

Howard Astronomical League



February 19th, 2015

Introductions

Name and where were you
when this star light has most
recently reached us:

Alpha Centauri...4.4 ly

Eta Cassiopeiae...19.4

Zeta Herculis...35.2



Upcoming club activities

Star Parties and public outreach!

February 16 - 22

Winter Star Party, Scout Key Florida

March 19 - 22

Chaos Star Party, Staunton, VA

March 21

Members Only

March 28

Public Star Party

The Observatory Report

- Rotation motors and wiring
- Electrical wiring
- Shutter Motor
- The Watson Telescope
- Planning for observatory layout











**Member's
astrophotos and
sketches**

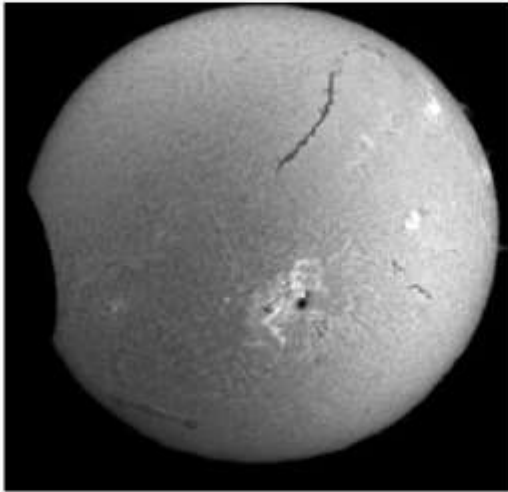
Chris Miskiewicz

ARP 114 (NGC 2276 (ARP 25) & 2300)



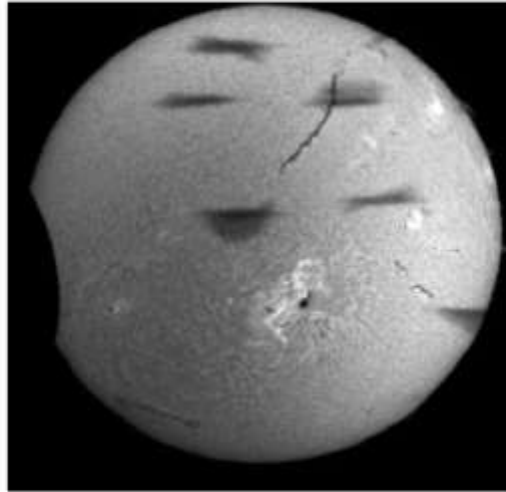
Phil Whitebloom

PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN BY THE MOON AND THE BIRDS



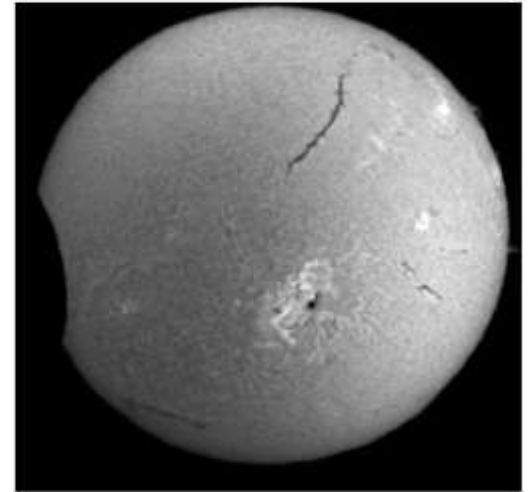
21:58:01 GMT

Location: Newington, VA USA



21:58:03 GMT

October 23, 2014



21:58:05 GMT

Phil Whitebloom

Victor Sanchez



Victor Sanchez



DUO Transit
by Dennis Conti
1/17/15



Jupiter at Opposition
by Dennis Conti
1/06/15



Garry Ingle



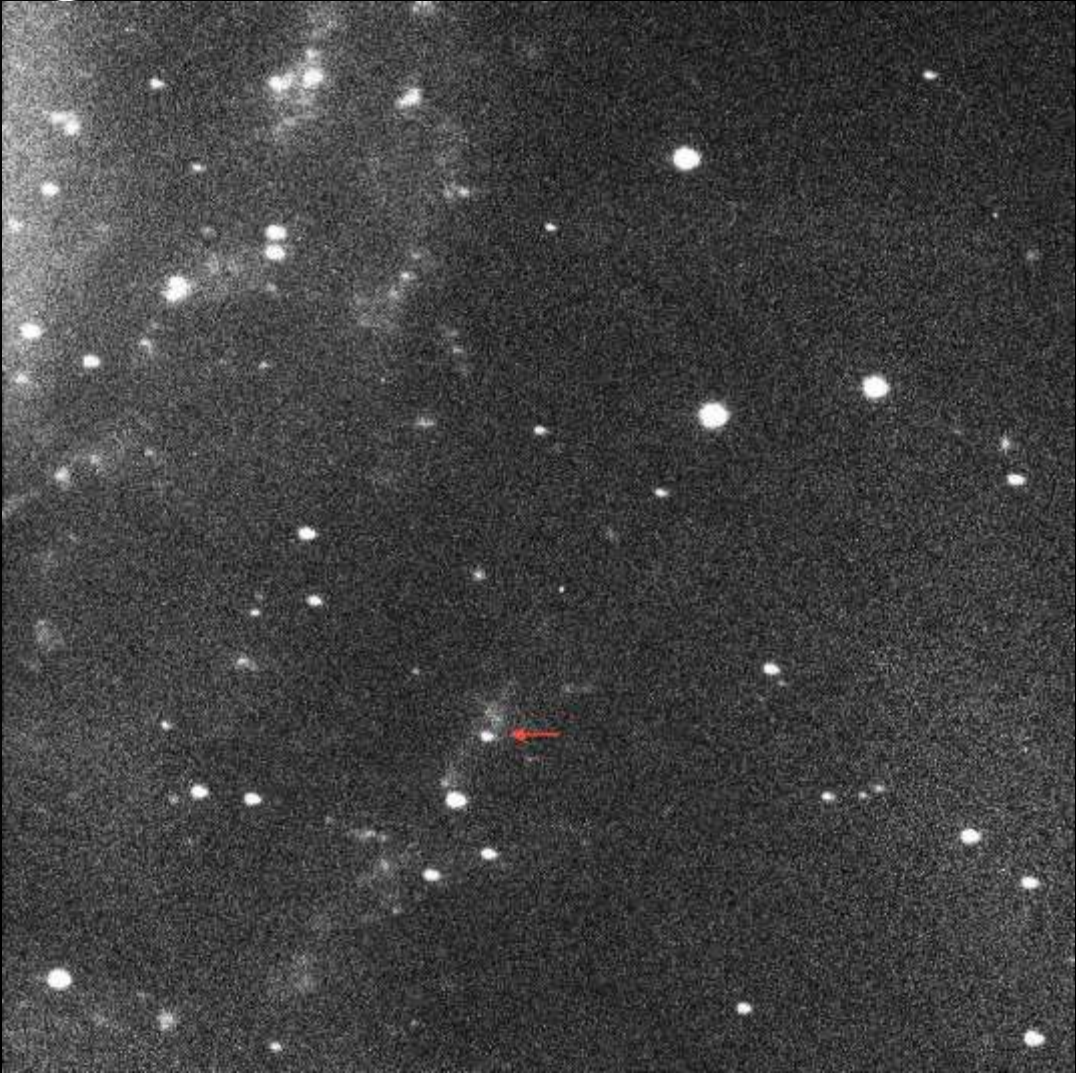
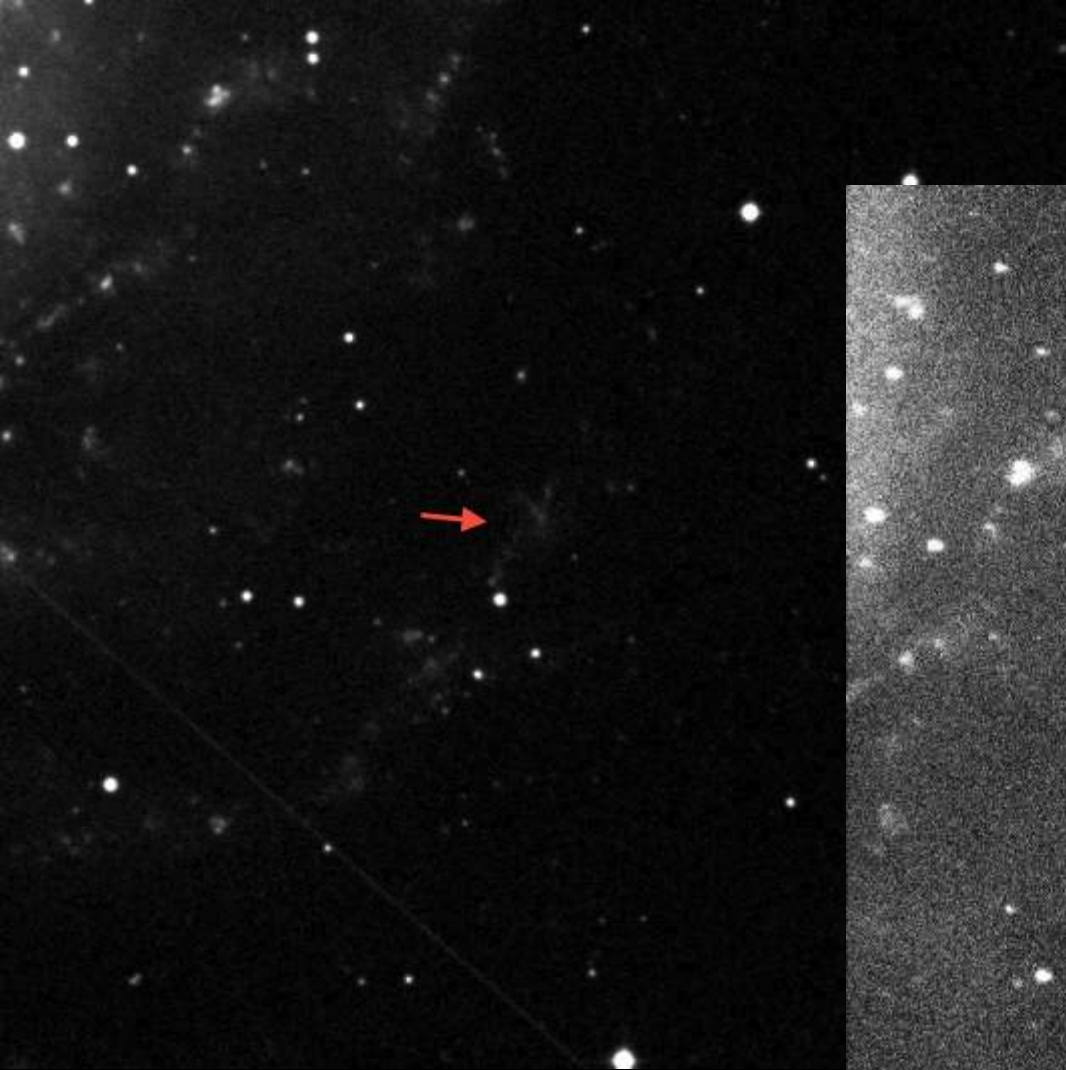
Garry Ingle



Joel Goodman



Joel Goodman



James Stack





Suggested Observing

Coma Star Cluster (Melotte 111)

Located near galaxies [NGC 4559](#), [NGC 4565](#), and [NGC 4494](#).



Mars and Venus $1/2^\circ$ apart on February 21

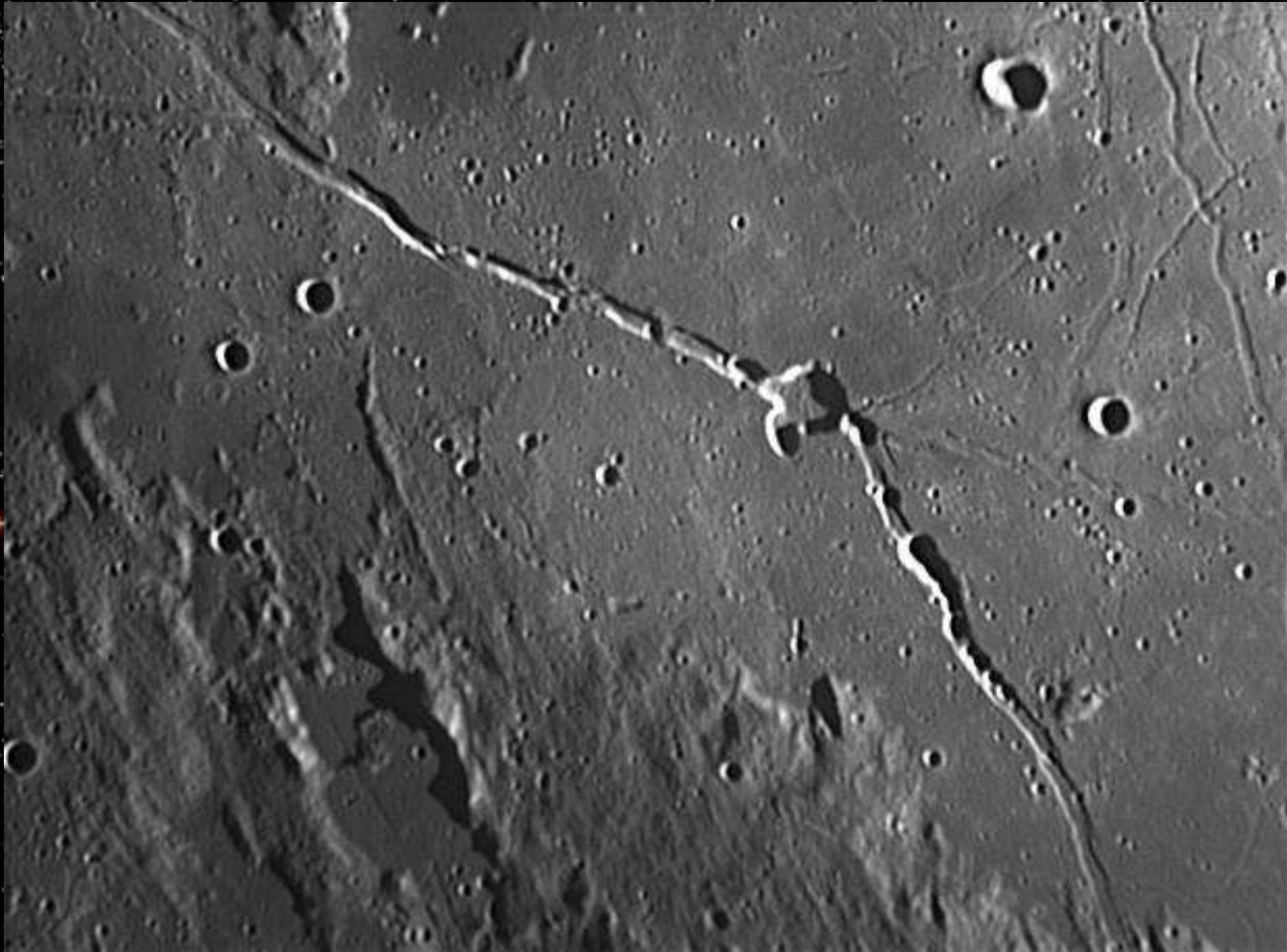
Look West, 1 hour after sunset.

Venus shines at a mag -3.9 with Mars only around +1.2



Crater Hyginus and Rima Hyginus

Hyginus is a crater caldera formed from after a volcanic eruption and later land collapse. Hyginus is split by a long narrow depression, Rima Hyginus, from Northwest to Southeast for about 220 kilometers.



Sad Moments for Science

From our pop culture file!

Shawn: It almost kind of looks like what the earth looks like when you're a bazillion miles away from the planet moon. The planet moon..... From the moon looking back at the earth.

Isaac: From the planet moon.....

Shawn: Isn't the moon a star?

Isaac: (in his [Auntie Mame](#) accent) No, the moon is a planet, darling.

Shawn: The sun is a star. Is the moon really a planet? Don't look at me like that! The sun is a star. Is the sun not a star?

Isaac: I don't know what the sun is.

Shawn: The sun is a star, isn't it? (After a producer says something into her ear) The moon is not a planet. I KNEW IT! You were trying to take me down that road.

Isaac: The moon is not a planet! Wait, excuse me, Chunky.....

This
is
Why
we do
Outreach!

- Average distance from Earth to Moon 238,900 miles or 384,400 km.
- A **natural satellite**, or moon, is a celestial body that orbits another body (a planet, dwarf planet, or small Solar System body), which is called its primary, and that is not artificial.
- A **planet** is a celestial body moving in an elliptical orbit around a star.
- **The sun, a star**, is a mass of incandescent gas, a gigantic nuclear furnace where hydrogen is built into helium at a temperature of millions of degrees.
- My Very Eager Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas or Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn(the one with the rings) Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

Inner_{/outer} Club Clubs

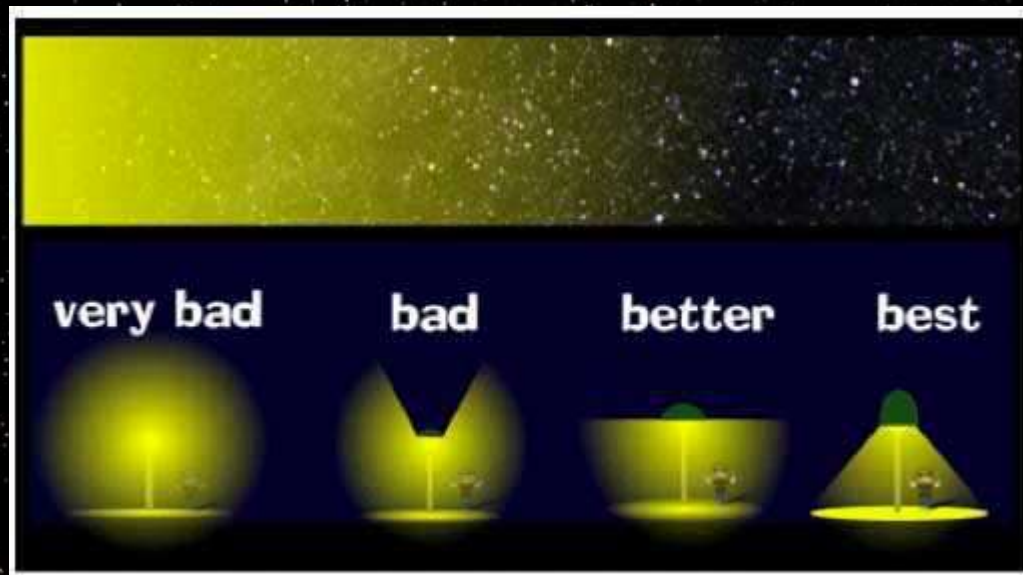
HAL Outreach Club

- Help organize and maintain continual science outreach for our area.
- Why do outreach? Did you see the videos?
- Support request from our community
- Earn hours for The Astronomy League's Outreach Observing Program



Dark Sky Group

- Support the greater area to understand and help prevent light pollution.
- Provide a watchful eye for potential light pollution issues for our local area.
- Support dark sky awareness for the area close to the Alpha Ridge and Carrs Mill.
- Review observing areas.



Astronomy League Observing Programs

- Program already created
- More exposure and more viewing
 - The Go To Rule



Other ideas

- Imaging
- Sketching
- **Product Review** with an objective editor

**The
Return
of
Chris Todd**

Thank You!

**Next month's planning meeting is on
Monday, March 2, 2015**

@ 7:00 PM

**The general monthly meeting is on
March 19, 2015**

@ 7:00 PM

Meeting theme:

The History of HAL and Watson