



August 2017

Editor -Jack Fritz

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, has been the center of family astronomy in the Tampa Bay Area for decades. Its 257 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 time is almost upon us. The great American Eclipse of 2017 has everyone's interest, even the non-astronomer. I hope you are ready. Hotels are booked and rental cars are going fast. August 21<sup>st</sup> will be here before you know it. Take lots of pictures and be ready to tell your story at the September meeting.



Many of you will be asked by friends and neighbors how they can see it. Even in St Petersburg, the eclipse will be noticeable. Starting a little after 1 PM and peaking at 2:49 the Sun will be 85% covered. It is going to look something like a crescent moon, or sunset just a few minutes before the Sun is almost down. Get your glasses, solar filters, projection telescope or whatever you can to look at the eclipse safely.

I was asked what the club would be doing for the eclipse. The answer was simple. Most all the officers and those who participate in our outreach programs are traveling to the center-line. We had no volunteers left in town to do a public viewing.

The election of the club's board and officers is coming up in October. The full set of officers is willing to serve another year, but there is still an open position on the board. Please be sure to send your interest to John O'Neill if you would like to join our board. Contact information is in the newsletter. I'm looking forward to my trip and wish all of you safe travels and enjoy the spectacle.

### New Members

We would like to welcome Gloria Grady & Clayton Schmidt and Sandra Cabezas to our family of members.

### General Meeting

This month's general meeting has been cancelled due to all club officers and directors traveling to view the totality of the eclipse.

### Upcoming Programs

- September: Member Eclipse Experiences
- October: Annual Meeting, Elections, and Picnic.
- November: Auction.
- December: Christmas Party.

## Orange Blossom Special

Our annual star party will be February 7<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. As of now, we do not have a food vendor this year. We are working to find someone, but you need to be prepared to provide all your own food. We will have coffee, hot cider, and cocoa available in the hospitality tents all day and night. Go to [www.OrangeBlossomSpecial.org/](http://www.OrangeBlossomSpecial.org/) 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 notice 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.

### National Weather Service

SHIRLEY VUILLE

★ The Atlantic hurricane season lasts from June to November and peaks between August and October. Everyone should make plans how to deal with these severe storms now before the season begins.

Click this link to view and print their booklet, [How to Prepare for a Hurricane](#).



### Editor's Notes

JACK FRITZ

★ It's time to start thinking about our annual elections. We need you to get involved with the leadership of our club. Each year we elect or reelect the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and one of the three directors-at-large. Please consider running for one of these important positions in our club.

Allen has served as Director-at-Large for about 15 years and is stepping down this year. We desperately need someone to step up and assume this vital role.

The New Moon Weekend events for July and August have been canceled due to hot, stormy weather and travel.

### September Astronomical Events

STEVE ROBBINS

★ Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, find Venus 1.5° south of the Beehive Cluster. Venus is also at greatest western elongation of 31.7° west of the Sun.

Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, Neptune is at opposition, in the constellation Aquarius. Neptune is the only planet inarguably invisible to the naked eye!

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, find Mercury 0.7° south of Regulus.

Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, Mercury is at greatest elongation, 17.9° west of the Sun. Also, the Moon will be 0.4° south of Aldebaran.

Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> Mercury will be only 0.1° north of Mars.

Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, find the Moon 0.4° south of Venus.

Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 16:02 is the Autumnal Equinox.

September's full Moon is the Full Corn Moon this year, as October's full Moon is closer to the autumnal equinox and will be the Full Harvest Moon.

#### **September Moon Phases:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> - Full Moon
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Moon at Third Quarter
- 20<sup>th</sup> - New Moon
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Moon at First Quarter

**SPAC Business Meeting** 

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 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:	<a href="#">Kyle Brinkman</a>	727 455-6931
Vice Pres.:	<a href="#">Jack Fritz</a>	813 508-5680
Secretary:	<a href="#">Shirley Vuille</a>	727 864-2624
Treasurer:	<a href="#">Jim Hunter</a>	813 909-7013
Dir.-at-Large:	<a href="#">John O'Neill</a>	727 637-5945
Dir.-at-Large:	<a href="#">David Pearson</a>	727-215-1526
Dir.-at-Large:	<a href="#">Allen Maroney</a>	727 867-4781
SPACE Editor	<a href="#">Jack Fritz</a>	813 508-5680
Public Relations	<a href="#">John O'Neill</a>	727 637-5945
Membership Chair	<a href="#">Shirley Vuille</a>	727 864-2624
Outreach Chair:	<a href="#">Jim Hunter</a>	813 909-7013
Librarian:	<a href="#">Ralph Craig</a>	727 384-2086
Club Webmaster:	<a href="#">Chris Curran</a>	813 653-2604

Click on the name to send email

**Recognition of Patrons & Benefactors:**

Clifford B. Benham	Benefactor
Jack & Roni Fritz	Benefactor
Alexie & Yanira Velez	Patron
Andy Demartini	Patron
Anthony Staiano	Patron
Brad Perryman	Patron
Gustav J. Waffan	Patron
Joe Ortiz-Bradley	Patron
Kyle Brinkman	Patron
Matt Labadie	Patron
Robert Myers	Patron

**Examiner Staff**

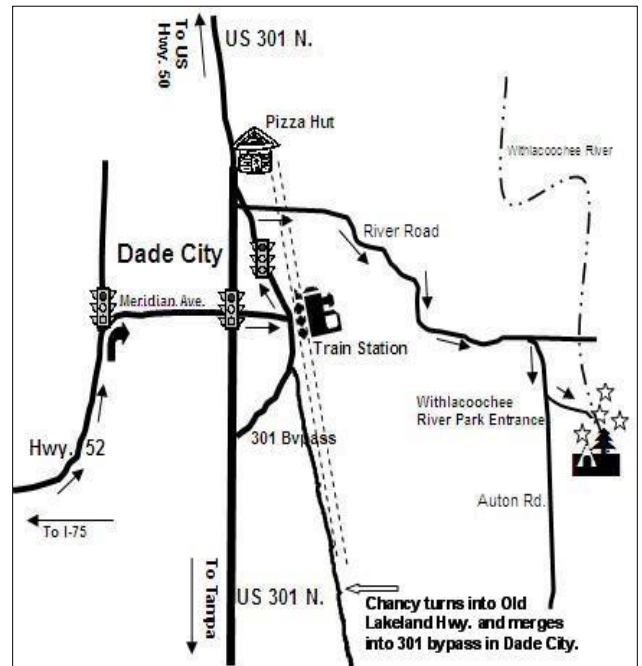
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Reporter	<a href="#">Kelly Anderson</a>	813 672-2751
In the News	<a href="#">Steve Robbins</a>	386 736-9123
Mirror Lab	<a href="#">Ralph Craig</a>	727 384-2086

**Withlacoochee New Moon Weekend**

The monthly events for July and August have been cancelled due to hot, stormy weather and travel. Our next New Moon Weekend falls on September 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>.

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](mailto:starhopr3@msn.com) or 813 621-3606.



**Withlacoochee River Park - Dade City, FL**  
 Detailed directions can be found at:  
[www.StPeteAstronomyClub.org](http://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 [  ] \$25

Single: [  ] \$ 30.00/YR. Includes one adult, minor children, the "SPACE" newsletter, and all the rights and privileges of membership.

Family: [  ] \$ 35.00/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.

US Mail: [  ] \$ 25.00/YR. Please include \$25 if you choose to have the newsletter via US Mail.