



September 2017

Editor -Jack Fritz

The St. Petersburg Astronomy Club, has been the center of family astronomy in the Tampa Bay Area for decades. Its 254 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



That was some eclipse! It captured the imaginations of Americans from all walks of life from the lowly to the White House. I know that many of us had some extraordinary trips with our families and friends. Our club had some great exposure on local TV going up to Dave's place in Georgia.



I hope to see you all at our September meeting to share our experiences of how we enjoyed the natural wonder. We had members from coast to coast and many points in between. The travel plans varied from flights to short drives to my own family's swine dining tour of southern BBQ across 11 states.

Recent events have been hard on many of us. As much as 80% of Pinellas County lost power, and we are getting it back very soon. Did you happen to go out at night and look at the stars? The skies cleared after the storm and the light pollution was greatly reduced. This was the best time I've had in months to see the Summer constellations. I know that everyone is anxiously awaiting the return of air conditioning, refrigeration, and hot showers, but wouldn't it be nice if our neighbors knew what a dark sky would look like.

I know that there are many of us who suffered some financial setbacks or are looking to contribute to the restoration of normalcy in our communities. Our club's mission is to promote astronomy education. We are working on doing our part to maintain our schedule. Join us at our club meeting this month to enjoy the company of other astronomers and talk about our eclipse experiences. We can put down our other troubles if only for a little while.

New Members

We would like to welcome Gonzalo Riccombeni to our family of members.

General Meeting

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

Main Program - Members will share their experience observing The Great American Solar Eclipse.

Upcoming Programs

- October: Annual Meeting, Elections, and Picnic.
- November: Auction.
- December: Christmas Party.

Orange Blossom Special

Our annual star party will be February 7th - 11th, 2018. We do not have a food vendor this year, so 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.

Registration opens on October 1st. We only have a limited number of campsites on the field with electricity, and they are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis so you may want to register early. Go to 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

★ Each year we elect or reelect the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and one of the three directors-at-large. Contact John O'Neill before September 30th to be considered for nomination.

October Astronomical Events

STEVE ROBBINS

★ October 8th - The Draconids is a minor meteor shower producing only about ten meteors per hour. It is an unusual shower in that the best viewing is in the early evening instead of the early morning like most other showers. Unfortunately, the nearly full Moon will block all but the brightest meteors this year.

October 19th, Uranus is at opposition. The blue-green planet will be at its closest approach to Earth, and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view Uranus. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue-green dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

October 21st and 22nd, Orionids Meteor Shower. The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak.

October's full Moon is called the Full Harvest Moon because it is closest to the autumnal equinox.

October Moon Phases:

- 5th - Full Moon
- 12th - Moon at Third Quarter
- 19th - New Moon
- 27th - Moon at First Quarter

The Great Solar Eclipse



From Crossville, TN

SPAC Business Meeting 

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 27th, 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:	Shirley Vuille	727 864-2624
Treasurer:	Jim Hunter	813 909-7013
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Dir.-at-Large:	David Pearson	727-215-1526
Dir.-at-Large:	Allen Maroney	727 867-4781
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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
Jack & Roni Fritz	Benefactor
Andy Demartini	Patron
Anthony Staiano	Patron
Brad & Lisa Perryman	Patron
Gustav J. Waffen	Patron
Joe & Diane Ortiz-Bradley	Patron
Kyle Brinkman	Patron
Matt Labadie	Patron
Robert Myers	Patron
Wally & Ramona Vazquez	Patron

Examiner Staff

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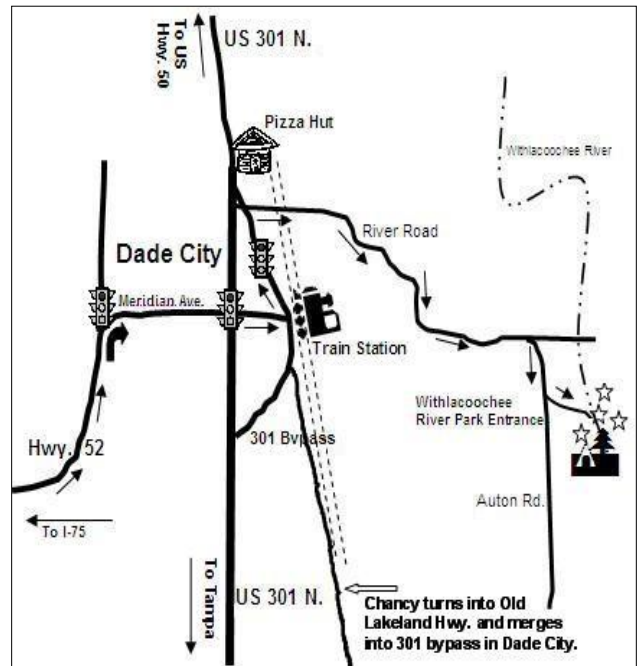
Withlacoochee New Moon Weekend

Our next New Moon Weekend falls on October 20th - 22nd, and coincides with the Orionid.

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 [] \$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.