

Comet 252P



Photo Taken on Night of 4-2-2016 by Scott Conner.
5 Minutes Unguided with our New SBIG STF-8300C Camera Donation
More Photos from this session can be found on Page 6.

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The EAS newsletter, Observer, is published monthly. Anyone wishing to contribute articles or photos may mail them to the club's PO Box: EAS, PO Box 3474, Evansville, IN 47733, or e-mail them to the editor at:

dasiceman@yahoo.com

The **Evansville Astronomical Society (EAS)** is a non-profit organization fully incorporated in the state of Indiana. It has, as its primary goal, the advancement of amateur astronomy. Founded in 1952, the society seeks to:

- 1... maintain adequate facilities for its members and the public in order to extensively study the skies and
- 2... promote an educational program for those who wish to learn more about the science of Astronomy.

Meetings are held the third Friday of each month, except June, when the annual EAS picnic is held. The society also sponsors monthly Open House events during the warmer seasons that afford the public an opportunity to tour the observatory.

EAS 2016 Officers and Contacts

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For more information about the EAS or directions to the Observatory, please visit the club's web page:

www.evansvilleastro.org



Local Events and Information

EAS Schedule Update:

Please Note that we have a Regular Meeting scheduled for Friday April 15th, 2016 at the Observatory beginning at 7:30pm.

EAS Update:

Please Note we have a Cub Scout tour and viewing scheduled for Saturday April 30th – Time yet to be determined around dusk.

EAS Update:

Please Note that there is an Astronomical Event on Monday, May 9th, 2016. The Transit of Mercury should be a near almost all day event.

EAS Update:

Please Note that Astronomy Day at the Museum will be held Saturday May 14th, 2016. Beginning at 11am and ending at 9pm. Night Time viewing will be @ the Autubon State Park Golf Course in Henderson.

EAS Update:

Please Note that we have a Regular Meeting scheduled for Friday May 20th, 2016 at the Observatory beginning at 7:30pm.

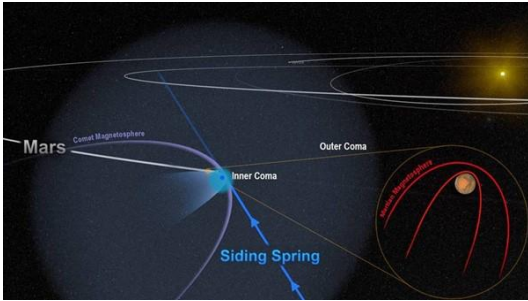
EAS Update:

Please Note that our EAS Picnic is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th, 2016 @ 6:00pm. Place to be determined.

Telescopes and accessories for sale...

As mentioned in last month's issue, Mike Borman still has some excellent telescope equipment and imaging accessories for sale. Some of the gear has already been sold. If interested, go to Mike's web page. Here is the link: <http://www.mborman.org/forsale.htm>

Close Comet Flyby Threw Mars' Magnetic Field In To Chaos.



NASA

Scientists think the encounter blew away part of Mars' upper atmosphere, much like a strong solar storm would. Just weeks before the historic encounter of Comet Siding Spring (C/2013 A1) with Mars in October 2014, NASA's Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) spacecraft entered orbit around the Red Planet. To protect sensitive equipment aboard MAVEN from possible harm, some instruments were turned off during the flyby; the same was done for other Mars orbiters. But a few instruments, including MAVEN's magnetometer, remained on, conducting observations from a front-row seat during the comet's remarkably close flyby.

Communication Failure of X-ray Astronomy Satellite "Hitomi".



Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Tokyo

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) found that communication with the X-ray astronomy satellite "Hitomi" (ASTRO-H), launched on February 17, 2016, failed from the start of its operation originally scheduled at 16:40, Saturday March 26 (JST). Up to now, JAXA has not been able to figure out the state of health of the satellite.

While the cause of communication failure is under investigation, JAXA received short signal from the satellite and is working for recovery.

SpaceX Sticks a Rocket Landing at Sea.



Calla Cofield, Space.com Staff Writer

In a dramatic feat of engineering prowess, the private spaceflight company SpaceX successfully landed a reusable Falcon 9 rocket booster today — the second such landing for the company, and the first successful touchdown on a ship.

The two-stage Falcon 9 rocket blasted off at 4:43 p.m. EDT (2043 GMT) today (April 8) from Florida's Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. It carried SpaceX's robotic Dragon cargo spacecraft, which is now on its way to the International Space Station, carrying crew supplies, station hardware and science experiments. SpaceX streamed live video of the historic rocket landing during the launch, a feat that capped a smooth cargo launch for NASA.

After separating from Dragon a few minutes after liftoff, the Falcon 9's first stage performed several flyback engine burns, then eventually lowered itself vertically onto a SpaceX drone ship that was stationed off the Florida coast.

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Mercury Transit Across Sun	10	11	12	13	14 Astro Day Museum 11am
15	16	17	18	19	20 Regular Mtg 7:30pm	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Up and Coming Events 2015/ 2016

Regular Meeting – Friday, April 15th @ 7:30pm @ Observatory

Astronomy Day – Saturday, May 14th @ Museum – 11am to 9pm – Evening viewing @ Autobon Park

Regular Meeting – Friday, May 20th @ 7:30pm @ Observatory

Moon Phases

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Third Quarter
May 6 th , 2016	May 13 th , 2016	May 21 st , 2016	May 29 th , 2016

Moon Phases courtesy of Time and Date.com

Astronomy Day Saturday, May 14th, 2010
By Mitch Luman

National Astronomy Day is on Saturday, May 14. As in years past, this event takes place from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. If you would like to help for all, or part of this all-day event, meet in front of the Museum at 10:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to do perform “Make A Comet” demonstrations, solar observing during the day, showing guests how a telescope works, observing at Audubon State Park and helping take down our daytime activities, which will conclude at 4 p.m. All volunteers are asked to bring a small, portable telescope for display inside the Museum, or for use in solar observing outside. We need scopes!



If you've never helped with an Astronomy Day here's your chance, but if you are coming, please let me know by emailing me at mluman@emuseum.org. Astronomy Day volunteers that show up before Noon will be provided a pretty nice lunch compliments of the Museum, so RSVP so that I can know how much food to bring. We usually break for dinner as a group before returning for the evening Sky Watch at Dusk, which takes place at the Golf Course at Audubon State Park in Henderson. Suggestions for this community-wide event are always welcome.

Photos by Scott Conner 4-2-16
With SBIG STF-8300C Camera



M13
60sec x 5 Unguided



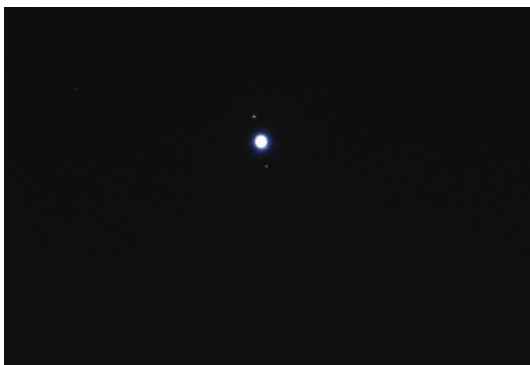
M51
180sec x 20 Unguided



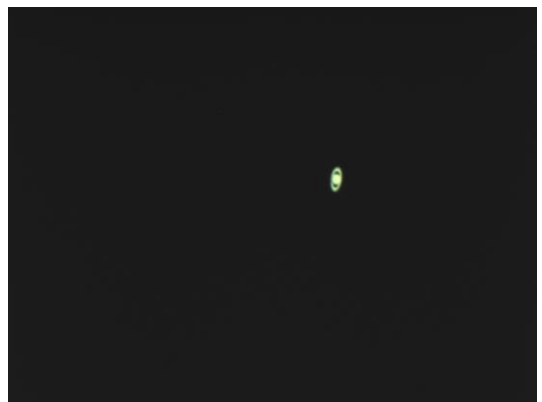
M65 & M66 Trio
180sec x 15 Unguided



M100
180sec x 26 Unguided



Jupiter Overexposed
Showing 4 moons 2 close together.



Saturn

EAS MEETING for March 18th, 2016

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** by President Scott Conner @ 7:32 PM with 13 members and 2 guests in attendance.

It was moved & seconded to approve the JFEBRUARY MINUTES as seen on the EAS Internet page.

Tony Bryan announced the **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Regular Meeting March 18th at 7:30pm

PSW March 19th at 7:30pm

PSW April 9th at 7:30pm

Regular Meeting April 15th at 7:30pm

Ted Ubelhor our Treasure was not in attendance but Scott Conner report that our Insurance was just paid.

OLD BUSINESS

We had a tree trimming day at the observatory on Saturday February 20th. The weather could have not been better. We had a very good turnout of people, but the chain saws were being very picky. We did manage to get 2 chainsaws running for at least half the time. We cleared out quite a few small trees on the west side and a couple of big trees and a dozen or so small trees on the south side. Unfortunately we ran out of time before we could get it finished. Eric Erwin from the park showed up after we finished and asked if he could do anything to help. We showed him a few bigger trees on the hill and the east side. He would see what the park could do. Thanks to all those that helped with this project.

We had our first EAS member observing session at the New Harmony State Park on March 5th. We arrived before dark. Tony, Donna and Donna's friend Mary rented a cabin at the park. Tony brought the 28" scope, Mitch brought his 20" and Ted brought his 8" to use as a finder for the 28". We had several New Members show up as well as a couple of EAS friends to do some photography. The turnout was pretty good. We quit around 10:30pm. The dew and frost were pretty heavy.

NEW BUSINESS

As many of you know. Last year one of our members, Dr. Daniel Johnson past away from an abdominal Anurism. He was an avid Astrophotographer, and had an Observatory on leased land in Arizona. This land was lost by the man leasing the properties to people with observatories, so people had to get their equipment and vacate the property. Fortunately a friend of Dan had the code to his observatory and was able to get in and get most of the equipment out. In a nutshell Dan's brother Doug offered to donate and ship some of this equipment to the EAS and would donate the rest to Ted Blank's club. After going through this

equipment and deciding if it would be able to be used by our club, we ended up receiving \$5700 worth of equipment. This includes;

- Coronado Solarmax 60mm Ha scope with double stack attached.
- Imaging Source DFK 23U618 with Televue 2x barlow
- SBIG STF-8300 camera with case
- Orion Accufocus electronic focuser
- Astro-Tech RC8

This will be a great addition to our equipment list and capabilities. It will also require more security and training, as well as changes to the mount configuration. These will take place over the next couple of months if possible.

Our 1st PSW will take place here tomorrow night at 7:30pm. At this point the weather looks pretty bad. We will come up any way to see if anyone comes despite the weather.

Dave Kube is doing a tour for some scouts here at the observatory on April 30th.

Meeting was adjourned @7:56pm