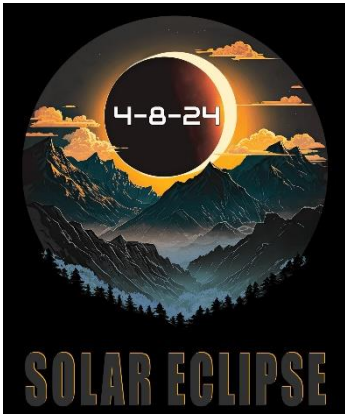




176 Robbin Hill Road, P.O. Box 14, Frewsburg, NY 14738 (716) 569-3689

[www.martzobservatory.org](http://www.martzobservatory.org)



**On April 8<sup>th</sup>, a total eclipse is set to darken the sun at about 3:18 pm.** The eclipse will be an “exceptionally rare and spectacular event.” The eclipse will be along a narrow path crossing North America from Mexico to Canada, the moon’s shadow will **race** across the Earth’s surface causing daytime to become evening twilight. The total solar eclipse is caused by the special alignment of the moon’s orbit passing directly between the sun and Earth with the moon being located at that point.

This is the first total Solar Eclipse with the path of totality passing through our area since June 16, 1806. There will not be another one until October 26, 2144, so not in our lifetimes. Locally, the amount of time the moon covers the sun will vary depending on your location in the eclipse path with pass right over us. The southern

limit edge passes just south of Titusville and Warren, and northwest of Olean so these areas will see less than one minute of totality. Closer to the centerline of the Moon’s shadow, which is 110 miles wide, lies in Lake Erie and comes back on shore just south of Buffalo. Those lucky people can expect to see 3 minutes 40 seconds of coverage. In our region near Silver Creek, you will see 3 minutes 43 seconds of totality. In Ripley, it is 3 minutes 41 seconds. In Jamestown, just 2 minutes 52 seconds. “Totality” as described by google is the whole of something.

Because the moon is not a perfect sphere as it contains mountains, valleys and craters, its outline is irregular. This will cause some portions of the sun’s lighted surface to show around the edge, creating a diamond ring effect. For April’s eclipse, this will occur for seven seconds before and 12 seconds after totality.

Since the event involves looking at the sun, people need to use safe, certified, proper protection from the sun’s light both before and after the moon covers it. Sunglasses will not protect from damage and it is important to buy ISO certified solar eclipse glasses or viewers for proper protection. The glasses should show the ISO 12312-2 rating or the equivalent of that. **The Martz-Kohl Observatory has solar eclipse glasses available for a \$1 donation.**

During this solar eclipse, we are asking the public to not come up to the observatory since we will have limited parking available and we need to keep the roads clear for local traffic and emergency vehicles to pass. The observatory will be doing a live video feed during the event and will publicize those details closer to the date.

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](http://www.martzobservatory.org)

## March - April 2024 Newsletter

### President's Update

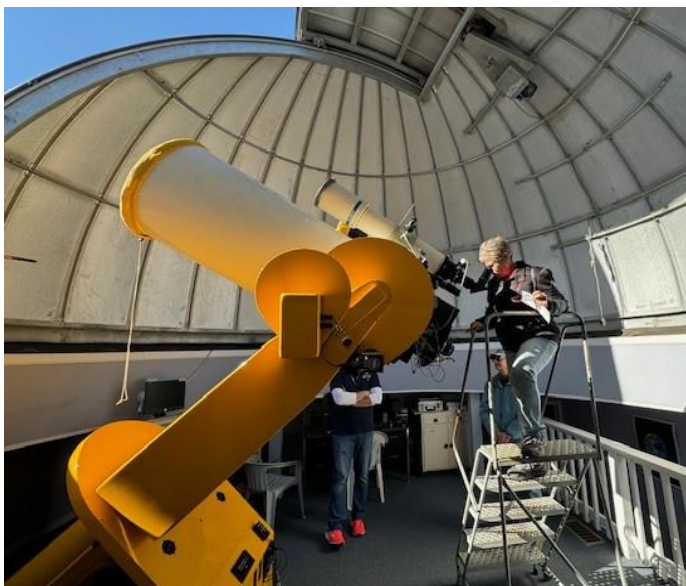
It's been a very busy start to 2024 here at the Martz-Kohl Observatory. Of course, the BIG deal is the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8th! Tom Traub has been very busy so far and will continue to be so right up to the big day doing presentations to several groups and schools throughout Chautauqua County. A BIG thanks to him and the others who are also helping him with these presentations. In other news, we now have an online merchandise store thanks to a collaboration with Falconer Printing, and will soon have items available at MKO for visitors to purchase. The Radio Astronomy room has been completed and equipment will begin to be installed for use. A collaboration with the Chautauqua Amateur Radio Service (CARS) will also be discussed in the near future. The 24-inch Martz telescope and system continues to be worked on with the hopeful benefit of selling time for its use this year. New chairs are being considered for purchase that will allow our guests to be more comfortable while visiting us. Outdoor observing platforms and installation of the SkyShed POD observatory will be happening soon as well. I would like to thank all our volunteers who work so hard giving tours, cleaning, organizing, building and making MKO be and look the best it can be. I welcome and encourage all members to take an active role in moving the observatory, and the association, into the future. I hope to see you soon at the Martz-Kohl Observatory!



**The new Radio Astronomy Room**



**Brian Ceci talking about the 24" telescope.**



**Looking at sunspots through the Kohl telescope.**



**"Getting Ready for the Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024" presentation by Tom Traub.**



## March - April 2024 Newsletter



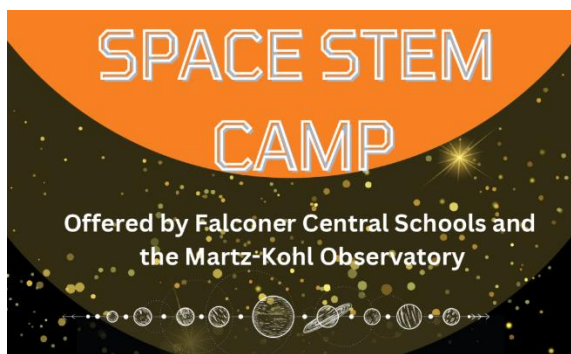
**Corey Swanson and Tom Traub doing a presentation about the upcoming Solar Eclipse at Brocton Central School. Pictured with Corey and Tom is Mimi Joint, Science and Math Teacher at BCS.**



**The Happy Homeschool Club visited the Martz-Kohl Observatory to learn about the upcoming solar eclipse and had the opportunity for a tour and solar views of the Sun.**

**President Corey Swanson accepting a check for \$150 from the parents of the Happy Homeschool Club.**

## March - April 2024 Newsletter



This summer, **Martz-Kohl Observatory and Falconer Central Schools** are thrilled to offer Chautauqua County students entering grades 7 through 9 a weeklong **Space STEM Camp** experience. The day camp will be held **July 15 -19, 2024**. There are 24 slots open. Students will learn about the history of space observations and explorations, build and keep their own Galileo-type telescopes, learn how to use the 24" telescope at the observatory, and build and launch model rockets. Students will also have the opportunity to visit the Challenger Center in Olean, NY to complete a Mars Rover mission. Other guest speakers and activities are planned.

Students will have a chance to view and learn the night skies through the lens of the observatory telescopes and the Falconer School planetarium – and will become part of a community of star gazers. Students will have a fun summer experience that is also academic. They will build new friendships and be amazed and inspired! Ready to sign-up? There is a **\$50 registration fee** per camper. Click on the link below.

<https://martzobservatory.org/space-stem-camp/>

### Astronomy Type Events in March & April

- March 22** **Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks** is 30 days from reaching perihelion, its closest approach to the Sun. The comet might become visible with the naked eye—it might even be visible during the total solar eclipse on April 8.
- March 25** **Full Moon** (Native Americans - Worm Moon). Also known as the Crow, Sap, or Lenten Moon.
- April 8** **Total Solar Eclipse at about 3:18 pm.** Warning: never look directly at the sun without certified Solar viewing glasses.
- April 22-23** **Lyrid Meteor Shower** - The Lyrids is an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which was discovered in 1861.
- April 23** **Full Moon** (Native Americans – Pink Moon). Also known as Sprouting Grass, Growing, or Egg Moon.

### Calendar of Events

- March 23** On-site presentation with **Tom Traub**, “Getting Ready for the Solar Eclipse,” at **6:00 pm**
- April 6** On-site presentation with **Tom Traub**, “Getting Ready for the Solar Eclipse,” at **1:00 pm**
- April 6** On-site presentation with **Tom Traub**, “Getting Ready for the Solar Eclipse,” at **7:00 pm**
- April 8** **Total Solar Eclipse at 3:18 pm.**
- May 15** On-site presentation with **Dr. Mike Dunham**, Associate Professor in Physics, SUNY Fredonia, at **7:30 p.m.** It will be available online via Zoom.

**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.