

## *Alcon 2023 is nearly here*

**BIENVENUE EN LOUISIANE! (WELCOME TO LOUISIANA!)**

Join us for this unique and exciting amateur astronomy gathering!



**July 26–29, 2023**

Hilton Baton Rouge  
Capitol Center Hotel  
201 Lafayette Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

# ALCON 2023

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- ★ David Eicher—writer, editor-in-chief of *Astronomy Magazine*
- ★ Fred Espenak—co-author of *Totality: The Great American Eclipses of 2017 and 2024*
- ★ David Levy—author, comet hunter

## FIELD TRIPS

- ★ Irene Pennington Planetarium
- ★ LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) Livingston\*
- ★ Louisiana State University Physics & Astronomy
- ★ Highland Road Park Observatory

\*Spaces are limited for this trip!

**SPEAKERS** ★ Pranvera Hyseni ★ Guy Consolmagno ★ Dan Davis ★ And many more!

Brought to Baton Rouge by the **Baton Rouge Astronomical Society**

★★ Registration is now open! Check [alcon2023.org](http://alcon2023.org) ★★★



*Photo Courtesy: Astronomical League*

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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](mailto: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 2023 Officers and Contacts

President – Tony Bryan  
812.827.3234

[evansvilleastro@gmail.com](mailto:evansvilleastro@gmail.com)

Vice President – Scott Conner

Secretary – Dave Kube  
740.223.6854

Treasurer – Mitch Luman

Counselors  
Michael Borman (2021)  
Ken Harris (2022)  
Kent Bretton (2023)

Webmaster – Michael Borman

Program Director  
Chuck Allen

Newsletter editor – Dave Kube  
[dasiceman@yahoo.com](mailto:dasiceman@yahoo.com)

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

[www.evansvilleastro.org](http://www.evansvilleastro.org)



## Local Events and Information

### EAS Update

Please Note: We have our Annual Club Picnic Scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Ken Harris's Home beginning at 6:00pm. Please see our Facebook Group and Webpages for Updates.

### EAS Update

Please Note: We have a Moon Watch scheduled for 8:00pm on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This event is scheduled to be at the Museum. Please see our Facebook Group and Webpages for Updates.

### EAS Update

Please Note: We have our annual Patoka Lake Event scheduled for Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 beginning at 6:30pm Eastern Daylight Time on the Patoka Lake Beach. Please see our Facebook Group and Webpages for Updates.

### EAS Update

Please Note: We have a Regular meeting scheduled for Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 7:30pm. Please see our Facebook Group and Webpages for Updates.

### EAS Update

Please Note: The Patoka Lake Rain Makeup Date is scheduled for Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 if needed. Please see our Facebook Group and Webpages for Updates.

### EAS Update:

Please visit our website <http://www.evansvilleastro.org> and our Facebook Group page to keep yourself up to date for any changes.

### Telescopes and accessories for sale...

Orion AstroView120ST, Equatorial Refracting Telescope and accessories. 120mm (4.7") aperture and 600mm focal length, includes sturdy adjustable-height tripod, equatorial mount, finder scope and an internal polar alignment scope. Includes two Plossl 1.25" eyepieces (25mm and 10mm), 6x30 finder scope, star diagonal. \$600.

Contact: Karen Caruso 812-629-8089 (cell)

### 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>

Fellow Members of the EAS,

The Summer Solstice is only a few weeks away. Let's celebrate and do some astronomy!

Remember that there is no monthly EAS meeting in June. Instead, our annual **EAS Picnic and Observing Session** is scheduled for **Saturday, June 17th** at Ken Harris's home in Wayne City, IL. This event is for dues paying members of the EAS and their immediate family or guest. We are planning to serve the food at 6:00 PM CDT. The club will be providing the burgers, hot dogs, and buns. Chef Ken will be manning the grill. Please bring your own beverages. Each member is asked to bring a side dish to share. A donation of \$2.00 per person is requested to offset the cost of meat.

!!! PLEASE NOTE - To help us plan for food, please email me if you are coming (the sooner sent the better) and let me know what side dish you plan on bringing and how many people will be with you.

Ken has dark skies and this year the moon does not rise until about 4:42 AM (the next morning). We should be able to get nice views of those faint and fuzzy objects. I guarantee that the skies and comradery will be worth the drive. A flier for this event and a Google Earth Map is attached to this email for your convenience. As a reminder, EAS Membership Dues are due at the end of this month. The Single Membership is \$40 per year and Family Membership is \$45 per year.

Clear skies,

Tony Bryan

EAS President

## Two New Astronomy Shows at Evansville Museum

By: Mitch Luman

New for summer. Two new full-dome films are now showing at the Evansville Museum's Koch Immersive Theater and Planetarium.

### Phantom of the Universe

Learn more about the search for dark matter, the mysterious cosmic material that cannot be seen directly, but pulls galaxies together. The movie recounts the existence of dark matters through the eyes the first scientist who coined the term and scientists who later observed its effect in other galaxies. Phantom of the Universe journeys details how scientists around the world are working together to narrow the possibilities what this enigmatic material might be.

Showtimes Wednesday – Sunday , 1:00 PM

### Sunstruck

Explore the sun in all its glory in this fulldome show. Travel back in time to experience the birth of our Sun and solar system. Discover how the Sun came to support life, how it threatens life as we know it, how its energy will one day fade away and how solar activity impacts our world. Sunstruck takes you on a journey to discover the wonders of our magnificent sun.

Showtimes Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 3:00 PM

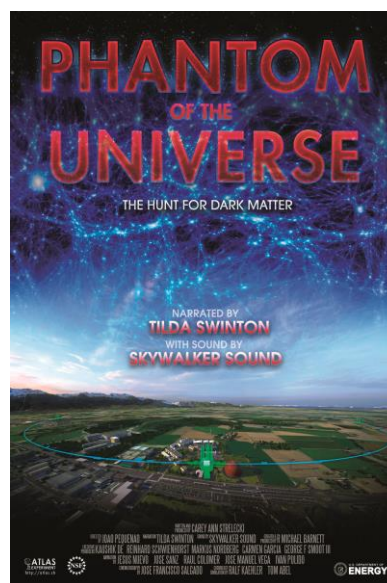
Also showing our traditional planetarium shows:

**Skies Over Evansville** Wednesday – Friday, 2:00 PM

**Solar System Tour** Saturday & Sunday, 3:00 PM

More movies titles at [emusuem.org](http://emusuem.org)

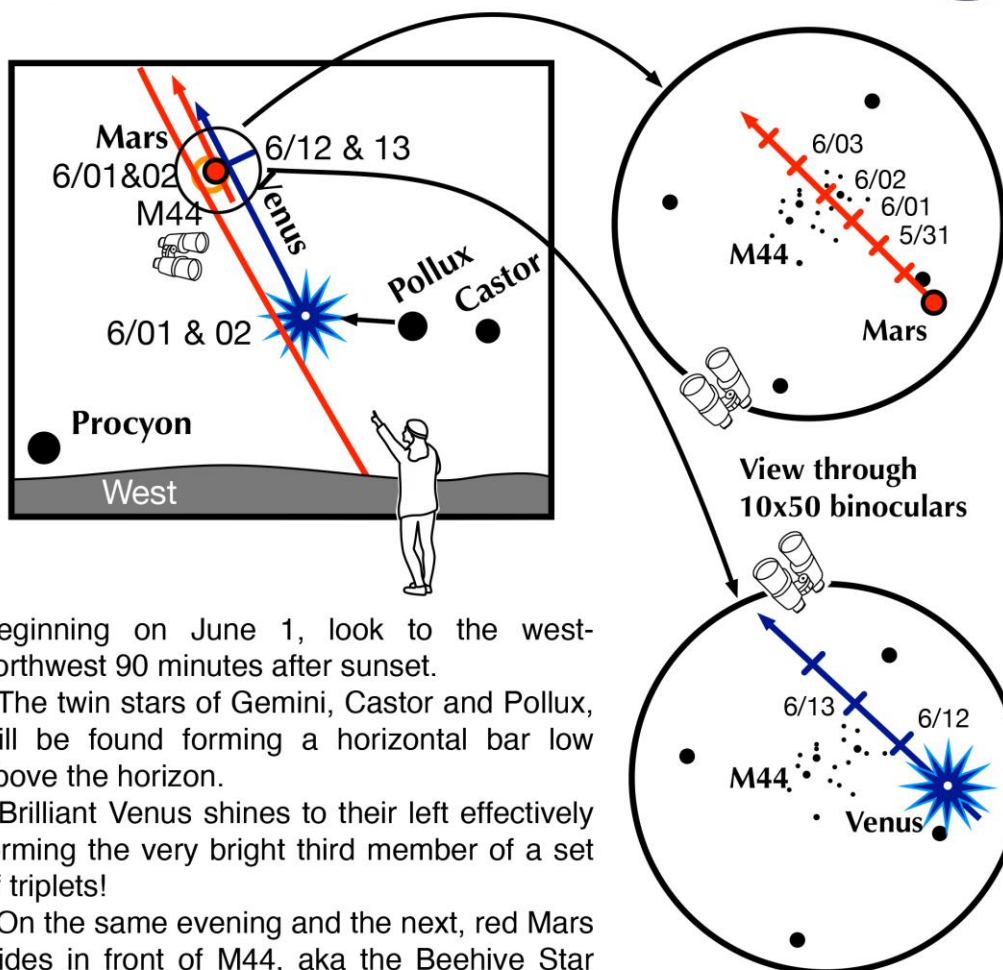
Admission to the planetarium is free with paid admission to the Museum or available separately for a cost of \$7 Adults, \$5 Youth, Student and Museum Members.





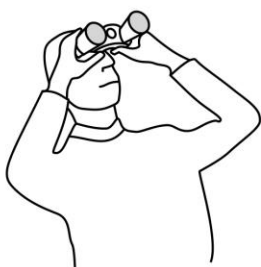


## A must see celestial planetary play: Two planets visit the Beehive



Beginning on June 1, look to the west-northwest 90 minutes after sunset.

- The twin stars of Gemini, Castor and Pollux, will be found forming a horizontal bar low above the horizon.
- Brilliant Venus shines to their left effectively forming the very bright third member of a set of triplets!
- On the same evening and the next, red Mars slides in front of M44, aka the Beehive Star cluster, positioned above Venus. Use



binoculars to find Mars sitting amid the many stellar bees.

- Ten nights later, it is Venus' turn to stay at the Beehive for two consecutive nights. The planet travels along the outskirts, farther from Beehive central than Mars moved. Again, bring out the binoculars. How does the glare of brilliant Venus affect the scene?

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Patoka Lake 6:30pm EDT
16	17	18	19	20	21 Reg.Mtg 7:30pm	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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## Up and Coming Events 2023

**Please Note we have our Annual Club Picnic scheduled for Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Please Note we have a Moon Watch scheduled for 8:00pm on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ Museum.**

**Please Note Stars on the Beach is scheduled for 6:30pm EDT on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ Patoka Lake.**

**Please Note we have a Reg. Mtg. scheduled for 7:30pm on Friday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 @ Observatory.**

**Please Note we have a Reg. Mtg. scheduled for 7:30pm on Friday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ Observatory.**

**Please visit our Web Page <http://www.evansvilleastro.org> or our Facebook Group Page for updates. Events may be cancelled due to Covid and/or Weather at time of event.**

## Moon Phases

New Moon	First Quarter	Full Moon	Third Quarter
July 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	July 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	July 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	July 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2023
<a href="http://www.timeanddate.com">Moon Phases courtesy of Time and Date.com</a>			

### ***EAS Meeting for May – 2023***

Meeting was called to Order by President TonyBryan @7:33pm. The reading of the minutes from the April 2023 meeting was motioned to be accepted as printed in the May 2023 Newsletter by Ken Harris. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote. There were 10 members present including President Tony Bryan and Secretary Dave Kube. There were no visitors.

Secretary Dave Kube announced our upcoming events.

<b>Public Star Watch</b>	<b>Saturday, May 20</b>	<b>7:30 PM @ Observatory</b>
<b>Public Star Watch</b>	<b>Saturday, June 10</b>	<b>7:30 PM @ Observatory</b>
<b>EAS Picnic &amp; Observing Session</b>	<b>Saturday, June 17</b>	<b>6:00 PM @ Ken Harris's House</b>
<b>Moon Watch</b>	<b>Saturday, June 24</b>	<b>8:00 – 9:30 PM @ Museum</b>
<b>Stars on the Beach</b>	<b>Saturday, July 17</b>	<b>6:30 PM EDT @ Patoka Lake</b>
<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, July 21</b>	<b>7:30 PM @ Observatory</b>

Secretary Dave Kube read our Treasurers report submitted by email from Mitch Luman. There were no areas of concern just a reminder that our membership dues are upcoming July 1st

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Special Projects Status** – Bathrooms: both are usable now, but some work is still needed in the men's restroom.  
Office: Complete.

**First PSW of 2023** – Our first PSW of 2023 was held on April 22. We had 17 guests (Most were from Matt Merlos Class) and 5 members helping out. Dave Kube mowed grass prior to the vent. Ken gave a presentation while Dave operated the telescope. Thanks to everyone.

**Library Telescope Presentation** – Tony Bryan gave a talk at the Chandler Library on April 27 on stargazing and how to use the 4.5" Dobsonian Library Telescope. Six people were in attendance. Tony stated he would work more with Presentations.

**Astronomy Day & Moon Watch** - National Astronomy Day took place on Saturday April 29. We had over 150 people take part in the daytime activities. Although the clouds presented us with a challenge that evening, it is estimated that more than 50 people viewed through our telescopes. Representing the EAS were; Mitch Luman, Scott Conner, Dave Kube, Mike Borman, Randy Chapman, Birk Fisher, Ken Harris, and Donna Bryan. Tony Bryan was acting in the capacity of a NASA Solar System Ambassador during the afternoon activities. Daytime was mostly cloudy but Mike Boreman was able to get a solar scope setup with some pot holes to view the sun. Night time also provided some potholes so some observing could take place.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Storage Locker Donation** – Mitch Luman located and arranged donation of a storage locker for use in the lounge area. Tony transported the locker to the observatory. Thanks go to Mitch for arranging the donation and to Dave Kube for helping to move it into our facility.

**Website Security** – Our website is in need of updating for security. There is a recurring cost of \$39.99 per year for a SSL Certification. Thanks to our webmaster Mike Borman for researching what is required and making the necessary changes to the code.

**Second PSW of 2023** – Our second PSW of 2023 will be May 20. If you have never assisted with a PSW, please consider doing so. PSW's are a great opportunity to meet others interested in astronomy, and likely you will learn something new along the way. Ken Harris and Dave Kube Volunteered.

**Third PSW of 2023** – Our third PSW of 2023 will be June 10. Ken Harris and Dave Kube Volunteered.

**EAS Picnic & Observing Session** – Our annual picnic and observing session will be Saturday June 17 at Ken Harris's house. A map will be emailed to members of the society about one week prior to the event.

**ALCON 2023** – The 2023 Astronomical League Convention (ALCon 2023) will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from July 26th to 29th. The theme will be "Astronomical Gumbo," which represents the blend of diverse subfields and people within the vast field of astronomy. Registration is now open online. Go to [alcon2023.org](http://alcon2023.org) for more details.

**New Chairs** – The Evansville Museum is donating like-new 50 conference room chairs to the EAS from their surplus inventory. The chairs are stackable, and feature chrome frames and lightly padded black cloth seating surfaces. The chairs in the dome will remain since they more easily cleaned. Thanks go to Mitch Luman for bringing the surplus chairs to our attention.

**Treasurer Position** – Our current Treasurer is moving away and unable to complete his 2023 term. The EAS Board is seeking a person to fill this position until regular elections are held for the next calendar year. Per our Bylaws, the Board can appoint persons to fill vacated positions. If you are a member in good standing, and interested in being our Treasurer, please speak with any officer.

**EAS in Evansville Living Magazine** – An article about the EAS is in the current addition of Evansville Living magazine. The title of the article is *Out of This World*. You can read it online at [www.evansvilleliving.com/out-of-this-world](http://www.evansvilleliving.com/out-of-this-world)

**Other New Business** – Dave Kube reported that he purchased and installed a new clutch switch for the mower which was beginning to act up. He reported this as a donation.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next Monthly Meeting** – There will not be no EAS Meeting in June. Our next regular meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM on July 21 at the Observatory.

**Tonight's Program** – Chuck Allen will be our presenter for the program this evening. His presentation is entitled Ringed Worlds

Meeting was adjourned by President Tony Bryan @7:52pm

Respectfully Submitted – Dave Kube – Secretary