



MARTZ·KOHL OBSERVATORY

Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association Inc.

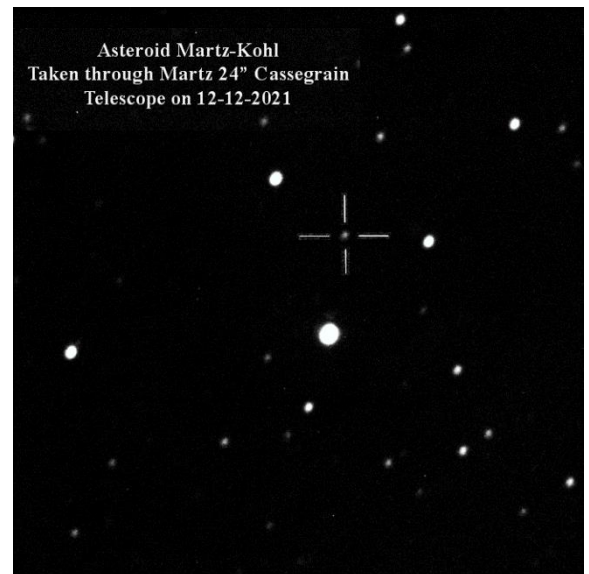
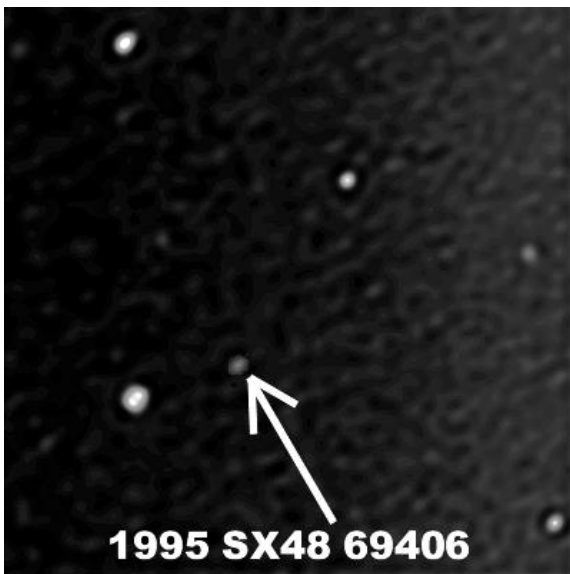
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www.martzobservatory.org

Asteroid (69406) Martz-Kohl = 1995 SX48

IAU Designates 1995 SX48 as Asteroid (69406) Martz-Kohl. It was first imaged on September 29, 1995 by Carl Hergenrother at Steward Observatory Catalina Station Arizona. The name honors the founders and volunteers at the Martz-Kohl Observatory whose mission is to inform, educate and inspire the general public and supports teaching of astronomy. In 1958, Marshal Martz hand-built one of the largest-ever amateur telescopes and dome, later expanded by Dr. Ronald Kohl's gift of his telescope and dome.

The first image taken of Asteroid Martz-Kohl was taken on the morning of September 30th, 26 years after the official discovery. The image is a composite of 40 exposures through the Kohl 20-inch telescope since its height above the horizon was below the limits of the 24-inch Martz telescope. The second image was taken on the morning of December 12th through the Martz 24-inch telescope and consists of 5 exposures for a total exposure time of 11 minutes.



Observing Comets: The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.



Comets live in the deepest reaches of outer space. Some of them visit Earth's neighborhood only once in one's lifetime, or even only once in a thousand years or more. Hunting them makes the proverbial needle in a haystack seem easier to find than the nose on your own face. Yet, Carl Hergenrother has discovered four comets and a more than a dozen asteroids. Some of the more interesting comets discovered in recent years will be presented as well as the science contributed by observers with modest backyard equipment.

Carl Hergenrother is the Coordinator of the Comets Section of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, ALPO, and has just begun a term as Executive Director. Earth, unfortunately, is not entirely safe from bombardment from outer space, but professional astronomers like Carl along with amateur sky watchers around the world, have mounted a deep sky search for potentially deadly invaders on a collision course with Earth.

This Zoom webinar is only available online as the observatory is closed through the month of January. More info: <https://martzobservatory.org/zoom>. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Meteors, Meteorites, Meteoroids, Oh My!

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.



Meteors streaking through the sky are beautiful and mysterious. The best way to view meteors, is to get out in the open, away from city lights. The Perseids meteor shower of 2021 was probably the best one of the year. Have you ever wondered about the origins or compositions of meteors? Dr. Alexander Yep will explore their origins, appearances and compositions. She will share with us when we might next see a meteor, and where we might find meteorites.

Dr. Alexander Yep is a poet turned astronomer. After earning her BFA in creative writing and classical studies, she dove straight into quantum mechanics on her way to a Ph.D. in astronomy. Now a professor at Agnes Scott University in Atlanta, Georgia, she researches stars and star clusters.

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Doors Open Jamestown

The Jamestown Community Chamber of Commerce has rescheduled **Doors Open Jamestown** to **Saturday, March 5th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Once again, the Martz-Kohl Observatory will be participating in the event. More details will follow.

President's Update

Due to the current situation regarding COVID-19, the observatory is closed until further notice. This decision was not easy to make but ultimately, I felt it was necessary for the safety of our volunteers and members.

It is with great sadness to learn that one of our members, Richard Fuchs, passed away at UPMC Hamot Medical Center in Erie, PA, on December 9, 2021. Richard had been a member since 2002. He had spent many hours at H&H Metal and Jamestown Bronze when we were building the polar shaft and wheel, making a fork and assembly for the frame. He helped to maintain the painting of the Martz 24-inch telescope and did research for the observatory. In early years, Dick worked at Erie Forge and Steel before moving to the Jamestown area, where he worked at Marlin Rockwell. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Patricia; his son, James; and his daughter, Karen Weber both of Jamestown.

Educational Outreach

On Wednesday, November 10th, a group of students and adults from Erie BOCES visited the Martz-Kohl Observatory. Tom Traub did a presentation, followed by tours lead by John Anderson and Walt Picket. Skies were clear enough for them to view the sun, moon and Venus. They look forward to returning in the near future.

On Wednesday, December 15th, the Martz-Kohl Observatory hosted a high school astronomy class from Brocton Central School. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative for any telescopic observations, but the students were treated to a slideshow history and a tour of the facility by volunteers Corey Swanson, John Anderson, and Jon Porier. Questions were asked and answered along with a viewing of the images taken from the telescopes. A fun time was had by all and interest was expressed in returning in the springtime, hopefully with better weather.

The Jamestown Community College Astronomy Club visited the Martz-Kohl Observatory on November 3rd for a tour and presentation. Tom Traub gave a brief history before the tour. The president of the club is Gleb Dementev who is a foreign exchange student from Russia and is extremely knowledgeable in Astronomy. Dr. Sean Nowling is their faculty advisor. The Astronomy Club has several programs scheduled for the spring semester in collaboration with the Martz-Kohl Observatory. This is exciting to finally have JCC students involved with the Martz-Kohl Observatory!



M27



Comet 69P with eruptions and coma.



Steffans Quintet

Above are images taken by Gleb Dementev's remote control of the Martz 24-inch telescope system from the JCC Jamestown campus on November 8, 2021.

January – February 2022 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

- January 5** Zoom webinar by Carl Hergenrother, *Observing Comets and the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers*, at 7:30 p.m.
- February 16** Zoom webinar by Dr. Alexander Yep, *Meteors, Meteorites, Meteoroids, Oh My!* at 7:30 p.m.
- March 16** Zoom webinar by Kevin Manning, *Astronomy for Everyone: Size & Scale of the Universe*, at 7:30 p.m.
- April 20** Zoom webinar by Dr. Robin Elgart, Space Radiation Element Scientist with NASA's Human Research Program, at 7:30 p.m.
- May 18** Zoom webinar by **Rachael Freed**, co-founder and President of the Institute for Student Astronomical Research, at 7:30 p.m.
- June 15** Zoom webinar by **Steven Flanders**, Outreach & Event Coordinator at the Palomar Observatory, at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on events, go to our website www.martzobservatory.org

General membership meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month and the board meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for one or more members who would like to help us document, record, and achieve the amazing history of the Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association (MMMAA) and the Martz-Kohl Observatory. The history stretches back nearly 75 years to the day when amateur astronomers across our region were building marvelous new instruments and making important discoveries in the observatories – all to eventually coalesce into our own MMMAA and the Martz-Kohl Observaotry.

We now have a vast treasure trove, the only one of its kind, including photographs, documents, historically important telescopes, and a few members who still remember some of the earliest days and forerunner organizations. The time has come to put those stories together and share them with the world. These are stories that must never be lost.

Would you be interested in joining a team to harvest this remarkable history with us? The project includes electronic, hard-copy documents and photos, audio and/or video interviews and transcripts in any form and combination the group decides is best. Portions of this project may also become part of the tours given by members for visitors and guests at the observatory or in our presentations at schools and universities that we collaborate with. For more information and/or to volunteer, contact Laurie Livingston at livingla3@aol.com or Walt Pickut at wpathome@windstream.net

Board Members: Gary Nelson, **President**; Brian Ceci, **Vice-President**; Corey Swanson, **Secretary**; John Anderson, **Treasurer**; Josh Campbell; Richard Carlson; Lawen Griffin, Jr.; Laurie Livingston; Walt Pickut; Jon Porier; and Tom Traub.