



Howard Astronomical League

Monthly Meeting

January 8th, 2026



Founding members – Dana Gelabert-Boltersdorf, Michael Hall, ZoAnn Lapinsky Macon, Mary Kay Sigaty, and Malcolm Willette formed the Howard Astronomical League as non-profit corporation on December 5, 1999.

Tonight's Agenda, January 8th, 2025

- ≡ • Introductions
- Club Business
 - 2025 Financial Report – Joel Goodman
 - 2026 Board Election – Wayne Baggett
- Announcements
 - 2026 Schedule of Star Parties & Upcoming Events
 - Congratulations to Krystal Rolon for her National Women in Aerospace Award
 - Congratulations to Jim Johnson for Being a Featured Televue Imager
 - HAL Palmer Scope 2026 Winter Auction
- Featured Speaker – **Faith Vowler, Outreach Coordinator, Hubble Space Telescope**
- What's Out in the Sky This Month...
 - Shallow Sky Highlights – Jim Tomney
- Members' Astro-Images and Sketches
- Wrap-up & Discussion

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Treasurer's Report - Submitted 8 January 2026

31 December 2024 M&T Bank Balance

\$12,164.81

31 December 2025 M&T Bank Balance

\$12,712.28

Membership Statistics

Statistics as of Thursday, January 1, 2026 9:31 PM

Category	Memberships
Currently Paid-Up	358
New Members in Last 30 Days	7
Last 30 Days - Renewed	22
Last 30 Days - Did Not Renew	20
Net Gain - Last 30 Days	-13
Renewals Due Next 30 Days	22
Annual Membership Turnover	61.02%
Impromptu List Members	253

Percent Individual vs Family Memberships

Individual Memberships	Family Memberships
48.12%	51.88%

HAL Membership Statistics

Statistics as of Tuesday, December 31, 2024 10:14 AM

Category	Members	Memberships
Currently Paid-Up	401	327
New Members in Last 30 Days	9	7
Last 30 Days - Renewed	19	13
Last 30 Days-Did Not Renew	12	10
Net Gain - Last 30 Days	-3	-3
Renewals Due Next 30 Days	13	11
Annual Turnover		32.7%
Annual Membership Turnover		29.7%
Impromptu List Members		189

Percent Individual vs Family Memberships

Individual Memberships	Family Memberships
53.3%	46.7%

Percent Individual vs Family Members

Individual Members	Family Members
44.4%	55.6%

Transactions Spending Income

Last Year

All Banking Accounts

Clear Filters

Income



Membership Dues	\$8,245.67
Donation Received	\$214.56
Key Deposit	\$48.51

\$8,508.74
Last Year

2025
Income

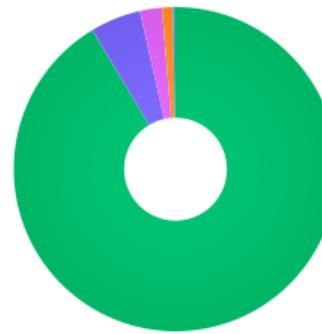
Transactions Spending Income

This Year

All Accounts

Clear Filters

Income



Membership Dues	\$8,194.05
Equipment Sale	\$452.97
Donation Received	\$197.39
Key Deposit	\$98.06
Merchant Refund	\$21.06

\$8,963.53
This Year

2024
Income

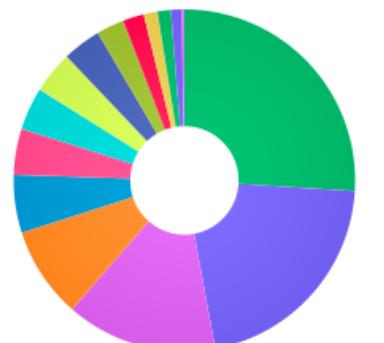
Transactions Spending Income

Last Year

All Banking Accounts

Clear Filters

Spending



Association Dues	\$2,070.00
Insurance - Liability...	\$1,681.00
All Sky Camera Projec...	\$1,139.56
Business Expenses	\$687.40
Supplies	\$434.69
Mailbox Rental	\$348.00
Website Fee	\$319.86
HAL Outreach Equipment...	\$316.94
Email Hosting	\$291.61
Web Development/Maint...	\$208.00
Zoom Fees	\$159.90
Dark Sky Internationa...	\$103.75
Key Deposit Refund	\$100.00
Quicken Renewal	\$82.56
Observatory	\$18.00

\$7,961.27
Last Year

2025
Spending

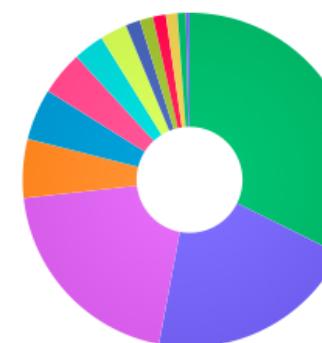
Transactions Spending Income

This Year

All Accounts

Clear Filters

Spending



Association Dues	\$1,975.80
Insurance - Liability...	\$1,262.00
Observatory	\$1,242.00
Mailbox Rental	\$348.00
Website Fee	\$303.69
HAL Outreach Equipment...	\$261.57
Business Expenses	\$181.25
Zoom Fees	\$159.90
Web Development/Maint...	\$87.00
Printing (Business)	\$78.63
Quicken Renewal	\$76.20
Email Hosting	\$68.38
Key Deposit Refund	\$50.00
Supplies	\$20.91

\$6,115.33
This Year

2024
Spending

HAL Elections
2026

2026 HAL Elections

- Before proceeding

THANK YOU to the 2025 HAL Board!

President	Victor Sanchez (3 years!)
First Vice President	Jim Tomney
Second Vice President	Grace Coventry (moved, resigned)
Treasurer	Joel Goodman
Secretary	Richard Taibi
Event Coordinator	David Stein

- And the appointed members: Steven Pribut, Satheesh Nalliyappan, Chris Todd, Krystal Rolon, Steve Jaworiwsky, and Mike Miller

2026 HAL Elections

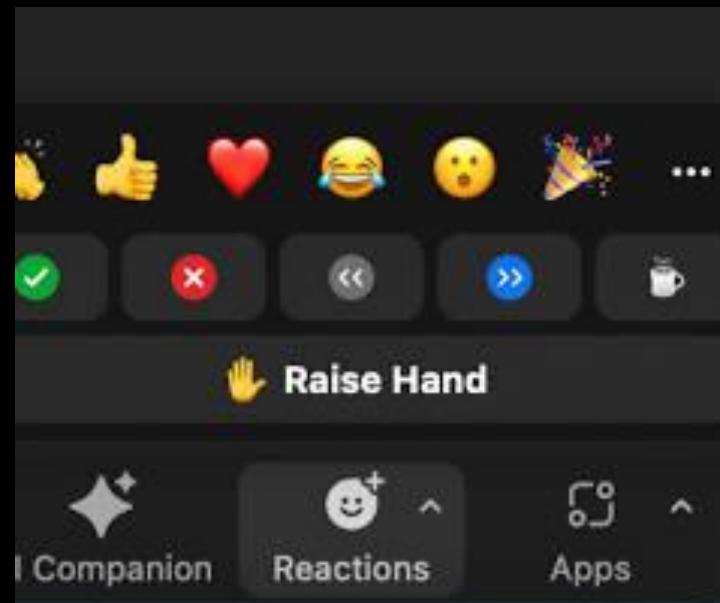
- Following the process defined in the HAL Bylaws (Article III, Section 3)
 - Voice vote for the slate
 - Vote via raising hands (in person), and virtually raising hands on Zoom
- Remember:

Only members can vote

Family memberships get a only single vote

2026 HAL Elections

- How to raise hands on Zoom
 - Move to the bottom of the Zoom window and locate the “Reactions” icon
 - Click this icon then click “Raise Hand”



2026 HAL Elections

- Step 1: do we have a quorum?

- We require 36 memberships to be present in order to hold the election
- Same rules as voting (Family memberships only count once)
- Show of hands: who is a HAL member?

2026 HAL Elections

Slate of candidates

President	Jim Tomney
First Vice President	David Stein
Second Vice President	Steve Rifkin
Treasurer	Joel Goodman
Secretary	Bill Vanderlinde
Events Coordinator	Jose Urias

2026 HAL Elections

Thank You,
2026 HAL Board of Directors!

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HAL Star Parties...

2025 Schedule of Star Parties

March

March 14 - Members
March 28 - Public

April

April 18 - Members
April 25 - Public

May

May 16 – Members (Io Shadow Transit 9:21 PM – 11:39 PM)
May 22 - Public

June

June 13 - Members
June 20 - Public

July

July 11 - Members
July 25 - Public

August

August 15 - Members
August 22 - Public

September

September 5 - Members
September 19 – Public (International Observe The Moon Night)

October

October 10 - Members
October 17 - Public

November

November 7 - Members
November 21 - Public

Recent Events

- Impromptu Held on 1/7/2025
 - Thank you to Ernie Morse for hosting and opening-up the park



Upcoming Event

- Webinar Learning Opportunity*
 - [2026 Sky Events for Photographers & Stargazers | Babak Tafreshi Photography](#)
 - <https://print.babaktafreshi.com/product/webinar/335>

* (not-HAL-affiliated)

Congratulations Krystal Rolon

2025 AEROSPACE EDUCATOR AWARD, K-12:

Krystal Rolon, Ellicott City, MD, is honored for her exceptional commitment to aerospace education and her steadfast dedication to advancing the inclusion of women and girls in the field.

* And HAL thanks Krystal for all the outreach she has done in support of the club (not to mention her service as librarian)



Congratulations to Jim Johnson for Being Featured on the TeleVue Website (1 of 2)

NP101is Imaging the Skies over Maryland!

■ January 7, 2026 ■ TVO Staff

We've been watching Jim Johnson's progress for many years on *Flickr* and feel he's broken into the top-tier of imaging with his recent targets. In 2025 he told us: "Just this year I have reached a point in my photography journey that I am mostly (but never completely) happy with my work", says Jim. As validation, Jim's image of the *Dolphin Nebula* (Sharpless 2-308) was featured in the *Gallery* section (p. 79) of the September 2025 issue of *Sky & Telescope*. Congratulations Jim! This blog is a presentation of Jim's current work.

Out there somewhere — *Heart of the Heart Nebula* (Hubble Palette)

Jim's *Heart of the Heart Nebula* image is truly immersive at full screen. He's "peeled apart" and added depth to the various objects in the center of the Heart Nebula (also IC 1805, and Sharpless 2-190). This central region glows in light from energy provided by giant stars in the open cluster, Melotte 15, visible at the center of the image. Stellar winds from these young stars are eroding "dust pillars" (star forming regions) visible in front of the cluster.



[Out there somewhere – Heart of the Heart Nebula \(SHO Hubble Palette\)](#) by flickr user [Jim Johnson](#). All rights reserved.

Used by permission. Tele Vue-NP101is Nagler-Petzval APO refractor with 0.8x Reducer (NPR-2073) to achieve f/4.3.

Imaging done with ZWO Electronic Filter Wheel (2"x 7) and ZWO ASI6200MM-P camera all carried on a Losmandy G11 mount. Software: captured in NINA and processed in PixInsight. "The nebula center is ionized Oxygen (O-III) and Sulphur (S-II) gas while the outer fringes are ionized Hydrogen (H α) gas. The image spans about $\frac{1}{2}$ ° of sky, which is roughly the same size as the Moon. The stars in this image were captured as 30s RGB images while the nebulae where captured as 10m SHO images." Nebula imaging time through 3nm Chroma filters – SII: 15 x 600s (2:30), H α : 17 x 600s (2:50), and OIII: 16 x 600s (2:40) for a total Integration time of: 8 hours.

https://televue.com/televueopticstalk/2026/01/07/np101is-imaging-the-skies-over-maryland/#utm_source=em&utm_medium=em&utm_campaign=emNP101ISMD&utm_content=NP101ISMD

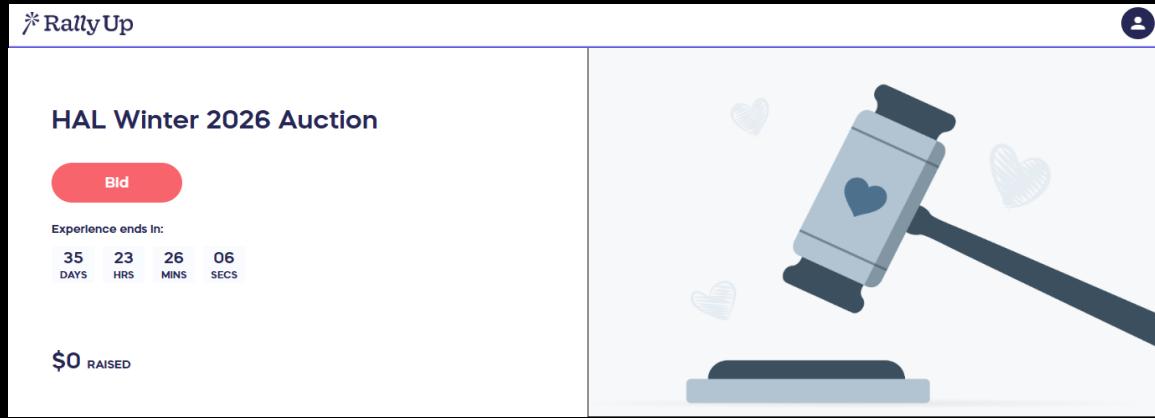
Congratulations to Jim Johnson for Being Featured on the TeleVue Website (2 of 2)



[Fish Head Nebula \(NGC896\) – 2025-10-16/17 – SHO Hubble Palette](#) by flickr user [Jim Johnson](#). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tele Vue-NP101is Nagler-Petzval APO refractor with 0.8x Reducer (NPR-2073) to achieve f/4.3. Imaging done with ZWO Electronic Filter Wheel (2"x 7) and ZWO ASI6200MM-P camera all carried on a Losmandy G11 mount. Software: captured in NINA and processed in PixInsight. “The nebulae center is ionized oxygen (O-III) and Sulphur (S-II) gas while the outer fringes are ionized Hydrogen (H α) gas. The image spans about $\frac{1}{2}$ ° of sky, which is roughly the same size as the Moon. The stars in this image were captured as 30s RGB images while the nebulae were captured as 10m SHO images.” Nebula imaging time through 3nm Chroma filters – SII: 15 x 600s (2:30), H α : 17 x 600s (2:50), and OIII: 16 x 600s (2:40) for a total integration time of: 8 hours.



[The Heart \(IC1805\) and Soul \(IC1848\) Nebulae – 2025-10-16/17 – 2-Panel SHO Hubble Palette](#) by flickr user [Jim Johnson](#). All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tele Vue-NP101is Nagler-Petzval APO refractor with 0.8x Reducer (NPR-2073) to achieve f/4.3. Imaging done with ZWO Electronic Filter Wheel (2"x 7) and ZWO ASI6200MM-P camera all carried on a Losmandy G11 mount. Software: Captured in NINA and processed in PixInsight. “The entire two-panel image spans about 8° on the diagonal. The stars in this image were captured as 30s RGB images while the nebulae were captured as 10m SHO images.” Imaging time through 3nm Chroma filters for nebula follows. Panel 1 (Soul) was SII: 16 x 600s (2:40), H α : 18 x 600s (3:00), OIII: 17 x 600s (2:50) for a total integration time of 8½ hours. Panel 2 (Heart) was SII: 15 x 600s (2:30), H α : 17 x 600s (2:50), and OIII: 16 x 600s (2:40) for a total integration time of 8:00. Between the two panels the total time is 16½ hours.



- In 2025 HAL member Benny Palmer made a very generous contribution to the club
 - He donated an entire high-end astro imaging rig with all components in very good condition!
- After considering multiple options, the board decided to sell the gear to fund club activities and future observatory upgrades
 - We decided the most benefit would be gained by offering the membership a chance to purchase the gear at greatly reduced prices, and then putting anything that doesn't sell that way on AstroMart
 - Jim Tomney has been kind enough to set up an online auction site where the gear will go on sale with a “reserve” price of approximately 40% of retail for each item
 - The auction will go live on February 1st and wrap-up at 8pm on February 12th, - midway through our February meeting (can't you feel the excitement building! ☺)
 - Look for an announcement with links and details as the date approaches

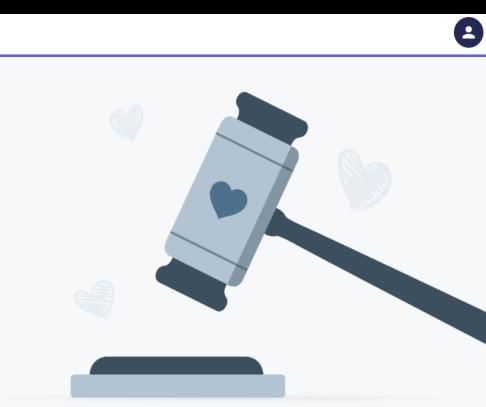
HAL Winter 2026 Auction

[Bid](#)

Experience ends in:

35 Days 23 Hrs 26 Mins 06 Secs

\$0 Raised



Astro-Tech AT130EDT OTA

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$900[View details](#)

ZWO ASI2600MM Monochrome Camera

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$900[View details](#)

IOptron CEM70 Center-Balanced Equatorial Mount

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$1,500[View details](#)

IOptron Tri-Pier – Heavy-Duty Telescope Pier/Tripod

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$350[View details](#)

ZWO ASI174MM mini Camera

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$150[View details](#)

ZWO ASIAIR Plus

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$100[View details](#)

ZWO Electronic Automatic Focuser (EAF)

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$60[View details](#)

ZWO ASI2600MM Monochrome Camera

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$900[View details](#)

Astrozap AZ-1513 Full-Aperture Glass Solar Filter

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$50[View details](#)

ZWO 7 x 2" Electronic Filter Wheel

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$125[View details](#)

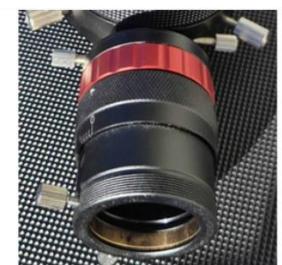
Optolong 2" Filter Set with LRGB, H-Alpha, SII, and OIII Filters

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$300[View details](#)

ZWO Off-Axis Guider (OAG)

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$50[View details](#)

ZWO 1.25" Non-Rotating Helical Focuser

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$25[View details](#)

Astro-Tech 0.8x Reducer/Field Flattener

BIDS (0)

Starting Bid
\$90[View details](#)

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Topic: The Hubble Space Telescope: 35 Years of Discovery.

Faith Vowler, Hubble Space Telescope Outreach Coordinator, NASA

Faith Vowler—an astronomer, educator, and space enthusiast from Michigan—has worked at NASA since January 2022 as the Outreach Coordinator for the Hubble Space Telescope.

She attended the University of Michigan, where she earned a B.S.E. in Space Science & Engineering with minors in Physics and in Astronomy & Astrophysics, and an M.S. in Space Science.

She formerly lived and worked in New Mexico as the Education Specialist for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) and the Very Large Array (VLA). Her hobbies include reading, collecting books, baking, and going to the movies.

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Shallow Sky Highlights for Jan-Feb 2026

- *Saturn is slipping into the west, standing well past the meridian as it emerges from the evening twilight (Conjunction March 25th).*
 - *Get your observation in as soon as it grows dark while the planet is at its highest point in the sky*
 - *The last two remaining Titan transits are happening in January with the event in progress as soon as the planet is visible. Of the two, only one event has even the possibility of being seen:*
 - *January 9th , ending at 5 p.m.*
 - *Rings are opening*



Shallow Sky Highlights for Jan-Feb 2026

- *Jupiter comes to opposition on the evening of January 10th*
- **Magnitude –2.7** with a **46.6"** disk, riding high in Gemini for excellent Northern Hemisphere viewing.
- **Dynamic Atmosphere** — Belts, zones, storms, and color changes can evolve week to week
- Jan 17–19 — Jupiter passes $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ north of **δ Geminorum**, a lovely double star (easy binocular target)
- *GRS Transit Opportunities:* 

Evening	Transit Time (ET)
Jan 6	11:54 p.m.
Jan 7	7:46 p.m.
Jan 9	9:23 p.m.
Jan 11	11:01 p.m.
Jan 14	8:31 p.m.
Jan 16	10:08 p.m.
Jan 18	11:46 p.m.
Jan 19	7:38 p.m.
Jan 21	9:16 p.m.
Jan 23	10:54 p.m.
Jan 26	8:23 p.m.
Jan 28	10:01 p.m.
Jan 30	11:39 p.m.

Shallow Sky Highlights for Jan-Feb 2026

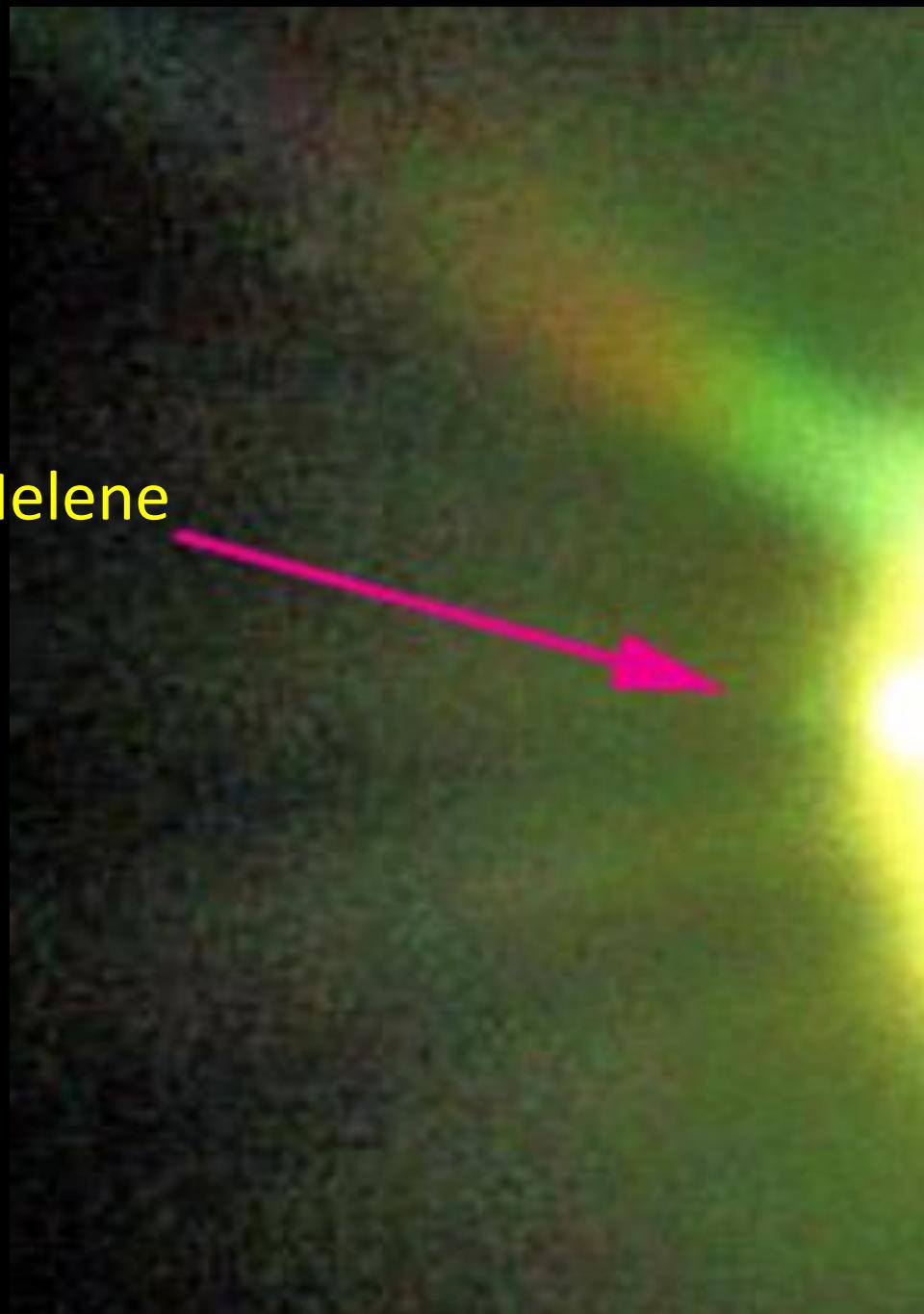
- *Jupiter also has wonderful opportunities to view the 4 Galilean moons circling the planet. This opposition we get a special treat!*
- *Sun-Earth-Jupiter geometry will produce a couple of nights where the disk of the moon almost precisely overlays its shadow being projected on the clouds below. <https://alpo-astronomy.org/Jupiter>*



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Helene

Saturn

Nereid (NII)

23 August 2023
03h 27m UTC

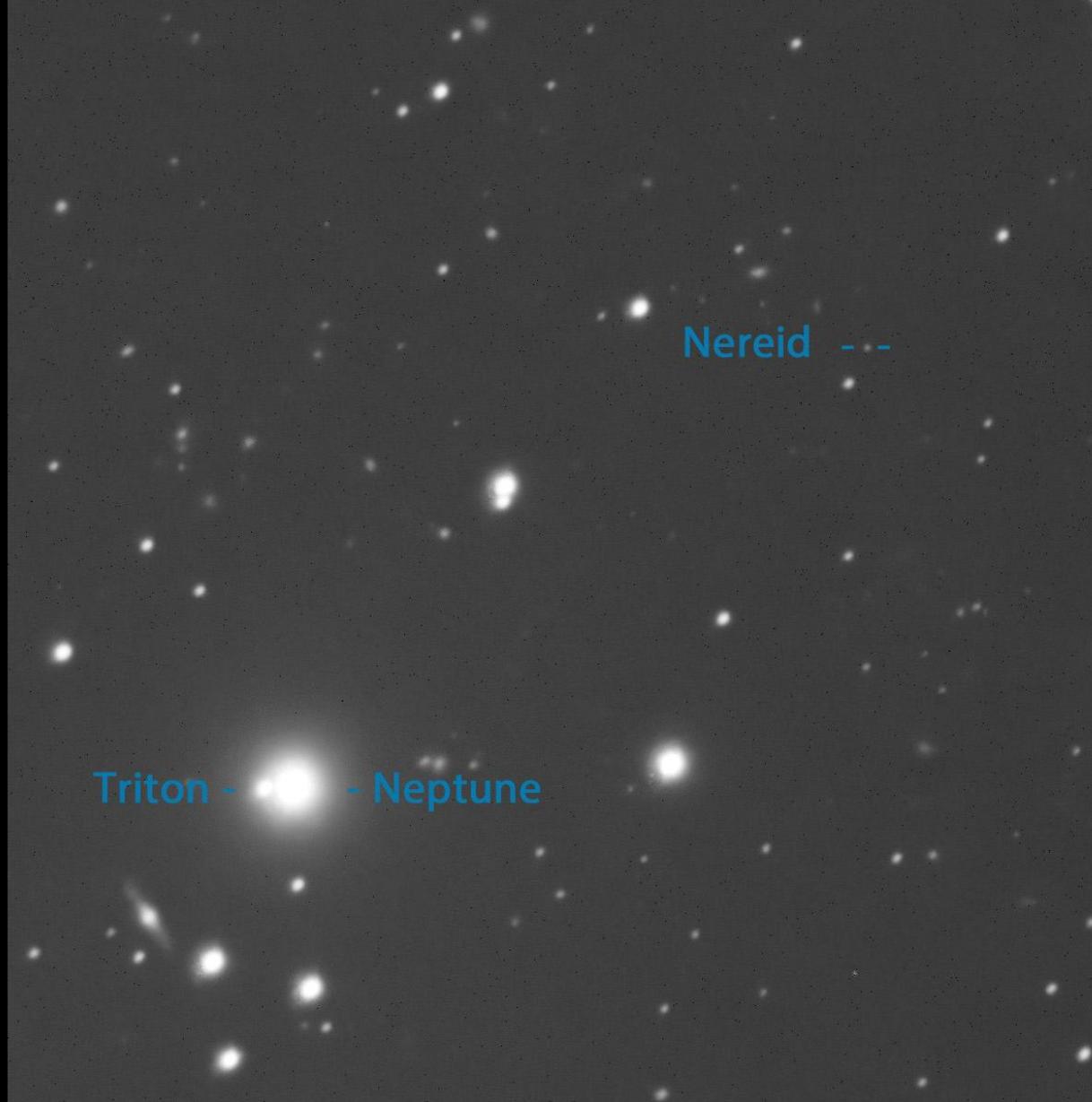
Cherry Springs
State Park,
Pennsylvania

Seeing: 3-Average
Altitude: 23°

Size: 0.0"
Magnitude: 18.7

Phase Angle: 0.8°
Constellation:
Pisces

Distance:
2,698,170,230. Miles



Telescope:
Meade LX-850 14"

Camera:
ZWO ASI2600MM

Lum: 5 X 120 secs. 100 Gain

Processing:
Pixinsight
Photoshop.

Ken Everhart



Michael R. Connelly

M.33

498min

Michael Connelly



Seestar S50



C 12

130min

Michael Connelly



Seestar S50



76° W, 39° N / 2025.12.21 21:27

IC 434

58min

Michael Connelly

Thank you