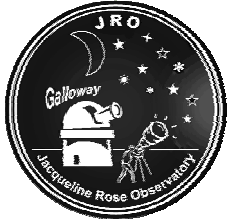
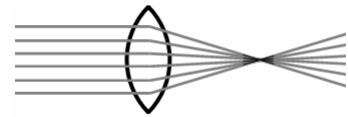


The Lavon Lens



Newsletter of The Jacqueline Rose Observatory

www.jerrygalloway.com/astro

Lavon, Texas



The October Outing

We setup a full array of equipment and enjoyed the visit of a number of guests. Some folks joined the club and plan to join us again.

Jupiter was still available early in the evening. Guests practiced with some of the equipment. Fun was had by all and it was an interesting night.

You Are Invited REGULAR OUTINGS

While the new observatory (to be explained and announced later) is under development, we will hold regular outings open to GH residents, guests and the general public. Bring equipment if you want. Just spend 5 minutes or bring a chair and spend the night.

Children are welcome too but they must behave appropriately or be closely supervised. Generally, kids under age 8 do not maintain an interest and become easily distracted. Behavior, safety and the "mood" of astronomy will be closely enforced.

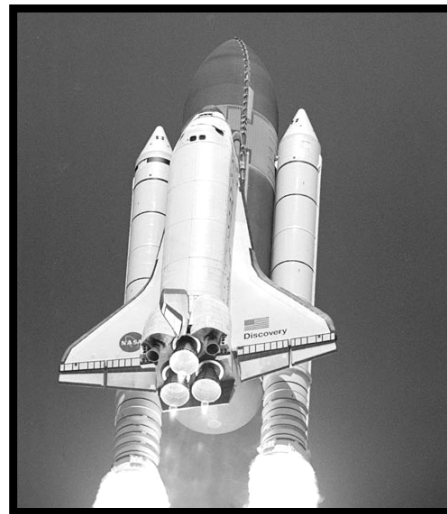
You may want some do's and don'ts so see the advisory on the web site. **See you there.**

TIME

Some have asked when it starts. There is no starting time. It is an open-outing and you can come by anytime. We'll get started when it gets dark and, if clear skies, stay as long as people are interested.

NASA Launch Discovery's Mission to ISS

Keep your eye out for the October 23rd launch (*if not postponed*) of Discovery to service the International Space Station.



The STS-120 mission will service the ISS for repairs and upgrades. There are five spacewalks planned during their 14-day mission. Check out Space.com and Keep up, because it can very often be delayed.

VIEWS: IT'S NOT THE HUBBLE

Today, we have great color pictures everywhere showing the most impressive imagery of the cosmos. These images have become part of our culture from television to the boxes of cheap department store telescopes.

But, you can not see these images with scopes normally available to the public, based on land and just using your eye. Those great photos require long exposures with special cameras to "see" light that your eye cannot. So, do not expect those kinds of views.

Using Averted vision

To improve "seeing" the fainter objects with your night vision, use *averted vision*. Look around the target instead of directly at it. Move your eyes from direct to off-center and around. You will pick up the improved view by averting your eyes away from the target.

There should be no disappointment. Some views are more impressive than others but even seeing the faint "glow" of a galaxy, hardly visible, is exciting.

Remember, in many cases, you are really looking BACK IN TIME at light that left there thousands and maybe millions of years ago. It's been traveling all that time uninterrupted to land in **your eye**.

The New Jacqueline Rose Observatory

The Bear Creek Subdivision of Grand Heritage – south side of hwy 78 in Lavon – will soon be building it's Amenities Center, currently in the design stage. A part of that center will include the largest astronomical observatory in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

The JRO will be under the direction of Dr. Jerry P. Galloway offering hands-on observing sessions, presentations and more to the residents of Bear Creek and Grand Heritage. Events will include both formal schedules as well as opportunities to stop by casually with no agenda. Educational outreach along with fun and interesting events will be important part of the JRO mission.

Jacqueline Rose, a young lady - age 11 at this time, is the namesake of the JRO and will be present occasionally to assist with public observing events. She personally owns an 8" dobsonian suitable for deep space observing. This scope was also available at last month's outing.

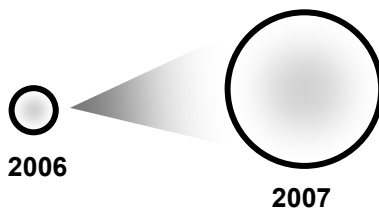
Is Mars Getting Bigger?

In a sense, the answer is YES. We have been getting closer to Mars over the past year as our orbit brings us closer. The change in size is apparent in this illustration showing the apparent change in size over the past year.

The actual size, of course, has not changed at all. But, due to our orbits, it will appear larger in the telescope view because we're closer. So, this is an ideal time to view Mars and it won't be like this for another couple years. Remember, Mars is still very small and very far away.

Consider that the full moon is like seeing a quarter at about 10 feet away. But, at best, Mars will be like seeing a quarter at almost 4 football fields away. The full moon is almost 120 times larger than Mars even at this ideal time of December 15th.

So, even with a telescope, Mars will still appear small. It will appear like a bright star to the naked eye. You can still enjoy the views as you look up and think of our two robotic explorers currently roving around the surface on Mars.



Join the Club



Most of you know about the web site because it has been on the flyers and newsletters. You should join the club now as it is just getting started.

There is NO FEE. There will not be any hassle junk email. Your info will not be sold, shared or distributed. It will keep you in the loop for information and events. Part of the online registration is to join **Google Groups** to facilitate some of the club Internet operations.

When you check out the web site there may be a number of things that interests you. Be sure to see the **LINKS** page which will provide you with access to some of the most interesting and useful sights in astronomy. Also, see the documents page for policies and other information.

www.jerrygalloway.com/astro

PARTICIPATION

You are welcome to contribute to this newsletter any letter, article or commentary by just emailing your text to Dr. Galloway. It will be reviewed and considered for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter or even on the Internet.

Send to:
astro@jerrygalloway.com

Participating in the club includes coming to the outings and spending some time learning about astronomy. You can bring your own equipment anytime – binoculars or telescopes - or just show up with nothing.

You're welcome to show up and share the views of whatever anyone is observing. Usually, even if the sky is less than perfect, we will have already setup just in case. So, you can show up just to learn more about the equipment and other things.

It is sometimes fun to setup specific agendas or plan missions to guide your activities. You might want to observe and document seeing all of the Apollo landing sites on the moon. Maybe you're interested in documenting seeing moons around the planets.

If you don't do photos, some make pencil sketches of their views. In any event, there's no hurry – just enjoy.

Supporting the Club

We want to welcome our supporters – *listed below* - who sponsor & support our club activities. We are looking for more supporters to help make this more fun & successful for everyone.

See?
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NASA Notes -

The U.S. Senate voted to add \$1 billion to NASA's budget to reimburse NASA costs of space exploration. This will now allow NASA to more fully support missions of science and exploration that have suffered in recent years.

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