

# THE EVENT HORIZON



Volume 34, Number 2./ October 2026



## FROM THE EDI...

Happy Autumn! Summer is now officially behind us, and we are full swing into fall.

This month's EH is a bit shorter than last's, as always happens from month to month. There's always room for more however, so give your fellow stargazers something to read at break, on lunch or after dinner!

If you have anything new, exciting, or interesting to share, be it an astronomy or science related article, an astronomy related story from a recent trip, equipment and telescope tips, an astrophoto, anything, I invite you to email it to me at the below address so I can put it into the EH!

Some updates for you all:

- Due to a scheduling conflict, our October meeting is now October 16<sup>th</sup>, not the 9<sup>th</sup> as listed in the September EH

- HAA members can now place classifieds in the EH, email me at the below to submit

Kevin Salwach, Editor

[editor@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:editor@amateurastronomy.org)



## ...CHAIR

October is here, the weather is getting cooler, and the nights are getting longer. Where has the time gone? This summer seemed to fly by.

To end off the summer, our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dark Sky Star Party was a great success. 22 club members made it up to Warton at Andromeda Meadow, and enjoyed a few nights of clear, dark skies and great camaraderie.

Our September meeting was well attended, and featured a fantastic talk from Bray Falls at Starfront Observatories in Texas about the remote astrophotography enterprise he is running down there under some of the darkest skies on the continent.

Coming up, our October meeting will be hosted on October 16<sup>th</sup>, NOT the 9<sup>th</sup> due to a scheduling conflict at the church.

*(Continued on page 2)*

**IN THIS ISSUE:** Chair's Report, Stellafane 2026 Report, Member's Gallery, The Sky This Month & More!

I know that makes two months in a row where our meeting has been pushed back a week, but rest assured our November meeting will be on our regular date. So I repeat! This month's meeting is on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM, NOT on October 9<sup>th</sup>! The speaker this month will be HAA member Leslie Webb. Details TBA on our website and Facebook page in the next week.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, if the weather is nice, we will have a public observing night at Bayfront Park in Hamilton at 9:00PM. The following night, also at Bayfront, is the rain date for our joint event with the Hamilton Naturalists' Club. (I am writing this on September 25<sup>th</sup> - our joint event is on the 26<sup>th</sup> - hopefully we won't need a rain date!).

We had many members renew at the September meeting, and we have had quite a few new members join in the last month or so as well. So to our new members, welcome, and to our returning members, well, welcome back! I must remind everyone once more, that our new membership year since incorporating ends August 31<sup>st</sup>, not October 31<sup>st</sup> as it did for many years. That means if you haven't already renewed, your membership is now expired. We will be sending out emails to lapsed members with a reminder throughout the month. All memberships paid after June 1<sup>st</sup> are valid for the 2026-2027 year.

Speaking of new membership, for many years the HAA (specifically current Secretary John Gauvreau) has ran an Astro 101 program for people new to the hobby. This multi-week series covers all the basics of amateur astronomy, from telescope how-to, to different kinds of stargazing equipment, to information on eyepieces, binoculars, star-hopping, basic mechanics of the night sky, and everything in between. Some years it runs, some it doesn't depending on interest. I have seen a few new members asking about where to find information on the hobby, so if we can get together 10 or more members who would like to take part and learn more, Council will look into an Astro 101 for the new year. Email me at **[chair@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:chair@amateurastronomy.org)** if you would be interested.

Many have been asking about the club calendar. It is still going ahead this year, with Simon Peng taking the lead. We will have a deadline announced very soon, and Simon will be giving a brief update at the October meeting. A call for volunteers to judge submissions will be put out shortly as well, so keep an eye out in your emails. In the meantime, please send your photo submissions to **[calendar@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:calendar@amateurastronomy.org)**.

Finally, a big thank you to all our club volunteers who help make the HAA what it is, and who help with our main mission of public outreach. To everyone who volunteered for the Naturalists' Club event, at Perseids Night, helping Jo Ann with her outreach events, at meetings as greeters, and everything else, again I say thank you. Your help is so greatly appreciated, and does not go unnoticed, neither by other club members, or members of the public.

That's all for now, see you all next month!

*Kevin Salwach, Chair*

## MEMBERSHIP

New HAA memberships and renewals can be purchased in-person at our monthly meetings, or can be paid via PayPal on our website (link below). Perks of membership include access to our club loaner telescopes, our dark sky site at Binbrook Conservation Area, discounts on various astronomy-related gear and software, access to our extensive club library, and more. Membership is \$40 for Individuals and \$45 for Family.

<https://amateurastronomy.org/membership/>

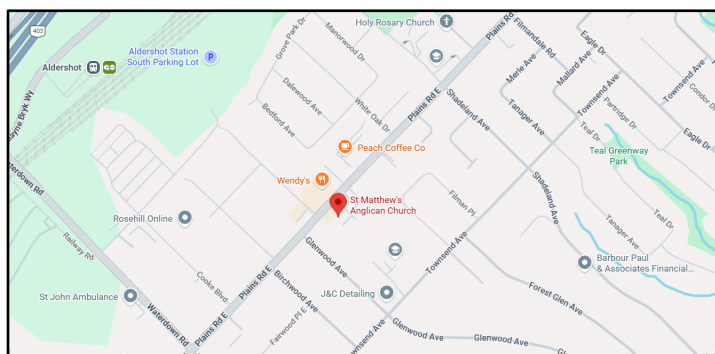
## OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

Our October monthly meeting will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM. Remember this month the meeting will be one week later than usual due to a scheduling conflict. Our speaker for this month will be longtime HAA member Les Webb. Details on his presentation will be sent out via email, and posted to our club website and Facebook page in the next week.

The meeting begins with announcements at 7:30PM sharp, followed by Les' presentation. Following the conclusion of his talk, we will have a short intermission, followed by door prizes, and then the Sky This Month presentation by Observing Team Director Kevin Salwach.

Our monthly meetings are hosted at St. Matthew's-on-the-Plains Anglican Church in Burlington Ontario, 126 Plains Road East, L7T 2C3. Entrance to the church meeting hall is at the back of the building near the shed. Doors open at 7:00PM and the meeting begins promptly at 7:30. HAA monthly meetings are open to the public free of charge.

Zoom link to meeting will be posted to our website and Facebook page.



St. Matthew's Church is an accessible venue, with accessible parking available close by to the hall entrance.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Friday of every month from September until June at 7:30PM, in a hybrid format of in-person and online via Zoom.

### **Masthead Photo:** SH2-129 Flying Bat Nebula by Chris Szaban

Taken at Starfest with a wide field Rokinon 135mm and ASI294MC Pro

We are always accepting contributions and submissions for our monthly Event Horizon newsletters. Almost any form of astronomy related content is gladly accepted, such as astrophotos, equipment advertisements for sale (members only), brief articles on a unique astronomy experience, trip, photo, or event, full articles on anything astronomy, astrophysics, or space science related, and anything in between. Email submissions to

[editor@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:editor@amateurastronomy.org)



Hunger. It's just unacceptable.

The HAA accepts donations from members and guests for local food banks at each monthly meeting. We accept both non-perishable and cash donations. We greatly value our relationship with food banks in our community, particularly [Hamilton Food Share](#). If you cannot make an in person meeting, please consider donating directly to a local food bank, all help is greatly appreciated!



# HAA LOANER SCOPE PROGRAM

The HAA proudly runs a loaner scope program for club members, included in your annual membership dues. Our loaner program allows members who do not have a telescope of their own to borrow a club telescope to begin enjoying the night sky up close and personal, experiment with different types of scopes, and familiarize themselves with new types of scopes, eyepieces and mounts!

The club offers several different telescopes for loan, from beginner to advanced, depending on your level of knowledge and expertise, as well as a wide array of accessories to go with them.

If you are a member and interested in borrowing one of our telescopes, please contact Jeff Parsons at:

[loanerscope@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:loanerscope@amateurastronomy.org)

Telescopes are loaned out on a first come, first serve basis. More information can be found on our website:

<https://amateurastronomy.org/telescope-loaner-program>



Check out the HAA website: <https://amateurastronomy.org>



**General information:** [secretary@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:secretary@amateurastronomy.org)  
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**Education information:** [education@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:education@amateurastronomy.org)



## 2026 STELLAFANE CONVENTION

MATTEO STATTI

My trip to the 2026 Stellafane Telescope Makers' Convention in Vermont was a fantastic experience! I entered my custom-designed 16-inch 3D-printed reflector telescope "Thunderbolt" in the competition, where it received two 3rd-place awards in the categories of Mechanical Design and Craftsmanship. My 1920s restored antique telescope was also entered in the competition.

While at Stellafane, I also had the opportunity to lead a Ten Telescopes hands-on 3D-printed telescope building workshop, and also give a presentation about my antique telescope, "The Mystery of the Marsh Telescope."



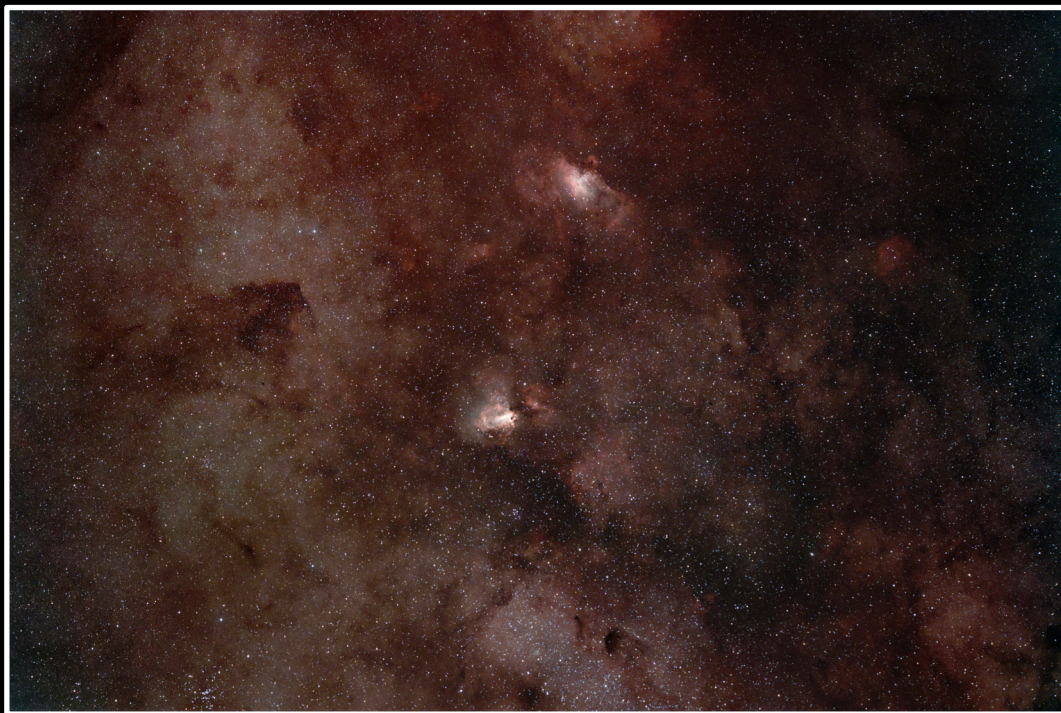




***August 28<sup>th</sup> Lunar Eclipse by Chris Szaban***  
Celestron NexStar 6SE



***SH2-27 by Chris Szaban***  
Rokinon 135mm - Combination of ZWO ASI2600MC Pro and ASI294MC Pro



***M16/M17 by Chris Szaban***

Wide field with Rokinon 135 and ZWO ASI2600MC Pro with HA/OIII filters



***NGC6914 by Chris Szaban***

Celestron NexStar 6SE on a wedge and ASI2600MC Pro





***Shark Nebula and Wolf's Cave Nebula by Chris Szaban***

Against a background of Integrated Flux Nebulosity - Rokinon 135 and ASI294MC Pro



***NGC 1333 The Embryo Nebula by Chris Szaban***

Bill and Ann's MEADE LX6 2120 and ASI2600MC Pro





***M16 by Chris Szaban***

Bill and Ann's Meade LX6 2120 with reducer at F/4



***Deep Field by Chris Szaban***

Astrophoto of a random region of dark sky



The cool autumn nights are upon us, and it's that time of year where we are again rushing towards the Winter Solstice. The days are getting shorter, the nights longer, and for us amateur astronomers, the time we can spend out under the stars is increasing day by day.

This October offers us up a wide range of events and sights to see, it will be a good month for stargazers. So let's take a look at the night sky, beginning with the naked eye.

Starting off in the west at 10:00PM on the night of our meeting (October 16<sup>th</sup> – don't say I didn't warn you!), we can see the last vestiges of the early summer sky disappearing below the horizon. **Scutum**, **Ophiuchus** and **Hercules** are all beginning to set by dark, and by 11:00PM they have dipped away for the winter. In the southwest, **Sagittarius** has almost completely set along with the galactic core, replaced by **Capricornus** higher in the sky. Up at zenith, **Cygnus** still occupies its place of prominence, but is beginning to move lower and lower towards the horizon. **Lacerta** is directly overhead, circled around by **Pegasus**. **Cepheus**, **Cassiopeia** and **Andromeda**, all bracketing a still well placed Summer Milky Way. Looking east, we now see the first signs of winter – **Auriga** and **Taurus** are fully risen by the time the sky gets fully dark, with the **Pleiades** and **Perseus** already well up into the sky. Due south those lesser known fall constellations of **Sculptor**, **Microscopium**, **Piscis Austrinus** and **Grus** skirt the horizon, while **Aquarius**, **Pisces** and **Cetus** are well placed above them. Finally, looking north **Cepheus** is high in the sky, while **Ursa Major** and the Big Dipper swing low along the horizon underneath the Pole.



The night sky looking west at 10:00PM on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> (continued on page 12)





*The night sky looking to zenith at 10:00PM on Friday, October 16th*



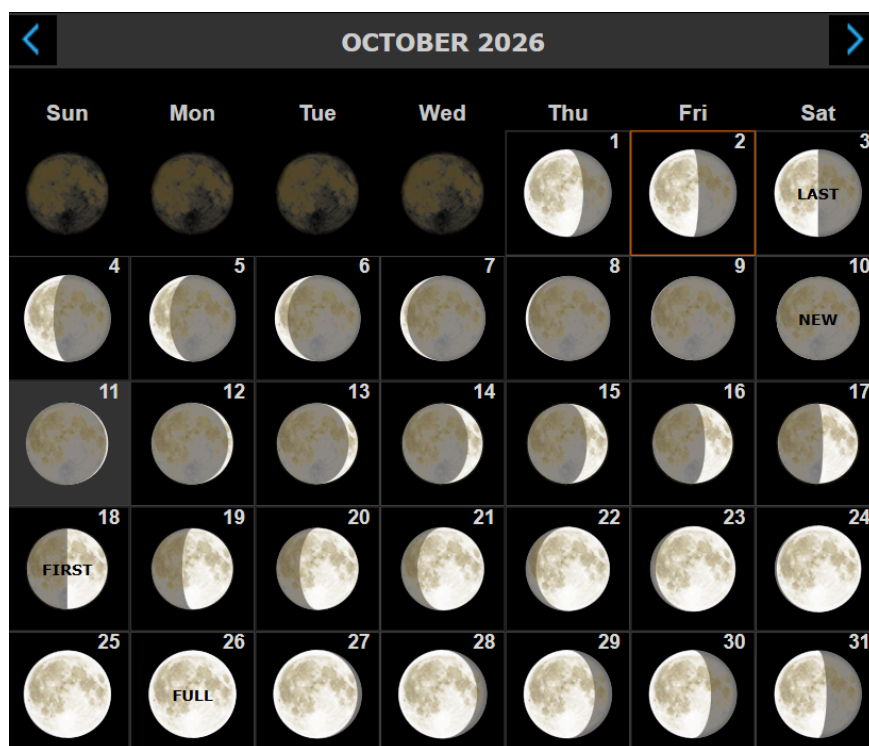
*The night sky looking east at 10:00PM on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> (continued on page 13)*

*Images generated using Stellarium*

## The Moon

Looking up at our closest companion, the Moon begins the month with Last Quarter on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, New Moon on the 10<sup>th</sup>, First Quarter on the 18<sup>th</sup> and Full Moon on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> (a Saturday) will obviously be your best moonless skies this October. The Moon puts on a show for us this month, with some very, very excellent events of note (marked !!):

- A close conjunction with Mars and an occultation of M44 The Beehive on October 5<sup>th</sup> (!!!). Look around 2:00AM for a near-occultation of Mars at less than a quarter degree, and then follow the Moon on until sunrise around 7:00AM as it passes over the cluster
- An occultation of Jupiter the next morning on October 6<sup>th</sup> (!!!). The occultation begins at 4:26AM as it passes behind the bright side of the Moon, and reappears at 5:24AM
- A close conjunction with Antares close to the horizon right after sunset around 7:30PM on the 14<sup>th</sup>
- An occultation of M45 The Pleiades on the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> (!!!). The Moon passes in front of the cluster beginning right as it rises just after 7:00PM, and passes across the other side as the Moon is higher up in the sky just after 10:00PM







*The Moon, Mars and M44 at 4:00AM on October 5<sup>th</sup>*



*The Moon occulting Jupiter at 4:26AM on October 6<sup>th</sup>*

*(Continued on page 15)*

## **The Planets**

**Mercury** remains too close to the Sun this month for any meaningful viewing, though you may get a few very fleeting glances of it extremely close to the horizon immediately after sunset in the first and last weeks of the month. The same goes for **Venus** as it passes behind the Sun, reappearing in the morning sky immediately before sunrise in the first week of November.

**Mars** begins the month rising in the east around 2:00AM in Cancer, rising higher as the night goes on until sunrise. From the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> it passes across the Beehive (M44) as well, being directly in the heart of the cluster on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup> from when it rises around 2:00AM until the Sun washes it out around 7:00AM (!!!). Definitely a view you don't want to miss – it'll look fantastic in binoculars or a small refractor. The Red Planet is visible all month and gets better into November, and despite not being at a favorable position in its orbit, resulting in a small disk, there is still plenty of opportunity to try and eke out some views of its features this Fall. **Jupiter** follows close behind Mars in Leo, rising around 3:00AM at the beginning of the month, and by the end of the month it rises by 1:30AM. As always, keep an eye out for transits of the Galilean Moons and their shadows. **Saturn** steals the show this month, as it is at opposition on the 4<sup>th</sup>. This means that it rises as the Sun sets, and sets as the Sun rises, resulting in a full night from dusk to dawn of viewing opportunity. Sitting in Cetus, its rings are halfway between edge on and fully open, and its plethora of moons dance around it in a medium or larger scope night by night. **Neptune** is slightly ahead of Saturn in Pisces, visible almost all night long as well, while **Uranus** rises around 10:00PM at the start of the month in Taurus.

The **Orionid meteor shower** peaks on the night of October 21-22<sup>nd</sup>, and in a clear dark sky you can see upwards of 25 meteors per hour. Unfortunately this year there is a bright gibbous Moon high in the sky that night, but nonetheless keep an eye out for the odd bright meteor.

## **The Deep Sky**

Finally, moving into our deep sky, let's take a look towards the south and southwest in our water constellations and our lesser known equatorial constellations to glean some deep sky treats.

## **Beginner Objects**

**M30** – Mag. 6.9 – this big and bright globular in Capricornus is a dense, great looking cluster which shines in a medium sized scope at medium power

*(continued on page 16)*



**M2** – Mag 6.6 – another big beautiful globular, this cluster is known as being a better visual treat than M30. It has a compact core with less density on the outskirts of the cluster, and wonderfully contrasted bright stars throughout, meaning you will be able to resolve hundreds of individual stars in a small scope at high power

**NGC253 The Sculptor Galaxy** – Mag. 8.0 – also known as the Silver Coin, this big and bright oblique spiral galaxy is included in the beginner list because of its size and brightness, but it is still a challenge. Lying very low in the sky in the constellation Sculptor, it hardly reaches more than 15 degrees in altitude, meaning that to see it clearly you will need clear, dark skies to the south and a low horizon. In small scopes it lives up to its name as the silver coin, and in larger scopes it begins to resolve into streaky dust lanes and a bright galactic core

### **Intermediate Objects**

**NGC7009 The Saturn Nebula** – Mag 8.0 – This tiny but beautiful planetary nebula in Aquarius gets its name from its *ansae* (handles) which protrude from the bright compact core to give it a strikingly similar appearance to the rings of Saturn. In a medium or large scope at high magnification, this small nebula pops out with a noticeable bluish green color, and the more magnification you put on, the more resemblance to Saturn you get

**NGC300 – The Sculptor Pinwheel** – Mag. 8.13 – another spiral galaxy in Sculptor, this face on is located even further south than NGC253, meaning that although it is fairly bright as far as galaxies go, it presents a challenge to the northern observer never rising above 8 degrees in altitude. In a medium scope at medium power, with dark skies and a clear southern horizon, you will see this large, fuzzy galaxy take up most of your field of view, and with some luck you might even detect a hint of spiral structure

### **Advanced Objects**

**NGC7492** – Mag. 10.48 – this extremely low surface brightness, dim globular in Aquarius is a great test of your visual observing abilities. Difficult to spot in even a 10" scope, it is a good challenge to push the limits of what your averted vision can see, and how good your eyes are at picking out very, very faint fuzzies against the grey backdrop of the sky

(continued on page 17)

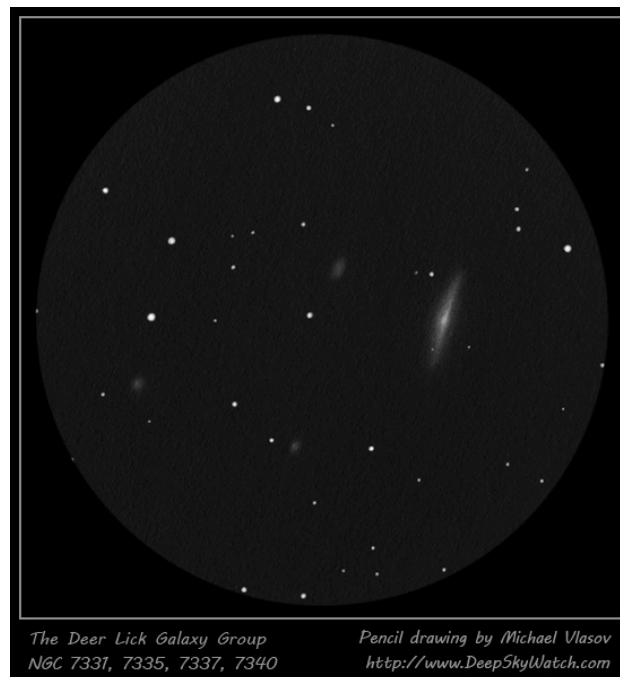
**NGC246 The Skull Nebula** – Mag. 10.9 – at almost magnitude 11, this planetary in Cetus is a good challenge for advanced observers with a larger scope. Although it has a brighter noticeable central star almost directly in the middle of the nebula, the faint nebulous structure requires dark skies and patience to pick out. At apertures over 8" with very clear dark skies and a good eyepiece, you may be able to see the dark "voids" inside the nebula which give it its name

**NGC1055** – Mag. 10.59 – just north of the far brighter M77, this edge on spiral is another hard find at magnitude 10.5. It is very small and easy to miss, but crank up that magnification and see if you can't pick out its central dust lane bisecting the galactic core

### **Challenge Object – The Deer Lick Group**

Located in Pegasus, this group of galaxies hovers around the bright and easy to spot NGC7331. While NGC7331 itself is magnitude 9.5, the surrounding galaxies NGC7337, 7340, 7335 and 7336 all hover at magnitude 13.5-15, meaning you're going to need big aperture, dark skies, and high magnification to pick out these faint ghosts surrounding their imposing neighbor

Clear skies, and happy observing!



*The Deer Lick Galaxy Group  
NGC 7331, 7335, 7337, 7340*

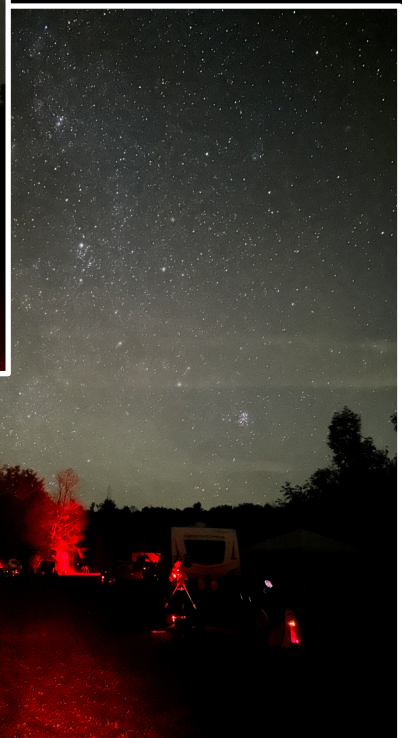
*Pencil drawing by Michael Vlasov  
<http://www.DeepSkyWatch.com>*

*The Deer Lick group through a 10" dob courtesy of Michael Vlasov*

# EVENT GALLERY

## HAA 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dark Sky Star Party

September 10-14<sup>th</sup> 2026, Andromeda Meadow, Warton



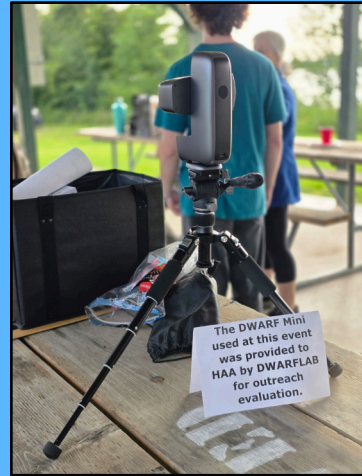


# DWARFLAB

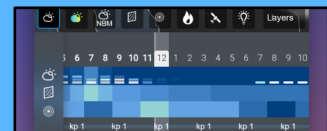
The HAA is proud to partner with DwarfLab, one of the frontrunners in the smart telescope revolution currently taking over the stargazing scene. DwarfLab has generously gifted the HAA one of their Dwarf mini Smart Telescopes for club use furthering our mission of public outreach and education in the astronomy field.

DwarfLab's smart telescopes are ultra-portable, app-controlled telescopes which fully integrate and automate astrophotography into one small package, allowing even the most novice hobbyist to start capturing stunning views of the universe, from shots of the Moon and planets to 4K deep sky images of nebulae and galaxies, eliminating much of the complexity in traditional astrophotography and allowing raw beginners sitting under light polluted skies a glimpse of the cosmos. HAA members enjoy a 6% discount on DwarfLab products through their club membership.

<https://www.dwarflab.com>



The HAA is proud to partner with Astrospheric, the premier weather forecasting app tailored specifically for astronomers and astrophotographers. Available on iOS, Android and web browsers, Astrospheric moves beyond standard forecasting to give data rich, hyper-local hour by hour breakdowns of sky conditions to allow for advanced weather prediction, giving stargazers all the weather and sky information they need to plan their next observing session. HAA members enjoy free mobile access to the AstroLite version of Astrospheric through their club membership.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM** – October monthly meeting at St. Matthew's Church in Burlington.  
Speaker: Les Webb. Member's Equipment Garage Sale before meeting.\*

**October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00PM** – Public Observing at Bayfront Park

**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM** – Rain date for Hamilton Naturalists' Club Event, Bayfront Park

**November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM** – November monthly meeting at St. Matthew's Church in Burlington.

Speaker: Simon Peng

**December 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM** – December monthly meeting and Christmas Social at St. Matthew's Church in Burlington.

Speaker: DwarfLab (TBA)

**January 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM** - January monthly meeting at St. Matthew's Church in Burlington.

Speaker TBA

\* The Garage Sale is a members-only sale of surplus equipment that the HAA has acquired over the years which has found no use in our public outreach or loaner scope program. Odds and ends, old accessories and miscellaneous items will be displayed for sale at the back of the hall before the meeting and at intermission. Prices will range from \$1-10. Unlike the auction, there is no pamphlet of items given beforehand, so come early to see what's there!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The HAA actively engages in a variety of public education and outreach programs across the Greater Hamilton Area and beyond. We give public and private presentations free of charge to many organizations such as libraries, campgrounds, Scouts, Girl Guides, and other non-profits. Presentations range from short beginner's lectures on astronomy related subjects to children's activities to public observing through club member's telescopes. Our Education Team Director Jo Ann Salci is always looking for helping hands at outreach events. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jo Ann at:

[education@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:education@amateurastronomy.org)

## HARVEY GARDEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Harvey Garden Memorial Library is the HAA's collection of astronomy related books available for membership to borrow at monthly meetings. If you wish to help run the library, or donate to it, please contact Melanie Lebel at:

[library@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:library@amateurastronomy.org)

## 2026-2027 COUNCIL

Chair: Kevin Salwach

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Treasurer: Geoff Wozniak

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Observing Team Director: Kevin Salwach

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Education Team Director: Jo Ann Salci

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## INQUIRIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct general inquiries to:

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Inquiries regarding meetings, partnerships and donations can be sent to:

[chair@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:chair@amateurastronomy.org)

Inquiries regarding membership and membership dues can be sent to:

[membership@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:membership@amateurastronomy.org)

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**KEEP AN EYE OUT IN YOUR EMAILS FOR BINBROOK PARK OPENINGS AND CLUB NEWS. CLEAR SKIES!**