

Meeting Minutes | February 20, 2026

HIHI

Agenda

General Announcements

Special Announcements

Open Segment with Heerok

Open Segment with Henry

Biweekly Whiteboard Question!

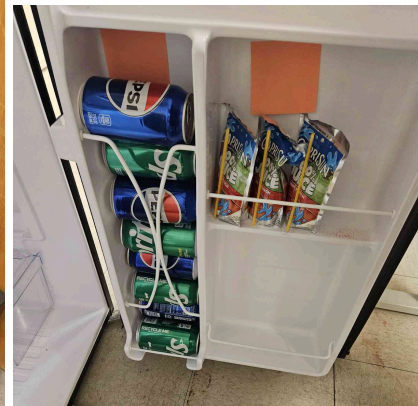
Constellation Tier List

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: March 4th SO 204
 - Student Mixer and Program Introduction

★ 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

★ **Spring Trip**

- Down payment = \$70
- Total cost = \$170
- **We can take everyone who signed up!!!!**
- Itinerary is mostly done

★ **TIMESTEP Summer Tech Internship**

- These are PAID 20hour/week internships for undergraduate students
- Applications due March 8th 2026
- More information at timestep.arizona.edu

★ **Morgan Maxwell STEM night**

- Thursday March 5, 2026
- Morgan Maxwell K-8 (14 minute drive)
- Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/ee5o6KJhWNftec8W9>

★ **Lunar Eclipse**

- 4am on March 3rd (Tuesday early morning)
- Might have an informal gathering on the mall at 3am??

★ **Star Party**

- Saturday, March 21st at Empire Ranch (~1h south of here)
- This DOES cross a border patrol station, so please bring documents if you're an international student
- Might do a Messier Marathon again
- Meeting at Honors

Open Segment with Heerok!

- ★ Heerok wasn't originally going to present until he saw something online
- ★ There's an image of a lunar eclipse taken in 2014 right after sunrise
- ★ It seems like you shouldn't be able to see a lunar eclipse after the sun has risen, but the atmosphere bends the light near the horizon which means the light from the moon is bent towards us allowing us to see it better
- ★ Thank you Heerok!

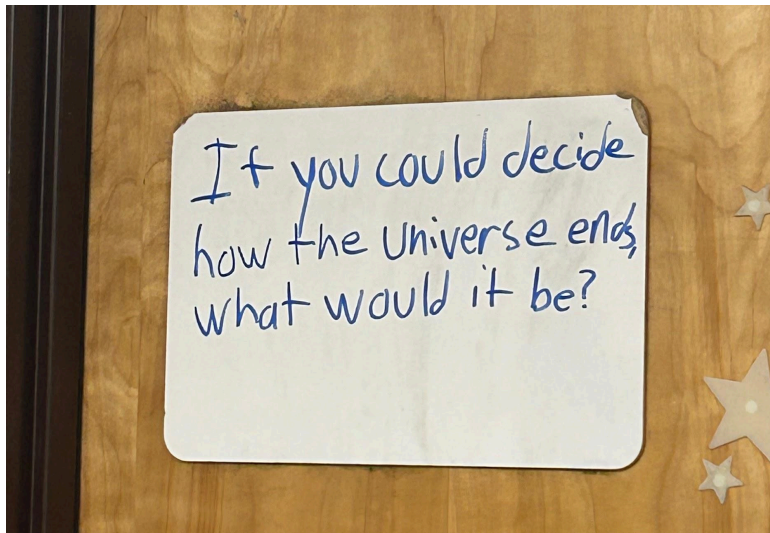
Open Segment with Henry!

- ★ Updating the Ptolemaic Model of the Solar System: Bringing Astronomy Kicking and Screaming back into the 8th century
- ★ Ptolemy was a big fan of geocentrism, and Henry is a very big fan of it

- ★ He made a model of the solar system using many many epicycles to explain the motion of the planets
- ★ Unfortunately copernicus said “no lol”
- ★ Henry has elected himself to bring back the geocentric model and update it for the 21st century
- ★ “That other guy” critiqued the geocentric model by using the fact that other moons move around the sun. However these moons don’t actually orbit their planets, they just look like they do and can be explained by epicycles
- ★ We must account for parallax using “Supepicycles”
 - Supepicycles are dependent on distance from Earth
- ★ We must account for exoplanets. Exoplanets look like they orbit other stars but obviously they don’t because they must orbit earth. This is explained by “exopicycles”
- ★ Galactic motion is explained by “gala-supepicycles” which take millions of years
- ★ Some extra-galactic motion is weird and doesn’t follow the gala-supepicycles. This can be explained by exogalasupepicycles
- ★ It’s quite simple really
- ★ The rest of the motion in the universe:
 - At a certain point, the exogalasupepicycle doesn’t explain the motion, as this only really explains the motion of the local group of galaxies
 - How can we explain redshift?
 - This is still an open science question
 - The Faint Aura Repulsion Threshold (FART) is this threshold
- ★ He has references so it must be legit
- ★ Thank you Henry!

Biweekly Whiteboard Question!

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



- ★ This week’s question: What is the Yuckiest Planet?
- ★ Answer on sticky notes and stick them below the whiteboard!
- ★ Best answer gets a prize!

Constellation Tier List

- ★ Norma - The Carpenter's



- ★ Notable Objects:

- Ant nebula
- Norma cluster
- Shapley 1

- ★ Fun Facts:

- The Norma arm of the galaxy is named for it
- It doesn't have an alpha or beta star

- ★ Mythology:

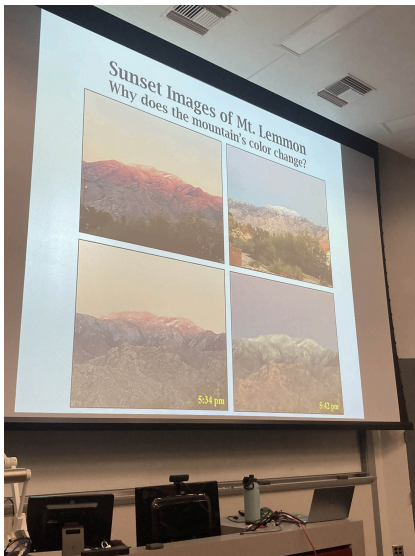
- This is another newer constellation but it's part of a French astronomer's "age of enlightenment constellations" (including the compass, the scale, the furnace, etc.)
- The name Norma is Latin for the word "normal" because he named it after a right angle... there's no right angles in the constellation...

- ★ Ranking:

- D

Astronomy Question of the Week with Don

- ★ Everyone should go to see The Art of Planetary Science at LPL! (3rd floor)
- ★ Sunset Images of Mt. Lemmon - why does the mountain's color change?



- ★ At sunset, you can see the red light from the sun reflecting off the mountain, but why, a few minutes after sunset, is the top of the mountain bluish?

- ★ We're seeing the blue of the sky reflected off the mountain
- ★ Thank you Don!

Thank you for reading!

See you next week (o°°)ノ