

Meeting Minutes | March 20, 2026

HAPPY APRIL (fools?!?)

Agenda

General Announcements

Special Announcements

Active Astro with Anna

Open Segment with Arif

Biweekly Whiteboard Question

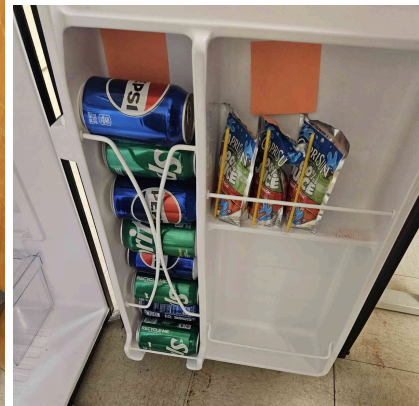
Constellation Tier List

Astronomy Question of the Week with Don

General Announcements

★ Astronomers

- Stocked!!
- In the Undergraduate Lounge, ground (2nd) floor of Steward, in the back corner
- Chips, chocolate, nutella, soda, and so on!
- Let us know if you have any recommendations and requests and we will get them for you :)
- Payment
 - Zelle: henrypaton@arizona.edu
 - Cash: put inside blue lock box please



★ Become an active member!

- Dues are \$10/semester
- Dues are used for club events and food (star parties, pumpkin carving, telescope visits, etc), and by paying them you become an active member of the club

- You can still come to the meetings as a non-active member, but will have limited access to some things (eg: pizza on movie nights, sandwiches at star parties), especially on events outside of general meetings
- Payment
 - Zelle: henrypaton@arizona.edu
 - Cash: see Henry (treasurer) at the end of meeting



- ★ Join our **mailing list** for reminders, club information, and meeting minutes! See Jessie (me! hi!) at the end of the meeting or email jlarrison05@arizona.edu to be added.
- ★ **Astro Club Merch**
 - DISCLAIMER: we may not have the old shirts in your size
 - 2024-25 shirts: none left
 - 2025-2026 shirts: coming soon! (\$10 for active members, \$15 for non active members)
- ★ Add **photos** to the Google Drive! (pretty please!)
 - Link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/mobile/folders/1uR5SIb0bRMwIxV188QPPsCL5o5nSbD8G?usp=sharing>
 - You can also post them to the #photos channel on the Discord server
- ★ **TIMESTEP**
 - TIMESTEP is a weekly discussion group about topics of professional development for undergraduates in STEM fields at the UofA. Meetings are open to all students.
 - Generally Wednesdays 5:00-6:30 pm in Steward or PAS.
 - Next meeting: 4/29
- ★ **ATOMM**
 - Tutoring for physics, astronomy, and math by experienced graduate students.
 - When: Mon 1-3pm, Tues 1-2pm, Wed 2-3pm, Thurs 12:30-1:30pm
 - Parker Library (N304) in Steward



★ Join the Discord!

- Use your real names so people know who you are.
- Consider adding your pronouns to promote inclusivity! Pronouns are cool :)
- Link: <https://discord.gg/SG85zea4>

★ oSTEM

- Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is an organization that facilitates greater involvement and leadership of the LGBTQ+ community in the sciences.
- Meetings on Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm at the LGBTQ student center (4th floor of the Student Union)
- Contact them at uaostem@gmail.com

★ Physics Club

- Weekly meetings on Monday 5 - 6pm
- Presentations about Physics by students & professors, game nights, demos, and more
- Room 220 in the Physics & Atmospheric Sciences (PAS) building
- Email uaphysicsclub@gmail.com for the listserv to get Zoom link (or check Discord)

★ Star parties on campus with Don

- At least one telescope is set up to view the Moon, planets, deep-sky objects, and other cool stuff! Come hang out and meet new people Δ(˘)➤
- Happen every Thursday night around sunset
- On the mall in front of the Main Library
- All-knowing wisdom of Dr. McCarthy!
- Enroll in 'astrobs' or 'astrobs2' course through the Remind app or text '@astrobs' to 81010 for updates (must be in the Remind app)
- Pizza! (sometimes)



★ **Sign up to present!**

- S26 signup sheet!
-  [Astro Club] Club Presentation Signups - Spring 2026

Special Announcements

★ **Help Pumpkin beat Cancer <3**

- GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/1d8989452>
- Currently ~1300/4000
- Instagram: @pumpkinhascancer

★ **T-Shirts**

- We have them!



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- \$10 for members, \$15 for non members
- See Henry after the meeting!

★ **Illegal Pete's Fundraiser**

- Friday, April 17th, all day
- Illegal Pete's at 876 E University Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85719
- Mention astro club when getting food and we'll get some money!

★ **Club Photo**

- 4/17 after the meeting!
- Wear your astro club shirt if you have it!!

★ **Astronomy Club Research Poster Session**

- Friday, April 24th during the meeting
- If you want to present a poster, please fill out this form:
- We will have one minute "flash talks" before the session

★ **Elections:**

- Elections will be happening on April 17th during club
- SIGN UP HERE: <https://forms.gle/xJwW6FJn2c5kuxzi9> by 4/15

President!

This could be you!



- **Responsibilities:**
 - Lead club meetings and plan the "bigger picture"
 - Effectively manage the responsibilities of all the officers
 - Represent the club in an official capacity
 - Humiliate yourself on a weekly basis
- **Favorite Part:**
 - Seeing everyone having fun at club meetings and events :)
- **Tips for the Role:**
 - Think ahead with events and form a general plan for the semester early on
 - Start planning the Spring Trip in the Fall
 - You are allowed to (and should) delegate! There are multiple officers for a reason

Vice-President!

- **Responsibilities:**
 - Propose and organize events
 - Communicate information to the club members through emails (preferably weekly...)
 - Fill in for other officers when they're unavailable
- **Favorite Part:**
 - Writing an email every week (or approximately every week)
 - Writing emails to organize star parties
 - Annoying Walter
- **Tips for the Role:**
 - Be organized and keep track of everything going on in the club
 - Communicate well with the other officers
 - Know how to do everything: telescopes, emails, etc.



Treasurer

- **Responsibilities:**
 - Club Accounting/Management of all finances
 - Management of all Fundraising
 - ASUA Liaison
- **Favorite Part:**
 - When all the receipts are there and I don't have to worry about a missing \$200.
- **Tips for the Role:**
 - Make sure you know how to count and like spreadsheets.



Secretary!

Responsibilities:

- Take minutes of general & officer meetings
- Keep club records accurate
- Manage listerv/mailling list

Favorite Part:

- Shenanigans :)

Tips:

- Be systematic and methodical
- Suggest new ideas to the club
- Keep the club (and officers) organized and on track



Outreach Coordinator

Responsibilities:

- Send and Reply to outreach emails
- Organize outreach activities
- Make sign up sheets

Favorite Part:

- You get to talk to a lot of different people
- You get to educate kids on real science

Tips:

- Make email templates
- Always double check emails before you send (I struggled)
- Have everything ready to go at least a day before the event



Equipment Manager!

Responsibilities:

- Parent Maintain club equipment
- Repair damaged equipment if possible (RIP Sparkles)
- Shop for new equipment
- Teach members how to use equipment

Favorite Part:

- Spending money with reckless abandon

Tips:

- Get familiar with the equipment so you know what you're working with



Social Media Manager!

Responsibilities:

- Manage the club's Instagram, Twitter, Discord, and Website
- Keep members informed about upcoming events by creating posts and responding to DM's
- Attend and participate in officer and club meetings

Favorite Part:

- Creating fun posts advertising events

Tips:

- Schedule posts!
- Add your own twist on the social media



Historian!

Responsibilities:

- Manage and organize the club's Google Drive
- Take pictures at club events
- Create a final-semester video

Favorite Part:

- Annoying everyone to add photos to the drive
- Becoming more deranged with no one adding pictures

Tips:

- Take a whole bunch of pictures at events
- Bug people to add pictures to the drive
- Start the final video early
- Make sure to have a passion to threaten people



Active Astro with Anna!

- ★ Anna's current Space Grant project: Direct Imaging of the Companion to the Hot Dust Star kappa Tuc Aa
- ★ Zodiactal dust is the thin diffuse dust that is in the plane of our solar system, that you can occasionally see lit up by the sun
- ★ This same phenomenon occurs in exoplanetary systems, called exozodiactal dust
- ★ Hot Exozodiactal dust is submicron sized particles in close proximity to main sequence stars (T~1000-2000K)
- ★ We want to study hot exozodiactal dust because it can obscure or create false positives for exoplanets. Since it's close to stars, it can especially interfere with our ability to observe super earths.
 - This also gives us insight into how planetary systems are formed and evolved
- ★ The Kappa Tucani A system has hot zodiactal dust. It has a recently discovered low-mass companion that passes through the dust
 - This means there could be dynamical interactions between the dust and the star
- ★ Objectives: measure position and brightness of kappa Tuc Ab and improve constraints on orbit and mass
- ★ They used coronagraphic images obtained with SPHERE at the VLT, and used multiple bands
- ★ Something they needed to account for when measuring the photometry of the companion star is speckle noise, or scattered light from the primary star
 - So they had to see how much of the flux measured through their aperture could be due to the speckle noise
 - Corrected for this by finding the mean speckle noise in other locations around the primary star
- ★ Next steps: use the position measurements to better constrain the orbit and get a mass for the star. From the flux measurements they can determine the spectral class and full spectrum of the star
 - Using these, they can determine the interactions with the exozodiactal dust
- ★ Everyone should apply to space grant if you're eligible! Applications due May 22!
- ★ <https://spacegrant.arizona.edu/students/u-internships> <- you can see more info here :)
- ★ Thank you Anna!!

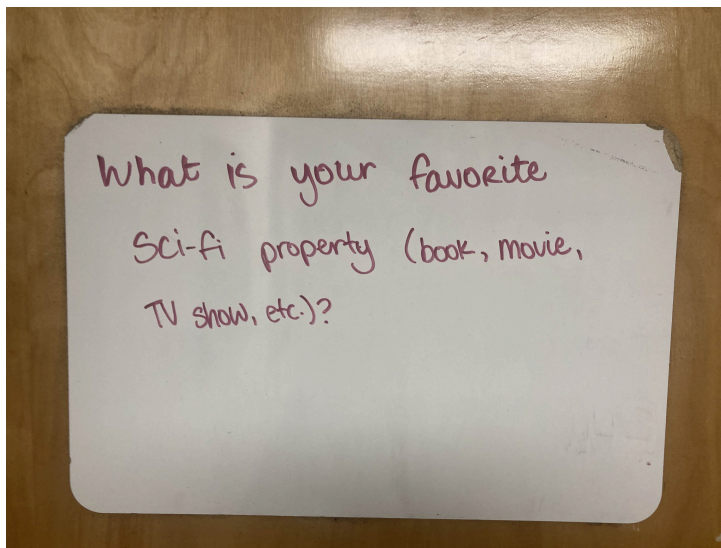
Open Segment with Arif and Don!

- ★ Moon and More!
- ★ Given a quiz corresponding to the slides, asking questions like: given the photo, what percent illuminated is the moon? Is it waxing or waning?
- ★ Explaining how moon phases work
- ★ Did a physical demonstration, with Arif as the moon, Beckett as the Earth, and Henry as the sun
 - New moon: sun is behind the moon when compared to Earth.

- One week later: we've got a quarter moon, half of the moon is illuminated
- Two weeks: we've got a full moon, all of the moon is illuminated
- Three weeks: we've got another quarter moon, half of the moon is illuminated
- Four weeks: back to the start
- ★ Other bodies in the solar system have phases, most notably Venus (something that Galileo observed, and helped usher in the heliocentric model of the solar system!)
- ★ On one of the slides, you can see chromatic aberration due to the atmosphere, but you can't see the blue twinge due to Rayleigh scattering (which depends inversely on the fourth power of the wavelength, so shorter wavelengths have far more scattering).
- ★ Artemis II is coming down today at 5:07PM, splashing down in the Pacific
- ★ Artemis II findings: astronauts got to see four impact flashes in a period of ~30-40 minutes, which is a LOT, and totally changes how we've thought about impacts on the moon
- ★ Thank you Arif and Don!!

Biweekly Whiteboard Question!

- ★ In the Undergraduate Lounge (Floor 2 (ground floor) of Steward Observatory)



- ★
- ★ This week's question: What is your favorite sci-fi property (book, movie, TV show, etc.)?
- ★ Answer on sticky notes and stick them below the whiteboard!
- ★ Best answer gets a prize!

Constellation Tier List

- ★ Sagittarius (the archer)



- ★
- ★ Notable Objects:

- Sagittarius A*
- Lagoon Nebula
- Trifid Nebula
- Small Sagittarius Star Cloud
- ★ Fun Facts:
 - Zodiac constellation!
 - The epsilon star is the brightest??
- ★ Mythology:
 - Lots of different myths associated with this constellation
 - The greeks weren't the only ones who had mythology
 - The Babylonians had a similar interpretation of the constellation - a centaur-like creature who had wings and two heads (one of a panther and the other of a human)
 - Sag is the archer not the centaur because we have Centaurus
 - Still, some people interpret Sagittarius to be the centaur Chiron, who was well known as a trainer of heroes (ex. Achilles, Heracles, Jason, Patroclus).
 - According to the Chiron interpretation, some people say sagittarius is a constellation that Chiron put up to guide Jason to the golden fleece
 - There's another interpretation that says Sagittarius IS Chiron who was put in the stars
 - Other interpretations say that Sagittarius is a Satyr riding a horse (the satyr who invented archery)
- ★ Ranking:
 - Overwhelming S Tier (not as overwhelming as Godzilla, but wow)

Astronomy Question of the Week with Don

- ★ Not this week, come back later!!
- ★

Thank you for reading!

See you next week (o°v°)ﾉ