

Eugene Astronomical Society



Io

June, 2021



PO Box 591 Lowell, OR 97452

www.eugeneastro.org



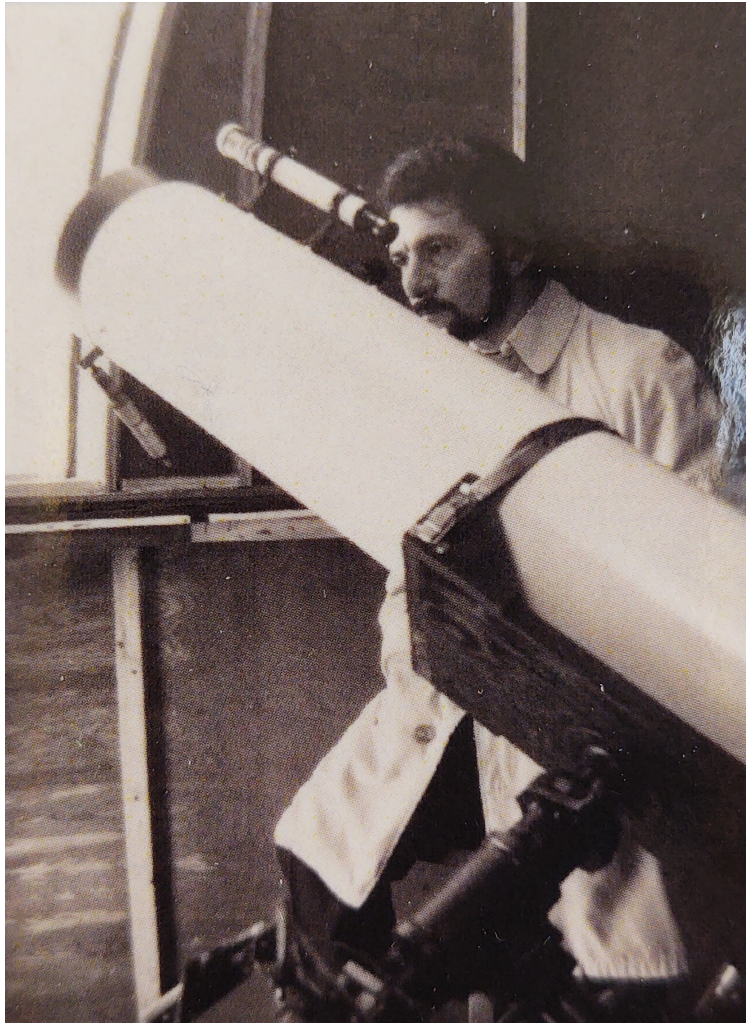
[1] Rosette Nebula

Ronald Perez

President: Andrew Edelen 618-457-3331

Secretary: Randy Beiderwell 541-342-4686

Board Members: Oggie Golub, Randy Beiderwell, Ken Martin, Jerry Olton



Gill Gaudia

A Remembrance by Jerry Olton

One of our longstanding club members, Gil Gaudia, passed away on April 30th. He wasn't an especially active member, but he attended the occasional meeting and kept his membership going and he did have a scope that he used on occasion. (When he could get it to work. Bill Murray helped him a lot with that.)

Gil was 91 years old. Last time I saw him, about six months ago, he said, "Can you believe I'm ninety?" I couldn't. He looked and acted as spry as me. He died of a heart attack while on vacation to Florida, so that tells you something.

Gil was a staunch believer in science and had no patience for mysticism or fuzzy thinking. He and I would have long discussions about atheism, climate change, our education system, and a million other topics, including, of course, astronomy. He had the insight that comes of 90 years of thinking about things. I always came away from our discussions with an expanded mind.

He was a great guy. I'll miss him.



[2] [3] Lunar Eclipse - May 26, 2021

Alan Gillespie

June Meeting - Thursday, June 17 7pm

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY VIRTUAL

To Be Announced

Site Etiquette

This is a post brought over from the club email list. If you are interested in the discussions that go on there, sign up at: <http://www.eugeneastro.org/notice/>

Dan brings up a good point: This email list has grown enough to where we have a lot of non-astronomers on here (and that's a good thing, I hasten to add! Anyone with an interest in astronomy is welcome.) It does cause problems with our observing sites, though, because non-astronomers often have different uses for wilderness sites than astronomers do. These different uses aren't necessarily mutually exclusive, but they sometimes can be.

One case in point is when someone sets up a camp at an observing site. That prevents anyone from using the site for astronomy. It's not a big deal on a full-moon night when nobody goes out of town observing anyway, but on a clear new-moon night it's liable to put a few people out. It would be polite to ask on the email list a day or so ahead of time if anyone was planning to go observing there. Even an "I've got dibs on this site for this night" would be better than simply going out and taking the site without warning. It's an hour's drive to Linslaw; it's pretty disappointing to get there and find the site in use by a camper.

People like to put campfires in the middle of their camp, but that's usually the best site to set up a telescope, too. If you build a campfire, it's not enough to douse it with water when you leave. You should dismantle it completely and remove all trace of charcoal and ash. If you think this is overkill, I invite you to set your scope up on top of an old campfire and observe for the night. Don't take your favorite scope, and don't wear shoes you care about, either.

The best option is to have no campfire, but if you have one, put it in a spot where people are unlikely to set up a telescope. (And you'd think nobody would have to say this, but don't burn wood with nails in it and then leave the nails. That practice has made the gravel site at Eagle's Rest nearly unusable. People get nails in their tires there as a regular thing nowadays.)

People like to use open areas for target practice. Some take their shredded targets home with them, but sadly most shooters leave the debris behind. We find busted bottles and piles of cartridges nearly every time we go out. Don't be the kind of person who leaves that sort of stuff lying around.

It all comes down to basic courtesy. If you learned about a site on our astronomy list, be courteous enough to treat it like an astronomy site. We search long and hard for these sites and they're difficult to find. We don't want to become like fishermen who jealously guard their secret fishing holes, but we don't want our generosity in sharing these sites to be repaid with garbage, fire rings, and family campouts on dark-sky nights.

Thanks for being considerate of others. That's really all that's required of any of us.

Jerry

Member Astrophotography in this issue

[1] Rosette Nebula by Ronald Perez

This was my first time capturing the Rosette Nebula (thanks to cutting down the lone tree in my yard). Considering that I only had about 4.5 hours total exposure time, I thought it came out relatively well.

Captured with a ZWO 1600 and Stellarvue 70T mounted to an iOptron CEM40 EC.

[2] [3] Total Lunar Eclipse - May 26, 2021 by Alan Gillespie

I first started to think about the Lunar Eclipse last January when I saw posts on the internet about coming attractions. At first I thought that I would be able to photograph it from home. But about a month before, I started to realize that it would be too low in the Southwest to be able to get good images.

So I started to scrutinize what the timing and position would actually be. For timing I looked on the web (Sky & Telescope, USNO, & Fred Espenak). For positions I looked up coordinates on Sky Safari.

And I started to think about where I could go to in order to get a good view. I scouted a couple of sites near Fern Ridge and I thought seriously about Linslaw Ridge. Then one morning the thought occurred to me that the Eclipse might look really good over the Three Sisters. So I looked it up in my PhotoPills app. I tinkered with the app and determined that at the time of mid-eclipse the Moon would be over the Three Sisters from Sisters Oregon.

At first I thought that there was no way that I could actually go that far for a Lunar Eclipse, especially one that would be happening as the sky is getting brighter before dawn. But then I realized that the encroaching dawn would actually light up the Three Sisters and make a good image. So I emailed a friend of mine who recently moved outside Sisters and made arrangements to visit.

As the date approached, the weather turned rainy. I drove up the McKenzie valley in the rain. But as I got nearer the pass the rain let up and the sun started to come out. And as I crossed the pass there was a gorgeous rainbow. Sisters was sunny and windy. But the Three Sisters were largely obscured by clouds.

I had things planned out as best as I could. The totality phase of the eclipse was less than 15 minutes, so I knew that I would be very busy and I could not stop to think things out. I put together a spreadsheet with all of the times and positions that I might need to know. I looked up the angles in PhotoPills. I thought about what focal lengths to use.

My plan was to shoot before totality with 75mm focal length in order to get the Antares and the head of Scorpius. Then during totality I would switch to club's Vixen ED80sf scope with its 600mm focal length in order to get the best detail of the blood red Moon. Then after totality I would switch to a wider angle lens in order to try to get the eclipsed moon over the Three Sisters as they are getting lighter in the dawn. But I had not been to my friend's place before, so I was not sure how that would frame up and which focal length to use.

So I spent the night at my friends' place and set my alarm for 3:00am. Then I woke up at 2:30 and went out to get polar aligned (kind of, sort of, good enough for lunar photography). The Moon was still too bright, but we could see the eclipse starting. As the eclipse progressed the moon kept getting dimmer and as it got dimmer the Milky Way came out. My friend commented how the Moon had a blue color in addition to the blood red color. I was really glad that I had planned things out in advance (as best I could) because once things really got happening I did not have time to think. I did get some of all of the images that I had planned. In some cases I did not get as many frames as I had hoped. But I got plenty to keep me busy.

After that I had to go back inside to warm up (it was 33 degrees outside). After a while we noticed that the Moon was going to set into the side of North Sister. Not only that, but the line of the eclipsed part of the Moon kind of sort of matched the slope of the side of North Sister. So of course I had to go back out to capture this un-planned serendipitous part of the morning.

After that I drove home and went to bed.

The next day I started to process my images. First I started with the ones from mid-eclipse with the Vixen scope. I started with that one because I may use it as a detailed inset within some of the other images. Anyway it took me about 5 hours to process "Lunar Eclipse 052621 7489-7552 DxO AfPhoto CS2 16x10 (1920x1200)". I worked on it for hours trying to get the stars to show up without the glare from the Moon. First I used DxO to convert CR2 frames to Tiff. Then I did a Focus Merge in Affinity Photo (just like my other lunar images). I played with it for hours and got kind of sort of close, but not quite right. Finally I went back and re-stacked the image and applied the techniques that I had figured out. After stacking I switched to Photoshop. I created separate masking layers for the Moon and the Stars. And I dodged out the glare from the Moon. By this time I was tired and had to quit.

Today I worked on "Lunar Eclipse setting behind North Sister 052621_7643_DxO afphoto". This was just a single frame, so it was considerably easier.

I still have the other images from before totality (Antares and head of Scorpio) and after totality (eclipsed Moon over Three Sisters). I expect to be working on these for the next several days. I hope that come out as well as the first two images that I have released, but time will tell.

In the meantime, several people have asked about my Lunar Eclipse adventure, so I am taking time out from processing images in order to type text.

Thank you to all who helped me to make things happen!!!

Clear Skies

Alan

Our PO Box has changed!

PO Box 591

Lowell, OR 97452

Annual Club Dues \$25

EAS is a proud member of The Astronomical League.