



Greetings Fellow Stargazers,

Here's hoping you're all weathering this year's monsoon season. That last bout dropped only 0.22" of rain here at Heimhenge, but with the humidity at 29% it might as well be raining. Looks like we'll have a bit of a break this week though. Alas, I was clouded out for the Venus & Jupiter conjunction, but Tom Polakis (who's spoken a few times to DFAC) managed to get [this](#) "action shot" of him setting up for a photo. Unfortunately, the hole in the clouds closed before he could capture anything. If you're interested in what it would have looked like at around 120X, with both planets barely in the field of view, check out my simulation [here](#). And now ... on to club business. For a Summer Update, there's quite a bit to report ...

1. Dues are due. Have been for some time now. We are still missing 4 renewals, so please get your check for \$25 to Treasurer Jay Chatzkel (44123 N. 23rd Street, New River, AZ 85087) at your earliest convenience. Either that, or please do us the courtesy of letting us know you do not intend to renew. We thank you for your continued support.

2. Speaking of Jay Chatzkel, he got some great photos of the July 4 Cave Creek fireworks display. The color saturation is amazing. You can see more on his website (and order prints should you desire) at: <http://southwesternphotography.com/>

3. I received some sad news today. George Kantarges, a charter member of DFAC (who some of you remember) was in a bad car accident. His wife Pat suffered fatal injuries. George was also injured, and will need a couple months to recover. Although he chose not to renew his membership this season, I'll be sending him a card on behalf of the club. Should any of you also wish to send a card, George's mailing address is: PO Box 369, Cave Creek, AZ 85327. His phone number is 480-488-9090.

4. Our presentation by Br. Guy Consolmagno, S.J. is fast approaching. It will be held on Friday, July 24 at the Anthem Civic Building, 7-9 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and DFAC members who RSVP to me will have reserved seating in the front row(s). You don't want to miss this one. I have 17 RSVPs already. See the event publicity poster [here](#).

5. The dedication of Conley Observatory at Yavapai College in Prescott was a fun event. Several members attended via carpool, snacks and drinks were served, and the target for "first light" was a waxing gibbous Moon. After that, we had a chance to see Jupiter, Venus, M57, and M13 through a C14. Photos from the event should show up on our [Facebook page](#) shortly. Our Social Media Manager, Pam Shivak, is currently on the road with husband Randy.

6. This year's Perseid meteor shower peak will occur on August 12-13, with no Moon in the sky. Unfortunately, August 12 is a Wednesday. But if you check our [DFAC Events](#) page, you'll see I have scheduled a "meteor watch" for Wednesday night and am now taking RSVPs. No need to bring anything beyond a comfortable recliner and maybe some binocs for casual viewing. These "meteor watches" are always a fun and relaxing time ... we usually get in a lot of astronomy talk between the fireballs. I set an RSVP deadline of Aug 9. Having the RSVPs helps me to arrange vehicle parking in our limited yard space. But as always, if you show up sans RSVP, no worries.

7. Also added to our Summer agenda is an August 16 DFAC Social at Jay & Barbara Chatzkel's ranch in New River. See more info on our [DFAC Events](#) page. A map is attached. Please RSVP to Jay by July 31 at: [jaychatzkel@progressivepractices.com](mailto:jaychatzkel@progressivepractices.com). These are always fun events, and the Chatzkels really know how to throw a party. Hope to see you all there!

8. Ron Walker has 2 shows planned for this month at the Star Barn. Read the details on our [DFAC Events](#) page. As always, please RSVP with desired time/date/seats at: [thestarbarn@gmail.com](mailto:thestarbarn@gmail.com). Or you can call Ron at: 480-488-3952 (H) or 480-203-6117 (C). A map is attached.

9. Beth Ruggiero will be available to do a "Fun in the Dark" photography workshop for members interested in improving their camera skills. This would be held here at Heimhenge sometime in October to avoid room rental fees. The cost would be \$130/person, and include dinner, snacks, and water. Class would be held during the afternoon, and field work with your cameras would be in the evening. We'd need at least 8 people to make this happen, so if you'd be interested in participating, let me know. Beth has spoken to DFAC in the past, and she's an expert at what she does. See Beth's [website](#) for more info about her workshop.

10. You can get your copy of IDA Nightscape and read up on recent IDA activities [here](#). Be sure to check out the results of their 2015 Earth & Sky photo contest for some stunning views.

11. Our end-of-season Treasurer's Report is running late this year. Part of the problem is late dues payments. When I receive it (probably just after I hit "send" on this Update), trust that I will forward it as an Addendum.

12. And finally, here's the usual blatant promo for my blog [Sky Lights](#). This week I'm talking about Pluto, and the upcoming visit by the New Horizons probe (enroute for 9 years). I'm hoping that by next week's post, we'll have some of the first ever closeup images of that distant object, as well as its 5 moons.

That's all for now. Until next we meet, clear skies!

Dan Heim  
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