

[View this email in your browser](#)



GUIDESTAR

April 2021

**Fostering the Science and Art of Astronomy
Through Programs that Serve our Membership
and the Community**

HAS Member Image of the Month

Solar Eclipse - August 21, 2017

Image by HAS Member

Don Taylor



Remembering Leland Dolan 1932 - 2021 by Fred Garcia

I first met Leland Dolan in the summer of 1959, when we both were in an astronomy class at the South Texas Junior College. It was there I learned about the Houston Amateur Astronomy Club (HAAC). The club met in the original Science Building at the central campus of the University of Houston. When several HAAC members formed a special interest group for amateur telescope making, Leland served as the SIG secretary.

Over the years there were pressures for a name change to the Houston Astronomical Society, and when that occurred, Leland assisted the By-Laws committee with his extensive knowledge of the club history and recollections of older members of the HAAC. He continued to help the membership in later years by providing observing aid printouts at the monthly meeting. He frequently highlighted news about recent astronomical events of importance, discoveries as well as the passage of the solstices, equinox events, and other phenomena.

For most of his 60 years of membership in the Houston Astronomical Society, Leland attended every monthly meeting. His loyalty to the HAS is memorable in its continuity. Most of the older members of HAS who knew Leland when he was younger and more active will miss his presence in our monthly meetings. I know I will.

Leland passed away at home with his family on February 27, 2021. His family has requested that those wishing to memorialize Leland may make a donations to MD Anderson Cancer Center at: <https://gifts.mdanderson.org>



Rene Gedaly in the HAS Observatory posed with her favorite telescope, the equatorial fork-mounted f/5 Newtonian reflector

**April Novice Presentation
Via Zoom**

The HAS Texas 45 Progression

Visual astronomy is all about knowing where to look, when to look, and how to look. The purpose of visual observing lists is to tell you what to look at, too. That's what the HAS Texas 45 observing program is all about. But wait, there's more. The program has been improved with field notes to give you, the beginning

Progression.

In this presentation Rene Gedaly will cover the tips and tricks experienced amateurs use to approach observing successfully. Come learn how to develop these skills and learn the Texas 45 rules so that you, too, can earn a beautiful certificate, snazzy pin, and see your name in lights.

April 1st 2021 at 7:00PM

[Read More](#)

[Register for Presentation](#)



HAS Main Speaker Presentation

Via Zoom

by: Debbie Moran

"Light Right to Bring Back the Night. "

LED light poses special challenges for the night sky or hope depending on how it is used. It is no longer enough just to point light downward. We now need to consider quality of light too to avoid perpetual daytime. We will cover the tools we now have to educate city officials and the public on how to double down on the advantages of LED lighting for comfortable visibility while best protecting human and animal health and the night sky. You will see examples of what to do and what not to do. This talk is

April 2nd 2021 at 7:00PM

[Read More](#)

[Register for Presentation](#)



Field of View

by [Don Selle](#) - Guidestar Editor

The month's Guidestar cover is a wonderful image by HAS member Don Taylor of the eclipse of August 21, 2017. I thought it was very appropriate image for the April cover because the next total eclipse to race across much of the USA will happen on April 8, 2024, and we are a little more than half-way timewise between the two events.

[Read More](#)

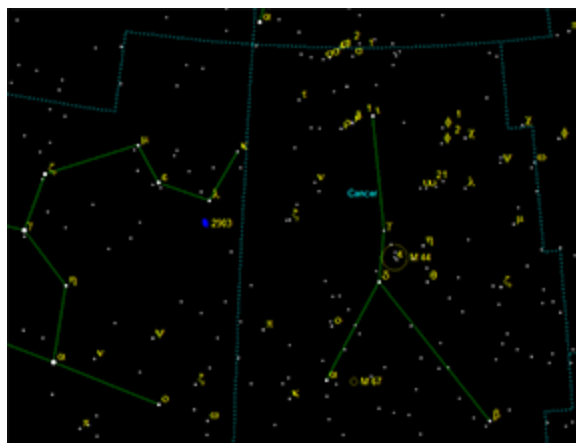


Asterism

Brosch 1 aka Virgo Diamond

This asterism is located in Virgo. Starting with Spica, locate star Porrima Gamma γ VIRGO. This star is the “anchor point” for the semi-circle of stars in Virgo. Just above a line from Porrima to Zaniah Eta η VIRGO, Brosch 1 can be located.

[Read More](#)



Messier Column - April 2021

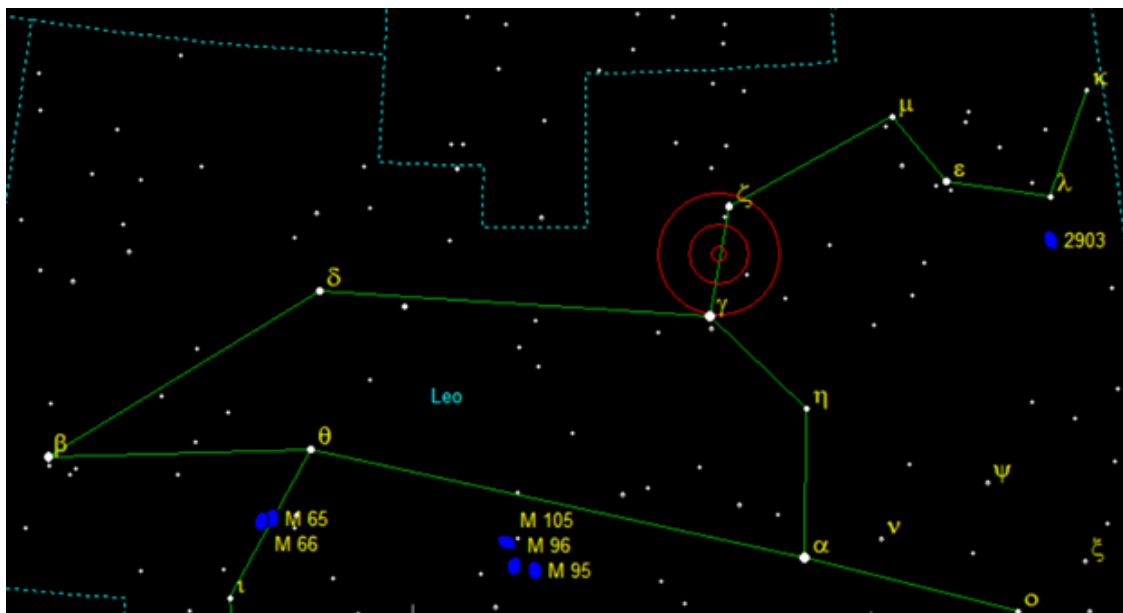
By Jim King

The sucky winter, hopefully, is behind us. During the past couple of weeks, we have had some nice weather and a couple of really good nights for observing. We now get to move into the Messier early spring portion of his catalogue.

A TRIBUTE: Charles Messier passed on April 12, 1817, at the ripe old age of 86. During his lifetime, he suffered through the

and Bureau des Longitude, after the revolution had run its course. Ironically, Messier wanted to be known for his list of cometary discoveries, but ultimately his list of objects that were not comets earned him immortality.

[Read More](#)



Challenge Object - April 2021

Hickson 44 – Compact Galaxy Group in Leo

**RA 10h18m05.7s Dec +21deg 49'57''
(position is for NGC 3190)**

[Read More](#)



Shallow Sky Object of the Month

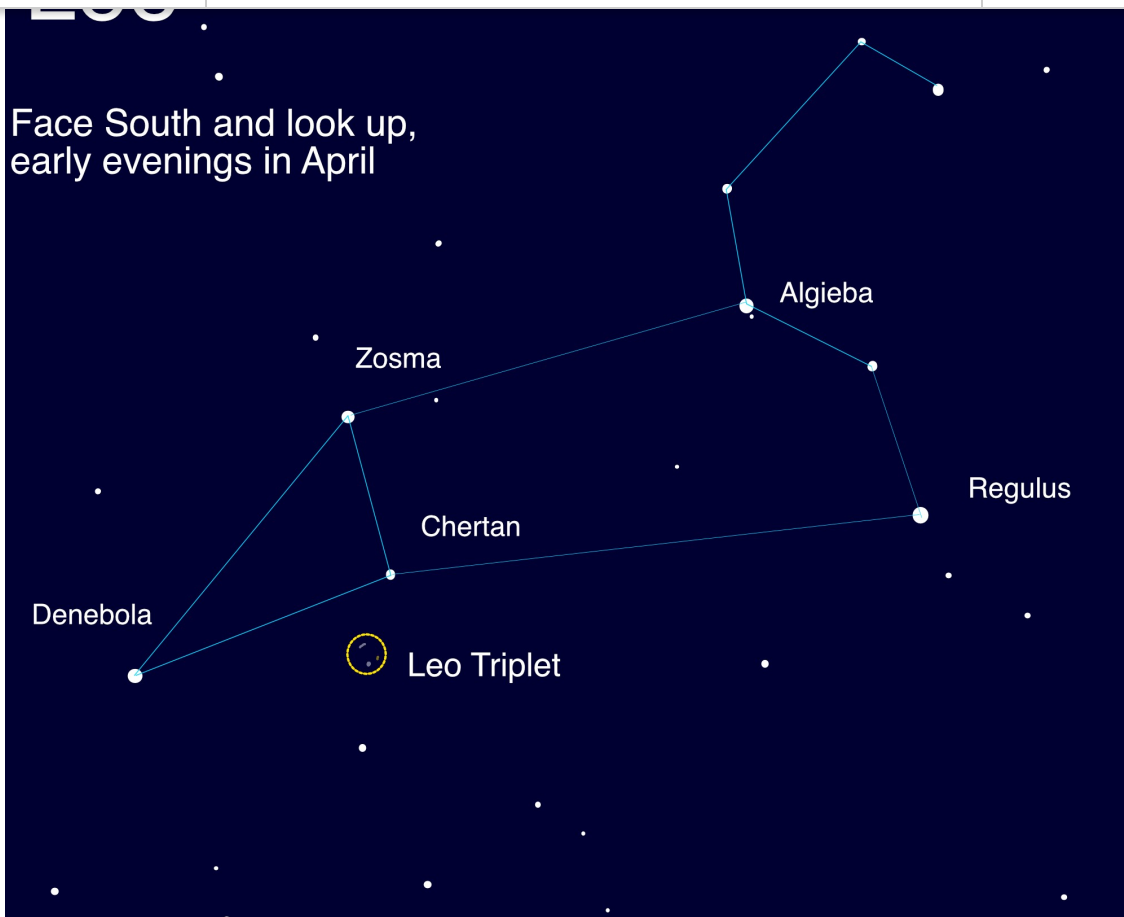
April 2021

False Twilight: The Zodiacal Light Is it a Reflection of Mars?

by Will Sager

Some evenings it seems to take forever for the sky to get dark. Normally, we progress from sunset to civil twilight to nautical twilight to astronomical twilight to dark. The civil twilight occurs between sunset and the sun being 6° below the horizon, nautical twilight when the sun is between 6° and 12° below the horizon, and astronomical twilight from 12° - 18° below the horizon. After astronomical twilight, the sky should be dark and remain so until astronomical twilight begins before dawn. But sometimes, especially in the spring and fall, the sky is brighter longer because of the Zodiacal light.

[Read More](#)



Watch the Lion: Celestial Wonders in Leo

by David Prosper

NASA Night Sky Notes

Leo is a prominent sight for stargazers in April. Its famous sickle, punctuated by the bright star Regulus, draws many a beginning stargazer's eyes, inviting deeper looks into some of Leo's celestial delights, including a great double star and a famous galactic trio.

Leo's distinctive forward sickle, or "reverse question mark," is easy to spot as it climbs the skies in the southeast after sunset. If you are having a difficult time spotting the sickle, look for bright Sirius and Procyon - featured in last month's article - and complete a triangle by drawing two lines to the east, joining at the bright star Regulus, the "period" in the reverse question mark. Trailing them is a trio of bright stars forming an isosceles triangle, the brightest star in that formation named Denebola. Connecting these two patterns together forms the constellation of Leo the Lion, with the forward-facing sickle being the lion's head and mane, and the rear triangle its hindquarters. Can you see this

Read More

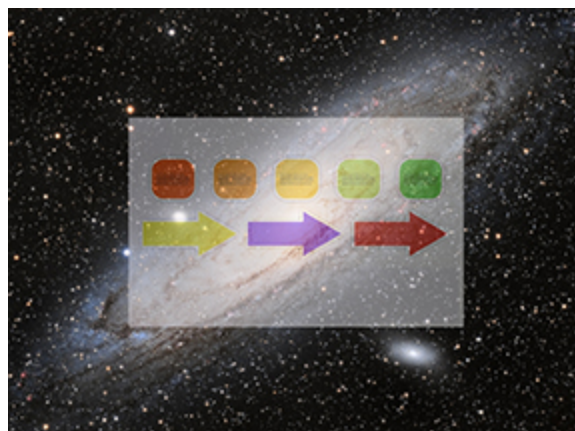


Image Capture Workflow

By Don Selle

This is the first in a series of “how-to” articles to help beginners learn astrophotography. The series will assume that long exposure imaging will be done through an OTA on a GoTo telescope mount that can be polar aligned. The camera attached to the OTA is either a cooled dedicated astronomy camera or a DSLR attached at prime focus. Since there are so many combinations of specific equipment the articles will assume that the telescope and camera have been set-up, equipment connected to a computer, powered up and checked out.

Read More



Copyright © 2021 Houston Astronomical Society, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).