

THE FLINT RIVER OBSERVER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLINT
RIVER ASTRONOMY CLUB

An Affiliate of the Astronomical League

Vol. 24, No. 9 **November 2020**

Officers: President, **Sean Neckel**; Vice President, **Aaron Calhoun**; Secretary / ALCOR **Mark Grizzaffi**; Treasurer, **Steve Hollander**; Board of Directors: **Dwight Harness, Felix Luciano, and George Ruff**; Program/Observing Coordinator: **Sean Neckel**; Facebook Coordinator: **Aaron Calhoun**; Webmaster: **Tom Moore**; Newsletter Editor: **Dawn Chappell**; NASA Contact: **Felix Luciano**

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Club Calendar:

Observe With KAS: November 7, 2020, 8:30pm. We received an invitation from KAS, the Kalamazoo (Michigan) Astronomical Society President, Richard Bell to participate in Zoom observings from a 20" telescope in Arizona. This is the first of 4 monthly sessions planned through February. The invitation to register is attached to the same email as this newsletter.

FRAC Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2020, 7:30pm on Zoom. Club Vice-President Aaron Calhoun will present on how to calculate the distance between 2 celestial objects. Bring your pencil and paper, and a calculator!!

A meeting invitation will be sent out in early November for the meeting. If you do not get an invite to the meeting, please email me at sneckel@gmail.com and I will reply with the invite.

FRAC Observing: Club observing weekend, Friday and Saturday November 13-14, 2020 at Joe Kurz WMA, sunset until whenever.

Astronomy in the Park: Saturday, November 21, 2020 at High Falls State Park is cancelled.

Please keep checking your email for updates regarding club events.

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Trivia:

1. How far is the sun from the center of the Milky Way?
2. What is the planet with the hottest temperature?
3. What planet has the shortest day?
4. What moon has volcanoes?
5. How old is the solar system?

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President's Message:

Hello FRAC Members, November is one of my favorite months. Cool but not cold temperatures. All the new colors, football in full swing (Go Lions!) and a great big meal to look forward to at the end of the month!!

Since we are approaching Thanksgiving, I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few folks (in no particular order) for their contributions over the past year.

Alan Pryor and Felix Luciano, thank you for making the pages of our newsletter more than just words. Please keep those beautiful astrophotographs coming!

Dawn Chappell, thanks for putting our newsletter together every month.

Dr. Schmude, thank you for doing such a great job presenting to us at our meetings.

Tom Moore, thanks for keeping our calendar and website up to date, and for reminding us...
www.flintriverastronomy.org

Aaron, Steve, Mark, Dwight, George, and Felix (again), thanks for taking time for the occasional board meeting when I do not want to make a decision by myself.

And to everyone in the club during 2020, a sincere thank you for staying with FRAC through what is certainly the weirdest time I've experienced in my life. Given the fact that we had only 2 'real' meetings this year, it would have been easy to pack it in and give up. I'm glad you stayed with us. I hope to see your faces on Zoom on November 12th.

Sean

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Previous Meetings/Activities:

FRAC Meeting - October 8, 2020 - 7:30pm on zoom.us

- 12 members attended our virtual meeting. Elaine Stachowiak, Steve Benton, Mark Grizzaffi, Doyne Tallman, Dr. Richard Schmude, Tom Moore, Felix Luciano, Terry Morgan, Erik Erikson, Steve Hollander, Aaron Calhoun, and Sean Neckel.
- Dr. Schmude gave a highly informative presentation on the visibility of clouds on Mars. He provided a link to the imagery he used for his study:
alpo-j.sakura.ne.jp/Latest/Mars.htm

FRAC Observing: Club observing on October 16 was attended by George Ruff, Doyne Tallman, Mark Grizzaffi, Erik Erikson, and Sean Neckel. Clear skies and mild temperatures made for a pleasant evening, though seeing could have been better. Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars were 'wobbly' in the eyepiece. DSOs looked a bit better.

Welcome Back to FRAC! I had the pleasure to meet returning member Doyne Tallman this past month at Joe Kurz. Great to have you back, Doyne!

Astronomy in the Park at High Falls State Park on October 10, 2020 was cancelled due to concerns about COVID-19.

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Solar System Observing – August 2020

Correction:

It came to my attention extremely late in October that there was a second full moon (a blue moon) on 10/31.

Mercury will be visible in the morning sky early in November. Furthest elongation on November 10th, rising about 90 minutes before the sun.

Venus Visible to the east in the early morning sky all month.

Earth is currently experiencing technical difficulties.

Mars rises just after sunset all month, visible until just before dawn.

Jupiter will be visible early evening, setting before midnight.

Saturn will be visible early evening, setting before midnight.

Uranus is at opposition on 10/31, visible with a telescope until around sunrise.

Neptune will be visible with a telescope early evening until after midnight.

Moon: LQ 11/8 New: 11/14 FQ: 11/21 Full: 11/30
<https://in-the-sky.org/>

Daylight Savings Time ends 11/1/2020:

Remember to turn your clocks back an hour at exactly 1am on 11/1/2020. Do not miss the Government's bi-annual attempt to tell the Sun when to rise.

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Classifieds:

If you have something you would like to buy, sell, or trade, email the specifics, including your contact information to stneckel@gmail.com

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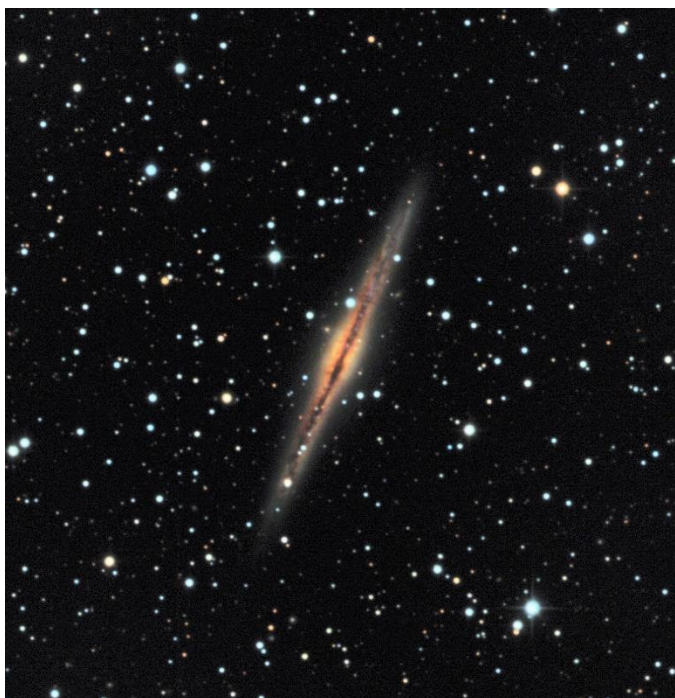


Photo of NGC891, courtesy of Alan Pryor.

Three weeks ago, I received my new 14" Planewave telescope. This Friday I got a chance to take my first photo with the scope.

I took a photo of NGC 891 from my pasture. NGC 891 was one of the galaxies featured in the ending credits of *The Outer Limits* in 1963. I remember seeing those photos as a kid.

NGC 891 is an edge-on galaxy in Andromeda, and it is about 30 million light years away.

My photo was made with the Planewave 14" CDK scope at a focal length of 2560mm. The camera was an FLI PL16803. There were 8 sets of 5-minute RGB exposures and 13 luminescent exposures at 5 minutes each.

-Alan Pryor

Links to the full-size images:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Go6cDdr6wDa8bSyQ7>

Close Up

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/UEhgNKLAYXQuBpB66>

Wide Field

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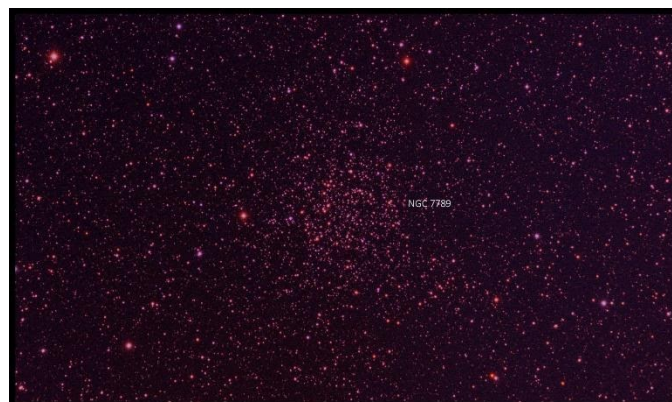


Photo of NGC7789, courtesy of Felix Luciano.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NGC_7789

The image is an RGB image of 8 subs per filter X 180 seconds each exposure.

AP92mm @ FL 612mm

ST8300M, RGB Filters

RGB: 8 subs X 180 sec

-Felix Luciano

The full-size photo can be seen here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/30165660@N03/50545756687/in/dateposted-public/lightbox/>

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Trivia Answers:

1. About 25000 light years.
2. Venus with a temperature of 880! Hot enough to melt lead!
3. Jupiter with a day of 10 hours.
4. Jupiter's Io
5. Around 4.5 billion years old.

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