

November/December 2023

Annular Eclipse, October 14, 2023



Live feed from Bottomless Lakes State Park, NM courtesy of Mark Brown (in NM) and Dan Brandon (coordinator of the live feed). Photo by Jeff Menz

After securing a site at East Dam Boat Ramp at Carlyle Lake, intense advertising on Facebook and newspapers, we were faced with a cloudy, drizzly, cold and blustery day. Despite the weather, we were determined to hold this event! Dan Brandon with his computer wizardry, was able to set up a live feed using two screens in the pavilion at the site. Dan was able to livestream the event from a former (and honorary) club member, Mark Brown, who observed the event in New Mexico in total annularity. Cheryl

Brinkman brought plenty of hot chocolate and coffee as well as well as Italian beef sandwiches and walking tacos. Dan provided cheese and crackers to round out the spread. The tablecloths were clamped down to avoid our food flying away. Jeff Menz set up a scale model of the distance of the Earth and Moon to the Sun using the props and banner from the Solar System kit. The model threatened to take flight on occasion throughout the day. A Dobsonian telescope was set up in the pavilion for "show and tell". Handouts on the eclipse and eclipse glasses were handed out. In all, we had 22 visitors, some staying most or all of the event, swapping stories, sharing food, and appreciating the event despite the weather! Special thanks to Cheryl Brinkman who worked closely with Paige Laughhunn, Natural Resources Specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Carlyle Lake for coordinating the event!

The River's Edge

Sky Puppies Program: After exploring the Solar System and our Magnetic Sun, we are doing a leap forward in our next session. We have some enrolled who need to complete their requirements before they turn 10

early next year. One requirement is a Robotic Mission Report. To help them get started early, we will dive into research at our meeting on Nov 21st.

There are many observing requirements as well, so we ask for help from our club members at outreach events. For a list of requirements, contact Terry Menz.

Around town

First Quarter Moon Days: RBAC offers monthly outreach near the first quarter moon at the Northtown Parking Lot in Highland. We had a good crowd on International Observe the Moon Night, Saturday, October 21. We even had visitors from a Hamel cub scout troop who we visited earlier in the week. They love the night skies! Our next First Quarter Moon Day is scheduled for Monday, December 18 from 7 to 9 pm.

Eclipse Shirts: Order forms for the 2024 Solar Eclipse are available from Jeff Menz. Prices for the t-shirts start at \$15 for sizes S to XL. We can order up to a 5XL tee. The price would be \$2 more for 2XL, \$3 more for 3XL, \$4 more for 4XL and \$5 more for a 5XL. The coloring may be slightly lighter or darker on a sport grey due to ordering different brands for anything over a 2XL. Talls are offered in XLT, 2XLT, 3XLT. Additional costs for tall will be on the order form. Orders and payment are due at the December 2 meeting.



Front



Back

By the Way

2024 Dobfest Planning: Tentatively, we are hoping to secure the East Dam Boat Ramp area at Carlyle Lake for Dobfest next year. There are logistics to be worked out with the Army Corps of Engineers that operates the site. We will be meeting with their representatives in the near future to discuss what is needed. We need volunteers to serve on the planning committee. Contact Terry Menz, Outreach Coordinator, if you are interested or have input to share.

Gallery

Camp Warren Levis, Godfrey, IL



Jeff Menz and his finished comet.
(Photo by Eric Voss)



Terry Menz with Solar System activities, Jeff Menz sets up Meteor-Right, Meteor-Wrong. (Photo by Eric Voss)

Watershed Nature Center, Edwardsville, IL



Cheryl Brinkmann discussing solar eclipses after reading children's story. (Photo by Jeff Menz)

First Quarter Moon Night, Highland, IL



Dennis Latinette talks with one of our Sky Puppies and his mom at the Sept 25th event. (Photo by Jeff Menz).

Edwardsville Library, IL

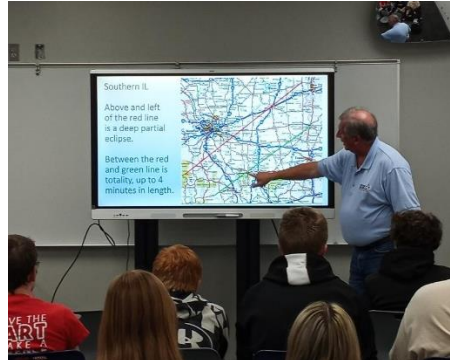


Spencer Chapman (l) and Dave Kirsch (r) (Photo by Randy Harrison)



Guests enjoying the views at the library. (Photo by Randy Harrison)

Effingham High School, IL



Jeff Menz points out the closest locations to see totality. (Photo by Terry Menz)

Annular Eclipse



Laney B., Girl Scout Astronomer, and Terry Menz. (Photo by Jeff Menz)



RBAC members providing a wide variety of telescopes for visitors. (Photo by Kerry Brethauer)

International Observe the Moon Night



Brandon Runyon prepares his scope for local scouts. (Photo by Kerry Brethauer)

Sky Puppies, Highland



Sky Puppies learn about sunspots and solar flares (Photo by Jeff Menz)



Randy Harrison with visitor (Photo by Kerry Brethauer)

ASTROPHOTOS

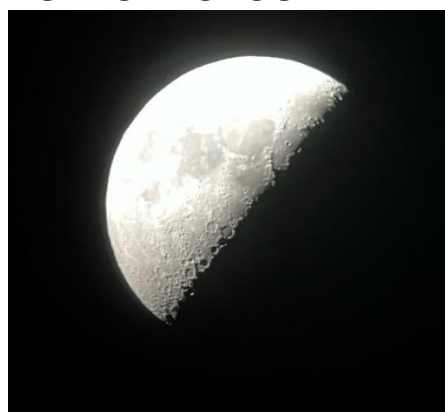


Photo of the Moon, taken on IOMN, 2023 (Photo by Kerry Brethauer)



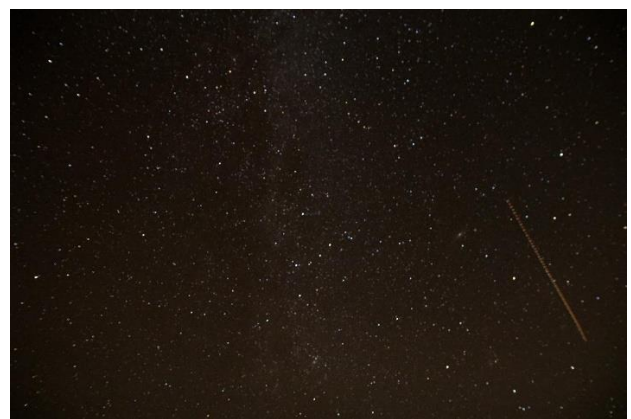
Jupiter With Moons is an 8bit AVI of 2000 frames, staked 35%, ASI662 MC, Celestron 8" Edge HD, No filters, Processed in AutoStakkert, RegiStax6, Photoshop. (Photo by Chris Hanson)



California Nebula, Celestron RASA 8, ZWO 183 MC PRO, IDAS NBZ Filter, Sky Watcher EQ6R PRO, 1HR 10 minutes, Taken at Illinois dark sky party By: Randy Harrison Oct 12 2023



Jupiter 23_11_10 was a Ser of 6000 frames, staked 45%, ASI662 MC, Celestron 8" Edge HD, No filters, Processed in AutoStakkert, RegiStax6, Photoshop. (Photo by Chris Hanson)



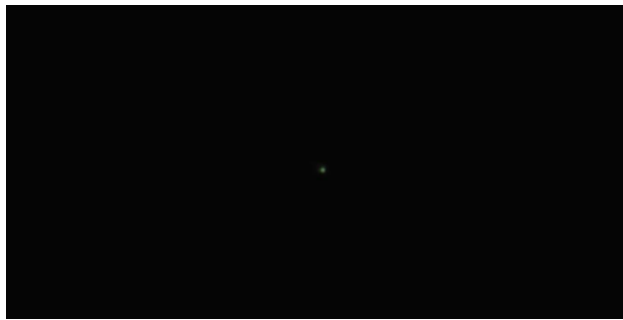
Milky Way, Ill Star Party in Chandlerville IL on 10/12. The plane added pretty Christmas lights. Taken with Canon EOS t7I and Sigma 17-50mm lens at 17mm. (Photo by Chris Hanson)



Helix nebula, Taken with Celestron RASA 8 ZWO 183 MC, PRO, IDAS NBZ Filter, Sky Watcher EQ6R PRO Mount, 1 HR 15 minute, Taken at Illinois dark sky party By: Randy Harrison OCT 12 2013



Milky Way, Ill Star Party in Chandlerville IL on 10/12. Taken with Canon EOS t7I and Sigma 17-50mm lens at 17mm. (Photo by Chris Hanson)



Uranus, (Photo by Chris Hanson)

New Members: Amy Burian and Brandon Rhodes

Award Photos:



Lance Taylor, Basic Outreach Award (Photo by Terry Menz)



Dennis Latinette, Basic Outreach Award (Photo by Terry Menz)

Upcoming Events:

- First Quarter Moon Day, Mon, Dec 18, 7-9 PM Highland.

- RBAC Meeting, Sat, Jan 13, 7pm, Salem UCC
- First Quarter Moon Day, Mon, Jan 15, 7-9 PM, Highland
- Daisy Troop, The Bridge Church, 50 Kriege Farm Rd., Glen Carbon, Jan 18, 6 to 7pm, Solar System, Moon, Viewing.
- RBAC Meeting, Sat, Feb 10, 7pm, Salem UCC
- First Quarter Moon Day, Mon Feb 19, 7-9pm, Highland
- Alpha Delta Kappa, Eclipse Talk, Glen Carbon Senior Center, Feb 22, 2024, 6:30 – 7pm. Jeff and Terry only. Eclipse talk only.
- Latzer Library, Highland, Tues Feb 27, 6-8 pm, Eclipse Talk and telescopes.



First Quarter Moon Days

Join the River Bend Astronomy Club for our monthly telescope viewing. Enjoy close views of the craters on our Moon and other night sky objects. Amateur astronomers will have a variety of telescopes, and welcome questions about astronomy!

Where? Glik's Northtown parking lot to the south of Mazzio's in Highland

When? (All dates are Mondays except 10/21/23, International Observe the Moon Night)

8/21/23	7-10 PM	2/19/24	7-9 PM
9/25/23	7-10 PM	3/18/24	7-9 PM
10/21/23	7-10 PM IOMN	4/15/24	7-10 PM
11/20/23	7-9 PM	5/13/24	7-10 PM
12/18/23	7-9 PM	6/17/24	7-10 PM
1/15/24	7-9 PM	7/15/24	7-10 PM

What if? Cancelled when cloudy or weather prohibits.



HELP WANTED: Volunteer to monitor social media and post our events. For more information on what this position includes, please contact Terry Menz at outreach@riverbendastro.org.