

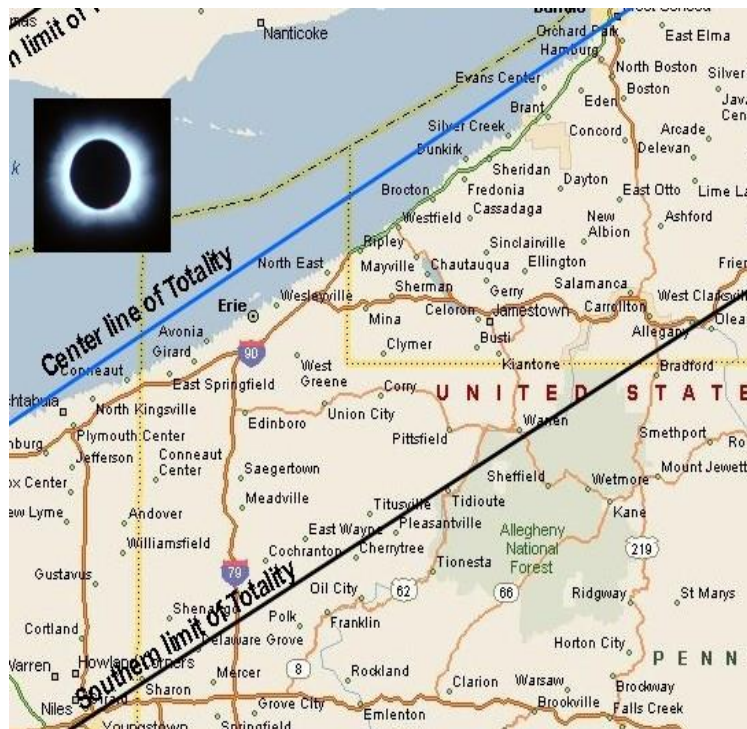


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www.martzobservatory.org

Getting Ready for the Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024

The **Martz-Kohl Observatory** participated in a workshop hosted by the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce. In addition to Tom Traub, Chair of the Martz-Kohl Observatory Solar Eclipse Committee and NASA Eclipse Ambassador member, Noel Guttman, Chautauqua County Director of Emergency Services, and Andrew Nixon, President and CEO of the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau gave presentations regarding the upcoming solar eclipse. This spectacular event will be occurring locally on **April 8th at approximately 3:13pm.** It's a one-of-a-kind experience for a once in a lifetime event! Since this involves the Sun, we want to issue a warning to everyone to use proper eye protection from the Sun's light both before and after the Moon's total coverage of the Sun's surface. The influx of an extremely large number of people into the area will create opportunities for local businesses including, motels, hotels, restaurants, gasoline service stations, and others. From prior experiences learned from the total Solar Eclipse of August 21st, 2017, there will be an extreme amount of traffic congestion that whole day. Local authorities have begun planning on how to manage this traffic and other logistics.



This is the first total Solar Eclipse with the path of totality passing through the area since June 16, 1806, and there will not be another one until October 26, 2144. Locally, the amount of time the moon covers the sun will vary depending on your location in the eclipse path. The path's southern limit edge passes just south of Titusville and Warren and north of Olean. Closer to the centerline in Lake Erie or south of Buffalo you can expect over 3 minutes and 40 seconds of coverage. Warren and Titusville will be around 45-50 seconds and Jamestown 2 minutes and 53 seconds of coverage.

If you want to know more about this once in a lifetime event, please contact the Martz-Kohl Observatory at 716-569-3689 or visit our website at www.martzobservatory.org

November - December 2023 Newsletter

Membership Renewals

Just a reminder to renew your membership for 2023-24, if you haven't already done so. You can either go online to renew your membership at <https://martzobservatory.org/about/membership-application-2022/> or you can do it by mail, payable to MMAA, 176 Robbin Hill Road, Frewsburg, NY 14738. On behalf of the **Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association, Inc.**, we'd like to express our deepest gratitude for your continued support. Your membership is very important for the survival of our organization. If you have any questions regarding the renewal process, please contact President Corey Swanson at coreyswan2@gmail.com



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President's Update

Once again, this year, we have been truly blessed to receive grant funding through the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for several of the projects and programs we have been working on. The Blossom Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation made it possible for us to purchase the items necessary to implement our **Library Telescope Program**. With these funds, four local libraries - Myers Memorial Library in Frewsburg; Kennedy Free Library, Falconer Public Library, and the Randolph Library - have each received 2 Orion StarBlast telescopes equipped with a zoom eyepiece and stargazing reference materials. These telescopes are able to be loaned out like library books, and will be used to get children and families interested in astronomy by giving them access to a telescope they may not have access to otherwise. This program helps fulfill our Mission, which is to "Inform, educate and inspire the general public and support teaching in the sciences of astronomy and physics."

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation has also awarded us grant funding to purchase 10,000 pairs of solar eclipse glasses for the upcoming **Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024**. In addition to purchasing these glasses for our association, we have partnered with E2CCB (Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES), Holland School District, Springville-GI High School, and Jamestown City School District to purchase 10's of thousands of more pairs which will be given out to the local schools so that students may view the solar eclipse safely. And speaking of the upcoming solar eclipse, our committee and members have been hard at work on planning for the event. Myself, Gary Nelson, Brian Ceci, and Phil Stafford attended a recent Town of Carroll Board meeting to speak about the event and the possible safety issues that may arise due to an influx of visitors into the area of totality. We have also attended meetings held by the Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services regarding their preparations for this event.

Grant monies received this year also helped fund our first **Space STEM Camp**, which was held in conjunction with Falconer Central School. This weeklong camp ran from July 17th through July 21st, and was attended by 26 students in grades 6-9 from schools across Chautauqua County. A BIG Thank You goes out to not only to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation again, but to Shults Auto Group, member Alan Anderson, and member Mary Putnam for their very generous donations to this initiative. We hope to keep this camp sustainable for many years to come

Besides the planning and execution of these programs, we have also been busy with a remodeling project and our normal upkeep and maintenance of the observatory. We are in the process of building a room to be dedicated to **radio astronomy and amateur radio use**. Our members have been hard at work on this project and completion of its construction is near.

Our **Observatory Lecture Series** continues and we have had the opportunity to showcase our own members recently. In April member Phil Evans gave an interesting and informative talk "Astronomy Surrounds Us". In May, Vice-President Tom Traub gave a great presentation about the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse. In June, past-President Gary Nelson gave a talk on telescopes, binoculars and optics. In September, member Steve Conard did a presentation of stellar occultation's and in October, member Mike Stafford gave a presentation on the origin and evolution of galaxies. We are very fortunate to have many knowledgeable members who are willing to put on these presentations and share that knowledge with others!

Our public nights have been busy with many visitors coming up for tours and viewing opportunities. The 20-inch Kohl Telescope and the Takahashi refractor continue to provide wondrous views of the planets, nebulae, galaxies and star clusters. The 24-inch Martz Telescope continues to be put through tests to bring consistent automated control and scheduled observations to a reality. We also continue to host scouting and school groups for programs and tours. Lastly, I will say that with so much going on, we could really use your help. We welcome and encourage any and all members to lend a hand with any of the projects currently underway. Don't be shy, attend a meeting or public night and say you want to help out. Many hands make light work, and right now we could use many hands. Stay safe all, and I hope to see you at MKO very soon!

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Dr. Alexandra Yep presenting “Cosmic Collisions: Close Encounters in the Gum Nebula.”



Brian Ceci & John Anderson at Jefferson Middle School Fall Festival



Astronomy Type Events in November & December

- November 18-19** **The Lyrid meteor shower** has about 10 to 15 meteors per hour after midnight. If you are watching for shooting stars, look toward the part of the night sky furthest away from the Moon.
- November 27** The **Full Moon** will reach its peak in the early morning. This Moon is known as the “**Beaver**” Moon because this is the time of year when beavers begin to take shelter in their lodges, having laid up sufficient food stores for the long winter ahead.
- December 13-14** **The best meteor shower of 2023: the Geminids!** Many observers can easily spot 50 or more meteors per hour. This year, the Geminids will share the sky with a bright, waning gibbous Moon, which could make it more difficult to see the shooting stars. Try to face away from the Moon to keep its shine out of your field of view.

Calendar of Events

- February 3** **Doors Open at the Martz-Kohl Observatory, 10am – 4pm**
- February 21** On-site presentation with **Tom Traub**, “**Looking Ahead to the Solar Eclipse,**” at **7:30pm**. It will be available online via Zoom.
- March 20** Zoom webinar at **7:30pm** with **Dr. John C. Mather**, Senior Astrophysicist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center. Dr. Mather was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2006 for his precise measurements of the cosmic microwave background radiation using the COBE satellite.

Board Members: Corey Swanson, **President**; Tom Traub, **Vice-President**; Walt Pickut, **Secretary**; John Anderson, **Treasurer**; Josh Campbell, **Assistant Treasurer**; Lawen Griffin, Jr.; Laurie Livingston; Gary Nelson; Bill Widell; Phil Stafford; Marcy Kupiec; Phil Evans; and Brian Ceci.