

Martian Chronicles

Volume 25 Issue 4

April 2007

Attention!

Next M.A.R.S. Club meeting
April 13th at 7:30 PM.

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****Your Article, Story, . . .
could be here. This
Newsletter is for all
M.A.R.S. Club members.
Please send your
Newsletter contribution to
newsletter@marsastro.org by
the 15th of the month ****

Up Coming Club Events



April 2007

13th April Club Meeting at MOSI

21st Astronomy Day at MOSI

28th SkyWatch at MOSI Sundown to 10
PM

May 2007

11th May Club Meeting at MOSI

26th SkyWatch at MOSI Sundown to 10
PM



The Scope of Things

Dennis Farr

President

Summer heat, day light savings time with later sunsets. It isn't the best time of year for astronomy in Florida. But, we have a number of things to look forward to in the coming months.

The presentation at the April meeting is by our own Dr. James Fisher. Jim taught cosmology and astronomy at a junior college and is going to give us the benefit of his knowledge at our next meeting.

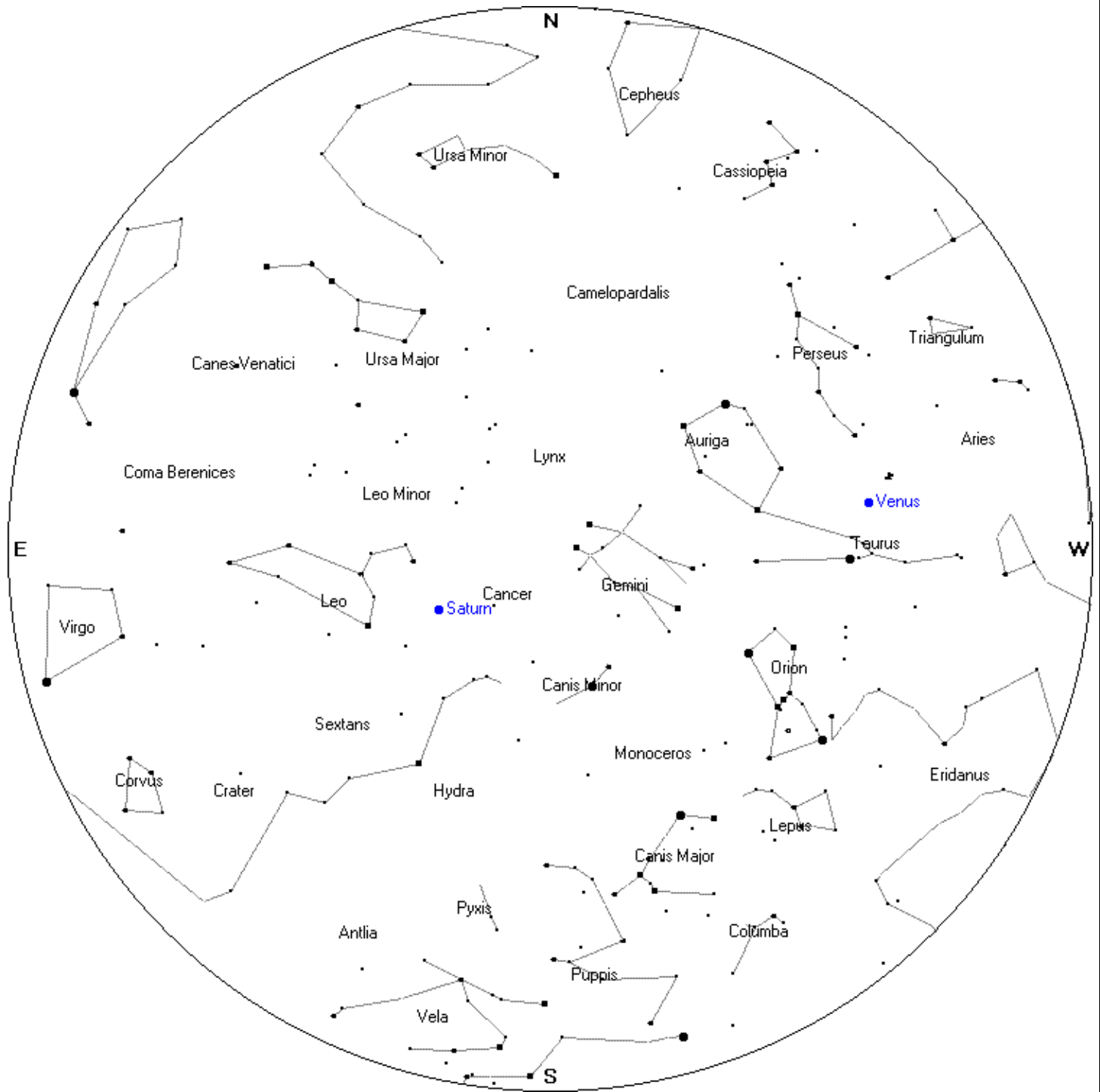
The day after the meeting, Saturday April 14th, will be an observation session at the Dade City site.

Speaking of which, the 2nd annual club star party was a great success. The skies cleared up at about 9pm and some of the diehard's didn't leave until the fog rolled in at about 5am. A good time out and it was nice to visit with all the members that came out.

The week following the meeting, April 21, is astronomy day. We have space reserved at MOSI for our displays and announcements have been sent out to as many media outlets as we could find. Looking for a good turn out to our annual public outreach activity. Hopefully we can get some person to get off the fence and pursue their interest in astronomy, just like we did.

Remember, astronomy is looking up.

The Night Sky as seen at 8 PM for Tampa Fl on April 15, 2007.



Courtesy of heavens-above.com

April Observing:

By James Daggett

Lunar Viewing:

Full Moon – April 2nd

Last Quarter – April 10th

New Moon – April 17th

First Quarter – April 24th

The best times for viewing the Moon in the early evening will be between the 19th and end of the month.

Planetary Viewing.

For early Evening viewing Venus and Saturn are the only Planets visible. Venus is best viewed up to about 9:30 PM. Much after that, Venus starts to be too low in the western skies. Venus sets about 10:45 PM. As the month progresses Venus will become brighter and you will be able to detect some slight changes in the phase. Since Venus has yet to make its maximum elongation. That will occur in early June and the phase of Venus will approach half illuminated.

Saturn will remain perched near the zenith in the early evenings for the month of April. Best viewing will be after sundown to around midnight. Jupiter rises after midnight and for those that wish to stay up late or are early risers, will find the viewing the best.

Deep Space Viewing

For those that are interested in other objects, the better times for deep space viewing will be between the 10th and the 20th of the month. The winter constellations are getting low in the western skies after sundown and will soon be disappearing from our evening skies. Have heart the more interesting part of the galaxy rise after midnight. Still there are some good observations in the east as Leo, Coma Berenices and Coma Venaticis rise after sundown and by midnight should be high enough for good deep sky observing. The above constellations have very nice clusters of galaxies in each one. On the northern edge of Coma Berenices there is a 2-degree circular area that encompasses 72 galaxies that are magnitude 15 or greater. With very dark skies and a decent aperture scope one could have hours of amazement viewing this section of the sky. Also there are clusters of galaxies that are in Leo and in Virgo. What is nice is that looking out from our galaxy is the least dense part. In fact we are looking out away from the central core of the galaxy. This allows use to see the more dense part of the Virgo cluster of galaxies which we are part of.

Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day is a grass roots movement designed to share the joy of astronomy with the general population - "Bringing Astronomy to the People." On Astronomy Day, thousands of people who have never looked through a telescope will have an opportunity to see first hand what has so many amateur and professional astronomers all excited. Astronomy clubs, science museums, observatories, universities, planetariums, laboratories, libraries, and nature centers host special events and activities to acquaint their population with local astronomical resources and facilities. Many of these events are located at non-astronomical sites; shopping malls, parks, urban centers? This event is truly bringing astronomy to the people. It is an astronomical PR event that helps highlight ways the general public can get involved with astronomy - or at least get some of their questions about astronomy answered. Astronomy Week encompasses Astronomy Day starting on the previous Monday and ending on the following Sunday.

History Of Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day was born in California in 1973. Doug Berger, then president of the Astronomical Association of Northern California, decided that rather than try to entice people to travel long distances to visit observatory open houses, they would set up telescopes closer to where the people were - busy locations - urban locations like street corners, shopping malls, parks, etc. His strategy paid off. Not only did Astronomy Day go over with a bang, not only did the public find out about the astronomy club, they found out about future observatory open houses. Since the public got a chance to look through a portable telescope, they were hooked. Then wanted to see what went on at the bigger telescopes, so they turned out in droves at the next observatory open house.

When: Saturday 4/21/ 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM ASTRONOMY RESOURCE SOCIETY ASTRONOMY CLUB

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M.A.R.S. Club's Website
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and \$20.00 for families. Dues can be paid to any club
officer*

*at a meeting or event or mailed to the Club Membership/
Renewal Address listed below. Newsletters are available to
nonmembers by requesting a complimentary issue. Please
send all inquiries, comments and newsletter contributions
to
the address below. The deadline for submitted
contributions*

*is the 25th of the month prior to the next issue. Contribution
may be delayed in publication due to available space.*

*Membership/Renewal
Make checks payable to: Frances Ferguson, (Club
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