaller telescopes in more light-polluted skies, reconnect with old friends and fellow amateur astronomers, and always meet many new and very interesting people extremely dedicated to the wonders of astronomy and sharing some of it with as many others as they can where they live. A few of the new people I met last month include a former park ranger from Teddy Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, a young couple from Germany and Japan who had just earned their PhD's in Chemistry and Immunology from Yale and are now working in their fields, an epidemiology teacher from Belgium who runs his own research lab at Northeastern University, and a retired engineer who is now a docent at the Maine Mineral and Gem museum in Bethel, ME. Everyone there shared a common interest of some aspect of astronomy, so it is very easy to make new friends, share experiences, and learn many interesting new things and to be inspired by their work.

The days were sunny and warm and the nights were mostly clear and cool this year for the convention, which is perfect. The sun was very active and I saw several large prominences through a good hydrogen-alpha filter reaching out above the limb of the sun. The biggest one was about 3 times the size of the earth. There was also a beautiful purple-red prominence at 9 o'clock during the total solar eclipse last month that extended about 5 earth diameters above the sun.

The keynote speaker on Saturday night was Ruskin Hartley, the CEO and Executive Director of Dark Sky International. Even though twilight was rapidly gathering and extinguishing the sunlight as the earth kept rotating away from the sun and it was getting dark on a perfect night with the slender crescent moon that just eclipsed the sun 3 days earlier setting along with the planet Venus nearby and many people were already setting up their telescopes to view some of the beauty and wonders of the night sky, I stayed for his whole presentation, which was only about 40 minutes long. His clear

British accent also made him easy to listen to and kept my attention. He presented several good slides of the earth from space at night showing how much worse light pollution is getting every year and how much less of the night sky future generations will be able to see and learn about and enjoy if we don't slow down this rate of pollution. About 30 percent of all the outdoor light that we create in this country is wasted. He showed us that the night doesn't just belong to astronomers, but to everything alive, so we have no right to obscure more and more of it for the benefit of only a few of us. He talked about preserving the dark sky itself and handing that down to future generations instead of just developing bigger and better telescopes so that everything in the night sky can be better seen and understood. More National Parks are doing that now, but it has to go way beyond just a few National Parks and dedicated dark sky sites. Since this was the 100th anniversary of Stellafane, he had us think what it would be like in 100 more years, which is always a good exercise that leads to positive action. Light pollution impacts all human well-being negatively along with wasting money and energy, contributing to climate change, and most importantly, blocking our view of the universe thereby preventing us from learning more about it and how it can benefit us.

There are several important and not-too-difficult things everyone can do to reduce light pollution and all of its negative effects. These include using best practices for installing any new light; it has to be useful, targeted, low level, controlled, and warm-colored. We can help fix bad lighting, advocate for better lighting, and educate yourself and others. We also need to get more involved in our communities to help draft and pass good legislation that mandates better lighting for our towns and new development and is actually less expensive and more effective at the same time. That is also a good template to help solve many other problems.

I saw far more satellites than usual while admiring the beauty of the night sky and the Milky Way from this sacred site on Breezy Hill, about a quarter of a mile closer to the stars than we would be at sea level. Any place on Earth can be and in reality, IS, the center of the universe, but on this particular night I really felt more connected to this great cosmic reality all around us than usual while camping out under the stars for 2 nights. I saw around 50 satellites in just one hour between 10 and 11 pm. We now have about 15,000 working satellites orbiting above us at all times and covering almost every square inch of this planet. We only had about 10,000 a year ago and we will have about 25,000 by this time next year. Many of them passed near Polaris, which means they are in a polar orbit and they can see all of the earth as it continuously rotates below them. You will not see many satellites around midnight because the shadow of the earth stretches into space directly above us at that time.

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Moon Phases

Sept 4
Last Quarter

Sept 11
New

Sept 18
First Quarter

Sept 26
Full

Moon Data

Sept 6
Moon Perigee
228,826

Sept 8
East-Northeast
45min before
sunrise Moon 3 1/2
degrees above
Jupiter

Sept 13
Looking West-
Southwest 30min
after sunset Moon is
in close conjunction
with Venus

Sept 19
Moon at Apogee
251,171

Sept 26
Looking East 1 hour
after sunset Saturn
follows the full Moon
as they rise

What's Up "Continued from page 2"

You can only see satellites as they get illuminated by the sun before they enter the earth's shadow and instantly disappear or fade out quickly.

Our shadow always stretches nearly a million miles into space and from a distance it would look like the earth is always wearing a tall and thin conical wizard's cap. In a very real sense, you could actually look at the whole earth as the ultimate wizard for everything that it is able to do for all of its inhabitants all the time including providing us with everything we need like a clean atmosphere, plenty of good food and water, lots of oxygen generated by trees and green plants, and protection from the powerful and dangerous radiation from the life-giving sun. The only reason all of us are not benefiting from these natural gifts is political and the fact that we always seem to be at war in many places on this planet for religious reasons or to grab more power and land than we have any right to. There is always enough for our needs but never for our greed. We need to learn to live more lightly on this earth and restore damaged parts of it instead of destroying more of it. Once we better understand our place in space and the great and near limitless power of our own sun and natural forces like the wind and the tides, we will see that we are not fighting over limited parts of a pie, but we can all live in harmony and be challenged and fulfilled all the time by seeing the source of our energy as the sun and by learning how to harness it more efficiently for the benefit of everyone.

The famous American architect and inventor of the very useful and popular geodesic dome, R. Buckminster Fuller, also known as "the planet's friendly genius" for his many insights and solutions that were usually about 50 years ahead of his time, said around 1950 that all 2.5 billion people living on earth at that time could live like millionaires just based on more efficiently harnessing the energy from the sun. His whole systems approach to inventing and designing new structures and methods was very sustainable and inexpensive. He invented the dymaxion house, the dymaxion car, and the dymaxion map, a whole new polyhedral map projection of the earth projected onto a flat, unfolded icosahedron, which is a 20-sided geometric shape. It reveals our planet as one island in one ocean and has no distortion and doesn't split any of the continents. It provides a much more realistic deck plan for "Spaceship Earth". This map, which came out in 1954, saw the world from a much more dynamic, cosmic, and comprehensive viewpoint. The old maps reinforced elements that separate humanity and failed to highlight the patterns and relationships emerging from the ever-evolving and accelerating process of globalization, which is even faster and more obvious now with artificial intelligence and being able to connect with anyone anywhere in the world almost instantly.

He designed entire new cities that would be much more efficient than our current ones. He wrote many important books, and developed the concept of "Spaceship Earth". He also wrote a book, "Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth", to help us to better understand our infinitely complicated and living planet and how to live and work on it more productively. Among his many great quotes are: "we are all called to be architects of the future,

not its victims", "we must build new models to make the old ones obsolete", "do more with less", "humans will take the intelligent path only after exhausting all other options". I just hope we all wake up soon and start applying more of the ancient and modern wisdom that is always available to all of us if we just look for it. I had the great honor of meeting this friendly genius during one of his last lectures at the Samoset in Rockport, ME around 1982 before he passed away in July of 1983. It was sponsored by the Owls Head Transportation Museum in midcoast Maine. I remember that Raymond Walker Stanley, the son of Francis Edgar Stanley, one of the Stanley twins that invented the Stanley Steamer car back in 1897 in Maine, also attended this talk by Buckminster Fuller.

The discovery of Neptune on September 23 of 1846 was a study in international cooperation between at least 3 men from 3 different countries. The German astronomer, Johann Galle, actually discovered Neptune first through a telescope from the Berlin Observatory within just one degree of the exact spot in the constellation of Aquarius where the French astronomer and mathematician Urbain Le Verrier calculated it would be. The British astronomer John Couch Adams also made these calculations independently of Le Verrier, so all 3 of them get credit for discovering this 8th and last planet so far in our solar system. This was all based on the fact that the planet Uranus, the first planet ever discovered through a telescope since the other 5 planets out to Saturn are all easily visible to the naked eye, exhibited discrepancies in its orbit around the sun based on laws discovered by Kepler and Newton. There had to be another strong source of gravity influencing the orbit of Uranus. It took Adams and Le Verrier about a year to do all of the detailed calculations. A good classical computer could probably do all of those calculations in an hour or less today! Technology has certainly come a long way since 1846. John Couch Adams went on to discover the source of all meteor showers to be mostly comets and some asteroids. Neptune is named after the powerful Roman god of the water and the sea. The Greek equivalent is Poseidon. Neptune was discovered 180 years ago and it takes this planet 165 years to make one orbit around the sun, so it spends nearly 14 years in each of the 12 zodiac constellations.

The discovery of Uranus on March 13 of 1781 is also an interesting story. It was actually discovered by the British-German astronomer William Herschel by accident while he was searching the sky for faint stars and noticed that this object moved in front of the stars, so it had to be closer and not another star. He thought it might be a new comet at first. The very word "planet" means "wanderer", since they all seem to wander against the background of the "fixed" stars. The stars are not really fixed since they are all moving at about 500,000 mph around the center of our Milky Way galaxy, but they are so much farther away that they certainly seem fixed in our sky.

"Continued on page 4"

William Herschel first named this new planet George in honor of King George the Third, the same British monarch that ruled over America during the Revolutionary War, but the name was soon changed to Uranus, the primordial god of the sky and the first ruler of the universe in ancient Greek mythology. Uranus was even more powerful than the immortal Zeus in that respect since Uranus embodied the fundamental fabric of the cosmos whereas Zeus commanded the weather, justice, and kingship and relied on his weapons like bolts of lightning. Uranus was also known as Father Sky and was the husband of Gaia or Mother Earth. That gave him FAR more power than any mere king on planet Earth!

It turns out that Galileo and some other astronomers actually saw Uranus and even Neptune through their telescopes long before they were officially discovered and named and identified as new planets. As one astronomer put it, Neptune was the first planet or object to be discovered by the "point of a pen". This was a huge victory for pure math and physics and the predictive power of those sciences to help us discover many new and interesting things about stars and galaxies and the whole universe and not just new planets.

Neptune will be at opposition in Pisces on September 25th. That means it will rise at sunset and remain in our sky all night long. Neptune is just 10 degrees to the right of Saturn, which will reach its own opposition soon on October 4. Neptune will be at its brightest for the year at 7.7 magnitude, which is still about 5 times fainter than anything you could see without any optical aid. Neptune is now about 700 times fainter than nearby Saturn, but both Neptune and Uranus are visible with a good pair of binoculars. Uranus hovers at naked-eye visibility at 5.9 magnitude, or about 5 times brighter than Neptune, but I have never seen it without binoculars or a telescope. Uranus is now located in Taurus halfway between the Pleiades and Hyades star clusters and rises around 1 am. Uranus glows with an interesting blue-green or cyan color and Neptune shows up in a small telescope with a mysterious deep blue color from atmospheric methane.

Jupiter is in Cancer the Crab and rises around 4 am. Mars can be found in Gemini and rises around 2 am. Right now, Mars is still small and faint, about 3 magnitudes or 16 times fainter than Jupiter. However, when Mars finally reaches opposition on February 19 of 2027, the red planet will be more than 10 times brighter, appear about 5 times larger in our sky, and be about 5 times closer to Earth than it is now. Mars reaches opposition only once every 26 months. Uranus reaches opposition every 370 days and Neptune every 367 days.

Saturn rises about 4 minutes earlier each night and now rises around 9 pm in Pisces near Neptune, but it will rise by 7pm by the end of this month. It is getting a little closer and brighter each night and is already in retrograde motion. Venus reaches its greatest brilliancy for the year at magnitude minus 4.8, and is only 29% illuminated by the sun. It now sets at 9 pm low in the western sky between Virgo and Libra near Spica. Mercury will be too close to the sun to see this month.

Sept.2. Venus passes 1.7 degrees south of Spica in Virgo tonight.

Sept.3. On this day in 1976, Viking 2 landed in Mars. Viking 1 safely landed there on July 20 of 1976, exactly 7 years after we landed the first humans on the moon. We will probably land some humans on Mars by 2040. The moon passes 5 degrees north of Uranus in Taurus this morning.

Sept.4. Last quarter moon is at 3:51 a.m. EDT.

Sept.6. The moon passes 3 degrees north of Mars in Gemini this morning.

Sept.8. The moon passes 0.8 degrees north of Jupiter in Cancer this morning.

Sept. 10. Uranus is stationary today and begins its retrograde, or westward motion against the background of stars. It will reach its opposition in Taurus on November 25 of this year. New moon is at 11:27 p.m.

Sept.14. The asteroid Juno is stationary this morning. John Dobson was born on this day in 1915 in China to missionary parents. He invented the Dobsonian telescope and started the San Francisco Sidewalk astronomers in 1968 so many more people could make inexpensive telescopes and have access to the wonders of the night sky. He was the keynote speaker at Stellafane many times and also wrote some books. He had some very different theories about how the universe formed and did not adhere to the standard Big Bang theory. He was a wonderful ambassador for astronomy and traveled the country sharing the wonders of the night sky through his telescopes with thousands of people and showing them how to make their own telescopes if they wanted to. The moon passes half a degree north of Venus tonight.

Sept.15. James Christy was born on this day in 1938. He first discovered Charon, the largest moon of Pluto. Pluto only has 5 moons.

Sept.18. First quarter moon is at 4:44 p.m. Venus is at greatest brilliancy.

Sept.19. Brother Guy Consolmagno was born on this day in 1952. He was the Pope's personal astronomer and headed the Vatican Observatory for many years as a Jesuit brother. His specialty was comets and asteroids and he has written many good books on those topics. He was also a keynote speaker at Stellafane many years ago and I had the privilege of attending two of his presentations in Wells, ME just this summer and asking him some questions about the universe.

Sept. 22. The autumnal equinox is at 8:05 p.m. Saul Perlmutter was born on this day in 1959. He and his team won the Nobel prize in physics in 2011 for their work in 1998 showing that the universe is actually expanding at a faster and faster rate due to the mysterious dark energy.

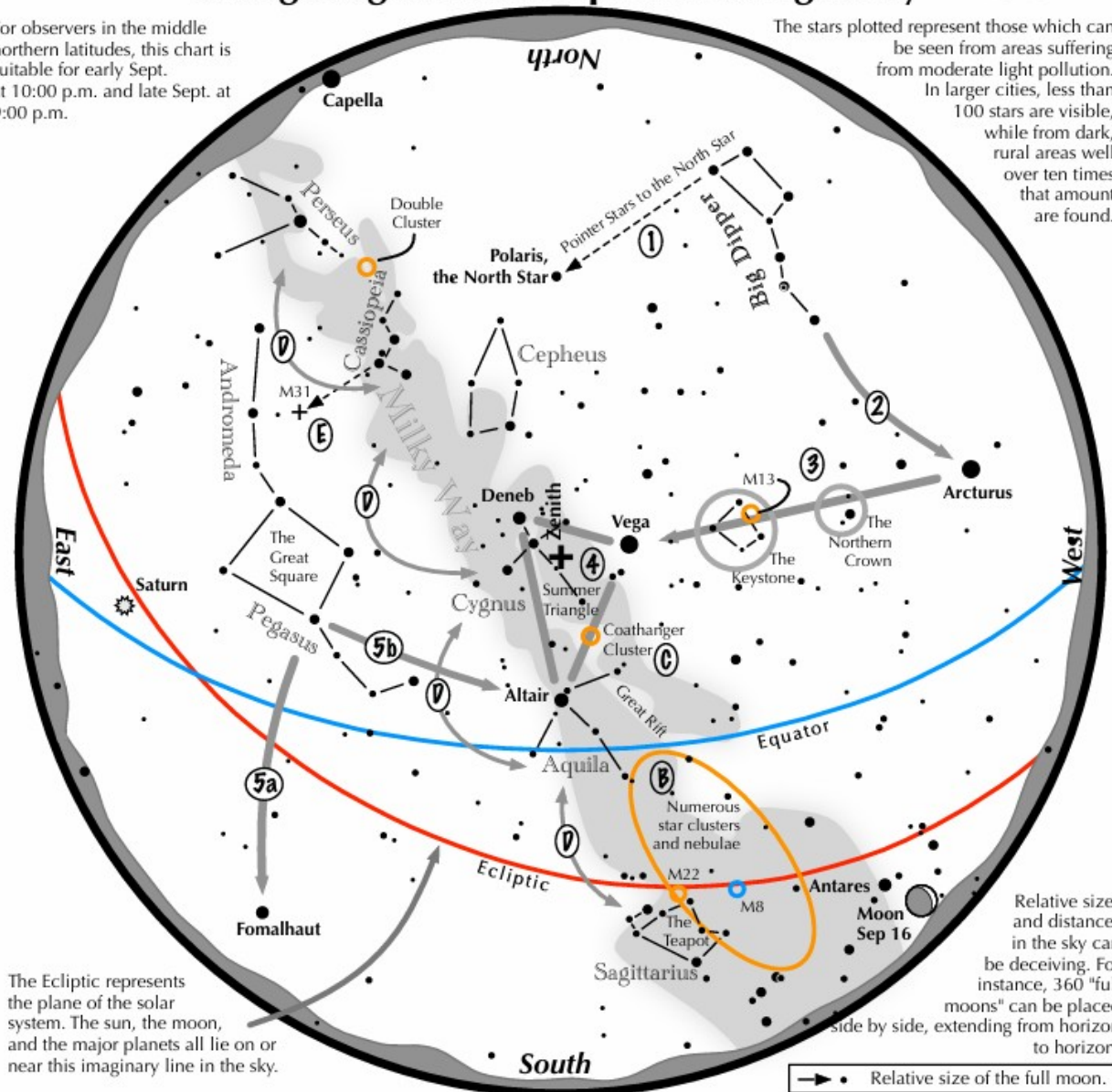
Sept.25. Neptune is at opposition.

Sept.26. Full moon is at 12:49 pm. This is the famous Harvest Moon since it is closest to the equinox. It rises only about half an hour later each night instead of the average time of 50 minutes or so due to its shallow angle to the ecliptic.

Navigating the mid September Night Sky 2026

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for early Sept. at 10:00 p.m. and late Sept. at 9:00 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

→ • Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the mid September night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

- 1 Extend a line north from the two stars at the tip of the Big Dipper's bowl. It passes by Polaris, the North Star.
- 2 Follow the arc of the Dipper's handle. It intersects Arcturus, the brightest star in the September evening sky.
- 3 Nearly overhead shines a star of similar brightness as Arcturus, Vega. Draw a line from Arcturus to Vega. It first meets "The Northern Crown," then the "Keystone of Hercules." A dark sky is needed to see these two dim stellar configurations.
- 4 The stars of the summer triangle, Vega, Altair, and Deneb, shine overhead.
- 5 The westernmost two stars of the Great Square, which lies high in the east, point south to Fomalhaut. The southernmost two stars point west to Altair.

Binocular Highlights

- A: On the western side of the Keystone glows the Great Hercules Cluster.
- B: Between the bright stars Antares and Altair, hides an area containing many star clusters and nebulae.
- C: 40% of the way between Altair and Vega, twinkles the "Coathanger," a group of stars outlining a coathanger.
- D: Sweep along the Milky Way for an astounding number of faint glows and dark bays, including the Great Rift.
- E: The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval.

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If you can catch only one celestial event in the morning this September, see one of these two.



September 6:

Celestial Parallelogram of Castor, Pollux, Mars, and the Moon

September 24:

Mars aligns with Castor and Pollux forming the Triplets of Gemini

Look in the east 90 minutes before sunrise on Sep. 6.

- The twin stars of Gemini – Castor and Pollux – along with Mars and the crescent moon, full with earthshine, form an attractive parallelogram.
- Jupiter peeks above the eastern horizon.

Again, look in the east 90 minutes before sunrise on Sep. 24.

- Mars aligns with Castor and Pollux, forming the Triplets of Gemini. Its brightness equals that of Pollux.

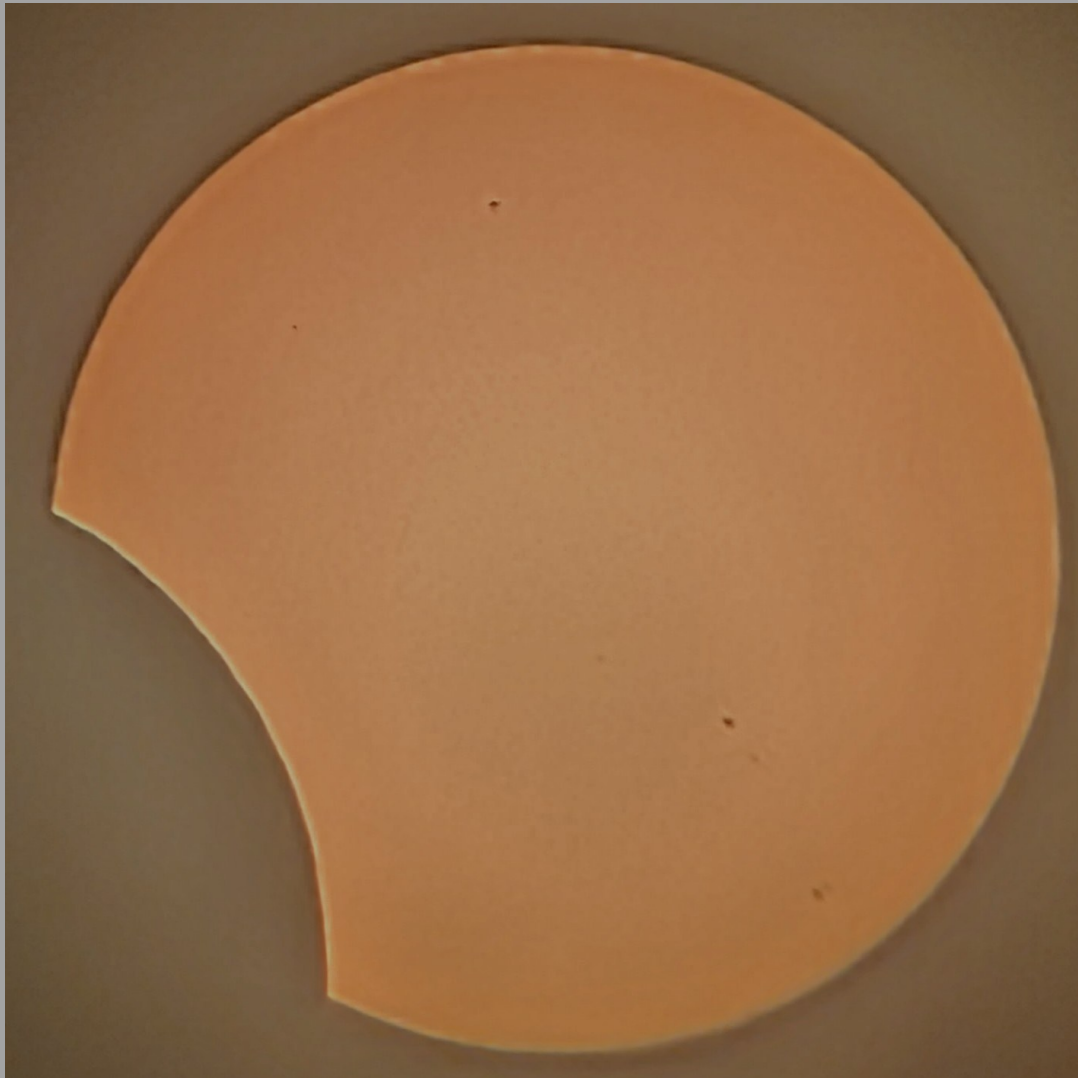
July's Club Picnic

Submitted by Paul Kursewicz



I had forgotten about this photo. On July 10th, we had our annual club picnic at our observatory. This was a BYOB event, unlike ASNNE's Starfest festival which is held each September. It was partly cloudy during the day but cleared just before it got dark allowing us to also have a starparty.

**Photo of Partial Solar Eclipse
Submitted By
Mark Foster**



This is a photo I took through my 500mm newtonian with a 20mm eyepiece as seen from Starfield at about 15% coverage. We were blocked by clouds for more than a half hour after that and missed seeing the 23% maximum.

Write-up and Photos Submitted By

Marty Burgess

July 2026 Starfield star parties.

On August 5th Starfield hosted grandparents and grandson for a birthday tour of the observatory and star gazing. He popped out of the car, wearing his NASA shirt, did his happy dance, and began his tour of the site. Unfortunately, it was mostly cloudy that evening, yet he did not complain or seem disappointed. He helped to open the roof, touched the telescopes and enjoyed the observatory. Wanting a picture of a star that was visible, he helped unload my van, set up a Dwarf Mine camera, found the star with the controls, and captured the image. He promised to return on a clear night to get a look through the scopes.

Here is his picture:



A second set of grandparents arrived on August 14th for our open Star Party! This time a granddaughter about the same age of the grandchild noted above arrived. She was calm and engaged. She also helped open the observatory, checked out the scopes, and since it was clear, enjoyed sightings of Venus, stars and nebula. I had her help unload the Dwarf Mini and Dwarf 4. She picked a target – the Pacman Nebula from the Dwarf lab list, started the capture and monitored the progress of stacking. All the while moving between the scopes in the observatory, chatting with her family and others around for the night.

“Continued on page 10”

Her photo is the result of combining in Mega stack (in the Dwarf system) of visual, astro and duo band filters.



Later in the evening of the 14th, a teenager arrived with great interest with her dad. She was inquisitive, friendly, and her dad had recently presented her with her first telescope. She had a chance to use scopes in the observatory and listen to Dave describe the technology, what was being seen, and descriptions of objects in the sky above.

It was dark enough to see the milky way, and she asked if a photo could be taken. Using a Dwarf 3, she started the capture and discussed the stacking as the image evolved.

Here is her photo:



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Solar Eclipse

On August 12 Starfield was the gathering site of viewers from the club and neighborhood. Mark, who presented at the July Club meeting, brought his traveling scope with solar filter and shared views with the crowd. Dave had the Zeiss scope set up for solar observation which was enjoyed by all. Bernie had a dedicated solar scope set up. Solar glasses were distributed and binoculars with filters were passed around. There were 5 smart cameras running with images on phones and tablets for all to enjoy.

Here's an image, taken with a Dwarf mini, of the partial eclipse, rotated to match the packman nebula image, taken by Hadley.



Astro-Imaging with a Dwarf3

Submitted by Paul Kursewicz

Lagoon & Trifid Nebulas

Dwarf3 Mosaic Mode with Duo Band Filter

90sec, 60gain, 62 Subs, Total: 1hr 33min

Photo Editing Software Used: Stella Studio, PixInsight & Photoshop



I took this image during the night of our July club picnic. The sky was very clear and Moonless on this night which allowed favorable conditions for imaging objects low in the southern sky.

Point and Shoot Camera Astro-Imaging (no telescope)

Canon PowerShot SX50 HS

Submitted By Paul Kursewicz

Partial Solar Eclipse 8-12-26

JPEG mode, FL 1200mm, Single Images Hand-held, Thousand Oaks Solar Filter.



I used photoshop and scaled down my 1200mm focal length images in order to create this composite. In my town of Epping, NH obscuration at maximum eclipse was just under 17%. First contact began at 12:52 PM. I caught it, but in this scaled down version it would be hard to see. Greatest coverage in the U.S.A. was in Fairbanks, Alaska with an obscuration of 37%.

Point and Shoot Camera Astro-Imaging (no telescope)

Canon PowerShot SX50 HS

Submitted By Paul Kursewicz

Pre-Partial Lunar Eclipse 8-27-26

JPEG mode, Auto Focus, FL 1200mm, Single Image taken on a fixed-tripod



While waiting for the Moon to rise above my tree line in my yard, on eclipse night, I snapped this picture of the Moon (which was shedding its back-lit light onto the tree branches).

“Continued on page 15”

Point and Shoot Camera Astro-Imaging (no telescope)

Canon PowerShot SX50 HS

Submitted By Paul Kursewicz

Partial Lunar Eclipse 8-27-26

JPEG mode, FL 1200mm, Single Image using a fixed tripod, 'P' Mode camera setting.



At times leading up from first contact to maximum eclipse it looked clear. Wrong, all of my images showed a light cloud cover, which made it difficult to maintain focus. While a cloud free night would have given me sharp images, I'm satisfied with what I got under these conditions. This image was taken during maximum eclipse.

“Continued on page 16

Point and Shoot Camera Astro-Imaging (no telescope)

Canon PowerShot SX50 HS

Submitted By Paul Kursewicz

Partial Lunar Eclipse 8-12-26

Composite Picture



I used photoshop and scaled down my 1200mm focal length images in order to create this composite image. The sequence starts at lower left several minutes after first contact and continues diagonally to the upper right ending with maximum. Soon after maximum, clouds came in and I had to call it quits.

Rainbow

Submitted by Paul Kursewicz



On August 7th I was driving through North Berwick, ME on route to our astronomy club meeting at The New School. This is when I saw this beautiful rainbow. I pulled over to the side of the road and started taking pictures with my cell phone.

Club Meeting & Star Party Dates

Date	Subject	Location
Sept 11,12,13	<u>STARFEST WEEKEND</u> Our September Club Meeting will take place during Starfest Weekend. So there is NO CLUB MEETING at The New School this month. See the following page for Starfest information	Talmage Observatory at Starfield West Kennebunk, Me.
Last Month	Last month we had our meeting at The New School and Zoom was made available. We had a guest speaker, Mark Foster. He gave us a presentation on his Solar Eclipse experience, with photos, taken when he was in Ohio. Bernie then did his What's Up presentation.	
Sept 11 & 12	Club/Public Star Party: Weather permitting.	Talmage Observatory at Starfield West Kennebunk, Me.

Directions to ASNNE event locations

Directions to The New School in Kennebunk [38 York Street (Rt1) Kennebunk, ME]

For directions to The New School you can use this link to the ASNNE NSN page and then click on "get directions" from the meeting location. Enter your starting location to generate a road map with complete directions. It works great. http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/club-view.cfm?Club_ID=137

Directions to Talmage Observatory at Starfield [Alewife Road, Kennebunk, ME]

From North:

Get off turnpike at exit 32, (Biddeford) turn right on Rt 111. Go 5 miles and turn left on Rt 35. Go 2 miles on Rt 35 over Kennebunk River to very sharp 90 degree left turn. The entrance to the Starfield Observatory site is at the telephone pole at the beginning of the large field on the left. Look for the ASNNE sign on the pole.

From South:

Get off the turnpike at exit 25 in Kennebunk. After toll both turn right on Rt 35. Go up over the turnpike and immediately turn right on Rt 35. About 4 miles along you will crest a hill and see a large field on your right. Continue until you reach the end of the field. Turn right into the Starfield Observatory site at the last telephone pole along the field. Look for the ASNNE sign on the pole. If you come to a very sharp 90 degree right turn you have just passed the field.

Starfest Weekend

Come for a few hours or camp out overnight

Friday:

Gates open around 12pm for tent, telescope, and camping set-ups.

Observatory open for Solar Viewing in the afternoon.

If it's clear, all night observing.

Or hang out under the stars or in the tent, or next to the fire for a chat.

Or perhaps a walk through the constellations of glow worm lights in the field.

Astro "B" Movie Theater.

Saturday:

Solar viewing H-alpha on Zeiss.

10am - 12pm Raffle tables and BBQ set-up.

2pm - 5pm BBQ \$6 (open to non-members).

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Sweet Corn, Chips. BYO your own desert.

5pm - 6pm Raffle prizes awarded.

7pm Tent Talks: TBD.

Bernie Reim's What's Up.

Astro Shorts.

Astro "B" Movie Theater.

All night observing.

Fire Pit.

Sunday:

Dismantling the tent and clean-up.

Principal Meteor Showers in 2026

January 4
Quadrantids

April 22
Lyrids

May 6
Eta Aquarids

July 30
Delta Aquarids

August 12
Perseids

October 9
Draconid

October 21
Orionids

November 9
Taurids

November 18
Leonids

November 26
Andromedids

December 14
Geminids

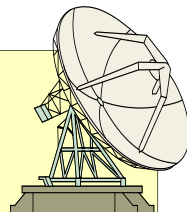
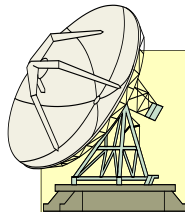
December 22
Ursids

*Note: Dates are
for maximum*

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership fees are for the calendar year beginning in January and ending in December. **Dues (see page 22 for prices) are payable to the treasurer during November for the upcoming year.** New members who join during or after the month of July shall pay half the annual fee, for the balance of the year. Checks should be made payable to the Astronomical Society of Northern New England (A.S.N.N.E.). If you would like to mail in your dues, use the form on page 22. Or you can use PayPal via asnne.astronomy@gmail.com

A Member who has not paid current dues by the January meeting will be dropped from membership, (essentially a two-month grace period.) Notice of this action shall be given to the Member by the Treasurer. Reinstatement shall be by payment of currently due dues.



Got any News?

Skylights Welcomes Your Input.

Here are some suggestions:

***Book reviews -- Items for sale -- New equipment --
Ramblings -- Star parties -- Observing -- Photos.***

Our club has Merchandise for Sale at: <https://www.cafepress.com/shop/ASNNE/products>

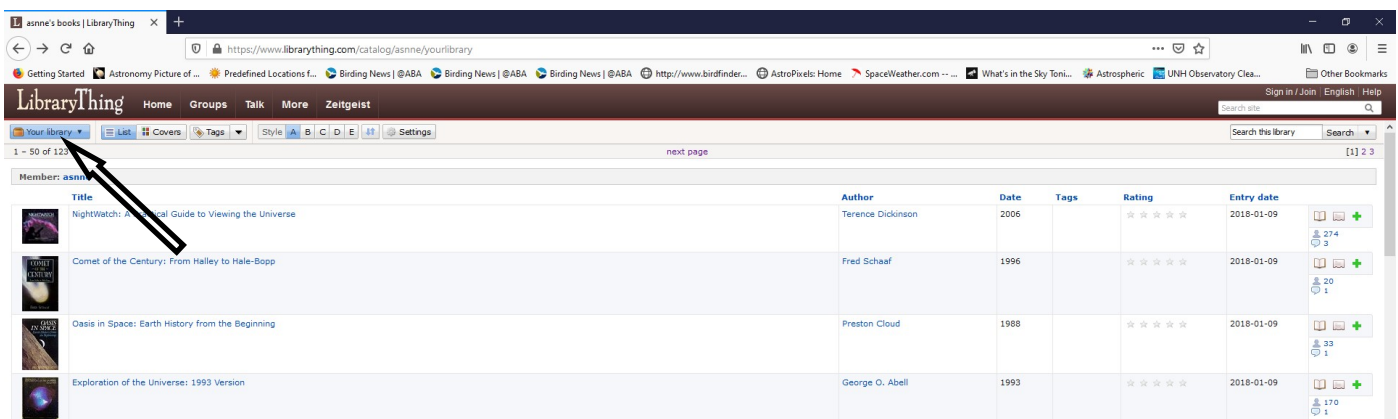


***ALL money raised goes to our operating fund.
Any design can be put on any item.***

Contact David Bianchi dadsnorlax@yahoo.com for further details.

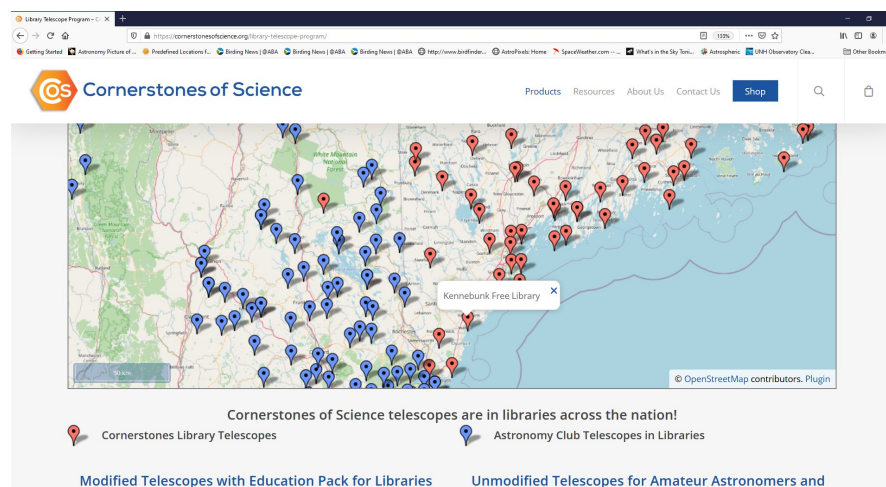
Astronomy Club & Library Resources

Our club has a library of astronomy books which are stored at The New School in Kennebunk, Maine (our monthly club meeting location). To request a book(s), contact one of the club officers. A listing of books is provided here: <https://www.librarything.com/profile/asnne> . After clicking on the link, a window will open. Click on “Your library” near the upper left corner (as shown by the arrow below). Then scroll down to the end of the page to go to the next page.



Would you like to borrow a telescope? While many astronomy clubs may have a scope to lend out, there are also many libraries which have telescopes for their guests to use. Here are a couple of links.

The following link will bring up an active map (see screen shot below) of the USA showing the libraries which have telescopes to lend out: <https://cornerstonesofscience.org/library-telescope-program/>



The below link will show a list of known participating library locations for the state of Maine.
<https://www.librarytelescope.org/locations/usa/maine>

To join **ASNNE**, please fill out the below membership form. *Checks should be made payable to:*
Astronomical Society of Northern New England (A.S.N.N.E). For more details, please visit our website:

<http://www.asnne.org>



Astronomical Society of Northern New England
P.O. Box 201
Kennebunk, ME 04043-1338

2026 Membership Registration Form

(Print, fill out and mail to address above) or Use PayPal via asnne.astronomy@gmail.com

Name(s for family): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone # _____

E-mail: _____

Membership (check one):

Individual \$50 _____ Family \$ 60 _____ Student under 21 years of age \$10 _____ Donation _____

Total Enclosed _____

Tell us about yourself:

1. Experience level: Beginner _____ Some Experience _____ Advanced _____

2. Do you own any equipment? (Y/N) And if so, what types?

3. Do you have any special interests in Astronomy?

4. What do you hope to gain by joining ASNNE?

5. How could ASNNE best help you pursue your interest in Astronomy?

6. ASNNE's principal mission is public education. We hold many star parties for schools and the general public for which we need volunteers for a variety of tasks, from operating telescopes to registering guests to parking cars. Would you be interested in helping?

Yes _____ No _____

7. ASNNE maintains a members-only section of its web site for names, addresses and interests of members as a way for members to contact each other. Your information will not be used for any other purpose. Can we add your information to that portion of our web site?

Yes _____ No _____

