

Observer Newsletter

EVANSVILLE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.

November
2011

Inside this Issue...

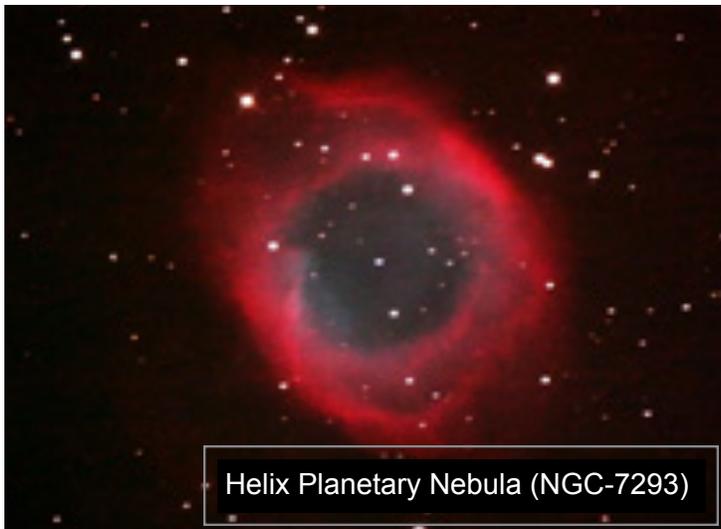
- 2 - Local Events and Information
- 4 - December Calendar / Events
- 5 - The Gray Cubicle You Really Want
- 7 - Minutes of October meeting
- 9 - Upcoming Programs
- 10 - Officers of the E.A.S.
- 11 - About the E.A.S. Organization
- 12 - How to Find E.A.S. and the Wahnsiedler Observatory

Silver Coin Galaxy (NGC-253)



Astrophotographs by Mike Borman acquired at the 2011 Okie-Tex Star Party. Equipment used: A modified Canon XSi DSLR through an Astrotech 8" RC optical tube on a Celestron CGEM mount. Click [here for more images](#).

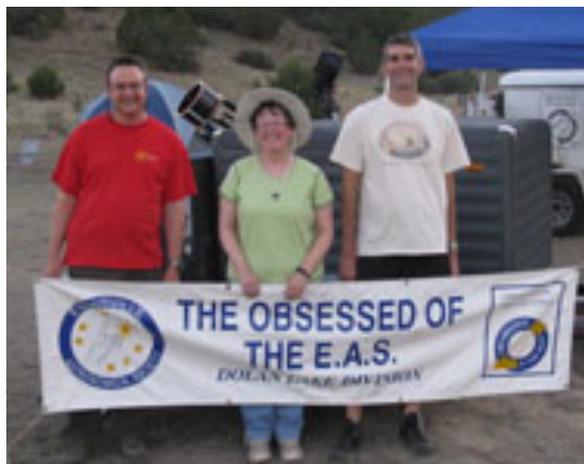
Helix Planetary Nebula (NGC-7293)



Comet Garradd (2009 P1)



At left... Mike Borman, Donna Emmons, and Mitch Luman at the 2011 Okie-Tex Star Party. See page 2 for more information. Additional pictures on pages 3 and 8. Photo credit: Mitch Luman.



Local Events and Information

Public Star Watches... We had a successful Star Watch on Sept. 24th. Ken Harris did the program with Dave Kube's assistance. We had about twelve visitors who were able to view the Andromeda galaxy through the 14 inch telescope before the clouds moved in to stay. The group included several Cub Scouts and their leaders. They asked many questions about the pictures in the show and about things we were trying to see in the sky. They mentioned that they would like to try to come back again when the sky wasn't so cloudy. The leaders indicated that they were impressed by our club and that it is an asset to the surrounding area. They thanked us for our time and enjoyed what we had to offer them. ... Ken Harris

We had a great turnout for the Star Party on October 22nd. We had a large group of Boy Scouts along with a good turnout of the general public. Scott Conner and I estimated over 100 people were there to view through the telescopes. Scott did the program downstairs to a full house while Dave Kube and I set up the telescope upstairs. We were very fortunate to have 3 telescopes set up

outside by other members. The visitors were able to view many objects through all of the scopes. We received many thanks for providing such a service open to the public. Dave and I answered many questions, and I have no doubt that many of these guests will be back again. ... Ken Harris.

Note: If you haven't been able to attend a PSW, there is still one more opportunity this year. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, Nov. 19**. The event starts at **6:30 pm**. Feel free to come and share your knowledge of the night sky with the public, and enjoy a rewarding experience.

Keeping Things Tidy... The FALL/WINTER CLEANUP was held October 15 with ten members helping. Those members included Scott Conner, Tony Bryan, Dave Kube, Ted Ubelhor, Missy and Wayne Donohue, Victor Lopez, Birk Fischer, Bernie Skerl, and Charleen Kaelin. This was our best turnout in quite a few years and the work went by quickly. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time to keep the building clean and/ or assist with the necessary maintenance.



28th Annual Okie-Tex Star Party

During the week of Sep. 24 to Oct. 2, Mike Borman, Donna Emmons, and Mitch Luman attended the [Okie-Tex Star Party](#) located near Kenton, OK. The observation site is in the far western Oklahoma panhandle close to the Texas, New Mexico and Colorado

borders. Hosted by the Oklahoma City Astronomy Club, the site offers some of the darkest skies in the southwest. Provided here and on the next page are some of the pictures taken by Mike (used with his permission), along with his captions. For more images, visit <http://www.mborman.org>



Signs welcoming the attendees of Okie-Tex 2011



4-Runner and telescope trailer before unpacking.



Mike Borman's 18" Obsession and 8" Astrotech RC all set up.



Mitch and Donna troubleshoot the encoders on her 15" Obsession.

Additional images on page 8.

EAS OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 First 	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Regular Mtg. Full 
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Last 	19	20	21	22	23	24 New 
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

generated by [HTML Calendar Maker 1.1](http://www.html-calendar-maker.com/). Copyright (C) 2009 John Dalbey.

November Events (reminder)....

Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 6 (Sunday) 2:00 am

Regular Meeting Nov. 18 (Friday) 7:30 pm Wahnsiedler Observatory

Public Star Watch Nov. 19 (Saturday) 6:30 pm Wahnsiedler Observatory

December Events...

Regular Meeting Dec. 10 (Saturday) 6:45 pm Evansville Museum

NOTE: The **December** regular meeting location, date, and time are different than usual. It is on the 2nd Saturday of the month and begins at 6:45 pm.

Mitch Luman is the Quiz master.

Moon phase times (CST)

new 12:06 p

first quarter 03:52 a

full 08:36 a

last quarter 06:48 p

courtesy of [Time and Date](http://www.timeanddate.com/)

The Gray Cubicle You Want to Work In

By Dr. Tony Phillips



It's another day at the office.

You're sitting in a gray cubicle, tap-tap-tapping away on your keyboard, when suddenly your neighbor lets out a whoop of delight.

Over the top of the carpeted divider you see a star exploding on the computer screen. An unauthorized video game? No, this explosion is real. A massive star just went supernova in the Whirlpool Galaxy, and the first images from Hubble are popping up on your office-mate's screen.

It's another day at the office ... *at NASA.*

Just down the hall, another office-mate is analyzing global temperature trends. On the floor below, a team of engineers gathers to decode signals from a spaceship that entered "safe mode" when it was hit by a solar flare. And three floors above, a financial analyst snaps her pencil-tip as she tries to figure out how to afford *just one more* sensor for a new robotic spacecraft.

These are just a few of the things going on every day at NASA headquarters in Washington DC and more than a dozen other

NASA centers scattered around the country. The variety of NASA research and, moreover, the variety of NASA people required to carry it out, often comes as a surprise. Consider the following:

NASA's Science Mission Directorate (SMD) supports research in four main areas: Earth Science, Heliophysics, Astrophysics, and Planetary Science. Read that list one more time. It includes everything in the cosmos from the ground beneath our feet to the Sun in the sky to the most distant galaxies at the edge of the Universe. Walking among the cubicles in NASA's science offices, you are likely to meet people working on climate change, extraterrestrial life, Earth-threatening asteroids, black holes or a hundred other things guaranteed to give a curious-minded person goose bumps. Truly, no other government agency has a bigger job description.

And it's not just scientists doing the work. NASA needs engineers to design its observatories and build its spacecraft, mathematicians to analyze orbits and decipher signals, and financial wizards to manage the accounts and figure out how to pay for everything NASA dreamers want to do. Even writers and artists have a place in

EAS OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

the NASA scheme of things. Someone has to explain it all to the general public.

Clearly, some cubicles are more interesting than others. For more information about the

Science Mission Directorate, visit science.nasa.gov. And for another way to reach the Space Place, go to <http://science.nasa.gov/kids>.



Caption:
Some of the employees of NASA's Science Mission Directorate may work in gray cubicles, but their jobs are anything but dull. They get to study Earth, the Sun, the Solar System, and the Universe!

EAS OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

EAS Meeting Minutes -- October 21, 2011 ... by Charleen Kaelin

The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by President Scott Conner at 7:35 PM with 19 members in attendance.

It was moved and seconded to approve the MINUTES as will be printed in the newsletter.

Vice President Tony Bryan announced the following **UPCOMING EVENTS**:

PSW	Saturday, October 22	7:00 PM
Regular Meeting	Friday, November 18	7:30 PM
PSW	Saturday, November 19	6:30 PM
Regular Meeting	Saturday, December 10 **	6:45 PM

** Mitch Luman is Quiz Master @ MUSEUM

There were no visitors.

Treasurer Scott Bishop announced that the club's FINANCES are in the BLACK. Also, he had beautiful wall calendars available for sale at \$7.00 each. The desk calendars, *Year in Space*, will be available at our next meeting for those who ordered them, and they are \$12.00 each.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

President, Scott Conner, stated that these will be postponed until next year.

OLD BUSINESS

The president said that the FERDINAND FOLK FESTIVAL was held on Saturday, September 17. Our location allowed us to provide Solar observing, however it was away from the main crowd. Perhaps, next year, we will be assigned a better location.

On Saturday, September 24, a STAR WATCH was held with Ken Harris providing the program while, Dave Kube assisted. There were 12 visitors. Clouds eventually cut that program short. Thanks to Ken and Dave for their assistance.

The FALL/WINTER CLEANUP was held October 15 with 10 members helping. Those members included Scott Conner, Tony Bryan, Dave Kube, Ted Ubelhor, Missy and Wayne Donohue, Victor Lopez, Birk Fischer, Bernie Skerl, and Charleen Kaelin. This was our best turnout in quite a few years and things went quickly.

The GIRL SCOUT event held at the Museum on October 15 had to be cancelled because of low attendance. A second event is still scheduled for October 29.

EAS OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

The program was presented by VICTOR LOPEZ and was titled “**First Permanent Observatory in the New World**”.

November Program: by MITCH LUMAN will be “The 2012 Transit of Venus”

Respectfully submitted,

Charleen Kaelin
Executive Board Secretary



Additional pictures from the Okie-Tex Star Party -- see page 2 for details



Obsessed of the
EAS campsite on
the observing field



Dedication to
Gregg Eubanks



Mike, Donna, and Mitch
in Picture Canyon

Upcoming programs at the Regular Meeting of EAS ... by Mitch Luman

**November Program: "The 2012 Transit of Venus"
by Mitch Luman**

Do you remember the last Transit of Venus, which occurred in June 2004 ? Do you know when the next two are ? Well, one will take place in 2117. Scratch that one. The other occurs a few hours before sunset one June 5, 2012.

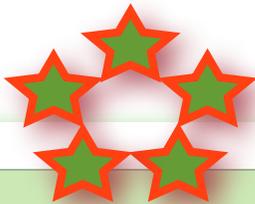
Mark two dates on your calendar: one to attend the program on **Friday, November 18, 2011** when I will present a primer on the Transit of Venus; the other for the date of the transit itself, which occurs during the late afternoon on **Tuesday, June 5, 2012**.

Next year will present an unparalleled opportunity for public outreach as the last transit of Venus of our lifetimes takes place. This rare event has happened only seven times since the telescope was invented ! The last transit of Venus was such a global sensation that Google's Zeitgeist proclaimed it the #1 Most Popular Event in the world for the month of June 2004 !

I will deliver an overview of the history of transits involving Venus, the geometry necessary to produce these events, eye safety, and the prospects for viewing in Evansville.



At left... Venus transit - June 10, 2004
Image: <http://www.nasa.gov/vision/universe/watchtheskies/>



December Program

The December program is the annual Astronomy Quiz and will be orchestrated by Mitch Luman, Science Director of the Evansville Museum. Note: The normal location, date, and time are different than for usual meetings. The December meeting is the second **Saturday (December 10)** and will begin at **6:45 pm**. We will meet at the **Evansville Museum**.



Scott Conner - President

An Evansville West-sider and a Mater Dei High School graduate, Scott continued his education at USI and IVY Tech. He is currently employed in the Metal Fabrication Industry as a Manager. Scott actually has a zest for the “trilogy of sister sciences”: Astronomy, Geology and Meteorology. A very valuable asset to the EAS, Scott has served in previous years as the Society’s Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer. 812.449.2721 (cell) ssconner24@gmail.com



Tony Bryan - Vice President

Tony calls Louisville, Ky. His home town but now resides in Jasper, In. with wife Donna. Tony is a senior technician employed by the U.S. Government. Interest in Astronomy began very early but reached a peak when Tony became an active member of the Louisville club. He has an excellent 8” Meade scope but shows no bias when viewing the skies, “He likes them all.” Other interests include woodworking and collecting classic cars. For relaxation, he enjoys hiking.



Charleen Kaelin - Secretary

A current resident of Evansville, IN, Charleen was born in Baton Rouge, LA where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business. She moved to this area in 1993. She works for a judge and lawyer in the Tribunal Office of the Diocese of Evansville. Charleen’s hobbies include community service, decorating for all holidays and events, and sharing information on astronomy. 812.303.1711 (home)



Scott Bishop - Treasurer

A Native of Evansville, Scott lives on the city’s west side with wife Crystal and Daughters Flannery and Piper. Professionally, Scott is a graphic artist. Although his interest in astronomy developed only recently, he has made remarkable progress. He now owns a 6” Dobsonian scope but shows no preference as to which sky objects he views. “The sky’s the limit.” Other hobbies Scott enjoys include bowling, reading and short story writing.

About the E.A.S. organization...

The Evansville Astronomical Society (E.A.S.) 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, both for its members and the public, 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 E.A.S. picnic is held. The Society also sponsors Open House events monthly through the warmer seasons) that afford the public an opportunity to tour the observatory.

The accounting year covered by the dues runs from July 1 to June 30 of the next year. Anyone joining the E.A.S. from January to June. Dues are 1/2 of the amount listed in the box, then full dues beginning in July. Optional, but recommended, is the subscription to Sky and Telescope and/or Astronomy Magazines. Special subscription rates are available through the club.

The Dues schedule for membership in the E.A.S. is:
Family ... \$40.00

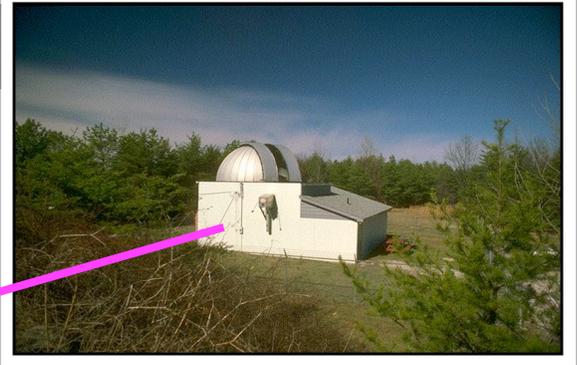
Single ... \$35.00

The E.A.S. newsletter, OBSERVER, is published monthly. Anyone wishing to contribute articles, should mail them to the Club's PO Box. EAS, at PO Box 3474, Evansville, IN 47733, or email them to the editor at:
gneireiter@wowway.com

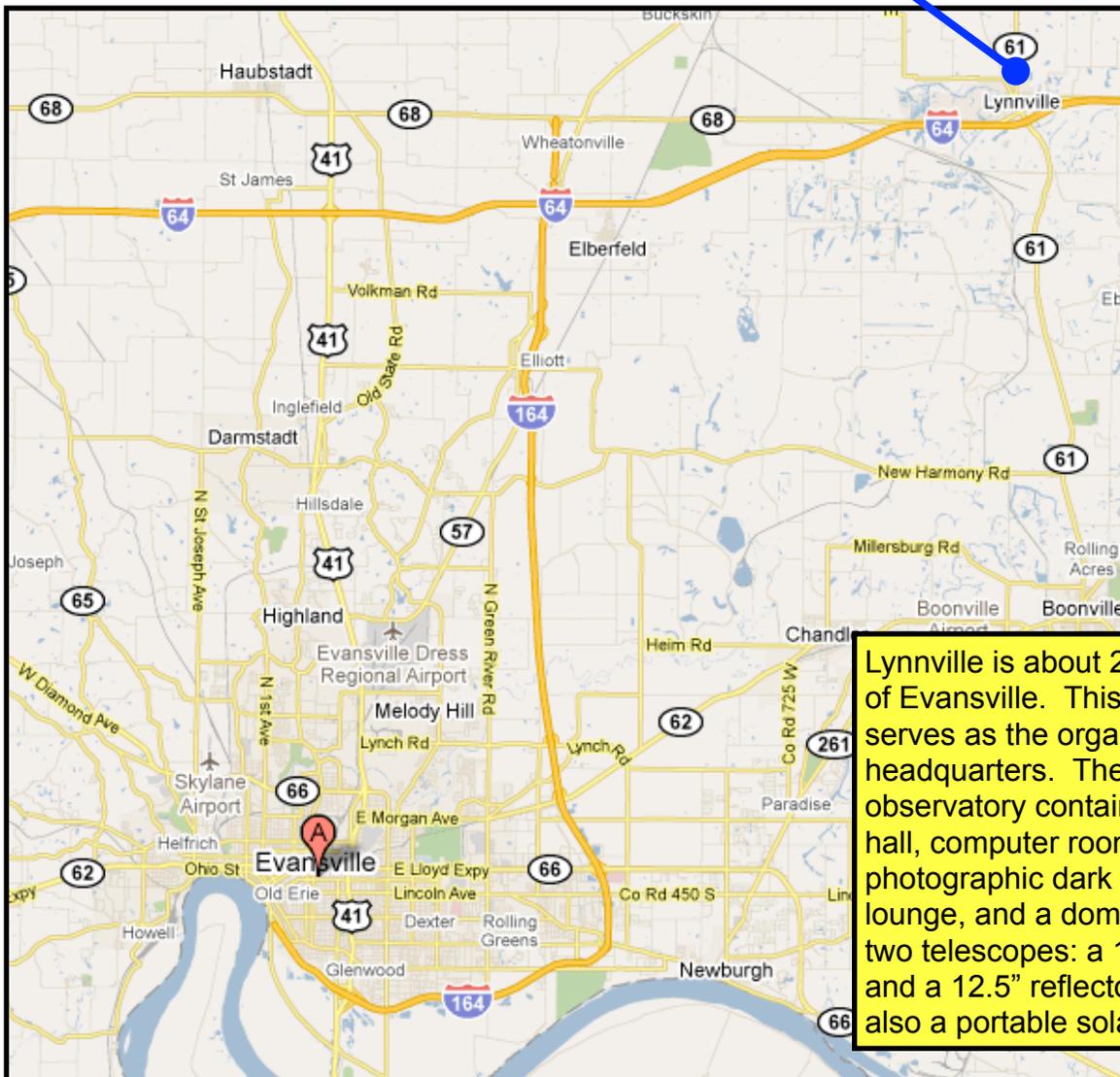
For more information, view the E.A.S. website at:
<http://evansvilleastro.org>

EAS OBSERVER NEWSLETTER

How to find E.A.S. and the observatory...



The E.A.S. facility is located in Wahnsiedler Observatory at Lynnville Park near the town of Lynnville, IN.



Lynnville is about 20 miles NE of Evansville. This location serves as the organization's headquarters. The observatory contains a lecture hall, computer room, photographic dark room, lounge, and a dome housing two telescopes: a 14" reflector and a 12.5" reflector. There is also a portable solar scope.