



Marshal Martz Memorial Astronomical Association Inc.
176 Robbin Hill Road, P.O. Box 14, Frewsburg, NY 14738 (716) 569-3689
www.martzobservatory.org



Aurora
Borealis,
commonly
known as
Northern
Lights
on
May 10, 2024



Pictures taken by Dave Wilkins, Tom Traub, and Peter Garam at the Martz-Kohl Observatory



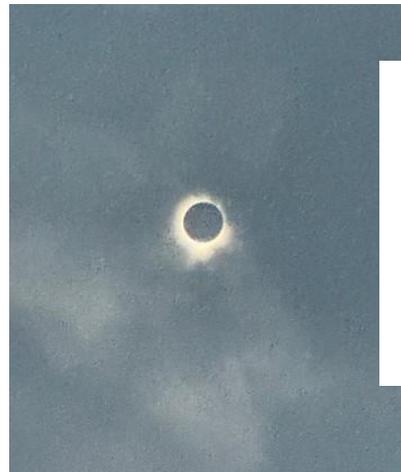
Walkers of Russell, PA

June - July 2024 Newsletter

Images of the Solar Eclipse on April 8th



The diamond ring effect occurs just as the last bit of exposed Sun is extinguished before totality and also at the moment when totality ends and the sun appears.



The Corona is the Sun's upper atmosphere, visible as a pearly glow around the eclipsed Sun during totality.



Baily's Beads is named after British astronomer Francis Baily, who discovered the eclipse phenomenon. This effect looks like beads of light poking out from around the Moon's shadow.



Totality

June - July 2024 Newsletter

President's Update

I hope everyone was able to see at least some part of the Great North American Eclipse on April 8th. We had a small group of members and visitors at the observatory that day that were able to observe totality! The months leading up to that day were busy with planning, preparation and educational outreach presentations for local schools, community groups and libraries. Our members stepped up in a big way to get things ready. A special thanks to our NASA Eclipse Ambassador and Vice President Tom Traub for the efforts leading the educational outreach, and the other members who assisted in that effort. Even with the eclipse preparations, we have still been busy working on ongoing projects, starting new projects, hosting groups and visitors on public nights and keeping the observatory in tip top shape. On the 24-inch Martz telescope, a new focusing system has been designed and installed on the secondary mirror, allowing for better focus to be achieved. Work continues to get all the software systems working together for automation and remote control, and the dome drive system was repaired and "Brian-ized" due to a broken shaft. Members also took the time to remove the dome rollers and clean them up. For the 20-inch Kohl telescope, a new computer system was installed for telescope control. New chairs for the main classroom have been purchased and the assembly of those chairs was completed over the weekend. We continue to have great attendance at our monthly speaker presentations, public nights and group visits. We received a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to expand the Library Telescope Program to other libraries within Chautauqua County. We also received a grant from the Hultquist Foundation for the installation of a new security and alarm system. The collaboration with the Chautauqua Amateur Radio Service (CARS) is moving forward to bring Amateur Radio and assistance with the Radio Astronomy initiative to the observatory. Construction should also be commencing soon for the SkyShed Pod that the observatory purchased last year. Exciting times are ahead, and I cannot thank the members enough for their all of their efforts to make the Martz-Kohl Observatory a world-class facility. I thank you all for your support.



The new radio astronomy room.



Visit the Martz-Kohl Observatory Online Store!

Martz-Kohl Observatory has partnered with Falconer Printing to provide merchandise with our logo. Purchases can be shipped or picked-up locally.

Some non-apparel items are for sale at the observatory. A portion of all proceeds is donated to the observatory.



June - July 2024 Newsletter

Astronomy Type Events in June & July

June 22 **Full Moon** (Native Americans – Strawberry Moon). It's also been known as the Rose Moon and the Honey Moon.

July and August are great months to look up and view our galaxy, the Milky Way. Pick a dark location on a night close to a new moon so its light is not obscuring the view. New Moons are on July 5 and August 4. The Milky Way rises in the southeast, crosses the southern horizon, and then sets in the southwest. Start viewing two hours after sunset and before dawn. Let your eyes adapt for 20 minutes. Consider using a blanket or a lawn lounger so that you can lie down and gaze at the Milky Way.

July 5 **Earth's Aphelion** – Aphelion is the point of the Earth's orbit that is farthest away from the Sun.

July 21 **Full Moon** (Native Americans – Buck Moon). It's also known as the Thunder Moon and the Hay Moon.

July 22 **Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.** This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

July 28-29 **Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower.** The Delta Aquarids is an average shower that can produce up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht. The shower runs annually from July 12 to August 23. It peaks this year on the night of July 28 and morning of July 29. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

Calendar of Events

July 17 On-site presentation with **Dr. Alexandra Yep**, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Director of the Bradley Observatory, Agnes Scott College, **"How to Study Stars,"** at **7:30 p.m.** It will be available online via Zoom.

September 14 **International Observe the Moon Night.** It's a worldwide public event that encourages observation, appreciation and understanding of our Moon and its connection to science, exploration, and human culture.

September 25 The annual dinner and meeting at **6:00 p.m.** at the **Martz-Kohl Observatory.**

October 16 On-site presentation with **Dr. Darren Williams**, Physics Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Penn State Behrend, 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.